Understanding the Book of Daniel Daniel 7:1-14 (p.944)

Intro

I.	God	over the king	gdoms of this world				
In the firs	-		n, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his ne dream and told the sum of the matter. v.1.				
			even in less-than-ideal circumstances, in a government.				
			nt, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the ne up out of the sea, different from one another. v.2,3				
			" is constantly changing; politics are constantly emain the				
	These	These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. v.17					
	_	oms of this world a is supposed	are—they all fall short of what to be.				
lifted up it. And b its mou	from the grou ehold, anothe th between its	ind and made to stand r beast, a second one teeth; and it was told eopard, with four wing	ings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was d on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to e, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in d, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' After this I looked, and behold, gs of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, inion was given to it. v.4-6				
			governments are than others, and at dably				
strong. I	t had great iroi	n teeth; it devoured an	hold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly nd broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It be before it, and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and				

"As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. v.15

behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. v.7,8

"As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

II.	And is building _	kingdom that will last forever.		
beast	was killed, and its bod	cound of the great words that the horn was by destroyed and given over to be burned w ken away, but their lives were prolonged fo	rith fire. As for the rest of the	
		e kingdoms of this world will king		
and he and gl	e came to the Ancient o ory and a kingdom, tha	nd behold, with the clouds of heaven there of Days and was presented before him. And of all peoples, nations, and languages sho of the his kingdom on v.13,14	d to him was given dominion uld serve him; his dominion is	
		ne ascension,, and co	oronation of Christ as king	
	The kingdoms of	this will come and go, bu l forever.	t the kingdom of our Lord	
	One day all the na	ations will to Him: thought! No one can the I		
		hall remember and turn to the Lord, and all ti r kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules o		
God has l	nighly exalted him so t	that at the name of Jesus every knee should b that Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil. 2:9-11)	oow and every tongue confess	
one of th	ose who stood there an the interpretation of the	thin me was anxious, and the visions of my he d asked him the truth concerning all this. So things. 'These four great beasts are four king High shall receive the kingdom and possess t ever.' v.15-18	he told me and made known to s who shall arise out of the	
		setbacks, times of suffering with Christ forever.	g, and momentary defeats	
	ooked, this horn made w	var with the saints and prevailed over them, u saints of the Most High, and the time came v		

... As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom... He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High... and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.' v.21-27

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	of God; the Lord	will forgive and gi	ve you				
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I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches no strength was left in me I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground. And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. (10:4b-12,18)							
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"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been.... But at that time your people shall be delivered... And someone said... "How long shall it be...?He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.... Blessed is he who waits... go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days." (12:5-10,13)

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Intro

I. God rules over the kingdoms of this world...

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. v.1.

We can serve the Lord faithfully even in less-than-ideal circumstances, in a fallen world, under a pagan government.

Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. v.2,3

In one sense, the "news" is constantly changing; politics are constantly changing, yet some things remain the same.

These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. v.17

The kingdoms of this world are beastly—they all fall short of what mankind is supposed to be.

The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. v.4-6

Some kingdoms and some governments are worse than others, and at times we can be understandably upset.

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. v.7,8

"As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. v.15

"As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

II. And is building His kingdom that will last forever.

"I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. v.11,12

In God's time, the kingdoms of this world will fall away as the kingdom of Jesus Christ is established as an everlasting kingdom.

"I saw in the night visions, 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. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

v.13,14

Daniel foresaw the ascension, installation, and coronation of Christ as king; He is now enthroned forever and ever.

The kingdoms of this world will come and go, but the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ shall continue forever.

One day all the nations will bow to Him: comfort and encourage yourself with this thought! No one can take the kingdom away from you.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. (Ps. 22:27,28)

God has highly exalted him... so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.... (Phil. 2:9-11)

"As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. '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.' v.15-18

There will be temporary setbacks, times of suffering, and momentary defeats until we reign with Christ forever.

... As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom... He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High... and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.' v.21-27

Pray, confess your sins and the sins of God's people, and claim the promises of God; the Lord will forgive and give you strength.

In the first year of Darius... I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. Then I turned my face to the Lord God... I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession.... (9:1-4)

I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen... His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches.... no strength was left in me.... I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground. And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.... Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. (10:4b-12,18)

The Lord will send His angels to fight for you and for His kingdom; be patient, rest in the Lord, and wait upon Him.

"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been.... But at that time your people shall be delivered... And someone said... "How long shall it be...?He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.... Blessed is he who waits... go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days." (12:5-10,13)