

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

www.twojourneys.org

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at twojourneys.org

The Son of Man: Human and Divine

Daniel 7

I. An Eternal Plan For Christ's International Glory

- A. Durham area: people from _____ different nations
- B. YET One God made the world and all nations of people
- C. History has a purpose
- D. Daniel 7 reveals that purpose: an eternal Kingdom in which people from every tribe, language, people, nation worship Christ

II. Review

- Daniel's night-time vision: first year of Belshazzar
- Turbulent sea, four winds; Four beasts come out of the sea
- Four beasts = four world empires: Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek, Roman
- Fourth beast: extremely terrifying... Ten horns, the "little horn"
- Meaning: flow of world history until second coming of Christ... human governments in opposition to Christ persecute His people; persecution climax = the reign of ANTI-CHRIST
- Open warfare on saints: two questions
 - 1) Why does God permit it?

2 Peter 3:15 "Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation..."

Each generation that passes brings two things... new souls into the church of Christ, new waves of suffering at the hands of earthly leaders

The suffering of the saints helps produce the salvation of sinners

Tertullian: "The blood of martyrs is seed for the church."

2) Will the suffering God on forever, or will God put an end to it?

The vision of the heavenly court and the Son of Man answer that! God rules in heaven and He will destroy the Anti-Christ persecution by direct intervention

Jesus Christ will come again in glory and establish His Kingdom on earth

III. The Heavenly Court and the Ancient of Days (vs. 9-10)

vs. 9-10 As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. ¹⁰ A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

A. Thrones Established

In the era of Kings, people understood that a King is also a Judge... this is the scene of a court trial before Kingly Judges... and the ultimate King and Judge

1. Heavenly court... rulers, arch-angels, powers; a heavenly council

Psalm 89:5-7 The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones. ⁶ For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings? ⁷ In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.

Revelation 4:4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

2. Hierarchy of heavenly authority

3. Demonic authority a corruption of this original order

4. ALSO could be thrones set up for saints who will judge

Revelation 20:4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge.

1 Corinthians 6:2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?

B. The “Ancient of Days” takes His seat

1. Name describes God’s eternal nature

Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Crucial for us arrogant humans to remember, in all the glory of our empire-building; there was a time when God existed alone, with no world, no heaven, no earth, no devil, no man, no oceans, no planets, no stars... only Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

2. God's other name: I AM... He always has been, always will be the same
3. His seat

God's throne is above every other throne...

Psalm 89:7 In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.

C. Attributes of God: Holiness, Eternity, Mobility, Judgment

1. Holiness: white clothing, throne of fire (pure and perfect)
2. Eternity: white hair (also speaks of his wisdom)
3. Mobility: throne with wheels (same vision in Ezekiel)
4. Judgment: FIRE, FIRE, FIRE

Fire represents God's absolute holiness... but also His judgment on sin

Hebrews 12:29 "Our God is a consuming fire."

The "river of fire" flowing from His throne is His wrath and judgment on all nations

Isaiah 30:27-28 See, the Name of the LORD comes from afar, with burning anger and dense clouds of smoke; his lips are full of wrath, and his tongue is a consuming fire. His breath is like a rushing torrent, rising up to the neck. He shakes the nations in the sieve of destruction

D. Angelic Host: Ready to Serve, Ready for War

1. Angels constantly serve God joyfully (these are not arch-angels, but servant angels)
2. Countless numbers of them

Hebrews 12:22 ... you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly

3. Angelic roles: SERVANTS, WORSHIPPERS, WARRIORS

vs. 10 *Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him*

4. "Stood before him": Ready to ride as warriors

Illus. Troops waiting for D-Day invasion, like a coiled spring ready to strike if the word would simply be given

Jude 14-15 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

E. Judgment Day: Court is Seated, Books Are Opened

1. What are the "books"?

Revelation 20:11-12 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

2. Terror of Judgment Day... every deed taken into account

Matthew 12:36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.

3. The Anti-Christ judged too!!

IV. The Intervening Judgment (vs. 11-12)

A. God Actively Rules NOW!! (vs. 12)

1. Other beasts were ancient kingdoms

2. "Stripped of their authority but allowed to live for a short time"... history continued after the fall of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece

3. God rules over the flow of history until the very end

B. God Will Actively Judge THEN!! (vs. 11, 26)

1. Boastful words end

Remember, the Anti-Christ claimed to be God in the flesh

2 Thessalonians 2:4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

2. Court's decision enacted

vs. 26 But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever

3. Christ destroys Anti-Christ by His Second-Coming power

C. Judgment: Blazing Fire

1. Remember Nebuchadnezzar's boast

Daniel 3:15 But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

2. NO ONE can rescue from God's hand!!

Deuteronomy 32:39 "See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand."

Isaiah 43:12-13 You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "that I am God. ¹³ Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?

Daniel 4:35-36 His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

God is the highest court in the land, the highest authority, the most powerful force, the sovereign king. When His judgment comes down against you, there is no court of appeal... and no one can deliver you from His hand!!

Our God is a delightful friend of sinners... but He is a terrifying enemy to the unrepentant

3. Beast is slain... his body destroyed eternally in blazing fire

4. Eternal fire: the consistent teaching of Scripture

Revelation 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Alright... the beast (the Antichrist) is destroyed and thrown into the lake of fire... but how does it happen?

V. The Son of Man: The Incarnate King for an Eternal Kingdom (vs. 13-14)

A. Anti-Christ Destroyed by “Son of Man”

1. Anti-Christ wars against the saints
2. Anti-Christ assembles his forces to destroy them forever
3. Christ returns from heaven on a white horse with the armies of heaven
4. Christ defeats the Anti-Christ at Armageddon “with the breath of his mouth”

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

Revelation 19:11-16 [Jesus on His white horse, with the armies of heaven]

This is the full story... but let’s not miss the significance of the prophecy!!

B. Greatest Text in Old Testament on the Deity of Messiah

1. Son of Man IS NOT the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7
2. YET He has clearly divine attributes!
3. Combination of humanity and deity clearly seen

C. Key term: “Son of Man”

1. Humanity clearly established... “Son of MAN”
2. YET He “rides the clouds”
3. AND He approached the Ancient of Days (coming right into His immediate presence)
4. AND He is given sovereign authority over all nations
5. AND He is given glory

6. AND He is worshipped by all nations, tribes, peoples, languages
7. AND He is given an eternal kingdom over which He rules

D. Who is this “Son of Man”???

1. Deep problem for Judaism... clear teaching of OT = only one God

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

- a. no one is like God

Isaiah 46:9 Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.

- b. God gives His glory to no one else

Isaiah 42:8 "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.

- c. no other gods can be worshipped

Matthew 4:8-10 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."

- d. He alone rules over the kingdoms of men

Daniel 4:32 "...the Most High is sovereign over the Kingdoms of men..."

2. And YET, here is the Son of Man
 - a. riding on a cloud like Jehovah
 - b. sharing Jehovah's glory
 - c. receiving worship from every tribe, language, people, nation
 - d. ruling over them with sovereign power in a Kingdom that will never end

This is a clear vision of the Messiah as fully human AND fully God

Key verse, vs. 14 "...men of every language worshipped him."

Aramaic lit. "served"... yet with clear religious meaning

Daniel 3:28 [Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego] were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

Matthew 4:10 Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.

E. Jesus of Nazareth is the "Son of Man"

1. Constantly used this title for Himself

30 times in Matthew's gospel alone, 14 times in Mark's, 25 times in Luke's gospel, 11 times in John's Gospel

Matthew 8:19-20 Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." ²⁰ Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Matthew 9:6 the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins

Matthew 12:8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.

Matthew 17:22-23 "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. ²³ They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life."

2. Only once is this phrase used by anyone but Jesus

John 12:34 The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

a. crucial error: first and second coming glory

b. first coming: the Son of Man's glory was to die on the cross

c. second coming: the Son of Man's glory was to crush Anti-Christ's empire and establish His own kingdom... a kingdom that will never end

3. Jews could not understand a suffering Messiah... or one that was Incarnate Deity

4. Issue culminated at Jesus' trial

Matthew 26:63-66 *The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered.*

Amazing... Jesus quoted Daniel 7 at the key moment of His trial... He was condemned for blasphemy because he, though he was a man claimed to be God

BUT THE WHOLE THING WAS LAID OUT IN THEIR OWN SCRIPTURES!!!

The issue was the problem of timing of the two clearest prophecies in OT

Isaiah 53: the Suffering Servant... FIRST

Daniel 7: the triumphant incarnate King...FUTURE

VI. Eternal Kingdom for the Saints (vs. 22, 27)

vs. 21-22 *As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, ²² until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.*

vs. 27 *Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'*

A. People from every tribe will be in the Kingdom

B. The Kingdom is an earthly kingdom ("under the whole heavens")

Matthew 5:5 *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

C. Saints will rule over the Kingdom

Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High

D. Saints will submit to Christ

E. This Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom

His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.

VII. Application

1. Earthly kingdoms are beast-like... they will continue to persecute Christians until the end

2. YET all earthly kingdoms are under God's sovereign control

3. VISIONS:

- Vision of glorious Ancient of Days... our eternal holy sovereign God
- Vision of glorious Son of Man...
 - Jesus Christ who died on the cross for human beings
 - Jesus Christ who will return on the clouds to destroy earthly powers and to rule forever
- Vision of Heavenly Court: opened books, a throne of fire

Hebrews 12:29 "Our God is a consuming fire."

There is a river of fire flowing from His throne... it will consume souls of unbelievers; it will also consume anything in your life that does not glorify Him

Souls consumed

Worthless works consumed

Are you ready??

Be willing to suffer now! Be holy now!! Build His Kingdom now!! Stop wasting your life on things that will not survive Judgment Day