



“As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and **the Ancient of Days** took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was **One like a Son of Man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. **His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away**, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (Daniel 7:9-10; 13-14 - NIV)

Prayer: Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern my heart and mind by Your Holy Spirit that I may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and to the day of Your righteous judgment. Keep me steadfast in the true and living faith of Christ Jesus my Living Savior and bring me at last before You in holiness and without blame as I am covered by Christ’s robe of righteousness; through Your Son Jesus Christ my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



Order of Worship – The Common Service With L.S. – pg. 15

- Greeting by the Pastor
- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)
- Opening Hymn **C.W. 207 vss. 1-4** / TLH 611 sung by the Congregation
 - Confession of Sins
 - Absolution
 - Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)
 - Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)
- First Lesson** – Daniel 7:9-14 – The Ancient of Days
- PSALM OF THE DAY** Psalm 90 (C.W. pg. 99 – Sung by Monica McInnis)
- Second Lesson** – I Thessalonians 5:1-11– A Thief in the night
- Gospel Lesson** – Matthew 25:31-46 – The Sheep & The Goats
- Nicene Creed** by the Congregation: (Liturgy pg. 18)
- Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 193** / TLH 239 sung by the Congregation
- Sermon Text:** Daniel 7:9-10; 13-14
 - Sermon Theme: What Type of Kingdom Is Everlasting?
- "Create in Me" – (pg. 20)
 - Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)
 - Offering Prayer
 - Prayer of The Church
 - Lord’s Prayer
- Communion Liturgy** (Liturgy - pg. 21)
 - Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy – Liturgy pg. 22)

Words of Institution (Liturgy pg. 23)

Agnus Dei (O Christ Lamb of God – Lit. pg. 23)

RECEPTION of Christ's Body & Blood which are Really Present, In / With and Under the Bread and the Wine for the forgiveness of sins.

Communion Hymn **C.W. 312 vss. 1; 6-8** / TLH 306 sung by the Congregation after everyone has communed including the Pastor

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon - Liturgy pg. 24)

Collect / Prayer (pg. 24)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 207 vss. 5-6** / TLH 611 sung by the Congregation.



SERMON TEXT: Daniel 7:9-10; 13-14

Vs. 9 – As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of His head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.

Vs. 10 – A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before Him. Thousands upon thousands attended Him; ten thousand times ten thousand (Angels) stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

Vs. 13 – In my vision at night I looked, and there before me as One like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence.

Vs. 14 – He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped Him. His **dominion is an everlasting dominion** that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

GREETING: Grace and peace to you from Him Who Is, and Who Was, and Who Is to come!

Nations rise and nations fall.

If you were to look at the history of nations of the nations of the world, no matter how great they once were, sooner or later they come to an end.

If you have an internet connection, you can Google “Great nations of world history” and come up with various lists. Those lists might include – Sumer – Hurrians – Hittites – Phoenicians – Parthian – Egyptian – Shang Dynasty – Zhou Dynasty and many others throughout different locations in the world.

One of those “Great nations of the World” which caught my attention was the Huns. (370 A.D. – 454 A.D.) Many have heard of *Attila the Hun*. He made his conquests from Mongolia in the east, as far as Germany and Italy in the West. A huge expanse of land! Then in 453, according to Historians, the night of a great banquet celebrating his marriage, he died suddenly. Notice, he died in 453 A.D. and the Empire of the Huns ended in 454 A.D., just one year later.

There was once a saying that went something like this: “The Sun never sets on the British Empire.” This saying came about because England had colonies spread over so much of the earth, that the sun was always shining on some part of their empire at any given time.

This morning, the events of Chapter 7 Occurred before the account of Daniel in the Lion’s Den, since we are told in the beginning of Chapter 7:1 (Approx 553.B.C.) that it was the first year of Belshazzar, King of Babylon. (Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den during the reign of Darius, a Persian ruler. Persia defeated the Babylonian empire. The Book of Daniel is not always in Chronological order.)

None the less, Daniel was given a dream from the Lord, a dream that gave insight into the future.

Keep in mind that God no longer communicates to us through dreams but He communicates to us through His Word as found in the Holy Bible as we are told in: **Hebrews 1:1-3** – “**In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these LAST DAYS (N.T. Era) He has spoken to us by His Son.**”

Jesus of course is The Word Made Flesh (John 1:1). And the Word of God is given in The Holy Bible.

But in this Dream / Vision, Daniel saw four beasts. (Daniel 7:1-7)

The **FIRST** looked like a Lion with wings of an Eagle.

The **SECOND** looked like a Bear with three ribs between its teeth

The **THIRD** was a Leopard with four wings like a bird.

The **FOURTH** Beast was just that, Daniel could not describe it except that it was terrifying and frightening and very powerful, it had iron teeth and it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled them underfoot, and it had ten horns and later another single horn came up that uprooted three of the original ten horns.

Daniel learned that the four beasts were FOUR Kingdoms. **Dan. 7:17**: “**The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.**” (See also Daniel 8:1-22)

Those four kingdoms are:

1. The Babylonians – Which were in power at the time of Daniel’s dream.

The **Babylonians** you will remember carried the tribe of Judah into captivity which lasted for 70 years. From 586 B.C – 516 B.C. Area of Iraq. The Lion with wings of an Eagle.

2. The Next Kingdom was the Kingdom of the **Medes / Persians**.

Area of Iran. – The Bear with Ribs in its Teeth. They conquered the Babylonians.

3. After the Medes and Persians came the **Greek** Empire.

Alexander the Great = The Leopard with four wings.

Alexander the Great conquered the Medes and the Persians with his rapid and quick striking troops.

Alexander defeated much larger masses of Medes and Persian troops.

4. Then after the Greeks came the **ROMANS**. The Terrifying Beast with the horns.

Rome was the nation in control of great areas of land at the time that Jesus was crucified.

Each Nation was according to God's Command and Control.
It is God Who causes nations to rise and nations to fall. (Ps. 135:10)

What do we know about each of these 4 great nations?
Regardless of how powerful they were, they all came to an END.

There is only ONE Kingdom that NEVER Ends, and you my friends in Christ, are part of that Kingdom.

No, it is Not the United States of America. As Great as America is and as much as we love America, the day will come when this great nation will also come to an end.

Rather, the Kingdom that you are part of that will NEVER END is God's Kingdom!
God told this to Daniel as we learn in **Daniel 7:18** – **“But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever – yes, forever and ever.”**

You are Part of God's Kingdom because of What the Lord Jesus did for you and I, that is, Jesus died for the sin of the World, and by His Grace and Power He created faith in your hearth through the Power of the Holy Spirit working through the Means of Grace – The Gospel in Word & Sacrament.

You are part of God's Everlasting Dominion and Kingdom. Yes, Christ's Everlasting Kingdom.

Ephesians 2:19 – 20 – Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.”

This fact which we are told in Paul's letter to the Ephesians, was already being revealed to Daniel as he was living in the land of Babylon about 600 B.C. as Daniel sees this vision from God:

Vs. 13 – In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days (God the Father) and was led into His presence.

The Son of Man = Jesus Christ.

The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10)

The Son of Man will be seen sitting at the Right Hand of the Mighty One on the last day. (Mk. 14:62)

Coming with The Clouds of Heaven = Jesus Second Coming as the angels proclaimed following the Ascension of Jesus. (Acts 1:11)

The Ancient of Days = God the Father.

Vs. 14 – He (Jesus) was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His Kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Jesus was given ALL Authority and Power.

Jesus RULES the universe and our heart with His Almighty Word. (II Cor. 1:22; Gal. 4:6, Eph. 3:17; Philip. 4:7; Col. 2:2; Hebrews 10:15-23)

The Kingdom of God / Jesus is an Everlasting Dominion. It will not pass away. It will never be destroyed.

We all like happy endings. Who doesn't enjoy seeing the movie when the Knight in shining armor comes and rescues the Princess in distress and then they ride off into the sunset and live happily ever after?

However, The Kingdom of Jesus it is not a fairy tale, it is not make-believe, but it is real.

This everlasting King of our Lord Jesus includes the believers from the creation of the world until the LAST Day, and includes people such as Adam and Eve who in the Garden of Eden spoke words of trust in God when Eve gave birth to their first born son named Cain and Eve is recorded as saying: **“With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.”** (Gen. 4:1) Unfortunately Cain brought sorrow to their hearts when he killed his brother Abel. None the less Eve demonstrated her faith in God's promise to send a Savior from the seed of a woman as first recorded in Genesis 3:15.

This Kingdom of God includes others such as:

Noah – Abraham – Moses – Isaiah – James & John – The Apostle Paul and others.

Just as we see Christ's everlasting Heavenly Kingdom NOW with our eyes of faith, one day we shall see Christ's Heavenly Kingdom with our eyes of FLESH.

As Job 19:25-27 says: **“I know that My Redeemer Lives and that in the end He will stand upon the earth and after my skin has been destroyed yet in my flesh I will see God I myself will see Him with my own eyes, I and not another.”** AMEN

THEME: What Type of Kingdom Is – Everlasting? = God's Kingdom!