

## Daniel 7

### *Daniel's first dream*



After the far more familiar first six chapters, the book takes on a very different flavour. But this chapter is also the key turning point, picking up precisely the same key elements that we have already noted, only expressing them in a rather different setting. So first we need to pick out the similarities.

Important hint: expect a great deal of symbolism here.

➤ **The key points of the dream recorded (1-8)**

What overall impressions do you get from these verses?

Check back to chapter 2.

Is this just a retelling of that earlier vision?

So does 2:36-43 give us a start on this chapter?

(this tallies with 7:17, at least!)

➤ **The eternal perspective (9-14)**

What overall impressions do you get from these verses?

The key statement of 4:17 has been the theme of the whole book so far – and that thought persists into this chapter and beyond (see 7:27). And 2:44-45 provides further help with this section.

Although Daniel remains “alarmed” (15,28), what comfort should he also draw from this section?

➤ **Some aspects of the dream explained (15-28)**

So Daniel asks for further explanation.

How much do you think this helped him?

If we think we want to pin down details here ...

... will that necessarily help us?

What overall impressions do you get from these verses?

If we consider this fourth beast to be *only* the Roman empire, does that strip this passage of some understanding of our own days?

Does this “other horn” (20) ring any NT bells?

... perhaps 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4?

➤ **Links to the New Testament – and Jesus**

How many bits of this chapter can you find quoted or alluded to in the NT, and particularly, Revelation?

Check out Matthew 24:30, 25:31, 26:64, John 5:27, Revelation 1:13 and 14:14.