



SAVED TO SERVE

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DANIEL THE PROPHET - DANIEL 7 THE FOUR BEASTS & LITTLE HORN, PART 3

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will be studying Daniel 7:11-12, the judgment of the wicked, and how prophecy can help us to remain faithful to God.

“To the student of prophecy, the seventh chapter of Daniel is a most important record. By a continuous chain of events, the prophet gives the history from the days of Babylon to the great investigative judgment, which is the central theme of the chapter.” {1901 SNH, SDP 88.2}

2. Let us recap from our last lesson. Will every person be judged by God? 2 Corinthians 5:10; Psalm 96:13; 98:9
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3. **Note:** While everyone will be judged by God, the Bible makes a distinction. When the judgment was set and the books opened, this time period is referring to the judgment of all those who have professed to know Jesus and have at one time confessed their sins to Him (1 Peter 4:17). From this group, God will accept some names as being saved and other names He will reject to be lost (Matthew 7:21-23). The wicked who have never acknowledged Christ as their redeemer will be judged separately, during the millennium. Let us confirm this last point by examining Revelation 20.

4. What event signals the opening of the One Thousand Years? Revelation 20:6 **Answer:** the first resurrection which takes place at the 2nd coming of Jesus
 5. What will happen to the righteous who are alive and the righteous dead at the Second Coming? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17 **Answer:** The righteous living will be caught up to meet Jesus and the righteous dead will rise to meet Jesus
 6. What will happen to the wicked who are alive at the Second Coming? 2 Thessalonians 2:8
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7. What does Revelation 20:1-3 say will happen to Satan during the One Thousand Years?
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8. **Note:** To better understand this passage of scripture, we must define the term “bottomless pit.” The number in the Greek concordance is 12 and it means “abyss.” An abyss is a place of emptiness, darkness, and desolation. This abyss or bottomless pit is pointing to the earth in a state of desolation and emptiness. Read Jeremiah 4:23-27. The condition of the earth during that time will be similar to how it was at the beginning of creation - void (Genesis 1:1, 2). Another link showing us that the bottomless pit is the earth is found in Isaiah 14:12-17 when Lucifer was cast down from heaven to the “pit.” So when Satan is bound on the earth for one thousand years, this means he will be prevented from deceiving the nations because they all will be in the grave (Revelation 20:3).

9. How does Revelation 20:4 describe those who sat on the thrones and judgment was given to them?
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10. Those who will sit on these thrones are the righteous saints who were redeemed from the earth. What does it mean that “judgment was given unto them?” 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3; Daniel 7:22; Jude 6
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11. **Note:** The only humans in heaven during the One Thousand Years are the righteous. The wicked, who never accepted Jesus and repented, along with the wicked who once believed in Jesus, yet backslid into sin, are both being examined in this judgment.

12. Why are the wicked who never accepted Jesus not allowed to enter heaven?

a) John 3:18

13. Were the wicked given opportunities to be saved and accept Jesus? 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 22:2-3; John 12:37

14. **Note:** The fact that the wicked are outside of heaven shows that a verdict on their cases has already been decided and they are receiving a part of the “sentencing” phase of the judgment. So, since the wicked are not in heaven, why will the righteous be “judging” them? It is because the righteous will be reviewing heaven’s record books to see if God’s condemnation of them is just and correct. Like an earthly courtroom, the jurors pronounce the defendant guilty or innocent and the judge affirms their decision. In this sense, God would be the juror who pronounces the verdict and the saints will be the judge who uphold the decision. Then, they will declare that God’s ways and judgment are “just and true” (Revelation 15:2-3).

15. After the One Thousand Years expire, the wicked will be raised to life (Revelation 20:5). What will happen to them next? Revelation 20:12, 13

16. What does it mean that they stand before God to be judged? 2 Corinthians 5:10 **Answer:** They will now hear what their sentence is and the reasons why they did not make it to heaven. Even they will bow and confess to Jesus that He is just and true in His verdict (Romans 14:11, 12).

“In the presence of the assembled inhabitants of earth and heaven the final coronation of the Son of God takes place. **And now, invested with supreme majesty and power, the King of kings pronounces sentence upon the rebels against His government and executes justice upon those who have transgressed His law and oppressed His people.** Says the prophet of God: “I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” Revelation 20:11, 12. {GC 666.1}

“As soon as the books of record are opened, and the eye of Jesus looks upon the wicked, they are conscious of every sin which they have ever committed. They see just where their feet diverged from the path of purity and holiness, just how far pride and rebellion have carried them in the violation of the law of God. The seductive temptations which they encouraged by indulgence in sin, the blessings perverted, the messengers of God despised, the warnings rejected, the waves of mercy beaten back by the stubborn, unrepentant heart—all appear as if written in letters of fire.” {GC 666.2}

17. **Note:** Let us now read Daniel 7:11. This verse shows us that Daniel 7 covers the prophetic time span from the reign of ancient Babylon to the Third Coming of Jesus after the Millennium. Daniel 7:11 is intimately connected to Revelation chapters 13 and 20.

18. Who is the “horn” mentioned in verse 11, which speaks great words? Daniel 7:8, 25 (Note: We covered this closely in the previous lesson).

19. **Note:** What beast is being referred to in Daniel 7:11, which was slain and given to the burning flame? Daniel 7:7, 8 lets us know that it is the fourth dreadful and terrible beast which the little horn arose out of, namely the Pagan Roman Empire. This representation of the little horn and the fourth beast being thrown into the burning flame means that the entire Roman Catholic, Papal system, built upon the false, heathen foundation of Pagan Rome will be destroyed in hell’s fire.

20. **Note:** This same power spoken of in Daniel 7:11 is also represented as another beast in Revelation 13:1-10. We know that these powers represent the Papacy because they both persecute God’s saints and speak “great things” and “blasphemies” against God (compare Daniel 7:8, 11, 20-21, 25 & Revelation 13:5-7). Just as Daniel 7:11 prophesies, this beast will be cast into the lake of fire. Read Revelation 20:10 for confirmation.

21. Let us read Daniel 7:12. What does this verse mean? Revelation 13:1-3. **Answer:** As we just confirmed, the Papacy is represented again in Revelation 13:1-3. Notice what animals that beast is made of: the same beasts mentioned in Daniel 7:4-6. This means that the Papacy is an amalgamation of the principles found in each of these kingdoms, and although ancient Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece won’t rule again, their principles or “their lives” will be seen in the work of the Papacy until all these wicked elements are destroyed in hell.

“The angel had said to Daniel, “As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away; yet their lives were prolonged.” Each one, before being destroyed, was merged into the succeeding one. The same truth was represented in chapter four when the tree representing Babylon was cut down, but the roots remained in the ground. The roots represented the foundation principles upon which Babylon was built, and they have remained in the earth ever since. When Medo-Persia fell, she left her principles of government, education, and religion still alive, transmitting them

to her posterity, the nations of earth. Greece did likewise, and with each succeeding empire, those foundation principles which were so clearly portrayed in Babylon, which were placed there by the prince of the power of the air, instead of appearing in a weakened state, sprung into life with renewed vigor. So it was that when the fourth kingdom appeared, those principles of government which were the counterfeit of heaven's underlying principles were so strong that no natural beast could symbolize even pagan Rome." {SDP 93.1}

22. In Daniel 7, Daniel was shown a vision which covered the time period from the rise of ancient Babylon to the final destruction of the wicked. As we close, let us look at how understanding this information will help us to be saved and encourage us when we feel like relinquishing our faith in God.

23. What does Jesus declare, which He shares with us through prophecy, to strengthen our faith? Isaiah 46:10

24. Like David, many of us sometimes become discouraged and want to give up our spiritual warfare against sin. How did David feel and what did he see which caused him discouragement?

a) Psalm 73:2-3

b) Psalm 73:8-9

c) Psalm 73:13

25. What did God show David which gave him hope to continue living righteously? Psalm 73:17-19

26. Like David, when we feel like giving up the spiritual fight, who must we look to? Psalm 73:26

27. If we press on toward heaven with the strength of God, what will be our end? 1 Peter 1:9

28. God desires all of us to be saved but He never forces us; we must choose. Meditate on Deuteronomy 30:19-20 and make your choice to serve God from this day forward.
