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DANIEL 7:1-14

FUTURE SECURED

THIS WEEK'S focus

Most of us wish we had some kind of ability to know what the future has in store for us. We would love someone to tell us where we will go to college, what kind of jobs we will have, who (or if) we will marry, and where we will live. Thinking about all the unknowns of the future can be equal parts exhilarating and terrifying at times. One of Daniel's gifts was receiving and interpreting dreams, and God gave him many visions for the future. Even with a special insight into what was coming for Israel, Daniel still had to trust God for the days ahead. Just like Daniel, believers can be confident in our future with God.



CENTRAL truth

Believers can be confident in our future with God.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE DANIEL 7:14

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

DANIEL 7:1-3

DWELL

Not only was Daniel gifted with the ability to interpret others' prophetic dreams, but as He did with Ezekiel, God often spoke to Daniel through prophetic dreams of his own. This dream begins with the image of four winds ("four" indicating that the winds came from all corners of the world) stirring up the sea into a frenzy. From the stormy sea rose four great, terrifying beasts. Daniel later writes that these beasts represented four kings or nations that would take power throughout history (v. 17). Based on the violent image of the stirred-up sea, already you can guess that these kings would not come to power peacefully.



Why do you think God communicated with Daniel through his dreams like this?



Have you experienced a situation like this, where people or an event stirred things up? How was God present in that situation?

MEMORIZE

Use a phone or computer to record yourself reading Daniel 7:14 aloud. Listen to this recording throughout the week.

PRAY

Pray that God would be your steady foundation in the midst of the chaos of life.

day 2

DANIEL

7:4-8

DWELL

Each of the great beasts was different, but they were all strange and terrifying. The first animal, the lion, represented King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, who you read about in session 10. The second, the bear, represented the Medo-Persian Empire, which arose after Babylon and was known for its fierceness in battle. The third animal, a leopard, represented Greece, which conquered the entire area with great speed. And the fourth animal, which was so different from the others that it could not be named, represented Rome, which had a power and might greater than any of the others.

↓ Why are these four animals and the way they're described fitting symbols for the four conquering nations?

→ How can it help you now to have an understanding about these ancient civilizations?

MEMORIZE

Write Daniel 7:14 on a note card and place it in a folder or binder where you will see it frequently. Read it to yourself each time you see it this week.

PRAY

Thank God that His kingdom is different and better than any that have come before.

day 3

DANIEL

7:9-14

DWELL

As the dream continued, Daniel saw an image of God taking His seat on a throne of burning fire. A fiery river flowed from His presence and a huge crowd was gathered. God was holding court and presiding as judge over the beasts—but not only did He have the authority and power to pronounce judgment, He also had the authority to carry out those judgments. The last beast was destroyed in the fire, and the other beasts were removed from power, though they were allowed to remain alive a while longer. Then “one like a Son of Man”—Jesus—approached the throne and was given dominion and glory and an everlasting kingdom. What a glorious picture of the God we serve!

↑ What do these descriptions of God the Father, God the Son, and His kingdom tell you about them?

↔ How could the reality of God's eternal kingdom influence the way you react to conflict and hardship in your life now?

MEMORIZE

Break Daniel 7:14 into 3–5 smaller parts and try to recite a different part to yourself from memory throughout each day.

PRAY

Thank God that His kingdom is for people of all nations and languages.

day 4

REVELATION 1:12-19

DWELL

In John's vision, he saw Jesus—once again called the Son of Man—standing among seven lampstands, which represented the seven churches of the ancient world (to whom the letters in chapters 2–3 would be addressed). Jesus is described using language similar to that of the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7—He had white hair, flaming eyes, feet like fine bronze, a sword coming from His mouth, and His face was radiant like the sun. The image is one of holiness, power, strength, and majesty. It's no surprise that when John came face-to-face with this awe-inspiring picture of his Lord Jesus in all His glory, John fell to his face in fear and worship.

↑ Compare this description of Jesus with the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7:9-10. What do you learn about Jesus?

↪ How can these verses impact your prayers and worship?

MEMORIZE

Draw Daniel 7:14 on a piece of paper using colored pencils or markers, using a different color for the most important words and phrases. Hang it in your room or locker.

PRAY

Ask God to use passages like this one to grow your understanding of Jesus as the worthy King.

day 5

HEBREWS 10:32-39

DWELL

Though these visions of God show us that He is truly glorious, we still live in this world that has been broken by sin. Following Jesus does not mean that we will not suffer—in fact, it is almost guaranteed that we will, either because we choose to live in a radical way that is often in conflict with the ways of the world, or simply because we live in a world where trouble and hardships happen. The author of Hebrews reminded his readers to endure these trials patiently and faithfully, because of God's promises of His eternal kingdom and salvation. We can have strength when life gets tough because we know that God's promises are a sure thing.

↻ What are the promises that the author of Hebrews mentions in verse 36?

➔ What would it look like for you to have this sort of endurance and confidence?

MEMORIZE

Practice reciting Daniel 7:14 aloud from memory with a friend or family member. They can prompt you with the next word if you need help remembering.

PRAY

Pray that God would give you the strength to joyfully endure life's trials and struggles for the sake of His promises.