

Daniel's Vision and God's Eternal Victory

Daniel 7:1 - 8:27

Key Verse 7:27

Daniel 7:27

"Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him."

Introduction

- Ch. 1-6: biography; Daniel 7-12: prophecy
- Ch. 7-12: Four visions, which Daniel saw in the last 20y of life
- Ch. 7
 - Judah in exile for >50 years (since 605 BC)
 - Jerusalem's fall 587 BC
 - Judah doesn't exist as a kingdom
- „kingdom/dominion“ appears 11 times in chapter 7.
- Daniel ch. 7& 8 is about God's sovereign plan for the kingdoms of the world and for His people who inherit His kingdom.

Introduction

- Daniel's vision is timeless and still holds true for all history of human mankind.
- The kingdoms of the world will rise and fall and disappear for ever and ever.
- However, God's kingdom will last for ever and ever.

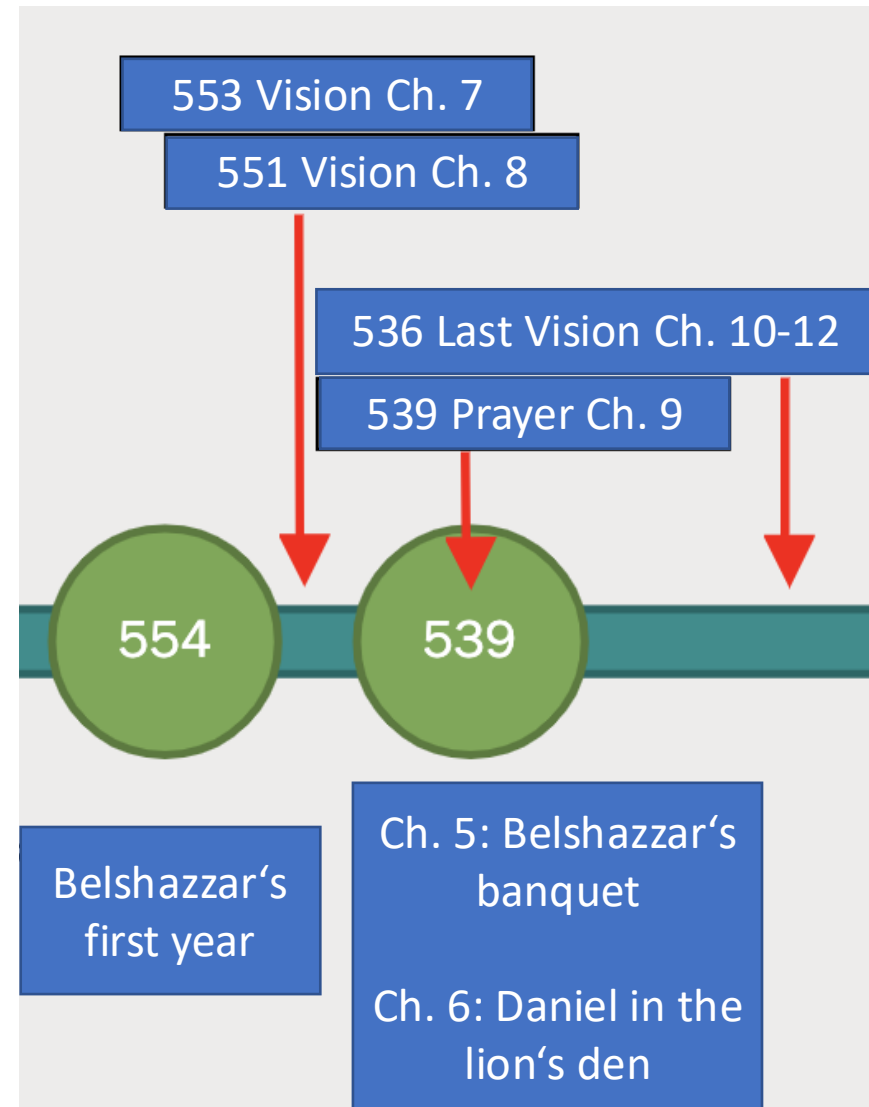
I. Daniel's Vision of the Son of Man (7:1-28)

1. When and what did Daniel dream about?

(1-27) What do the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea indicate? (Gen 1:1-2) What did the four beasts describe? (4-8; 17; 2:37-43) What happened to the four beasts? What glory of God did Daniel see? To whom did the Son of Man refer, and what was given to him? (13-14)

7:1: „In the first year of Belshazzar“

- 554 BC
- 15 years before the fall of Babylon (539 BC)
 - Dan 5:30: „That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain,...“



Factual Study – Daniel chapter 7

Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts and the Son of Man

Verses	Content
1	Date of Daniel's dream
2-8	Daniel's vision of the four beasts
7-8	The fourth beast with ten horns and a little horn
9-10	Daniel's vision of the Ancient of Days
11-12	The end of the four beasts
13-15	Daniel's vision of the son of man
16-28	The interpretation of Daniel's vision
16-18	Four beasts as four kings and God's eternal kingdom
19-22	The failure of the fourth beast against the holy people
23-27	The failure of the fourth kingdom with ten kings and the victory of the holy people of the Most High
28	The end of the matter

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The four winds stand for God's Spirit

Revelation 7:1

„After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the **four winds** of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.“

Zechariah 6:5

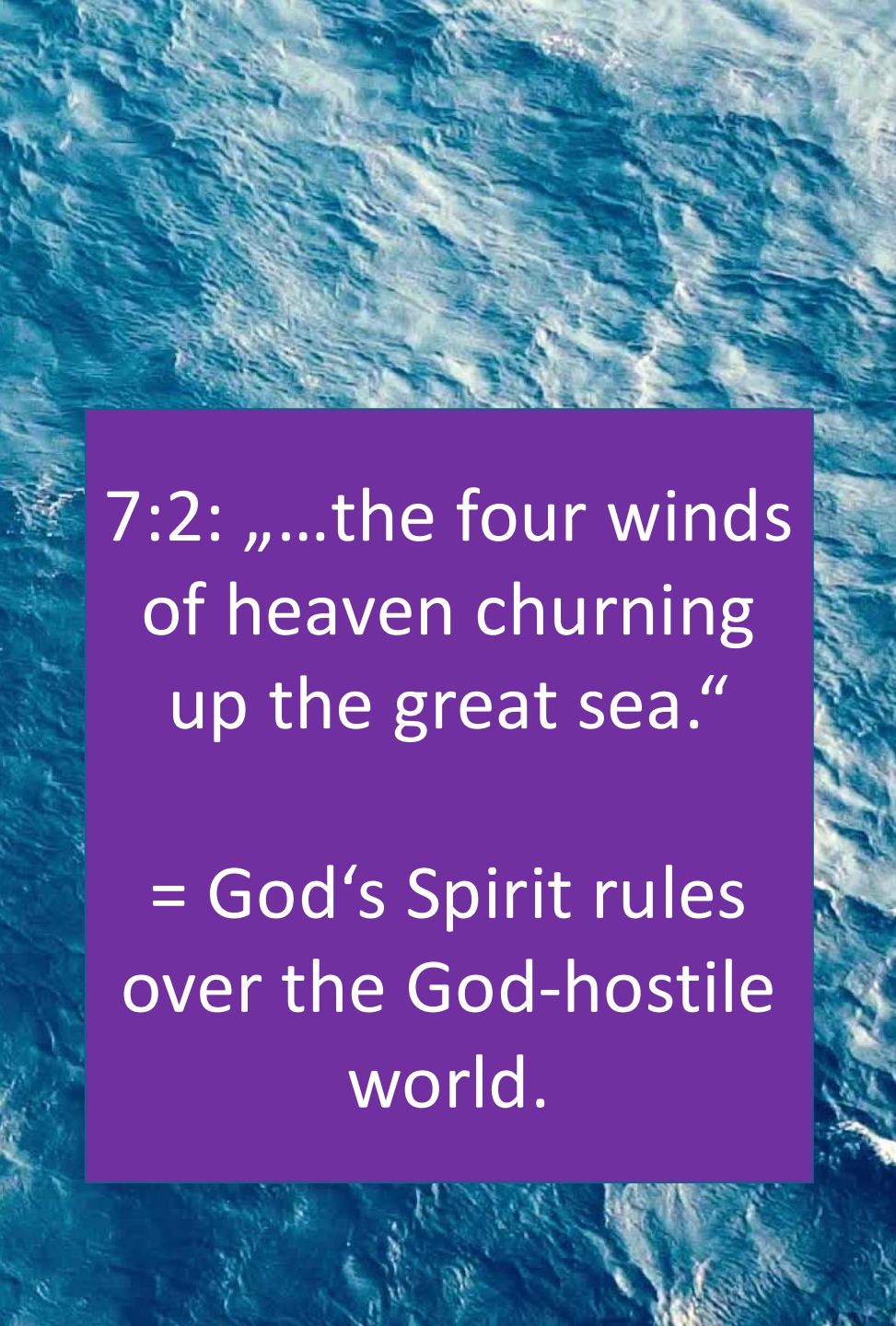
„The angel answered me, “These are the **four spirits** of heaven, going out from standing in the presence of the Lord of the whole world.“

John 3:8

„The **wind** blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.“

Genesis 1:1,2

„In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the waters.“



The great sea stands for the powers opposing God.

7:2: „...the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea.“

= God's Spirit rules over the God-hostile world.

Isaiah 17:12,13

„Woe to the many nations that rage—
they rage like the raging sea!

Woe to the peoples who roar—

they roar like the roaring of great waters!

Although the peoples roar like the roar of surging waters,

when he rebukes them they flee far away,
driven before the wind like chaff on the hills,
like tumbleweed before a gale. “

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The four beasts (7:4-8)

- 7:4: lion
- 7:5: bear
- 7:6: leopard
- 7:7: a fourth beast



A little horn (7:8)

- A little horn; three of the first horns were uprooted before it; with eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.



The four beasts are four great kings that will rise from the earth. (7:17)



- The worldly kingdoms are against the people of God, Israel.
- Beasts = wild, dangerous, terrifying
 - If a human being rules without God, he will tend to become a beast, such as Nebuchadnezzar and Antiochus IV Epiphanes

The Babylonian Empire



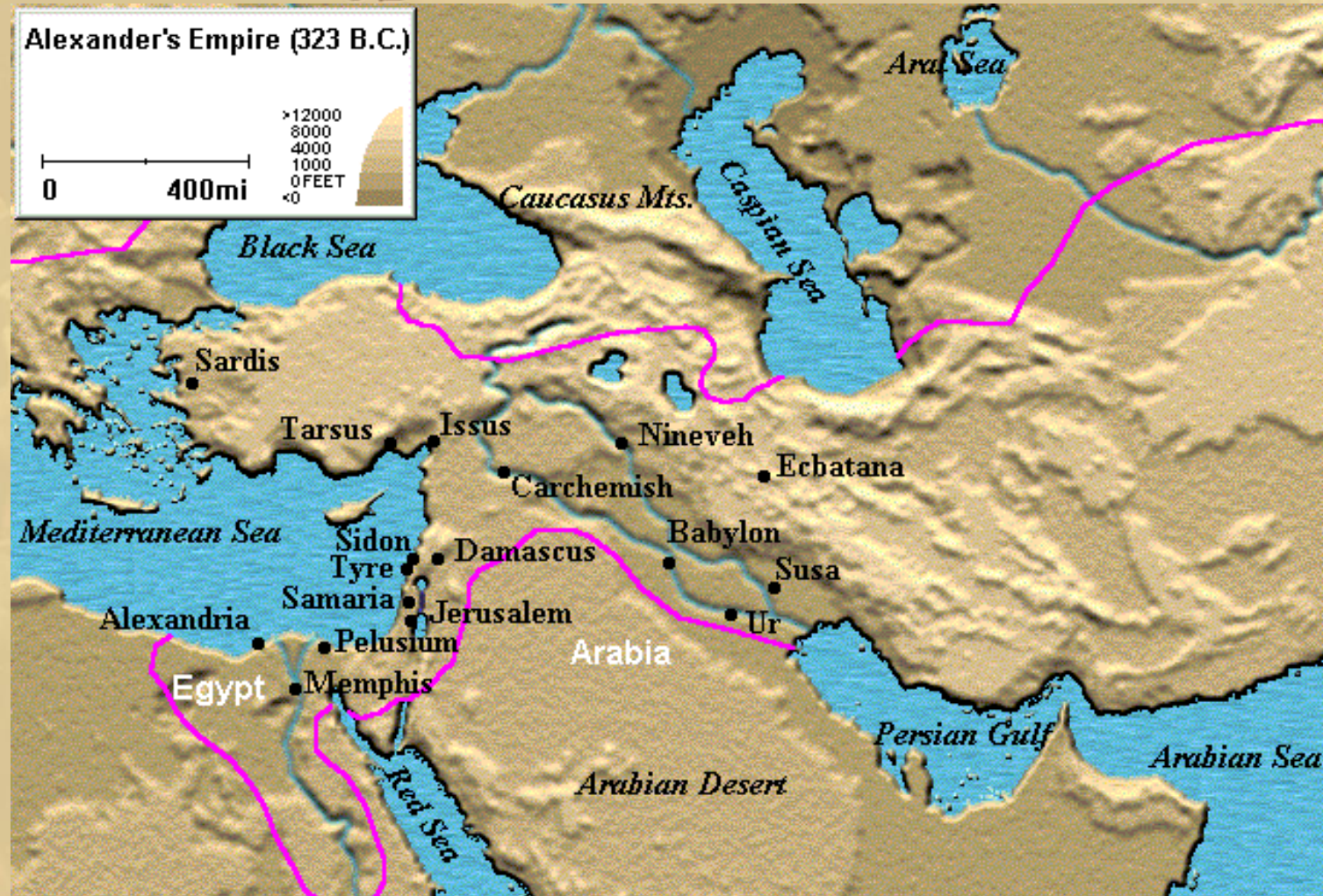
The Persian Empire



The Greek Empire



Alexander's Empire



The Empire Divided



The Roman Empire



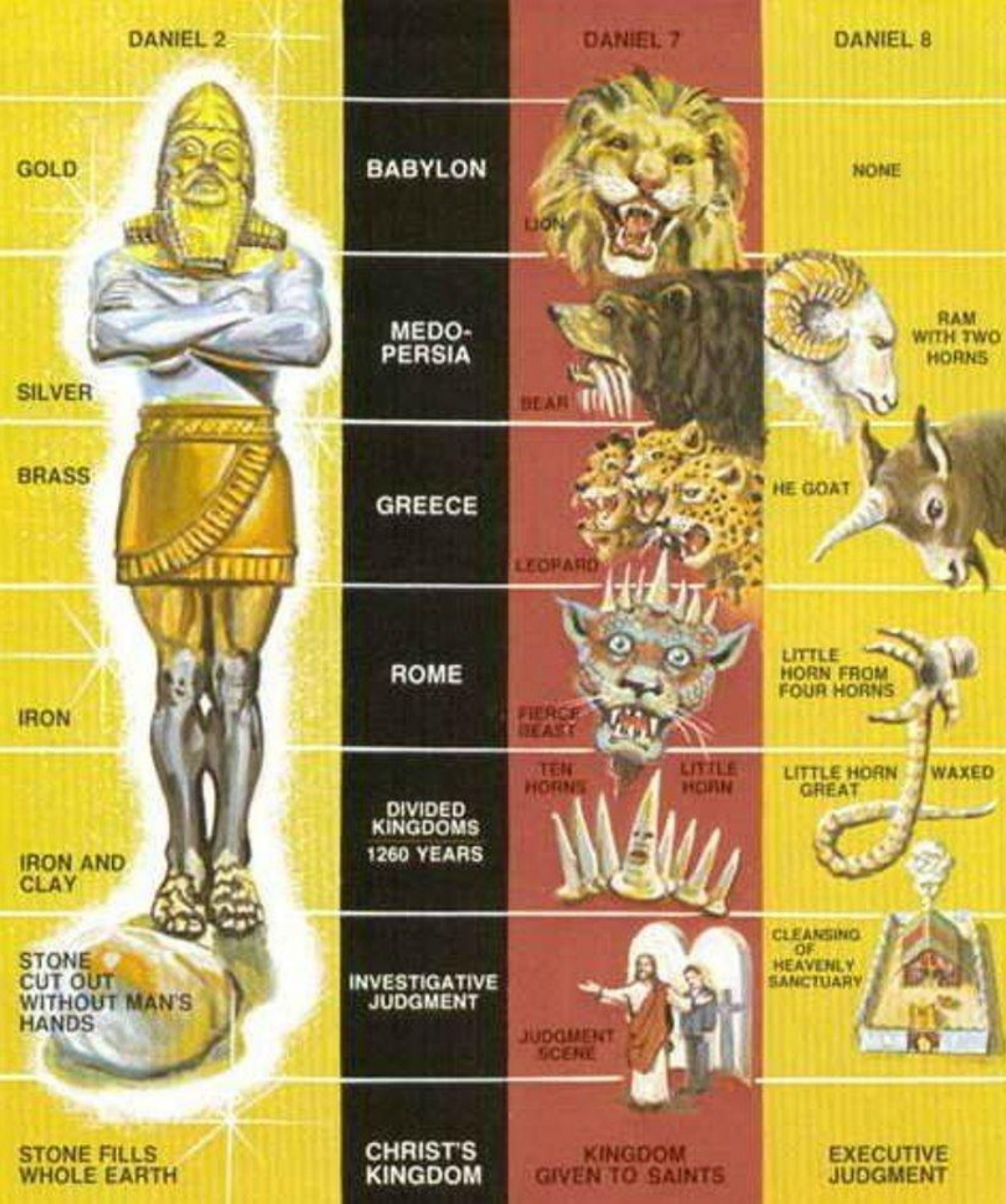
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The end of the four beasts

- 7:11: „The beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.“
- 7:12: „The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.“





605 - 539 BC

539 - 330 BC

330 - 64 BC

64 BC - 70 AC

7:12: „...but were allowed to live for a period of time.“

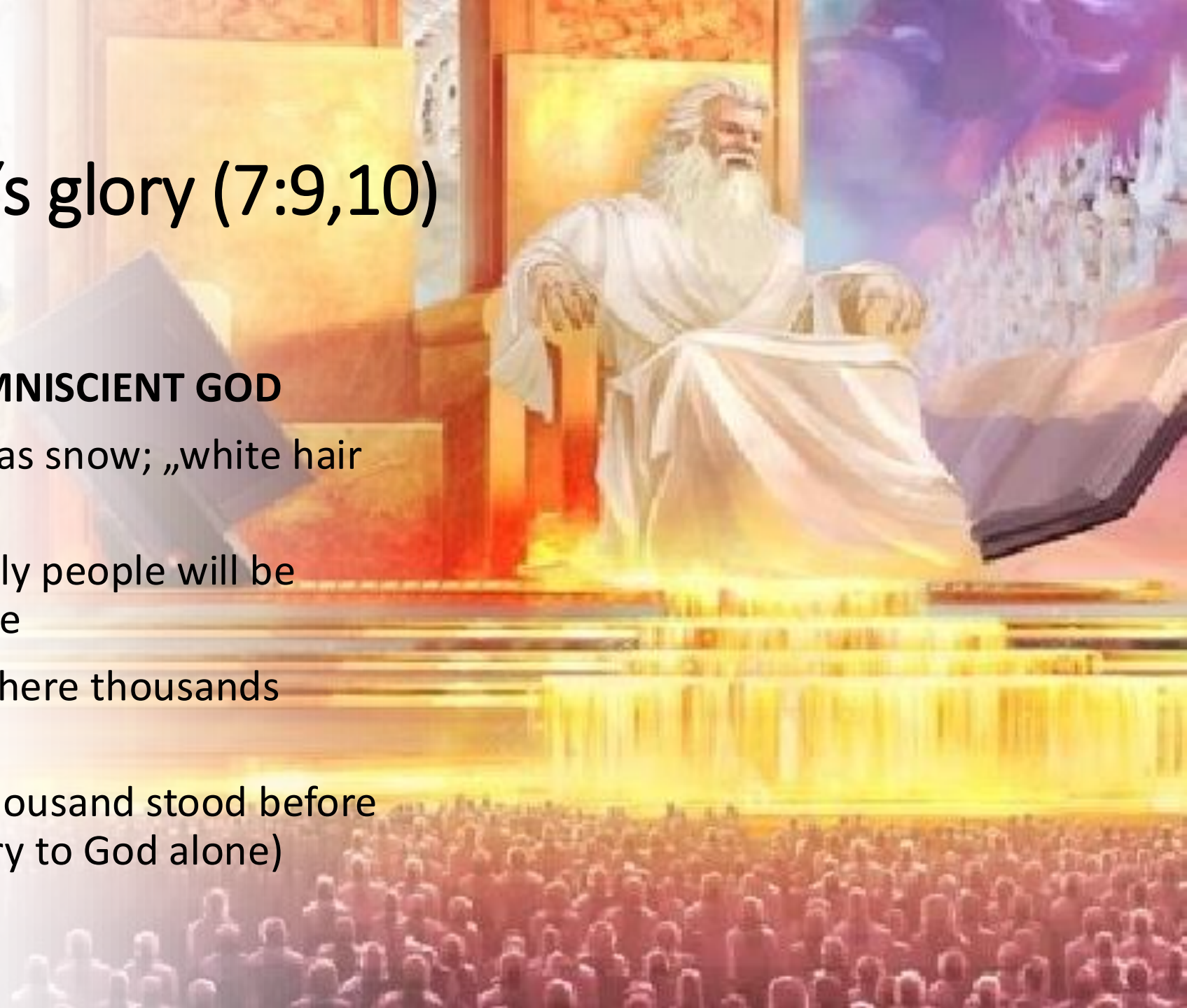
cf. Dan 2:37-43

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Daniel saw God's glory (7:9,10)

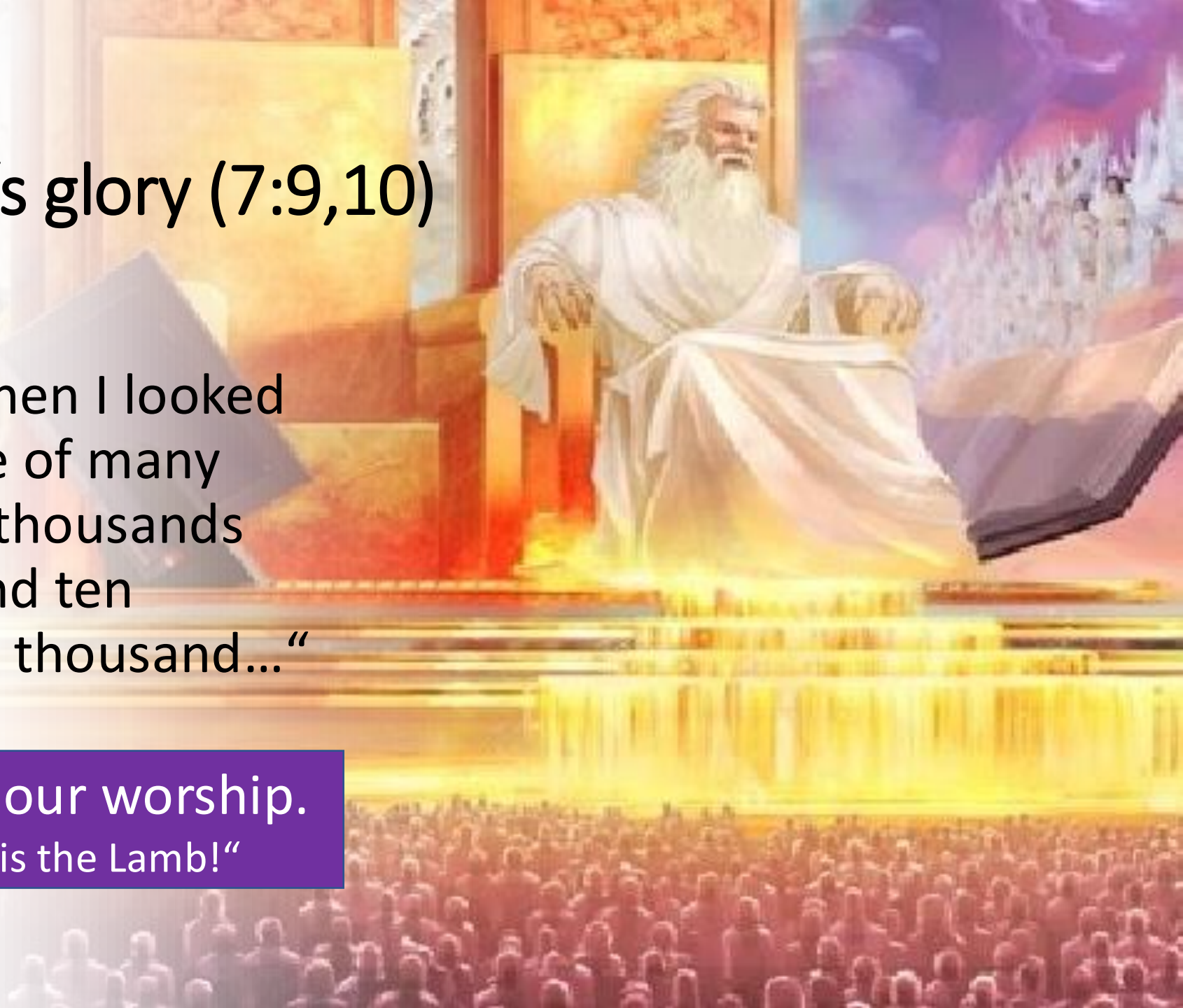
- „the Ancient of Days“ = **OMNISCIENT GOD**
- „His clothing was as white as snow; „white hair like wool“ = **HOLY GOD**
- „ flaming with fire“ = Unholy people will be purified by God through fire
- „throne of God“ = court, where thousands upon thousands attend
- „ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him“ = Soli Deo gloria (Glory to God alone)



Daniel saw God's glory (7:9,10)

Revelation 5:11: „Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand...“

Only God deserves our worship.
Revelation 5:12: „Worthy is the Lamb!“



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Daniel's vision of the son of man (7:13,14)

Four great beasts

come from the God-hostile world (7:3)

The son of man

comes from heaven (7:13)

Daniel's vision of the son of man (7:13,14)

Matthew 24:30

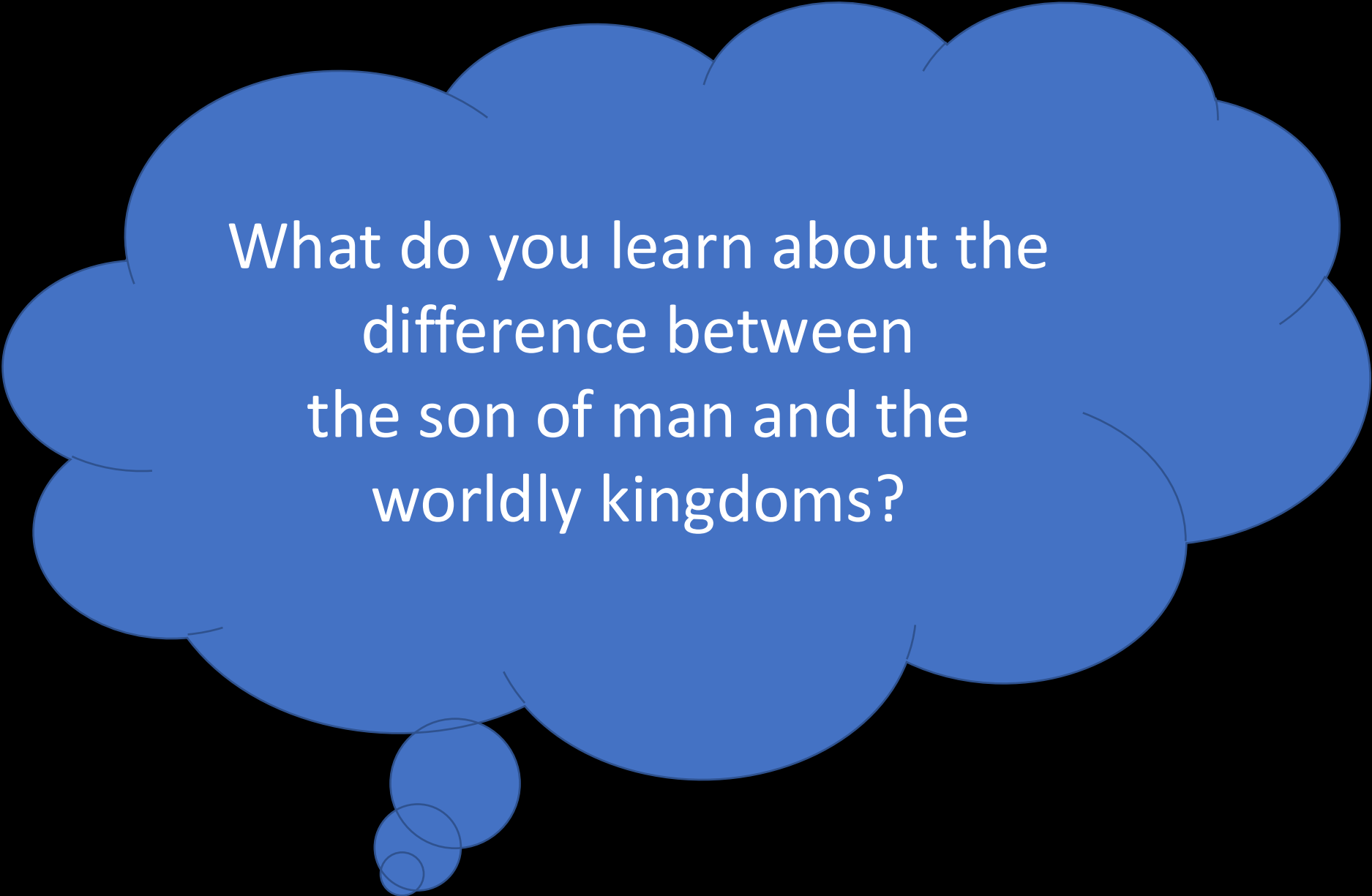
„Then will appear the sign of the **Son of Man** in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.“

Mark 13:26

„At that time people will see the **Son of Man** coming in clouds with great power and glory.“

Mark 14:62

„I am,“ said Jesus. „And you will see the **Son of Man** sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.“



What do you learn about the
difference between
the son of man and the
worldly kingdoms?

The difference between the son of man and the worldly kingdoms

The son of man

- He comes from God.
- He will last forever.
- Who is the ruler of my life?
 - Everyone who belongs to Jesus, will last forever and inherit God's kingdom

The worldly kingdoms

- They come from the world.
- Everyone who belongs to this world, will surely perish.
 - 1 John 2:15-17: „Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father[d] is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.“

I. Daniel's Vision of the Son of Man (7:1-28)

2. How terrifying would the fourth beast be against the Holy People? (19-25) What does the powerlessness of the Holy People suggest? How would the Holy People win against the fourth beast? What does the final victory tell about the Holy people, God's judgement, and the everlasting Kingdom? (14, 26-27)

The war of the little horn against the holy people

7:21: „As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them.“

7:25: „He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws...“

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The powerlessness of the holy people is limited

7:21: „...this horn...was defeating them,..."

7:25: persecution, imprisonment, torture, murder

However: Sufferings of the holy people are limited in time.

(7:25: „The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.“

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The victory of the holy people through God's court

- 7:22: „until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.“
- 7:26: ““But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.“
- The people of God would experience delivery from Babylonian captivity and formed as a vast army of God.
→ Vision of restoration of Jerusalem & eternal Jerusalem

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The final victory of the holy people (7:27)

7:27: „Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.“

→ Final victory for the holy people in God's hand

God's judgment (7:26)

7:26: „But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.“

Speaking against the Most High & terrible persecution against the holy people are limited = a time, times and half a time

→ The final victory comes in form of a court

The eternal kingdom (7:17,18)

The eternal kingdom

Jesus' kingdom will
remove all kingdoms.

Jesus' kingdom has
no end.

The holy people will
have the dominion
forever.

The four kingdoms
come and go like
mosquitoes in
summer.

→ Babylon...

The powers of the world

„The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.”



What can we learn?

Who is the ruler of your life?

Learning points

Encouragement for the people of God:

- (1) Persevere till the end
- (2) Rejoice in the sufferings of Christ
- (3) Get insight for the misery of glorious people in the world and give up earthly hopes

Learning points

War of believers not against unbelievers but Antichrist

Our fight against trials and temptations through humanism, genderism, relativism...



Learning points

- In intertestamental period, there were anti-mosaic laws through Antiochus IV Epiphanes, but there were God's people such as the Macabees.
- In the midst of sufferings we may go back to the Bible and stand firm in faith such as Marie Durand.
- For God will give his people his everlasting kingdom.
- Having this hope, we may preach the gospel und lead many to insight for the temptations through the Antichrist.

II. Daniel's Vision of the Antichrist (8:1-27)

3. What did Daniel see in his second vision?

(1-7) What historical time periods do the ram and the goat point to? What happened when the goat grew up?
(8-10a) What evil deeds did the little horn commit? (10b-14) How long would the Lord's people suffer because of Antichrist? (13-14; Gen 11:4)

Daniel saw a ram and a goat



A goat with a prominent horn between its eyes came from the west and attacked the ram

A ram with two horns; one of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later

„In the third year of King Belshazzar's reign“ = 551 BC

„in the citadel of Susa“ = Iran today, near the borders of Persia

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Ram = Media and Persia

Goat = Greece



- 8:20: „The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of **Media and Persia.**“

8:4: „it charged toward the west (Babylon 539 BC), the north (Lydia 547 BC) and the south (Egypt 525 BC)“

- The Medopersians expanded from east to west, north and south and no people could survive against their vast empire for 2 centuries.



- 8:21: „The shaggy goat is the king of **Greece...**“
- Alexander the Great moved from the west to Persia without touching the ground.
- Conquest with its relatively small army of 15,000 men and victory against the Medes and Persians in just four years
- Because of him: end of Persian supremacy (Panhellenic Revenge 334-330 BC)

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The end of the goat and the rise of four other horns (8:8)

- Alexander's death at the age of 33 at the height of his power
- His four highest generals in Greece, northern Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt

A little horn out of one of the four horns (8:9)

- The little horn not only conquered territories, but fought against God
- Syrian empire, which expanded to the south and east and became very large, also attacking the holy country Israel.
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who hated the people of Israel

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The evil deeds of the little horn

- Antiochus IV Epiphanes (reigned 175-164 BC) = king of Seleucid Empire, which had emerged after Alexander's death as one of the four successor kingdoms.
- He conquered Syria and Egypt.
- He gave himself the title of a god.
- He dishonored the temple by making an altar of Zeus out of it and having pigs sacrificed on it.
- He wanted to abolish Judaism, forbade the Sabbath and circumcision. He made the observance of Jewish traditions punishable by death.

The evil deeds of the little horn



- In 168 BC he invaded Jerusalem, killing the high priest, many priests and Jews.
- Taking away the daily sacrifice by the Antichrist (prayer and praise)
- Devastation of the dwelling of the sanctuary (churches)
- Committing sacrileges on daily sacrifice by changing worship services in a terrible way
- The truth was thrown to the ground (character of the devil)

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The sufferings of the Lord's people

- 2,300 evenings and mornings = 6 years and 4 months
- Only after the 12-year reign of Antiochus IV Epiphanes was the temple reconsecrated and the worship service and sacrificial service continued.

II. Daniel's Vision of the Antichrist (8:1-27)

4. What did Gabriel announce about the vision of the ultimate victory? (15-22,25b) What sufferings must the people of God bear in the time of the end because of the wicked king? (23-25) What wicked powers rebel against God in our times? Why do you think God showed the vision to Daniel and to us through Daniel?

The vision of the ultimate victory

- A fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue will be destroyed, but not by human power, by God's sovereignty
- The final victory belongs to Jesus
- God's sovereignty that the Antichrist had to be destroyed

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The sufferings of the people of God

- 7:23: ruthless and devious king
- Astounding devastation = terrible ruin
- He will succeed in whatever he does.
- He will destroy the holy people.
- He will cause deceit to prosper.
- Arrogance and rebellion against God
- Mark 13:9: „You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them.“
- Believers must suffer
- Temptation to compromise with false teachings amid suffering

Then as now, the Antichrist is at work

- In the end time, people will appear claiming to be the returning Messiah.
 - Mark 13:22: „For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.“
 - Matthew 24:5: „For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.“

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Wicked powers against God today

- Relativism (life without God's standard/God's Word)
- Bible criticism
- Genderism
- Abortion in medical school
- Humanism
- Evolution theory

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God revealed his vision to Daniel

- Daniel was a man of prayer.
- 2:23: „I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors:
You have given me wisdom and power,
you have made known to me **what we asked of you**,
you have made known to us the dream of the king.“

God reveals Daniel's vision to us

- God wants us to have insight for the end time.
- 2:28a: „...but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come.“
- God has shown us Daniel's vision to prepare us for the end time.



How do you want to struggle in
this end time?

Our struggle in the midst of the end time

- **What can we do?**
- Go back to the Bible! → (Inductive) Bible study
- Go and make disciples of all nations → discipleship ministry

- **With what kind of attitude?**
- Stand firm to the end (Mark 13:13)
- Rejoice in the sufferings of Christ (1Peter 4:13)

Daniel 7:27

"Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him."