

CLASH OF KINGDOMS

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Daniel chapter 7 pt 1 (v1-14)

(Sermon from Sunday 4 September, Richard van Lieshout)

1. Information

a) Read the passage, perhaps twice using two different versions

b) Fill in any info that didn't make it into the sermon.

- For reference, I divided the vision up into 3 parts:
 1. **The (beastly) kingdoms of men**
 - a) A lion with eagles wings (v4)
 - b) A (misshapen) bear eating ribs (v5)
 - c) A leopard with four heads and four wings (v6)
 - d) A terrifying, dreadful, strong beast (v7-8)
 2. **The judgment of God (v9-12)**
 3. **The rule of the 'Son of Man' (v13-14)**
- I then made three points of application, by looking at Ephesians 1:15-23, in light of Daniel 7:1-14:
 1. Hope for the future
 2. Strength for today
 3. Authority to the Church
- **Note: I did not spend time on the interpretation of the horns & 'little horn'.** This is for next week, which will deal with v15-28, which includes a detailed interpretation of this element to Daniel by the angel.
- Instead I spent most of the time on the 'Son of Man' idea in v13-14, since it's the huge, massive, clear Jesus link in Daniel!
- I therefore advise you spend more time in your CG on unpacking this famous title for Jesus, and corresponding New Testament texts. It will be a nice 'break' into some New Testament material!

d) Answer any questions the group might have

2. Activation

- As mentioned above, it will be good to spend some time in the NT, since we have this amazing opportunity with the 'Son of Man' motif!
- There's lots to study & 'activate' in this regard, which will make this week's CG a lot more of a classic Bible study time!

a) 'Son of Man' in the Old Testament

- Read the following OT passages which include the phrase 'Son of Man'
 - Ezekiel 2:1
 - Psalm 8:4 (compare NIV & ESV)
- **What can you deduce about the phrase so far?**
 - *(Ans: the phrase can refer to an individual human (Ezekiel) or mankind (Psalm 8))*
- **Why do you think those are important features to be 'mapped' onto the 'Son of Man' as saviour?**
 - *(Ans: Jesus would need to be a particular person, who would 'represent' mankind by taking on the sin of humanity)*

b) 'Son of Man' in the New Testament

- The title 'Son of Man' is Jesus' favourite self-designation in the New Testament, occurring 84 times in the Gospels!
- It occurs most clearly in Mark's Gospel, so trace the development of the title by looking at the following passages, **noting what authority/position/effect the 'Son of Man' has**:
 - Mark 2:10
 - Mark 2:28
 - Mark 8:31
 - Mark 8:38
 - Mark 13:24-27
- I spent time on the point in Mark's gospel where Jesus is on trial, and publicly portrays himself to the religious authorities using this title.
- **Read the event again in Mark 14:53-65.**
 - **Why did Jesus go beyond simply confessing 'I am' 'The Christ, the Son of the Blessed'?** He did not need to add the bit about 'Son of Man', so why do you think he did that?
 - *Hint: he said something very similar in Mark 13, at that time to his disciples. Now here to the religious leaders*

c) 'Son of Man' today

- In Mark 14, when Jesus refers to himself as 'Son of Man', he also adds that 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power' (Mark 14:62).
- This reference to 'seated at the right hand' is strongly reinforced in the letters of the New Testament, where it refers to Christ's current rule as king.

- **Read the following passages to get a sense of the connection between his role as ‘exalted’ Son of Man through his resurrection and ascension:**
 - Acts 2:33-36 (this is an important one as it riffs on the Davidic covenant in Ps 110, which Jesus ascribes to himself in Mark 12!)
 - Cf Mark 12:
 - Cf Ps 110:1
 - Acts 5:30-32
 - Romans 8:34
 - Hebrews 1:1-5

c) **‘Son of Man’ in the future**

- In Mark 14, Jesus not only adds detail about being seated at the right hand to the ‘Son of Man’ confession, he also emphasises the ‘coming on the clouds’ motif. This is a strong symbolic link to the time of his future return.
- **Read the following passages to get a sense of the connection between his role as exalted Son of Man who will return again:**
 - Matthew 24:30
 - Revelation 1:7

3. **Implementation**

- Recall, Implementation is the third step in interpretation:
 - i. What?
 - ii. So what?
 - iii. **Now what?**
- Colossians 3:1-4 has a strong practical implementation step. Read it and make a commitment with your group for the week!