



God, The Future, and You

God, being eternal, lives in the eternal realm and all of life is a continuum to Him. Past is present; future is past. And when we live in the moment, we remember the past, and we anticipate the future. That's how it is for us. But God sees it all at once.

God knows the future as well as we might know the past—even better because He doesn't forget things. And so as we come to chapter 7 of the Book of Daniel, we're going to see how the Lord will predict the future for us with complete accuracy.

In Daniel's vision, he sees the future, he sees the Lord, and he sees himself.

Practical Principles

1. Daniel sees the future. Four kingdoms, or empires, appear to Daniel in the form of four beasts. The first three resemble a lion, bear, and leopard because they share similar characteristics as these beasts. The final beast is unlike any earthly beast and out of it will spring the kingdom of the Antichrist.
2. Daniel saw the Lord. The title "Ancient of Days" is used and it emphasizes God's eternal nature. The white hair speaks of holiness and purity. The fire speaks of judgment against sin. The wheel symbolizes God's continuous working in this world. So this gives us a picture of a God who is eternal, powerful, holy, righteous, and active.
3. Daniel saw himself. Daniel was moved by his study of Bible prophecy and we should be, too. Studying end-times events should not be merely an intellectual exercise or some kind of hobby. If I really believe these things that I'm reading, it should affect the way I live.

Relevant Reminders

- The first six chapters of Daniel are historic, and the last seven chapters of Daniel are prophetic.
- Why will I be blessed if I study Bible prophecy? Because I will remember that God is in control of all of the events in this world, and it will give me a heavenly perspective.

- We talk about a loving, gracious, forgiving Father who longs for a relationship with us, but sometimes we tend to leave out the fact that He is holy and righteous and just as well.
- Worship is not just lifting your hands; it's lending your hand to someone in need. Worship is not just closing your eyes; it's opening your eyes to a lost world that desperately needs the gospel. Worship is not just singing; worship is serving.

Applicable Actions

You might be going through some hardships, some trials, some difficulties—but just remember this: if you are a Christian, your name is written in the Book of Life. That's the big picture, and a reason to give thanks and rejoice.