



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. If one of the people sitting near me said that they had a vision, I would struggle to believe it was from God.
2. I like scary movies better than feel-good movies.
3. God tends to communicate in different ways with me more often during times of transition in my life.
4. God wants us to have prophecy so that we will know when He is coming.
5. God gave Daniel visions so that we in the future could read them and know how soon He is coming.

DIG DEEPER

➤ **READ Daniel 7:1** (NIV)

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

» **Going Back In Time!**

- The writings of Daniel are divided into two sections: Chapters 1-6 are 3rd person narrative stories; Chapters 7-12 are the recounting of visions.

- Chapter 7 begins the series of visions that now dominate the rest of the book. While the stories took us past the end of the Babylonian period into the Medo-Persian (ch. 6), the clock now turns back to the first year of King Belshazzar (about 550 BC). Daniel, who has previously interpreted the dreams and visions of others, now becomes the visionary, and he in turn needs others (heavenly beings) to interpret.

« In Nebuchadnezzar's second year as king of Babylon, God gives him a vision of the four coming kingdoms. 38 years later, a new king, Belshazzar, is beginning his first year of reign. Why do you think that God chose this time to give Daniel a vision about the four kingdoms, and what does this reveal about what concerns God the most?

➤ **READ Daniel 7:2-14** (NIV)

» **The Ignored Scene**

- Without a break, as soon as the fourth and last beast is described, the scene takes a major shift and we see a completely new scene with a whole new cast of characters.

« (Vs. 9-10) What are the new objects that Daniel sees? What are the visual descriptors that he uses for the objects and the characters?

« Who is the "Ancient of Days"?



« Who is the one who “looks like a son of man”?

« What’s the big deal about this 5th kingdom?

➤ **READ Daniel 7:15-18 (NIV)**

» **Daniel’s View vs. God’s Vision**

• Daniel is deeply troubled and disturbed by what he just saw. He asks one of the Watchers, or angels, nearby to help him understand it.

« (Vs. 18) The most important thing to Daniel is the beasts. What seems to be the most important thing to the messenger of God?

« Why do you think that we struggle with the same distracted fascination with the beasts today?

» **Daniel’s Preoccupation**

• Right on the heels of the angel telling Daniel that God wins in the end, Daniel asks him to back up and tell him what the last beast represents. He has to know what this kingdom is, and what kind of reign they would have. Of course he would. He wanted to know the age-old question that we still ask today: “How much longer until the Messiah will come and begin the Kingdom of Heaven?” Or more simply put, “How SOON is God’s soon coming?” The angel spells it out as briefly as he can (verses 23-25), but once again he tries to shift Daniel’s focus to something different...

➤ **READ Daniel 7:26-27 (NIV)**

» **The Angel’s Viewpoint**

« What seems to be the most important thing according to Heaven’s perspective?

« What does this tell you about God?

MY PRAYER...

1. How much do I focus on the “beasts” in my life, rather than the assurance of God’s victory?
2. What can I do to keep Heaven’s perspective more prominent in my daily life?
3. What new aspect of God’s character does He want me to know?



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