

Daniel 7 Vision	Daniel 8 Vision	Explanation	Fulfillment
Four winds of heaven		God's power	
The great sea		The world	
Four beasts		Four worldly kingdoms	
Lion		1. BABYLON	Nebuchadnezzar had his "wings plucked," humbled by insanity
Bear	Ram	2. MEDO-PERSIA	An alliance between two powers, one larger than the other. Three ribs refer to three major conquests: Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt
Leopard	Goat	3. GREECE	Alexander the Great swiftly built his empire, but died suddenly leaving his kingdom divided into four parts
	Small horn	Antiochus IV Epiphanes	Greek ruler (168-164 B.C.) who suppressed Jewish worship, desecrated the altar, and erected an idol of Zeus
Fourth beast		4. ROME	A kingdom of a different type, Rome firmly established rule of the known world
Ten horns		Ten rulers	Ten symbolizes completeness; may indicate the various nations of the world that have arisen and exist today
Little horn		The Antichrist	An end-times personality who will rule the world and oppose God
Ancient of Days		God	In the end, God will defeat the Antichrist
Son of man's dominion		5. GOD'S KINGDOM	Will be ruled forever by the Messiah and the saints

Teacher's Toolbox

*Getting your class into God's Word
and God's Word into your class*

ExcitingBibleStudy.com

Bible Series

Daniel 7-8

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HOW TO USE TEACHER'S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher's leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.



Faith at Home – A specific application of today's Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.



Getting Started

Personal sharing

- **Have you had any strange dreams lately?** Let one or two volunteers briefly tell about unusual dreams they have had.
- **Daniel sometimes received visions from God through his dreams. Today we are going to study two of them and try to understand what they meant.**



Exploring God's Word

Monologue

- In advance, enlist someone to present the following monologue.

Monologue

Daniel is having a vision.

What in the world is going on in my mind? Is this a dream? A vision?
I see a great sea, and the wind is

blowing the waves violently. From the water are rising four strange animals.

The first one looks like a lion, but it has wings like an eagle. Now the wings are torn off, and it is standing up like a man.

The second animal is like a bear, lying on its side, eating three ribs.

The third animal is like a leopard, but it has four wings and four heads.

And the fourth animal! It is so horrible and frightening! It has huge teeth, and is crushing and devouring and trampling everything and everyone around. It has ten horns....no, there's another horn, a little one, just starting to grow. Now three of the horns are uprooted.

Now what is happening? Thrones are being set in place. God is there, white and shining and surrounded by flames. Thousands are around Him.... He is opening a book.

What does all this mean? What is the interpretation of this dream, this vision?

- After the monologue, invite the class to find Daniel 7-8 in their Bibles and study the vision just described, as well as another vision Daniel had.

Drawing

- Give each person a large sheet of paper and pencil or markers.
- Ask them to listen carefully as the verses describing Daniel's visions are read aloud. Have them

sketch the first vision on one side of their paper and the second vision on the other side.

Be sure to read slowly to allow time for drawing:

- First Vision: Daniel 7:1-14
- Second Vision: Daniel 8:1-14
- After the passages are read, let a few volunteers show and tell about their drawings.

Fill in the blanks

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the following, but without the blanks filled in (duplicate item 1).

Interpretation of the Visions

In Daniel 7 and 8 the prophet received two visions. Scan the chapters and identify the interpretations of each of the following.

1. The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.
2. The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will be different from the other kingdoms.
3. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom.
4. The little horn is another king who will arise and subdue three kings, speaking against the Most High and oppressing his saints.
5. The two-horned ram represents the kings of Media and Persia.
6. The shaggy goat is the king of Greece.

7. The large horn between his eyes is the first king.

8. The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power.

- Let members work in two's or three's to fill in the blanks. Allow plenty of time for them to study both chapters and dig out the interpretations that were given Daniel during his visions.

Understanding a chart

- Display the chart on page 4 (show Item 2). Also give a copy to each learner, along with a pencil.
- Use the information in the chart to help the class understand how the two visions are related and how they have been (or will be) fulfilled. As you explain the displayed chart, use the version on page 4 to fill in the information in the "Explanation" column.

Wrapping It Up

- **Knowing that God is in control can be a great comfort to us....if we are on God's side. We know that the final victory is His, and, therefore, ours as well.**
- Lead the class in a closing prayer.

Making It Personal

Group discussion

- Have the class discuss implications of God's sovereignty in the world today, that is, what does it mean to us that God has ultimate power over all nations and world events? Let that question hang there awhile until a group discussion is born.

Faith at Home

Sometimes newspapers and newscasts and newsfeeds can be frightening. Some parents don't allow their children to watch the news on TV because of how frightening it can be. Even if you control that at home, however, family members will hear about things going on the world. Lead them to think how they can take comfort in the knowledge that God is ultimately in control, even when the world seems out of control.

Interpretation of the Visions

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1. The four great beasts are _____

2. The fourth beast is _____

3. The ten horns are _____

4. The little horn is _____

5. The two-horned ram represents _____

7. The large horn between his eyes is _____

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