

Chapter 9 — "Vision of the Four Beasts" (Daniel 7:1-8)

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea." — Daniel 7:2-3

PART I: UNDERSTANDING THE CONTENT

1. A Turning Point in Daniel

In what ways does Daniel 7 serve as a major "hinge chapter" or turning point in the overall structure and focus of the book?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

2. Daniel's Dream and the Symbolic Sea

When did Daniel receive this vision (Dan. 7:1), and what do the churning sea and four winds depict (Dan. 7:2-3)? How does this chapter view human empires differently than the vision in Chapter 2?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

3. The Lion and the Deformed Bear

How are the first two beasts described in Daniel's vision (Dan. 7:4-5), and what do these unique symbols reveal about the empires they represent?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

4. The Leopard and the Terrifying Fourth Beast

How is the third beast depicted in Daniel's vision (Dan. 7:6), and what unique features make the fourth beast so frightening and formidable (Dan. 7:7)?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

5. The Little Horn and God's Sovereignty

What characterizes the "little horn" that arises among the ten horns (Dan. 7:8), and how does this vision highlight God's complete sovereignty over all earthly powers?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

PART II: APPLYING THE MATERIAL

6. Viewing Worldly Power from Heaven's Perspective

While human history often admires powerful empires, God reveals them as predatory beasts. How does viewing world systems from God's heavenly perspective change the way you evaluate political power?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

7. Refusing to Put Hope in Earthly Kingdoms

In what ways are Christians tempted to place their ultimate hope in earthly politics or nations, and how can we guard our hearts against this temptation?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

8. Resting in God's Sovereignty Over Global Chaos

Just as God sets boundaries for every beast in Daniel's vision, He remains sovereign over our world today. How does knowing that God is in complete control bring you peace when global instability feels overwhelming?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

9. Cultivating Discernment Against Arrogant Voices

The boastful speech of the little horn foreshadows leaders and movements that oppose God and His truth. How can believers cultivate spiritual discernment to avoid being swayed by arrogant cultural voices?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

10. Living as Citizens of an Eternal Kingdom

Earthly empires come and go, but God's kingdom will stand forever. How should your identity as a citizen of God's eternal kingdom shape your daily priorities, character, and ultimate hope?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS