

## ***“Thy Kingdom Come...”***

### **Daniel Chapter 7**

#### **Introduction**

How many times have we repeated the phrase “thy Kingdom come” as part of the Lord’s Prayer? Do we know what that phrase really means?

Daniel’s dream, as recorded in this chapter, may help us to understand. In this vision Daniel learned about six different kingdoms – four of them kingdoms of this world, one of them the kingdom of Satan, and the last one the Kingdom of “the Most High”...

#### **The kingdoms of this world (Daniel 7 v 1 to 7; 15 to 23)**

- Note that this dream of Daniel’s took place “in the first year of Belshazzar” – i.e. between Chapters 4 and 5. In Daniel’s vision the kingdoms (or nations) are described as dangerous wild animals. What nations are in the news headlines today, and what animals do they remind you of?
- The four earthly kingdoms symbolised by the beasts probably refer to the following (compare with Daniel Chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the huge statue):
  - Lion with eagle’s wings – the Babylonian kingdom (636 BC to 539 BC)
  - Bear with three ribs in its mouth – the Medo-Persian kingdom (539 BC to 330 BC)
  - Leopard with four wings – Alexander the Great and the Grecian kingdom (330 BC to 63 BC)
  - Terrifying and powerful beast with large iron teeth – the Roman Empire (63 BC to 475 AD)
- In what ways was the fourth beast “different from all the former beasts” (v 7)?
- The horn is a symbol of royal authority (1 Samuel 2 v 10). What do you think is symbolised by the “ten horns” (v 7)?

#### **The kingdom of Satan (Daniel 7 v 8; 11 to 12; 21 to 26)**

- Most commentators agree that the little horn with eyes and a mouth (v 8) represents the “antichrist” (meaning ‘against’ or ‘instead of’ Christ). He is also referred to as “the prince who is to come” (Daniel 9 v 26), “the lawless one” (2 Thessalonians 2 v 9), or simply “the beast” (Revelation 13). From this chapter what do we learn about the antichrist’s character, behaviour and agenda?

***[MORE OVER]***

- “A time, times (Hebrew dual) and half a time” (v 25), i.e. three and a half years, refers to the second half of the last of the “seventy weeks of years” described by Daniel in Chapter 9 verses 24 to 27. This period of time is referred to by Jesus as the “great tribulation” (Matthew 24 v 21).
- Who do you think are the “saints of the Most High” referred to in verses 18, 22 and 25? (Crucial question – does the Church have to go through the Great Tribulation? Why? Or why not?)

### **The kingdom of Christ (Daniel 7 v 9 to 14; 27 to 28)**

- Notice by contrast the glory, beauty and orderliness described in these verses. What do the titles “Ancient of Days” and “the Most High” tell us about God?
- Who is the “one like a son of man” (v 13)?
- How is God’s Kingdom totally different from the earthly and satanic kingdoms that precede it? See also Revelation 11 v 15. Why do we pray “thy Kingdom come”?

*Prayer –*

*Lord as we think of the nations of the world, the pride, greed and selfishness of so many of its rulers, we pray for justice and peace on the earth.*

*We pray that your perfect and eternal Kingdom will come.*

*Amen.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*