

Daniel Dialogue 7

Reading Guide for Daniel 7

God Judges - He's the fairest umpire of all!

Group Discussion

Share with the group your favourite sport.

1. What is it you enjoy about this game?
2. How does it feel to be unjustly treated in a game—or the *game of life*?
3. Do you think we can trust God to be fair? Do you think he keeps things from us?
4. What do you think are some of the main rules of the *game of life*? Who writes the rules?

Kids Activity

Unscramble the umpire's words to find out what a fair umpire does.

A Sense of Fairness!

Sport is great fun. However the games of sport only work when there is a clear set of rules and an umpire to moderate the game. It is amazing to watch the indignation of fans when a decision is not fair—and of course, the players become totally frustrated. That's because there is a sense of fairness in all of us—a sense that things need to be judged fairly and the rules, guidelines or principles of the game followed.

In the story of Daniel chapter 7, Daniel is told about the future. God is like an umpire ruling over the game. There are those who claim to have authority, but who don't rule with fairness. They want all the power but no responsibility—whereas God is shown to be the one with all power who takes all responsibility for us and He judges fairly.

Much of the time it appears as though oppressive religious-political powers are in complete control. However, the prophecies of Daniel graphically portray God's guidance in the affairs of men. In this chapter God is shown to be judge!

THREE PROPHETIC KEYS verses 1-3



Winds

Jeremiah 49:36



Sea

Revelation 17:15








Beasts

Daniel 7:17, 23

Daniel Dialogue

DANIEL'S DREAM verses 4-28

	FOUR BEASTS	INTERPRETATION
	First Daniel 7:4 _____	7:17 _____
	Second Daniel 7:5 _____	7:17 _____
	Third Daniel 7:6 _____	7:17 _____
	Fourth Daniel 7:7 _____	7:23 _____
	10 Horns & Little Horn Daniel 7:8-12 List key characteristics of the little horn ... _____ _____ _____	7:24 _____ _____ _____
	Judgement Daniel 7:9-14 _____	7:26,27 _____

Daniel saw four major kingdoms trying to take all power to themselves—even demanding that people worship their leaders. However, they want power without the responsibility of providing the care and protection that God also offers—as seen in the stories of previous chapters. They want power but are not prepared to use it responsibly, appropriately or fairly.

MORE DETAILS ON THE LITTLE HORN

1. It came up among the ten. verses 8,20
2. It came up after the 10 were established. It uprooted 3 of the 10. verses 8,20
3. It had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. verses 8,20,25
4. It was oppressive. verses 21,25
5. It tried to change set times and laws. verse 25

1. What would the *little horn* endeavour to do? Daniel 7:25

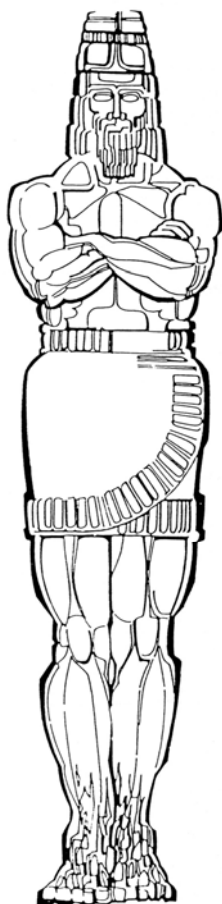
ANS: The *little horn* attempts to control people (yet doesn't care for them) with:

1. _____
2. _____

2. Consider Paul's warnings:

1. "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for (that day will not come) until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, and even sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God ... the secret power of lawlessness is already at work." 2 Thessalonians 2:3-7
2. "Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be _____." Acts 20:30,31

REVIEW OF DANIEL 2—What parallels do you see with the prophecy of Daniel 7?



**The DREAM
verses 31-35**

**The INTERPRETATION.
verses 36-45**

Head _____ Vs. 37, 38

Chest _____ Vs. 39

Thighs _____ Vs. 39

Legs _____ Vs. 40

Feet _____ Vs. 41-43



Rock _____ Vs. 44, 45

WHO IS IN CONTROL? verses 9-14, 26-28

It may seem that oppressive political powers are in complete control. God's name, character and position is challenged. Men oppose God. Evil controls the minds of multitudes. But, who is really in control? Who takes responsibility with power—without using that power corruptly and abusively? Who is fair—working wisely within the *rules*?

4. As well as being shown earthly power struggles, Daniel was given a glimpse of the heavens. What is God's answer to the challenges of the "little horn"? Daniel 7:9-14, 26-28

ANS: 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

DISCUSSION

1. How is God different from the earthly powers portrayed in this chapter?
2. Where do we find the final source of authority on spiritual matters? Does any earthly system have the right to alter or change the teachings of God's Word?
3. How do you feel when faced with the decision to *stand alone* for the teachings of God—even if it means being different? Have you ever felt that some church traditions, creed or teaching differed with God's Word—and what did you do about it?
4. From observing Daniel's lifestyle, what would you consider to be his main defences against the deceptions and attacks of Satan?
5. **Kids DISCUSSION:** Share with the group what a fair umpire is like. This is what God is like. Can you think of some stories or examples where we see God like the umpire?
6. **Read Daniel 7:27—a key verse.** This text is describing God. What do you learn about God in this picture?

FINAL PERSONAL WORD ...

We have been reading about four beasts, four powers or four kingdoms—all of which abused power, controlled people and brought oppression. But in this picture we have also seen hope—for there is a God who knows, cares, rescues, rules, protects, responds and judges fairly.

Next, we read the unique prophecy of Daniel 8. Jesus said that this passage should be read and understood. (See Matthew 24:15) It is a story of intense intrigue. Campaigns are waged by evil powers against the Prince of princes, God's sanctuary, truth and people. Ultimate restoration is also part of the story.

What does this story of oppression followed by restoration mean to you? What interest does God and the hosts of heaven have in our struggles? Daniel 8 underlines the fact that God restores.