

The Book of Daniel – Week 8 – September 20, 2026

“Beastly Kingdoms”

Daniel 7

1. When it comes to the Bible and talking about “the end times,” how do you engage with it? Do you get excited about that conversation? Made anxious by that conversation? Indifferent to that conversation? What would you say are some healthy and unhealthy ways of engaging with it?
2. Daniel 7 gives a pretty unsettling picture of the kingdoms that will rise and fall, but the interpretation ends with the promise that “the holy ones of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever.” What do you think God wanted his people to understand about their circumstances through this vision? Where do you most need that kind of hope right now?
3. Daniel sees human kingdoms represented as beasts, and we talked about how sin can cause human beings to live according to instinct, self-preservation, desire, and power rather than the humanity God intended for us. Where do you see that kind of “beastly” behavior in our world? Where are you tempted to operate that way yourself?
4. Jesus repeatedly referred to himself as the “Son of Man,” and in Matthew 26:63–64 he explicitly connected himself to the figure Daniel saw coming “with the clouds of heaven.” What stands out to you about Jesus being the Son of Man in Daniel 7? How does seeing Jesus this way shape the way you understand his authority?
5. Colossians 2:15 says that through the cross Jesus “disarmed the rulers and authorities” and triumphed over them. If Jesus has already won the decisive victory, why do you think it can still feel like the “beasts” are winning? How should the reality of Jesus’ victory affect the way we respond when the world around us feels frightening or out of control?