

Daniel 7

The Angelic Explanation

and

Establishment of the Kingdom
of God

Part 2; Verses 15-28

Introduction

The vision that Daniel saw was complete with verse 14.

+ What follows (vv. 15-28) is an explanation of the vision that Daniel received.

+ We will follow this outline!

Teaching Outline

- I. Daniel asks an angel for explanation (15-16).
- II. The angel explains as a whole (17-18).
- III. Daniel asks for clarification concerning the fourth beast (19-22).
- IV. The angel gives Daniel further information about the beast and its judgment (23-26).
- V. The angel confirms the establishment of the Kingdom of God (27-28).

Explanation Request (15-16)

Daniel's request to have the vision explained happens within the vision itself.

Of interest, visions received by earlier OT prophets, God was the interpreter.

Yet, beginning with the exile, visions were interpreted by angels (Ezek 40-48; Zech 1-6).

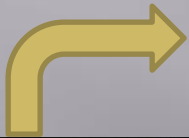
Explanation Request (15-16)



Daniel has angelic interpreters for all of his visions (7-12).

In Revelation, angelic interpreters reveal to John various features of what he is seeing (cf. Rev. 1:1, 10:5-11; 17:1-18; and 21:9 – 22:6).

Explanation Request (15-16)



Who is this angel?



Hint: Read Daniel 9:21!

Explanation Given (17-18)

The angel's explanation is very short, since he summarizes the meaning of the vision without giving any specific details.



- + Daniel 7:2-8 summarized by v.17;
- + Daniel 7:9-14 summarized by v. 18.

Explanation Given (17-18)



Explanation Given (17-18)

Then the saints will receive the Kingdom and possess it forever! This clearly implies that Jesus, the Son of Man, alone, is worthy to receive the Kingdom and in turn will graciously give the Kingdom to all who believe in Him!

The 4th Beast (19-22)

Daniel now seeks clarification concerning the 4th beast, since this beast directly affects the saints.

There's one major addition to Daniel's description: it has "*claws...of bronze.*" With this, it makes the beast even more fierce. It's not known why Daniel omits this in his initial description (7:7); though, it's thought, that Daniel wanted to focus on the "*iron teeth*" which was is associated with the "*legs of iron*" from Nebuchadnezzar's statue.



The 4th Beast (19-22)

Daniel also wanted to be certain about the “ten horns” and the “other [little] horn.” The other or little horn is his focus since it will have an effect upon the saints.

What are the “great things” this horn is speaking?

The “weapon” this horn uses are words. It fights against God’s saints whose weapon is also a word (cf. Eph. 6:17).



The 4th Beast (19-22)

The horn of Daniel 7 is the antichrist! He perverts the Holy Gospel by speaking “things” that contravene the holy Word of God! Remember, he was already present at the time of the apostles, whom St. Paul calls the “man of Lawlessness” (2 Thess. 2:1-10).

The antichrist will be slain by the Word of God (Rev. 19:15).



The 4th Beast (19-22)

The slaying of the 4th beast and especially the little or other horn is described here in terms of the authorization for this slaying. *“Judgment was given in favor of the saints of the Most High”* (22) means that the little horn that waged war against the saints is vanquished, along with the forces of evil and all who are outside the Kingdom of God!



The 4th Beast Explained (23-25)

The angel explains to Daniel that this beast is different from the others because of its “horns.” The angel describes the horns as “kings” that come from the beast, thus, making this beast unique. The other three beast (kings/kingdoms) are replaced by other kingdoms, this beast, however, is succeeded by kingdoms that grow from it.

The 4th Beast Explained (23-25)

This is what occurred with the Roman Empire. It wasn't replaced, but fell and its power was divided among various rulers. The number of horns – ten – point to the surpassing power of the 4th beast. Even so, its power will be fragmented, given to others, then a majority of that power and influence will pass to the little horn!

Warfare of the Little Horn (25)

In verses 8 and 20, the little horn is depicted as “*speaking great things.*” The angel explains that this is a polemical war of words against the Most High.

The effects of the little horn’s words is that they will “*wear out the saints*” as with a garment. Thus, his attack is a long protracted war of words!

Warfare of the Little Horn (25)

As we have studied in Revelation, this war is a war waged against God's Word...False Teaching!

So the little horn's false teachings, heresies, and blasphemies against the Lord have the effect of wearing out the saints so that they will become exhausted in their attempts to resist and capitulate.

Warfare of the Little Horn (25)



The little horn [*false church, false prophet*] will seek the prerogatives of God. It's words and false teachings will usurp God's authority by seeking to change the worship and piety of God's people. At the core of the little horns false teaching is that it will attempt to replace God's Word with its own!

Three and a Half Times (25)



As we have studied in Revelation, the term, “*...time, times, and half a time*” denotes that in God’s time all will be fulfilled concerning the little horn (false church/false prophet).

In the context of Daniel, he is being told that this fulfillment will happen from the Messiah’s First Advent to His triumphant parousia and the Final Judgment (cf. 2 Thess. 2:6-8)!

God's Kingdom (26-27)

The angel now summarized verse 9-14. Note that his language about the Kingdom is a paraphrase of the dominion that is given to the Son of Man (the Messiah – Jesus).

By doing so, the angel is making an implicit affirmation of the Divinity of the Son of Man!

Daniel's Reaction (28)

What Daniel has been shown takes a great mental and physical toll on him.

Daniel keeps what has been revealed to him to himself...undoubtedly, he was pondering what he has seen and been told!

Daniel will soon have further visions and more details revealed to him, which we will soon study!