



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2026 – WEEK 7

A VISION OF THINGS TO COME

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” – Daniel 6:26-27 ESV

- **A nightmare dream with a happy ending**

Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. – Daniel 1:17 ESV

- Suddenly, the shoe was on the other foot
- Daniel has a dream of his own
 - What’s the context?
 - The first year of Belshazzar’s reign
 - This chapter precedes Chapter 5
 - Babylon has not yet fallen
 - Medo-Persia is not yet a threat

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. – Daniel 7:1 ESV

- Belshazzar is the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar
 - Co-regent of his father, Nabonidus
 - Nabonidus was an absentee king
 - Belshazzar served in his place
 - The year is 550 BC
 - Babylon will fall in 539 BC

*Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up **the great sea**." – Daniel 7:2 ESV*

- A reference to the Mediterranean Sea

*"For the western border, you shall have **the Great Sea** and its coast. This shall be your western border." – Numbers 34:6 ESV*

- It was also a symbol of the nations
- Turbulent, unpredictable, and dangerous

And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. ⁴ The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. – Daniel 7:3-4 ESV

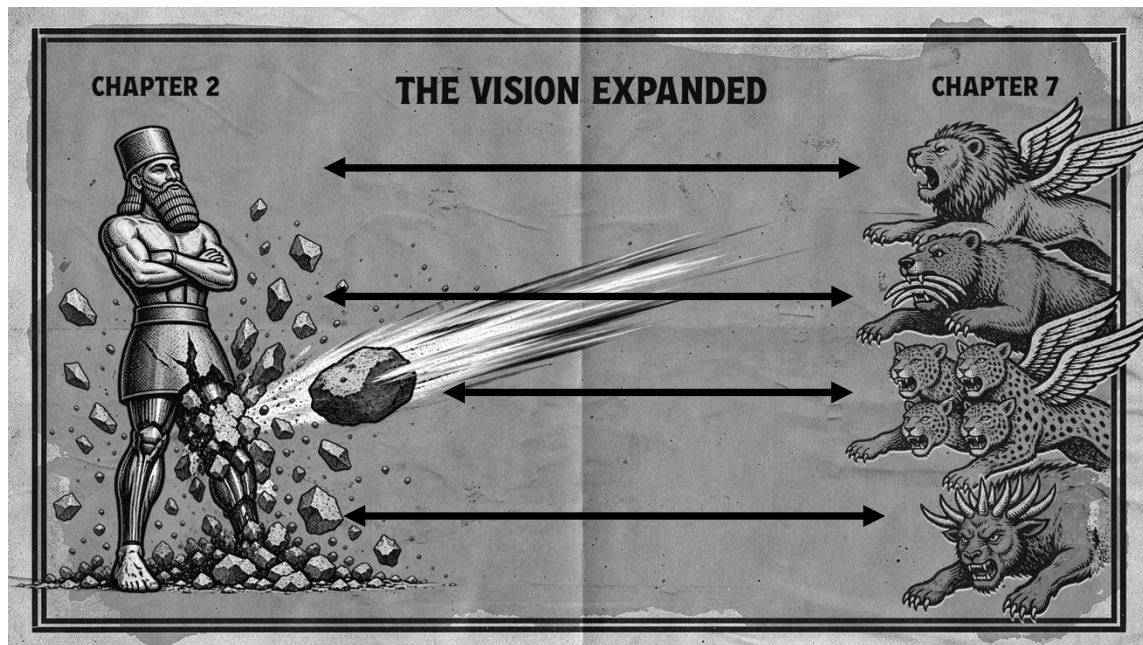
- Daniel probably got this part
 - He had witnessed Nebuchadnezzar's fall
Nebuchadnezzar...was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws...my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me."
– Daniel 4:33, 36 ESV

And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear... – vs 5

After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard... – vs 6

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast... – vs 7

- **Daniel is disturbed and distraught**
 - The vision made no sense
 - He is clueless as to its meaning
significance
timing
and implications
 - But God is connecting the dots
 - God is revealing the future
 - Ch. 2 revealed the coming kingdoms
 - Babylon would not last forever
 - Neither would the other kingdoms
 - They would all suffer the same fate



*"God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever. That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain that crushed to pieces the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God was showing the king **what will happen in the future**. The dream is true, and its meaning is certain." – Daniel 2:44 ESV*

"...it had ten horns...suddenly another small horn appeared among them. Three of the first horns were torn out by the roots to make room for it. This little horn had eyes like human eyes and a mouth that was boasting arrogantly." – Daniel 7:7-8 NLT

- Similar to the "10 toes" in ch. 2
The feet and toes you saw were a combination of iron and baked clay, showing that this kingdom will be divided. Like iron mixed with clay, it will have some of the strength of iron. But while some parts of it will be as strong as iron, other parts will be as weak as clay. This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other through intermarriage. But they will not hold together, just as iron and clay do not mix. – Daniel 2:41-43 NLT
- **A glimpse behind the curtain**
"As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. – Daniel 7:9 ESV

- Daniel sees the uncaused first cause
 - These events have an instigator
 - They are the handiwork of God

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. – Genesis 1:1 ESV

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. – Psalm 90:2 ESV

...for all the nations of the world are but a drop in the bucket. They are nothing more than dust on the scales. He picks up the whole earth as though it were a grain of sand.
– Isaiah 40:15 NLT

- God was conveying His eternality...
...but also His authority.
 - omnipotence,
 - omniscience,
 - holiness,
 - and praiseworthiness

- **Dominion belongs to the Lord**

A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

“I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. – Daniel 7:10-12 ESV 29:10 NLT

*All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD. All the families of the nations will bow down before Him. **For dominion belongs to the LORD and He rules over the nations.***
– Psalm 22:27-28 ESV

- This is the message of Daniel 7
 - A timely reminder for Daniel
 - God was on His throne
 - He was in complete control
 - He had a flawless plan
 - And the future was secure
 - Despite how things appeared

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” – Daniel 7:13-14 ESV

- **When God’s will makes no sense**

- Daniel needed **comfort & clarification**
- God provided both
 - The four beasts are four nations
 - They will rise up out of the earth
 - They will conquer and rule
 - But their dominions will be temporal

“...the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.” – Daniel 7:18 ESV

“...the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.” – Daniel 7:27 ESV

- Daniel still had questions...
 - ...about the 4th beast
 - 10 horns
 - and little horn
- But God provided minimal details
 - Things were going to get worse
 - The 4th beast will be a 4th kingdom
 - From it will come a final ruler
 - He will “defy the Most High”
 - “oppress the holy people”
 - “change their sacred festivals”
 - and “make God’s Law illegal”

“But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end...”

“Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart.” – Daniel 7:26, 28 ESV

- **The end is sure, but not always clear**

- God controls all things...
 - but doesn’t reveal everything at once...
- His revelation is comprehensive...
 - but not always complete...
- Yet Daniel could trust Him
- And so can we

“I declare the end from the beginning, and from ancient times what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and all My good pleasure I will accomplish’...Truly I have spoken, and truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, and I will surely do it.” – Isaiah 46:10, 11 BSB

- **Discussion Questions:**

Why did God speak to Daniel cryptically rather than providing clear details and a specific timeline?

God’s explanation left Daniel alarmed. What had he failed to hear and why??

According to Isaiah 46:10-11, why is knowing God better than knowing every last detail of how the story ends?



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FALL SERIES 2026 – WEEK 8 HOMEWORK

WEEK 8 – THE END IS NEAR

Just a few years after the events of Chapter 7, Daniel has another vision filled with more strange beasts and cryptic imagery. Once again, the dream interpreter is unable to discern the meaning of his vision and must rely upon an angel to unveil the meaning. In this vision, Daniel is given a closer look at future events. Unbeknownst to Daniel, the timeline spans from the third year of Belshazzar's reign all the way to the Second Coming of Christ.

Daniel, who is anticipating the end of the people of Judah's 70-years of captivity in Babylon and their return to the promised land, is being given an expansive view into God's pre-ordained and sovereign plan for His people. But he is disturbed by what he sees. Advanced in years, Daniel would never see his homeland again or live to witness the first or second coming of the Messiah, and what he sees leaves him less than enthusiastic about the future.

- Sometime this week, read pages 87-90 of Ken's Devotional™ on the Book of Daniel.
- Read Daniel 8:1-14. This takes place three years after Daniel's first vision. Describe what Daniel sees in this vision.

What similarities do you see between his two visions?

How are verses 9-12 similar to verses 19-25 of Chapter 7?

- Read verses 15-17. How did Daniel react to this new vision?

Who did God send to interpret the dream and what did he say?

- Read verses 18-25. According to verse 19, what was Daniel told about the meaning of the dream?

What details does Gabriel provide that finally begin to put meat on the bones of the dreams and visions we have seen in the book?

Go back and look at the following passages and see if you can decipher what the images symbolized based on this latest information.

Daniel 2:36-45

Daniel 7:2-8

- Read verses 26-27. Why do you think Daniel was told to “seal up the vision”?

What was Daniel’s reaction to all that he saw and heard?