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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Exiled Prophet, Part 8: The Four Beasts (Daniel 7)

TEACHING SUMMARY

Daniel 7 returns to Belshazzar's first year, showing that the book is not arranged entirely in chronological order. The teaching compares its four beasts with the four metals in Daniel 2. Both visions portray kingdoms whose rule gives way to God's enduring kingdom.

The lion represents Babylon, the bear Medo-Persia, and the leopard Greece. The teaching identifies the terrifying fourth beast as Rome. Some details, such as the bear's ribs and the leopard's wings, are presented as possible explanations rather than certain identifications.

The Ancient of Days presides over a heavenly court. The fourth beast is destroyed, the other beasts lose dominion, and one like a son of man receives an everlasting kingdom. God's judgment determines the outcome despite the apparent strength of earthly powers.

The teaching identifies the Son of Man as Yeshua and connects the vision with his transfiguration and Revelation. His kingdom replaces the idolatrous kingdoms. The saints receive the kingdom, and the Messiah rules in righteousness rather than following the beasts' pattern.

Roman emperors, especially Vespasian, illustrate aspects of the persecuting horn's behavior. However, the teaching does not identify Vespasian as the ultimate fulfillment. It expects the final judgment still to come and explicitly declines to claim certainty about exactly how or when it occurs.

The closing lessons emphasize that worldly powers are temporary and God's purposes will prevail. Believers should seek his kingdom, continue doing good, and follow Yeshua as their king. Confidence in that outcome should lead to faithful service rather than dependence on political or military strength.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Daniel 7's vision precedes the events of chapters 5 and 6.
- The four beasts parallel the four metals in Daniel 2.
- The lion represents Babylon and the bear Medo-Persia.
- The leopard represents Greece; the teaching identifies the fourth beast as Rome.
- The Ancient of Days presides over judgment.
- The beasts lose their dominion under God's authority.
- The Son of Man receives an everlasting kingdom.
- The teaching connects Yeshua's transfiguration with this vision.
- Vespasian illustrates a pattern without exhausting the prophecy's fulfillment.
- The application calls believers to obey God and follow Yeshua.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The first beast, a lion with wings, represents _____.
2. The second beast resembles a _____.
3. The leopard represents the kingdom of _____.
4. The fourth beast has teeth of _____.
5. The teaching identifies the Son of Man as _____.
6. The kingdom given to the Son of Man is _____.

Challenging

1. The four beasts parallel the statue's four _____ in Daniel 2.
2. The teaching identifies the fourth beast as _____.
3. In the judgment scene, the _____ are opened.
4. The Roman emperor discussed as a partial illustration of the horn's pattern is _____.
5. The teaching connects the Son of Man imagery with Yeshua's _____.
6. The common religious failing emphasized among the beast-kingdoms is _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does comparing Daniel 7 with Daniel 2 help the teaching identify the kingdoms?
2. What does the heavenly court reveal about the limits of earthly power?
3. How does the teaching connect the transfiguration with the identity of the Son of Man?
4. Why does it distinguish Vespasian's historical parallels from ultimate fulfillment?
5. How should the teaching's uncertainty about timing shape discussion of this prophecy?
6. What would seeking God's kingdom and serving Yeshua look like in your present responsibilities?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Babylon
2. bear
3. Greece
4. iron
5. Yeshua
6. everlasting

Challenging

1. metals
2. Rome
3. books
4. Vespasian
5. transfiguration
6. idolatry