SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Daniel

Chapter 7

Four Beasts & the Son of Man

MEMORY VERSE · DANIEL 7:14

"And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Daniel 7

In Daniel 7 the empires of the world show up as beasts, loud and hungry, and then thrones are set up and the Ancient of Days takes His seat. This week God reminds me that no power, no habit and no hardship gets the last word, because the kingdom belongs to the Son of Man, and He shares it with His people. I do not have to white-knuckle my way into that kingdom; I receive it.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The Complete Study, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Daniel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Beasts from the Sea

READ · DANIEL 7:1–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What four beasts came up out of the sea, and what made the fourth one different from all the others (verses 3–7)?

REFLECT

Back in chapter 2 a king saw these same empires as a shining statue; here God shows Daniel what they are really like, beasts with teeth (verses 4–7). What in your world has a loud voice and big teeth right now, and what does it mean to you that God sees it clearly from His side?

REFLECT

The first beast had its wings plucked and was "made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it" (verse 4). Where do you need God to take the beast out of you and give you back a man's heart and mind?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the one thing that feels biggest and most threatening to you right now. Across the top of the page write: God is on the throne. Pray over it.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 7:14)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Court Sat

READ · DANIEL 7:9–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How does Daniel describe the Ancient of Days (His clothing, His hair, His throne), and who was standing before Him (verses 9–10)?

REFLECT

"The court sat, And the books were opened" (verse 10). How does it steady you to know that every beast in this chapter ends up in God's courtroom, and what injustice in your life do you need to hand over to that court?

REFLECT

One like a Son of Man comes with the clouds and is given "an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away" (verses 13–14). Jesus called Himself the Son of Man and pointed to this very scene at His trial (Mark 14:62). What changes in your week if He is the one who truly holds the dominion?

RESPOND — TODAY

Read verses 13–14 aloud. Then bow, wherever you are, and tell Jesus out loud that He is your King today.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 7:14)

DAY 3 OF 5

Troubled, and Asking

READ · DANIEL 7:15–18

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How did Daniel feel after the vision, and what did he do about it (verses 15–16)?

REFLECT

Daniel admits, "my spirit was distressed within me" (verse 15). The man of God was shaken, and he said so. What is troubling your spirit right now, and who could you be honest with about it?

REFLECT

The whole explanation fits in two verses: four kings rise, "But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom" (verses 17–18). Why does it matter that the kingdom is received and not earned, especially for a man who feels he has failed too many times?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do what Daniel did in verse 16: take one thing you do not understand about God or your situation and ask Him about it in prayer, then ask a mature believer about it too.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 7:14)

DAY 4 OF 5

Until

READ · DANIEL 7:19–22

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What was the horn doing to the saints, and what word in verse 22 tells you it would not last forever?

REFLECT

The horn was "waging war with the saints and overpowering them" (verse 21). The Bible does not pretend God's people never lose a round. Where do you feel overpowered right now, and how honest can you be with God about it?

REFLECT

It lasted only "until the Ancient of Days came" (verse 22). What are you waiting on God to bring to an end, and what helps you hold on in the meantime?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write UNTIL at the top of a page. Under it, list what you are waiting on God for, and close by thanking Him that He has already set the end of it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 7:14)

DAY 5 OF 5

Worn Down, but Not Forgotten

READ · DANIEL 7:23–28

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the angel say the last horn would do, and what would happen to him when the court sat (verses 24–26)?

REFLECT

He will "wear down the saints of the Highest One" (verse 25), the way an old shirt wears thin. Where is the enemy grinding on you slowly (shame, temptation, discouragement), and what does verse 27 promise at the end of that grind?

REFLECT

The angel's last line is that "all the dominions will serve and obey Him" (verse 27). What would serving and obeying Jesus gladly look like for you today, before every knee bows?

RESPOND — TODAY

Daniel kept the matter to himself and carried it with him (verse 28). Choose one verse from this chapter to carry all day, and pray it each time the grind starts.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 7:14)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Daniel saw thrones set up while the beasts were still roaring (verses 9–11). What helps you remember that God is seated and in charge when the news, or your own life, feels like a storm at sea?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

In verses 18 and 27 the saints receive the kingdom; they do not build it. How does that change the way you think about your own progress, your recovery or your failures?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Daniel was troubled by what he saw and kept it close (verses 15, 28). How should a believer handle hard prophecy, without shrugging it off and without getting obsessed with it?

MY PRAYER

Ancient of Days, You are seated on Your throne and You are not worried, so I bring You what is wearing me down…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · DANIEL 7:14

"And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed."