

Daniel 7:1-28

From Daniel 7 to 12, four visions are introduced. Today's passage is the first vision.

In the first year of King Belshazzar, Daniel had a dream. Four beasts emerged from the sea. The first beast was a lion with eagle's wings. The second beast was a bear standing on its hind legs, holding three ribs in its mouth, appearing very greedy. The third beast was a leopard with four bird wings on its back and four heads. Then, a fourth beast appeared, entirely different from the others. It was extremely fierce and powerful, with iron teeth and claws, crushing everything in its path and trampling the remnants underfoot. Moreover, it had ten horns. In verse 8, a small eleventh horn emerged among them, with human eyes and a mouth speaking words.

God revealed that these four beasts represent four kings who would arise in the world (verse 17). Biblical scholars generally believe that God foretold the rise of Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Alexander, and Antiochus IV Epiphanes. These four kings ruled over Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome.

The "last days" in the Bible refer to the period between Jesus' first coming and His second coming. Therefore, the fourth beast should not be limited to Rome alone, but seen as a symbol of the kingdoms and rulers throughout history that continually oppose God. The small horn represents the coming of the Antichrist.

As Daniel saw the vision of these four beasts, he focused on something significant. In verses 9-14, he saw God seated on His throne, judging the world, and the Savior, Jesus Christ. He also saw the vision of the kingdom of God, where people worship Him. In verse 9, Daniel repeatedly states, "I kept looking," indicating his continuous focus. While witnessing the rise of these beasts, Daniel did not lose sight of what God was revealing.

God told Daniel that the world would continue to worsen, and greater tribulation and persecution would come. However, God still reigns over the world, and Jesus will open the gates to God's kingdom. God's judgment will come. Therefore, God calls His people to remain steadfast, fix their eyes on His kingdom, and live by faith today.

Believers must keep their eyes on certain truths: Our God is the sovereign ruler who governs the world according to His will. We should not be discouraged because God is in control, and His kingdom will ultimately triumph. If Daniel looked forward to the crucified and resurrected Jesus, we must look forward to the returning Christ. When Jesus comes again, God's kingdom will be eternal, and all will witness its final victory.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18)

**Bible
Reading**

2/10(Mon)	2/11(Tue)	2/12(Wed)	2/13(Thur)	2/14(Fri)	2/15(Sat)	2/16(Sun)
Exod. 36-38	Exod. 39-40, Levi. 1-2	Levi. 3-6	Levi. 7-9	Levi. 10-13	Levi. 14-15	Levi. 16-18

QT

Quiet Time Passage

2/10(Mon)	2/11(Tue)	2/12(Wed)	2/13(Thur)	2/14(Fri)	2/15(Sat)	2/16(Sun)
John 11:36-44	John 11:45-57	John 12:1-11	John 12:12-19	John 12:20-36	John 12:37-50	John 13:1-11

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Share an experience of God's grace in your life through last week's sermon or your daily devotions.

2. Share any new insights or blessings you received from today's message.

3. Reflect on whether you are living with faith, focusing on the things we must look at with faith (God's kingdom, sovereign God, judging God, and the returning Christ). Share your commitment of faith and pray together.