

Daniel's Disturbing Dream

"Visions and Dreams" part 2, from Daniel 7
Pastor Bob Johnson, February 7th, 2021

1. **God's Churning** (Daniel 7:1-2)
2. **Four Countries** (Daniel 7:3-7)

Why can we assume v24 is still ahead?

3. **Influential C _____ (7:8)**
(see also Daniel 7:19-25, Revelation 13:1-7)
4. **Heaven's C _____ (7:9-10)**
(see also Daniel 7:26-27)
5. **Beast is C _____ (7:11-12)**
6. **Return of C _____ (7:13-14)**
7. **Insight is C _____ (7:15-22)**
8. **Beast is C _____ (7:23-28)**

Insights in Light of Daniel's Prophetic Dream:

- **Live with Passion**
- **Live with Peace**
- **Live with P _____**
- **Live with P _____**

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This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to week 4 of our first small group season for 2021!!

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships in the coming weeks. This small group season will be for 10 weeks and wrap up the week of March 21st. We are currently studying and discussing the last half of the Book of Daniel. God gave Daniel some visions and dreams that were helpful back then and are still helpful for us today as we strive to understand more of God's larger story He is inviting us to be part of.

Getting Started:

Daniel's dream that is described in Daniel 7 was unsettling to put it mildly. Read the last verse of Daniel 7 (Daniel 7:28) on how this dream impacted him. Speaking of being startled or stretched, what has happened in your life or something that you are aware of that has startled you or stretched you lately? How did you respond?

In Daniel 7, we are able to read about the coming Anti-Christ. He will be a gifted, charismatic leader and communicator. Speaking of gifted leaders and communicators, what are some talented leaders you can think of (good or not so good) that made an impact on the world or a part of our world?

More personally, what person comes to mind that has inspired you in some way? What did he or she do or say specifically that prompted you to follow their example in some way?

Also in Daniel 7:15-16, we read that Daniel asked for clarity and insight regarding his dream. What in your life are you wanting more clarity and insight about?

James 1:5 and other passages encourage us to call out to our Heavenly Father for wisdom when we need it.

Following Daniel's example and Biblical passages that encourage us to seek God's wisdom, let's pray for each other regarding the needs we all have for more discernment regarding discerning God's will on a matter.

Quick Review:

Daniel 7 is packed with a lot to digest. Let's re-read this chapter together.

From these verses and Sunday's message, and looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

Digging Deeper:

In Daniel 7, the anti-Christ is described. The title 'anti-Christ' is used four times in the New Testament, each time in the epistles of the apostle John. Let's read these four and share any insights or questions that we have from them.

Read 1 John 2:18, 1 John 2:22, 1 John 4:3 and 2 John v7.

In 2 John, John encourages his readers to stay spiritually alert to danger and more specifically false teachers. John describes himself as 'the elder' and the church as 'the elect lady'. Without a printed Bible available, God provided His church with His teaching and support through traveling teachers. First century evangelists and teachers would travel from town to town and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. They would stay in the home of Christian families who brought them into their homes. But false or heretical teachers could be hosted by unaware believers who were not wise enough to know the difference. In this epistle, John writes to remind Christians that deceivers are traveling about and that Christians should not welcome them or have them in their home.

Let's read 2 John together and share any insights or questions that we have from this chapter.

Apparently, some in the church had opened up their homes and hearts to a false teacher and John called their attention to the need for placing limits on their hospitality.

This 'putting limits on how you love' can appear to contradict the general tone of the rest of Scripture. It is important to remember the context of 2 John which is being careful with 'deceivers'. One writer says, "Truth and discernment are the banks between which love must flow. Outside or beyond these, love becomes dangerous and perhaps even destructive." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Anything to add?

Speaking of deceivers, the last anti-Christ (1 John 2:18 reminds us that many deceivers surface in each generation), will successfully deceive many and cause much harm.

Let's read some descriptions of this anti-Christ and share any insights or questions that we may have: Daniel 8:23, Daniel 9:26, Daniel 11:21, Zechariah 11:16-17, 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 2 Thessalonians 2:9, Revelation 13:1.

Back in Daniels' day and today, we are encouraged to focus on some key truths regarding the 'end times' which are: God will always be on His throne, Jesus is coming back and even with all the future battles and struggles, we know the final outcome :).

Bob shared four ways we can live in light of these truths: live with passion and peace (from the message before this last one) and live with patience and persistence.

Practically, what does it look like for you to 'live with patience'? Where is patience needed? And, what does it look like for you to 'live with persistence'?

Let's pray for each other and ask God to strength our patience and persistence.