



Title: The Promised Gift from our Sovereign King

Text: Daniel 7:1–28

CONTEXT |

A shift takes place with Daniel 7, where we move from historical narrative to apocalyptic literature. Chronologically this chapter is set prior to chapter 5, in the reign of Belshazzar. Daniel was in his mid-sixties and the Jews would have been in captivity for about 50 years. God gave Daniel a dream that was similar to Nebuchadnezzar's dream of chapter 2 with regard to its meaning, but it views the kingdoms from a heavenly perspective instead of an earthly one. Daniel's dream is much more detailed and is interpreted by an angel. Many consider this chapter to be the most important chapter in Daniel. There is a great deal of content used in shaping eschatological convictions. It is important for us not to be distracted by speculation that misses Daniel's and the Holy Spirit's intent.

MAIN IDEA |

God is in control of evil kingdoms and will give his everlasting kingdom to his people through his Son, Jesus Christ.

KEY VERSES |

"These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever."

Daniel 7:17–18 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTION IDEAS |

- What does it mean to be part of the kingdom of God? What is our current role in the kingdom?
- What are some of the most common views of the rapture and the return of Christ? What is your view/understanding? (theoretical/optional)
- How can we be sure we are not being following the lead of the antichrist(s) (cf. 1 John 2:18)
- What do we know for certain about the timing of Christ's return (i.e. Matt. 24:14), and what practical implications does that have for us?

EXPLANATION |

We are encouraged once again by God's sovereignty in the face of what appears to be the chaotic, downward spiral of humanity. No injustice will go unpunished, and no faithfulness to God will go unnoticed.

The everlasting Kingdom of God has already been inaugurated by the first advent of Christ, but evil persists in the kingdoms of this world. Sin is celebrated and righteousness is mocked. The earthly kingdoms have been and continue to be led by "antichrists" until the time when the antichrist comes on the scene. He will have tremendous influence and bring great agony. But, he too will be destroyed at the return of Christ. This is when the everlasting kingdom will be consummated.

We must live between the times with anticipation of what's to come, awareness of what is really taking place, and responsibility as kingdom ambassadors.