

Daniel 7:1-14

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. ²Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. ³And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. ⁴The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. ⁵And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' ⁶After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. ⁷After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. ⁸I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

⁹"As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgement, and the books were opened.

¹¹"I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹²As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

¹³"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

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After the talk today, there will be a short Q&A session, time permitting

Next Week:

Series: 1001 questions you must ask before you die
Title: How can we live forever? (John 3:16)
Speaker: Mark Jackson

1001 QUESTIONS YOU MUST ASK BEFORE YOU DIE 'Where is history heading?' Simon Dowdy

**A) Stand Firm –
Understand the Pattern of History (v1-8)**

**B) Stand Firm –
There will be a Final Day (v9-12)**

**C) Stand Firm –
Jesus is Lord (and will be forever)
(v13-14)**

Luke 22:69 'But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God'.

Acts 2:36 'God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ'.

Acts 7:55-56 'But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God'.

Questions for further reflection

- How has God encouraged you through Daniel 7?
- How has God challenged you through Daniel 7?
- Is there action you need to take?

About the speaker:

Simon is the minister of Grace Church Dulwich and also of St Botolph's Aldersgate which has a similar ministry among City workers to St Peter's Barge.