

# Daniel 7

## "What to Remember When Times are Dark"

January 16/17, 2010

### STUDY QUESTIONS

Have you ever been through something hard and were completely unprepared for it? Describe the situation. Now think of going through something hard that you expected to be hard. What was it and how do our expectations prepare us for tough times? Do they make a difference?

Daniel and the people of God in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC are in the midst of hard times. The prophets repeatedly warned that they would suffer greatly if they did not return to God with all their heart. Their recent past was filled with horrific violence and they were displaced in all facets of their life. Read Psalm 137 to get a feel for the times and note the question they ask in verse 4. Paraphrase that verse in your own words.

Turn back to Daniel 7 and read the visions again in verses 1-14.

-What are three parts of the vision?

-How does the vision of the four beasts compare to the vision of the statue in Daniel 2:31-45?

-What do we learn about God (ancient of days) and Christ, the one like a son of man?

Now read the interpretation of the dream Daniel 7:15-28.

-What are the four beasts in verse 17?

-Why is Daniel preoccupied with the fourth beast and what do we know about it?  
(verses 19-25)

-Why do you think Daniel is troubled by the vision?

How did Daniel 7 encourage God's people in Babylon to stand firm 'til the end? Instead of listing all the things we can't figure out in Daniel 7, list the things that are clearly taught. What are you learning that is brand new for you? What is especially important right now for you and why?

God is on the throne, evil is real, we will suffer, but this isn't the end of the story. We know where history is going. God will judge and conquer all who oppose Him and He will set up His eternal Kingdom; one that will never be destroyed. What we believe about God and the future, makes all the difference in how we live our lives today. Is that true in your life?

Do you believe God is on the throne? How do you know? (it's got to be more than words)

Do you believe that God will judge the world and are you ready to meet him? How do you know? Read Matthew 7:21-23, Ephesians 2:8-10.

Do you believe the best is yet to come for those who know Christ as king? How do you know you believe this?

Do your actions support the truth that the church (God's kingdom) is the only thing you are a part of that will last forever?

Pray together praising God for who He is and for what He's done/doing according to Daniel 7. Ask God to encourage your faith and those who suffer today for their faith in Christ. Pray, asking God to strengthen your faith so that you will endure 'til the end. Ask God to help you stay alert. Ask Him to grow you in godliness. (cf 2 Peter 3:11-18) Ask God to give you a greater desire and boldness to share the hope of Christ to those who don't know Christ as their Savior.