

Session 09

The Lord **REIGNS**

CENTRAL TRUTH | The Lord is sovereign over all things and will rule through His Son, Jesus.

When was the last time you woke up from a dream thinking, *Well, that was really weird?* Our dreams often don't make a lot of sense, and when they're especially weird we might even tell someone about them for a good laugh. Other times, we might have nightmares that frighten us. In this week's passage, Daniel receives a vision from the Lord in a dream. It contains four nightmarish beasts that represent four empires. These beasts are powerful, but as we'll see, they are not more powerful than the Lord. The Lord is sovereign over all things and will rule through His Son, Jesus.

REFLECT

What questions do I have about God?

What questions do I have about myself?

What questions do I have about the world and those around me?

DANIEL 7:1-8

¹ In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream with visions in his mind as he was lying in his bed. He wrote down the dream, and here is the summary of his account. ² Daniel said, “In my vision at night I was watching, and suddenly the four winds of heaven stirred up the great sea. ³ Four huge beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. ⁴ “The first was like a lion but had eagle’s wings. I continued watching until its wings were torn off. It was lifted up from the ground, set on its feet like a man, and given a human mind. ⁵ “Suddenly, another beast appeared, a second one, that looked like a bear. It was raised up on one side, with three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, ‘Get up! Gorge yourself

on flesh.’ ⁶ “After this, while I was watching, suddenly another beast appeared. It was like a leopard with four wings of a bird on its back. It had four heads, and it was given dominion. ⁷ “After this, while I was watching in the night visions, suddenly a fourth beast appeared, frightening and dreadful, and incredibly strong, with large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and it trampled with its feet whatever was left. It was different from all the beasts before it, and it had ten horns. ⁸ “While I was considering the horns, suddenly another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. And suddenly in this horn there were eyes like the eyes of a human and a mouth that was speaking arrogantly.

DANIEL 7:9-12

⁹ “As I kept watching, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was white like snow, and the hair of his head like whitest wool. His throne was flaming fire; its wheels were blazing fire. ¹⁰ A river of fire was flowing, coming out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was convened, and the books were opened. ¹¹ “I watched, then, because of the sound of the arrogant words the horn was speaking. As I continued watching, the beast was killed and its body destroyed and given over to the burning fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was removed, but an extension of life was granted to them for a certain period of time.

DANIEL 7:13-14

¹³ I continued watching in the night visions, and suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. ¹⁴ He was given dominion

and glory and a kingdom, so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Day 01

PSALM 2:7-12



Refer to page 5 for a description of the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading.

READ & RESPOND

In Daniel 7, Daniel has visions of powerful, scary beasts representing earthly kingdoms that rise and fall. But then he sees something different: “Suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven.” This “son of man” is Jesus! Both Psalm 2 and Daniel 7 declare Jesus is the King who will rule forever. Rebelling against the ultimate King will only lead to your own destruction. But “all who take refuge in him are happy.” True happiness and security come from aligning your life with the eternal King.

↑ How does thinking about Jesus as the ultimate and eternal King impact how you view the temporary influences in your life?

↻ What does “taking refuge in him” mean to you personally? How does it lead to true happiness?

→ What is one area of your life where you need to consciously choose to submit to His authority or align with His eternal kingdom rather than temporary worldly influences?

MEMORIZE

Copy **Daniel 7:14** onto three to five note cards and tape them in places you see every day, like the bathroom mirror, your closet, or the back of your phone. Every time you see one of these cards, read it to yourself.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the ultimate, eternal King. Help me to be wise and to serve You with all my heart. I choose to take refuge in You.

Day 02

DANIEL 7:1-8

📍 READ & RESPOND

Have you ever had a dream that was so wild it stuck with you? Daniel had one of those kinds of dreams, but God used this dream to bring Daniel a message. Daniel saw four huge beasts. They weren't literal monsters but symbols of powerful empires and kingdoms that would rise and fall throughout history, bringing chaos, destruction, and opposition to God's people. Just as in Daniel's time, today's world can appear unpredictable and out of control. But even amid the chaos, God is not surprised. He is still in control. He knows exactly what's happening, and He reveals pieces of His plan to His faithful servants. We can find peace knowing that He knows the big picture, even when all we see are glimpses of the storm.

← How do you think Daniel might have felt seeing these beasts come out of the sea?

↑ What does God giving Daniel this vision tell you about His control and involvement, even in confusing or difficult times?

→ How does knowing that God is in control of the “big picture” bring you peace or comfort when things feel chaotic in your life?

📍 MEMORIZE

Create a graphic of **Daniel 7:14** using a photo editor app. Set this graphic as your background or lock screen this week.

📍 PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for being sovereign over all things, even when the world feels wild and unpredictable. Help me to trust Your plan and find peace in Your unfailing control.

Day 03

DANIEL 7:9-12

 READ & RESPOND

In his vision, Daniel saw God—the Ancient of Days—on His throne! The image of Him clothed in white with wool hair indicated His purity, ancient wisdom, and perfect righteousness. At His fiery throne stood “thousands upon thousands,” showing His overwhelming authority and power. Daniel explained that the Ancient of Days was holding court—the ultimate court of judgment. No one can escape God’s justice. Life can often feel unfair, but God is the ultimate Judge, and His justice will prevail. God’s reign is forever, and we should take hope in this vision. God’s truth and justice will ultimately win over everything else.

↑ Daniel’s vision describes God as the “Ancient of Days” on a fiery, powerful throne. What does this image tell to you about God’s holiness, power, and wisdom?

→ How does knowing that God is the ultimate Judge make you feel?

→ How can remembering God’s ultimate authority and justice influence how you live?

 MEMORIZE

Create a “mind map.” Write **Daniel 7:14** in the center of a piece of paper, and around it, write at least five write key words, concepts, or images related to the verse.

 PRAY

Almighty God, strengthen my faith to trust in Your ultimate justice, knowing that You are truly in control of all things.

Day 04

DANIEL 7:13-14

📍 READ & RESPOND

This passage is one of several places in the Old Testament that describe Jesus, His power, and His work. This “son of man” appears before God’s fiery throne, and God gives Him ultimate authority and everlasting dominion. Every president, every king, every TikTok influencer, every celebrity will fade away. But Jesus’s rule? It’s forever. His kingdom won’t be overthrown. He won’t lose His popularity. He won’t get canceled. No matter how chaotic the world gets, King Jesus has total authority and an unbreakable kingdom. So let this vision from Daniel bring your heart peace and confidence in your future with Jesus.

↑ How does the description of Jesus in today’s passage connect with what you know about Him from the New Testament?

→ How does Jesus’s everlasting dominion and kingdom bring you comfort or confidence when you look at the challenges or uncertainties in the world around you?

→ What’s one area of your life where you need to surrender control to Jesus’s eternal rule?

📍 MEMORIZE

Use a notes app on your phone and create a quick reference note for **Daniel 7:14**. Set yourself a reminder to look at it a couple of times each day.

📍 PRAY

Lord Jesus, help me to serve You with my life and trust in Your everlasting kingdom, even when the world feels uncertain.

Day**05****EPHESIANS 1:7-10**📍 **READ & RESPOND**

Guess what? You're a part of God's grand plan "to bring everything together in Christ." God's entire purpose is to have Jesus, the Son of Man, be the undisputed King and center of everything. So, when the world feels messy or you're unsure about the future, remember this: God has a grand, ultimate plan, and it's all about Jesus. And because you are "in him" (v. 7), you are a part of this victorious plan. Your life has real purpose through Christ's eternal reign.

🔄 How does Daniel's vision of Jesus receiving an eternal kingdom (see Dan. 7:1-14) help you understand what it means to bring "everything together in Christ"?

➔ Since God's ultimate plan is to "bring everything together in Christ," how should you view challenges or uncertainties in your own life or the world around you?

🔄 How can knowing you're part of God's grand, cosmic plan shape the way you pray?

📍 **MEMORIZE**

Write **Daniel 7:14** five times on a piece of paper. Use a different color pen or marker for all of the nouns (the people, places, and things).

📍 **PRAY**

Lord, help me to live with purpose, knowing I am part of Your eternal kingdom, centered on Jesus the King.