

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

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The Meaning of History

Daniel 7 marks a pivotal shift in the book of Daniel—from historical narrative (Daniel 1–6) to apocalyptic vision (Daniel 7–12). Daniel receives a dream filled with symbolic beasts representing kingdoms and cosmic conflict. The deeper truth reveals a world at war throughout human history, but God remains sovereign and just. The deeper theological truths of God’s sovereignty and omniscience (all-knowing) inspired hope for the original readers and for us today. Ultimately, Daniel 7 reminds us that while evil may seem overwhelming, God never blinks—He is always in control.

- How have you felt about engaging Apocalyptic literature in the Bible, including Daniel 7–12 and the book of Revelation? Confused? Curious? Passionate? Fearful? Anxious? Why?
- Read Daniel 7:1–8. A definition for Apocalyptic literature is, “Apocalyptic literature is a genre of religious writing that describes visions of future cataclysmic events, often revealing the end of the world and the establishment of a new, divine order. Key characteristics include symbolic language, visions and revelations, a cosmic dualism between good and evil, and pessimism about the present age contrasted with optimism for the future.” How does this definition shape how you read this passage?
- The four beasts in Daniel 7 depict the cosmic war within the world of then and now. How have you seen this truth play out in current events or personal experiences?
- Read Daniel 7:9–14. What characteristics of God are displayed in this scene?
- God never blinks. How does this truth shape how we live today, including our thoughts, motivations, and actions?
- How are you experiencing the difficulties in the world as a follower of Jesus on your way home (heaven)?
- How does this heavenly vision move you to praise and worship God more fully today?

Praying together

Pair with an individual of the same gender in your group. Share something personal or happening in the world that gives you anxiety or concern. Pray for each other.