

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

## Dave Cover | Daniel 7 Sermon Discussion Participant's Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To broaden our perspective to understand that, whatever might be going on today, Jesus and his eternal kingdom will ultimately triumph. This in turn will help us remain faithful to him.

**Icebreaker:** Can you think of a time in which your view on something was changed once you saw the bigger picture? Describe what happened.

### Discussion:

**Introduction:** Daniel is often called “apocalyptic” literature. The term comes from a Greek word meaning “to unveil or uncover something that’s hidden.” This kind of literature often contains things like visions and symbols that are meant to reveal truth and help us see the bigger picture of God’s redemptive plan. Starting in Daniel 7, the book will focus on dreams, visions, and heavenly instruction that Daniel receives. In this chapter, Daniel relates a vision that he had in past, in the first year of King Belshazzar, whom we met in ch. 5.

### Read:

#### Daniel 7:1-2

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream. <sup>2</sup> Daniel said: “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. <sup>3</sup> Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

1. Dave mentioned that the sea was a common image for chaos and evil in the ancient world. In Daniel’s vision, it produces a series of great beasts that represent fearsome kings/empires who rise to power in our fallen world. What circumstances and/or powers in our day might cause us fear (particularly as they seem to be in opposition to God and his people)?

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

2. Dave pointed out that Daniel's vision is a distillation of the entire biblical storyline. What difference does it make that these fear-inspiring beasts are not outside, but somehow a part of God's plan for history?

## **Read:**

### [Daniel 7:9](#)

As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat.

3. Why is it significant that there is more than one throne in Daniel's vision? (Recall Dave mentioning what God created human beings to do at the beginning of the biblical story in Genesis 1.)
4. How do you see humanity's failure to reflect God's glory and rule like he intended play out in our own time? In your own life?

## **Read:**

### [Daniel 7:13-14](#)

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples 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.

### [Mark 14:61b-62](#)

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" <sup>62</sup> "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

5. As Dave mentioned, the vision of Daniel 7 was a widely understood cultural story in Jesus's day (similar to scene between Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker in *The Empire Strikes Back*: "I am your father.>"). What is Jesus claiming in Mark 14?
6. How do you normally think of Jesus? How does it compare with how he's presented in Daniel's vision?

## **Read:**

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

## Daniel 7:18

But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.

## Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

7. Daniel 7 reveals that the people of God will one possess the kingdom of Jesus forever. Revelation 22 gives us a further picture of that reality. How might this encourage us in our lives right now?

## Sharing and Prayer:

In light of the previous discussion, share something in your life that makes you afraid of or otherwise threatens to draw you away from following Jesus as your Savior and King.

Take turns praying for each other, that we would remember the bigger picture: trusting in and following Jesus is always ultimately worth it—because he will one day make us who we're meant to be and fully establish his good, satisfying, and eternal kingdom.