

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, February 25, 2018

**A Prophecy to Produce
Perseverance and Praise
A Study of Daniel 7**

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What tend to be the topics of your dreams? Have you ever spent a morning sad or angry or happy because of something that happened in your dream?

In chapter 7, Daniel reported a dream that God used to reveal the future to him.

Chapter 7 marks a change in the book of Daniel. While we read *stories* in chapters 1-6, we read *prophecies* in chapters 7-12.

- ❖ Recall some of the stories we've read as we studied the first six chapters the past six weeks.
- ❖ Some people have had bad experiences in trying to study biblical prophecy. They feel it only produces *confusion*, *speculation*, or *arguments*. Have you experienced any of this from studies of biblical prophecy in the past? Explain.

Pastor Tom said prophecy should produce two things in us. Use your sermon notes to fill in the blanks as we get to them.

Prophecy produces p_____
because it prepares us for coming hardship

Read Daniel 7:1-6 and 15-17. Then answer the following questions:

- ❖ Verse 2 says that the beasts each came up out of a churned-up sea. Do you think there's any significance that the beasts came out of the sea—and specifically that they came out of a *stormy* sea? Does that origin imply anything about earthly empires?
- ❖ Describe the first 3 beasts in Daniel's dream. How would you have felt in the morning after a dream like that? How would you have felt about the future when you found out those beasts all represented earthly powers rising up, one after another?
- ❖ When the angel gave the interpretation of the dream in the second half of the chapter, did the angel explain which empires these first 3 beasts represented? (To answer, you don't have to read the verses. Just scan through the interpretation of the dream given by the angel in 7:17-25.)

After all the vivid detail about what the first three beasts looked like, the interpretation of the dream was entirely focused on a fourth beast and the final ruler that will arise from that kingdom. Read Daniel 7:7-8 and 19-25. Then answer the following questions:

- ❖ While the first three beasts were compared to strange animals, the fourth beast and the final ruler to arise from that kingdom is described using the word “different” (verse 7, 19, and 23). According to the Bible’s description, what makes the fourth beast and the final ruler “different”?
- ❖ An eleventh horn rises up from the fourth beast. The angel interprets this “little horn” as the last earthly ruler. According to verses 23-24, what kind of trouble will the little horn make for the earth? According to verse 25, what kind of trouble will the little horn make for God’s people?
- ❖ The following New Testament verses describe the same ruler that Daniel calls the “little horn.” Read the verses and identify the title or the description used to describe this ruler: Matthew 24:15-16; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; Revelation 13:1 and 5-8; 2 John 1:7.

Pastor Tom said that Daniel warned of *coming* hardship but not *forever* hardship. In verse 25, what phrase did the angel use to describe how long the “little horn” would persecute God’s people? What does that strange measure of time mean? (Hint: Revelation 13:5 might help here.)

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:15. This is Paul’s advice after warning them of the Antichrist in the first 14 verses of chapter 2. What two things does he tell them to do? How do warnings of coming hardship produce perseverance in us?

Prophecy produces p_____
because it assures us of coming victory

Read Daniel 7:9-10. What’s the title of the “main character”?

What characteristics come to mind when you read the following descriptions of the Ancient of Days: white clothing; white hair; flaming throne; wheels on the throne; a river of fire flowing from the throne.

Read Daniel 7:13-14. What title does the “main character” of these verses have?

Read Psalm 104:3. According to many verses like that one, only God rode clouds like a chariot. What do you think Daniel must have thought when he saw “one like a son of man” riding that cloud chariot?

Jesus referred to himself as “The Son of Man” nearly 60 times in the Four Gospels. We’ll only read two of those passages. Read Matthew 25:31 and Matthew 26:64. What was he saying about himself by using that title?

Pastor Tom said there are only three responses we can make to Jesus’ claims: he was a liar, he was a lunatic, or he was and is Lord! If the last response is the right response, what do **you** need to do right now? Choose one and tell the group:

- “Make my commitment to him as my Savior and Lord.” (If so, ask the group to help you make your decision for Christ right now. Be sure to talk with Pastor Tom about this soon!)
- “Ask him a big prayer request.”
- “Say ‘yes’ to a daring thing I know he wants me to do, no matter how risky it is.”
- “Obey him in an area where I’ve been ignoring his commands.”
- Other: “_____”



Close with praise reports and prayer requests