



BK WEEKEND

February 1 & 2, 2020

Daniel's Dream (Lesson 5)

Daniel 7

Unit: Hope in Exile

Unit Bible Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Note: This is the last lesson in this unit. Next week we begin the unit *Return to the Land*.

Bible Story: Years before Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, when Belshazzar (bel SHAZ uhr), King Nebuchadnezzar's son, was the king of Babylon, Daniel had a strange dream that was a message from God. In the dream, Daniel saw a big windstorm on the sea. Four big creatures came up from the sea, each different from the others. Daniel had never seen animals like these before.

The first creature was like a lion that had wings like an eagle. The second creature was like a bear with three ribs in its mouth. The third creature was like a leopard, with four wings on its back and four heads. The fourth creature was strong and scary; it had large teeth made out of iron and destroyed everything in its way. It also had 10 horns.

Then Daniel saw a place in heaven with thrones. God sat down on a throne to judge the creatures. His hair and clothing were white like snow and His throne was like fire. God took away the creatures' power. God let the first three creatures live for a short time, but the creature with horns was killed.

Suddenly, God's Son came. God gave Him power to rule over everything. He was the king, and people from every nation and language served Him. His kingdom would last forever; it would never be destroyed.

Daniel was frightened by the dream, but God gave Daniel the ability to know what the dream meant. The four creatures were four kings on earth. They would rule for a time, but then God would give His people the kingdom forever and ever.

Daniel did not tell anyone about his dream, but he wrote down everything he saw.

Questions/Discussion

- 1) How is Jesus better than earthly rulers (kings, queens, presidents...)?
- 2) How can this story help you trust in God?

Christ Connection: Jesus is King over everything. God lets people rule for a short time, but one day Jesus will come back and set up His perfect kingdom. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be in His kingdom, and it will last forever.

Family Activity: Do a little research as a family about earthly kingdoms such as Babylonian, Roman or British Empires. Look at where the empire was on a world map and talk about how Jesus will rule forever.

Prayer: God, thank You that kingdoms may come and go, but Jesus' kingdom will last forever. Help us turn from our sin and trust in Him so we can be part of His kingdom. In Jesus' name, amen.



Lesson Summary: Daniel 7 is considered one of the most important chapters in the Old Testament. This chapter and the chapters that follow describe a series of visions and prophecies about the future of God’s people. This message gave hope to God’s people in captivity.

This Bible story takes place in the first year of King Belshazzar’s reign. (Dan. 7:1) Belshazzar was the son of King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel encountered Belshazzar in chapter 5. Daniel was about 82 years old when he was thrown into the lions’ den; chapter 7 rewinds the clock to tell of a dream Daniel had when he was about 67.

In a vision parallel to Daniel 2, Daniel saw four beasts. Each beast represented an earthly kingdom. The first creature was like a lion but had eagle’s wings. This creature represented the kingdom of Babylon. The second creature was like a bear, and it had ribs in its mouth. This creature represented the kingdom of the Medes and Persians. The third creature was like a leopard with four wings on its back and four heads. This creature represented the kingdom of Greece. Finally, the fourth creature was strong and destructive. It had 10 horns, and this creature represented the kingdom of Rome.

Then Daniel saw God—the Ancient of Days—sitting on His throne. Daniel watched as God killed the fourth creature and took away the power of the others. As complicated as it may be, Daniel’s vision reveals an ultimate reality: “These huge beasts ... are four kings who will rise from the earth. But the holy ones of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever” (Dan. 7:17-18).

As you talk with your kids, emphasize that they will see all sorts of rulers and powers and authorities in the world, but the Bible is clear: God is ruling over them all. The kingdoms of earth will last for a short time, and the kingdom of Jesus will come and last forever.

Jesus is King over all things. God allows people to rule for a short time, but one day Jesus will return and set up His perfect kingdom. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be welcomed into His kingdom, and His kingdom will last forever.

Unit Key Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

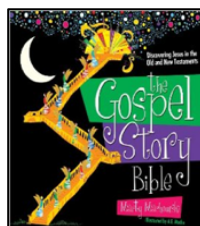
- *Age 2 – 3:* “...pray...give thanks...”
- *Age 4 – 5:* “...pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances...”
- *Grade K – 3:* “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God...”
- *Preteen:* “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Preteen Daily Readings: This week’s (**January 27**) readings are James 1:12, Romans 8:26, 1 Corinthians 16:13, Psalm 34:4-5, Philippians 2:14-15 and Psalm 56:3-4.

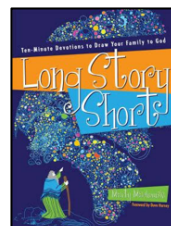
Family Devotional: Our desire is for kids to hear from the Bible first at home and then have the message be reinforced at church on the weekend. In addition to, or in lieu of the provided story, you can use these devotionals with your family. These can be purchased in the Berean Café.



Age 2-5, No Story



Grade K-3, No Story



Grade 4-5, No Story