DANIEL 7 The Son of Man

The God Who Reigns: God has given all glory and dominion to his Son, who will finally overcome all evils kingdoms, and share his kingdom with us - serve him!

1. Plot

Daniel has a vision. He sees 4 beasts come up out of the sea. They rule one after the other in increasingly terrible fury. In the middle of the chaos Daniel sees a vision of heaven, with the Ancient of Days reigning in glory, set to judge. He sees one like a son of man (ruling as man was intended to rule, under God) given eternal dominion.

Daniel asks for the truth about the vision and is told that the beasts are kings who rule for a time, they will even set themselves up against God and try to take history into their own hands, but they will be judged (the devourers will be consumed!) The saints of the Most High will be persecuted by these rulers, but they will receive the kingdom for ever (for ever and ever).

2. Place

During the first year of Belshazzar's reign

3. People

Daniel 4 beasts horns
Ancient of Days son of man
saints of the Most High

4. Focus

shall kingdom(s) dominion(s)
beast(s) given/receive/taken
devour(ed) judgement Ancient of Days

5. Framework

The first of Daniel's visions, the last chapter written in Aramaic (Daniel 8 onwards switch back into Hebrew). A wide lens angle – chapters 8 and 11 zoom further in each time.

Echoes Daniel 2 and Nebuchadnezzar's dream – adds more detail.

6. Flavour

Daniel was anxious and alarmed by his vision (!) There are big contrasts between the rule of the beasts (chaos, terrifying, devouring, beastly, limited, temporary…) and the reign of the Ancient of Days (ordered, serenity, glory, eternal…)

7. How this passage points to Jesus

Daniel7v13 "…and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him…"

Mark 14v62 'Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."'

Compare with:

Psalm 2, Rev 13 &14, 2 Corinthians 4v7-18

God, the Ancient of Days (eternal) is in control of the seemingly uncontrollable. He is seated in judgment, he has a plan and a purpose, and is reigning.

In contrast to the chaos he will bring order, in contrast to the beastly rule of oppressive destruction he will bring human rule as it was intended, "for ever, for ever and ever").

The Saints should not lose heart as they look at the world and face persecution. Though outwardly they are trampled, prevailing to the end bring promise of an eternal kingdom.

8. Possible Theme

The Ancient of Days is reigning through his Son and will overcome all evil.

God rules for ever and will overcome evil

God rules forever

9. Possible Aim

Do not lose heart, put your hope in the Son who will bring order.

Do not lose heart, hope in Jesus.

Hope in Jesus.