

8. The title "Son of Man" is a favorite that Jesus used for himself (occurring 30x in Matthew alone). Besides using the title, what other parallels do you observe in these passages with the description of the Son of Man in Daniel 7:13-14?

Matthew 19:28

Matthew 24:30-31

Matthew 24:37-44

Matthew 25:31-32

Matthew 26:64

Sermon Notes

"God's Plan for the Nations"

Daniel 7:1-28

July 5, 2015

Introduction:

1. Four beasts = Four kingdoms (7:1-8)

Let's Pray:

What aspects of the Son of Man prompt you to praise him? Take some time in prayer to voice those to Jesus Christ. Do the same toward God the Father as you meditate on his character as the Ancient of Days.

2. Ancient of Days in the Courtroom of Judgment (7:9-12)

3. Son of Man Worthy to Rule God's Kingdom (7:13-14)

3. Daniel is alarmed by the vision (7:15, 28). Apocalyptic literature, being rich in visuals, is intended to lead us to experience the same intense feelings. What elements are most emotionally distressing?

Conclusion:

4. Daniel sees four beasts which, according to verse 17, represent four kingdoms. The lion-like appearance of the first beast may represent that kingdom's strength and majesty. What characteristics of the second, third, and fourth kingdoms are suggested by 7:5-7?

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 7-5-15

Questions adapted from Daniel: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2013, pp. 69-81; Douglas Connelly, Daniel, Spiritual Living in a Secular World, Intersity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2000, pp. 31-33.

Getting Started:

1. What are some ways that people think the world will come to an end?

5. What aspects of God's nature and power are suggested by Daniel's description of the Ancient of Days in 7:9-10?

Digging Deeper:

2. Scholars often point out similarities between Daniel's vision (7:2-14) and Nebuchadnezzar's statue dream (2:31-45). Reread both passages and list all the similarities you find.

6. How can this vision of God give us hope and stability when the nations (or our lives) are in turmoil?

7. The final figure to appear in Daniel's vision is "one like a son of man" (7:13-14). What effect does his coming have on the inhabitants and rulers of the world?