

## **Monday: Unshakeable Faithfulness**

### **Reading: Daniel 6:1-10**

Daniel's life exemplifies unwavering faithfulness over decades. Despite changes in kingdoms and rulers, his commitment to God remained steadfast. In our own lives, we often face seasons of change that can challenge our faith. But like Daniel, we're called to remain faithful not just in dramatic moments, but in the daily routines of life.

Reflect on areas where you may have grown weary in your faith journey.

How can you renew your commitment to God in the small, everyday moments?

Remember, faithfulness in little things prepares us for faithfulness in greater challenges. Pray for God's strength to help you cultivate a consistent walk with Him, regardless of your circumstances.

## **Tuesday: Integrity Under Scrutiny**

### **Reading: Daniel 6:11-15**

Daniel's enemies scrutinized his life, seeking any fault to accuse him. Yet they found nothing except his devotion to God. This level of integrity didn't happen overnight. It was the result of a lifetime of choices to honor God in all areas of life.

Consider your own life. If others were to examine it closely, what would they find? Are there areas where your integrity might be compromised?

Ask God to reveal any inconsistencies between your public persona and private life. Commit to living in a way that reflects Christ, whether others are watching or not. Remember, true integrity is who you are when no one is looking.

## **Wednesday: Courage in the Face of Opposition**

### **Reading: Daniel 6:16-18**

When faced with a decree that threatened his life, Daniel didn't waver in his devotion to God. He continued his practice of prayer, knowing it could cost him everything. This courage stemmed from his deep trust in God's sovereignty.

Reflect on times when following God might lead to opposition or personal cost. How do you respond to peer pressure or societal expectations that conflict with your faith? Ask God for the courage to stand firm, even when it's difficult. Remember that our ultimate allegiance is to God, not to human approval or comfort.

**Unshaken: *Because He Reigns*** Use these days (Thursday - Saturday) to prepare for worship on Sunday, October 19.

## **Daniel 7: *The Ancient of Days and the Son of Man***

**Theme:** *God reigns above every kingdom, and His kingdom alone will never end.*

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### **Thursday – The Beasts Rise from the Sea (Daniel 7:1–8, ESV)**

1 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.

2 Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. 4 The 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. 5 And 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."

6 After 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. 7 After 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. 8 I 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."

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### **Historical Background**

Daniel 7 takes us back in time to Belshazzar's first year (around 553 BC). This is before the fall of Babylon. This vision mirrors Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2, but from a heavenly perspective. The statue of precious metals (human viewpoint) becomes monstrous beasts (God's viewpoint). The sea represents chaos, instability, and the rebellion of human power apart from God's rule.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What does the image of the beasts reveal about human kingdoms and power without God?
  2. How does this vision differ from Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapter 2?
  3. Where do you see the "beast-like" tendencies of pride, violence, or control in our world or in ourselves today?
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### **Friday: The Ancient of Days Takes His Seat (Daniel 7:9–14, ESV)**

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. 10 A 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 judgment, 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. 12 As 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. 14 And 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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### **Historical Background**

The vision now shifts from the chaos of the sea to the calm of the throne room.

- "Ancient of Days" describes God's eternal, holy, and sovereign nature. God rules without rival or end.
- The "Son of Man" approaches on the clouds. Jesus applies this title to Himself (see *Mark 14:62*), declaring that He fulfills Daniel's vision.
- For exiled Israel, this was a powerful reminder: empires rise and fall, but the reign of God and His Messiah endures forever.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How does the image of the Ancient of Days bring peace in the midst of turmoil?
  2. What does it mean that the Son of Man receives "an everlasting dominion"?
  3. How does Jesus' use of this title help you trust Him as both Savior and King?
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## Saturday: The Vision Explained (Daniel 7:15–28, ESV)

15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. 16 I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things.

17 ‘These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’

19 “Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, 20 and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. 21 As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.”

23 “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. 25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. 26 But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. 27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.’ 28 “Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart.”

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## Historical Background

Daniel is deeply disturbed. He knows God wins, but he also sees the reality of suffering before the victory.

- God’s people will endure hardship (“a time, times, and half a time”), but judgment will come, and the saints will reign with Him.
- The chapter closes where it began—with Daniel unsettled, but God unshaken.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why does Daniel still feel anxious even after hearing that God will win?
  2. What does it mean that the saints will “receive the kingdom and possess it forever”?
  3. How does this vision strengthen your hope when you look at the brokenness of the world?
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## Daniel 7 Summary

Daniel 7 lifts our eyes from the roaring beasts of earth to the reigning King of heaven. Every kingdom of man will fall, but the Son of Man’s kingdom will stand forever. When we remember who sits on the throne, we can remain unshaken, no matter which beasts rise.