

The Gospel, 1844, and Judgment Lesson 4 3Q 2006

Daniel 7

SABBATH

Read Memory Text – what kingdom? And when do we possess it?

But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the [kingdom of God](#) has come upon you. Matt 12:28

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the [kingdom of God](#) ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him. Matt 21:31,32.

MK 4:30 Again he said, "What shall we say the [kingdom of God](#) is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

LK 17:20 Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the [kingdom of God](#) would come, Jesus replied, "The [kingdom of God](#) does not come with your careful observation, ²¹ nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the [kingdom of God](#) is within you."

MK 12:32 "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

MK 12:34 When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the [kingdom of God](#)."

JN 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the [kingdom of God](#) unless he is born again. "

For the [kingdom of God](#) is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, Romans 14:17

JN 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17:14-16

1 John 2:16 For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

MT 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Thoughts about these verses? How do we synthesize the meaning and how do they apply to our text in Daniel?

If when demons are driven away by God's Spirit the kingdom of God has come, and God's kingdom has to do with righteousness – or change of heart or character or rebirth. It starts out as a truth planted in the heart and grows to become a fruit bearing plant ministering to others.

The kingdom of God is within you, and is the kingdom of love, selfless giving for the welfare of others!

And no one can see this kingdom unless he is born again – what does this mean? Will the wicked see Jesus come in the clouds? Will the wicked and Satan and his angels see the New Jerusalem? But will they see the kingdom of God? Why?

When we pray Thy kingdom come what are we praying for?

So God's kingdom is the kingdom of love and righteousness which is to come now upon us – just like eternal life is defined by its quality of knowing God rather than its measure of time, so too God's kingdom is

describe by its quality, its character of love rather than by its measures of wealth and physical substance.

So then if this is the case – then what does it mean the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints and the time came they possessed the kingdom? How does judgment in favor of the saints connect to them possessing the kingdom?

What is it that has prevented us from possessing this kingdom? What power is described in the Daniel text as warring against the saints? The little horn power, what is this power? How does it war against the saints? Where does it get its power from? And how is this connected to the judgment described in our memory text?

Let's review quickly the vision – what the symbols stand for and then the conflict and its focus:

Lion – Babylon

Bear – Medo Persia

Leopard – Greece

Ugly Beast – Rome pagan

Little horn – papal Rome

The Little Horn

- Grew great, but not by its own power -Power from Dragon Rev 13:2
- Threw starry host down & trampled them- Dragon's tail swept 1/3 of stars of heaven out of sky Rev 12:3
- Set itself up to be like the Prince- Dragon fought against Michael Rev 12:7
- Took away the daily sacrifice- Dragon creates false system Mark 4:15, 2Cor 11:14, 2Thes 2:9
- Brought the place of His sanctuary low- Dragon establishes synagogue Rev 2:9, 3:9
- Throws truth to the ground & Caused deceit - Dragon is Father of lies John 8:44
- Persecutes the saints-Dragon persecutes saints Rev 12:13-17

Where does the little horn get its power? From the dragon and what is the dragon's power? Hebrews 2:14 and John 17:3 The lies Satan tells about God that we believe which prevent us from knowing God and destroys the image of God within us. The abomination that causes desolation is the abomination of lies about God which we believe that results in desolation of the image of God within man! The destruction of the kingdom of love and the establishment of the synagogue of Satan, the principles of selfishness.

So how is all of this related to judgment? Read Daniel 7:25,26

Daniel 7:25, 26 “He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time. `But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.”

What is the time times and half a time? 1260 years and what does this mean? What is the power of the little horn? And how is it taken away by the court sitting? How is this connected to our memory text and the Ancient of Days pronouncing judgment in favor of the saints?

Well the Darby, American Standard Version, King James Version, and Young Bibles all translate Daniel 7:22 this way:

“until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.”

Does it make any difference when translated this way?

Daniel 8:14 Until 2300 days and then the sanctuary will be cleansed? What sanctuary? Cleansed from what?

Revelation 14:6 “Fear God and give glory to him for the hour of his judgment has come.”

Judgment is given to the saints – to judge what? Power is taken away from the little horn when the court sits. The power of the little horn is the power of lies and deceit about God. The abomination of desolation is the abomination of lies about God which we believe that destroys the Temple of the Holy Spirit. The Temple is to be cleansed, the kingdom of God is within you. Are all of these concepts connected? How?

How is the power of the little horn overthrown or taken away? What destroys a lie? The truth! What are the lies which give the little horn power? The lies about God. What destroys his power? The truth about God!

MONDAY

Bottom paragraph – read – it says the little horn power is only destroyed after the judgment in heaven? Thoughts? Why is it destroyed after judgment and not before?

“God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power. {DA 759.1}

“It was God's purpose to place things on an eternal basis of security, and in the councils of heaven it was decided that time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his system of government. He had claimed that these were superior to God's principles. Time was given for the working of Satan's principles, that they might be seen by the heavenly universe. {DA 759.2}

“... the end will come... Satan and all who have joined him in rebellion will be cut off. Sin and sinners will perish, root and branch, (Mal. 4:1),-- Satan the root, and his followers the branches... {DA 763.4}

“This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life. He is "alienated from the life of God." Christ says, "All they that hate Me love death." Eph. 4:18; Prov. 8:36. God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them. {DA 764.1}

“At the beginning of the great controversy, the angels did not understand this. Had Satan and his host then been left to reap the full result of their sin, they would have perished; but it would not have been apparent to heavenly beings that this was the inevitable result of sin. A doubt of God's goodness would have remained in their minds as evil seed, to produce its deadly fruit of sin and woe. {DA 764.2}

“But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable. Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law.” {DA 764.3}

So why does the little horn survive until judgment has taken place? And who is it that needs to make this judgment? God or us?

WEDNESDAY

Teacher's comments "Right now, today, in heaven, ten thousand times ten thousand are being judged. Those whose sins are covered by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus, are assured of forgiveness. Those hoping to make it on their own merit will sadly learn the rest of their own story."

Thoughts? Where is the Bible text that says we are covered in the blood? What does this mean? Jesus said unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have no part with me. What does this mean? We are covered by blood or we internalize the life, principles character of God, that we become partakers of the divine nature – which is love!

HEB 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Where is the covering in this text? It is about cleansing the heart and mind, cleansing the conscience. There is no covering up but renewal regeneration recreation!

THURSDAY

Last week we mentioned the idea of evangelism and how these prophecies are often used for evangelism. We asked the question if there might be alternate methods of evangelism. In the teacher comments state that "Daniel seminars have, for years, been an effective way of bringing people into our church. What are you doing with this incredible tool?"

What does it sound like the goal for using these methods are? To bring people into our institution? Does that automatically mean that, with these methods they will know the truth about God, His methods and principles and will be changed into loving friends of God? Do these methods introduce people to the remedy for sin? Or could we actually be suggesting a pseudo remedy? An idea that nothing really changes in you what changes is the records in heaven if you have been covered by the blood and the robe of righteousness then when the records are reviewed the Father really can't see how wicked and rebellious you really are?

Is that good news? Isn't the Good News about God and His plan to heal and restore? The kingdom of God now?