In His Hands #7 “A Sweet Nightmare” Daniel 7

Daniel’s Dream… The four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea… Four beasts were coming up from the sea, each one different and each more frightening – enormous, composite, cartoonish

**1st** – **Lion** with wings of an Eagle… wings stripped and raised to feet

**2nd** – **Bear** raised on one side (poised and ready to attack) with ribs

**3rd** – Flying **Leopard** with four heads – cannot run and cannot hide

**4th** – No animal to compare… Different. Iron teeth that devour and crush, Trample what does not consume. Ten horns (strength); a little horn displaces three and grows large with eyes and mouth boasting!

**t/s** – I had a nightmare of my own… I was going to preach to 2,000 people; and this Dream of Daniel was my assigned text! Daniel 7 is one of the most important in OT: Background for Olivet Discourse & Revelation; Source of a Messianic title that was the favorite of Jesus!

**t/s** – Comfort - Even Daniel did not understand his dream…

distressed & alarmed --- He asked an Angel to explain it.

**Daniel 7: 15-27** (Read with Comments)

Vs. 18 – “Saints” = holy ones = God’s People (NT usage)

Vs. 21 – associated with the Man of Lawlessness or Antichrist

Vs. 24 – Connected to Neb’s dream in chapter two… Babylon, Persia,

 Greece and Rome --- Future, still… Rome ***Remnant Resurgent***

Vs. 25 – Blaspheme, Long Persecution, New Religious Days and rules

 His Time is limited = “***given***” for set time… 3 ½ years

**ILL –** An Email from the Field… sickness, sadness, weariness…

 Reminded me of the Hardship involved in Following Jesus.

**Vs. 1** – Daniel had this dream after 50 years of Exile.

 (Away; Oppressed; Serving his enemy; in Midst of Darkness)

Dream is not given to ***comfortable*** Christians ***curious*** about the end times; but to a man in **Exile**, to a people ***Discouraged***. Always asking, What is the message to Exiles (powerless, defeated, discouraged)?

**Vs. 17-18** The Beasts are not the Focus.

***Do not be distracted or discouraged by the Beasts!***

**Vs. 22** Judgment on behalf ofGod’s People… Kingdom

Triple Repitition…

**Vs. 27** Kingdom and Power given to His People… Everlasting!

The powers that be in this world are bad and they will get worse. BUT

**Above all the Chaos, Our Lord Reigns; and We will Reign with Him, Forever.**

**ILL** – Leo loves the Patriots (1st grade in ND)

 Tom Brady Jersey; Patriots stocking cap; playground team

 Super Bowl 51 last February… Big party… celebrate…

* 21-0; 28-3… Leo so upset, disappointed, distraught… BED

Missed greatest comeback in history 34-28 in OT

Sometimes, we feel like Leo at half Time: ***Upset, Disappointed, Distraught*** --- Panic, Anxious, … things are not going like we expected. The bad guys are winning. The Beasts of the world continue to abuse and Oppress.

Daniel and Exiles --- This is not the last ungodly, violent, powerful king/kingdom. Others will come and go. Know This ---

**Above all the Chaos, Our Lord Reigns; and We will Reign with Him, Forever.**

**Daniel 7: 9-14**  The Heart of the passage (of this book)

**VS. 10** – Ancient of Days (only here in Bible… Eternal Authority)

Davis uses three words: Sanity; Fury and Majesty

**Vs. 11-12** – The Little Horn is ***Minimized*** and the great nations are ***Marginalized***…An appointed time. (Babylon, Persia & Greece)

Jesus’s Preferred Title --- Messiah/Christ; Son of God; **Son of Man**

**Vs. 13-14** – Coming with the Clouds = OT Imagery of Judgment/Wrath

Giving a Glorious Kingdom; Worshipped and served by all peoples, tongues and nations… Everlasting, never destroyed, t

**Above all the Chaos, Our Lord Reigns; and We will Reign with Him, Forever.**

**ILL –** All Authority given to Me… All Nations… To the End!

**ILL** – Jesus Ascended in the ***Clouds of Heaven***…

 … he will COME Again also on the Clouds of Heaven!

**ILL – Rev. 14 –** Jesus as Judge with Crown, Son of Man… ***CLOUD***!

**Above all the Chaos, Our Lord Reigns; and We will Reign with Him, Forever.**

What a word of promise for Exiles of all ages; for the person who is misunderstood, despised, rejected…

**ILL** – Tell Story of **Matthew 26: 57-64**

 *Are you the Son of God, the Christ*… ***The Son of Man***

 I am the Son of Man… Next time You see me, I will be the Judge; …. ***coming on the clouds of Heaven***!

**Above all the Chaos, Our Lord Reigns; and We will Reign with Him, Forever.**