

# Spiritual Spring

## SPRING IS HERE, IS IT TIME FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL SPRING?

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### **Bible Reading: 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.**

## **THEME: A New Vision of the Messianic Age.**

Is this a messianic prophecy? The above verses has often been interpreted and quoted as a messianic prophecy about the arrival of son of man – Jesus Christ.

To understand the message behind these verses we should read Daniel 7 in whole and meditate on it. This will give us a holistic context and with God's grace we might understand his message for us.

### **Chapter: Summarized**

**7:1-8: Vision - Disturbing beasts:** This chapter is about a vision that Daniel had during the first year of King Belshezzar of Babylon. In his vision the great sea is agitated by the winds and out of this agitated sea comes out four terrifying, powerful and scary beast. The first was a lion with wings of eagle, the second was a bear devouring its victims, the third was leopard with four wings and heads that had authority to rule and the fourth was the most terrifying, dreadful and exceedingly strong. It crushed, devoured and trampled its victims and had teeth of iron.

**7:9-12: Vision - Judgement day:** On the day of judgement, His Most High strips all the powers that these beasts possess and the fourth beast was slain and thrown into a blazing fire.

**7:13-14: Vision - Messianic hope:** His Most High then gives the authority, glory and sovereign power to a Son of Man so that he can rule over his people justly, kindly and by his law.

**7: The Rest: Vision's meaning:** Daniel who is very strong in his faith is alarmed by this vision. The vision above is interpreted as follows. The four beasts represents four great kings and kingdoms that was to come. God's people goes through tough times during this period but on the day of judgement the kingdom will be restored to his people and will be an eternal kingdom ruled by the Son of Man.

### **Message of Hope**

Many interpretations of this prophetic passage states that the first beast lion represents the empire of Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar, the bear represents Persian Empire, the leopard represents the empire of Greece under Alexander and the fourth and the fiercest of all represents the Roman Empire. About the messianic hope in Daniel's vision there are different theories. Some believe the Son of Man state here is Jesus and some think that it is second coming of Jesus to establish an eternal kingdom. Verses 13 and 14 are the most significant part of Daniel's vision. This gives us the humanity the hope for the future.

Through history we have seen that there are times when we have tyrants who persecute God's people, there are times we forget God, times when we forget his commandments, when we doubt him and speak badly of him. Then his Most High again and again has delivered us from the evil and from ourselves.

Some of the key messages in these verses include:

1. One of the key things that drives us Christians in our faith is the hope that an eternal kingdom is coming and with his second coming Jesus will usher in the eternal kingdom of God. This hope is what these verses offers us.
2. God's people will also go through challenges and tough times as people faced in the terrible kingdoms. But we should be strong in our faith like Daniel was. Our faith should be strong and we should be assured that our God will be with us, will deliver us and will free us of any challenges that we may have.
3. All we have in our lives is God's giving and it can be taken away from us in an instant. Let us be humble of what we have and obey his laws.
4. That our Lord is merciful, who even forgave three of the four terrible beasts.

**Where do we stand today?**

**Are we ready to be part of his eternal kingdom?**

**On the day of our judgement, are we going to be stripped of all we have or are we going to delivered from evil, trials and challenges that we have?**

**Does these verses on Daniel's vision inspire you and give you hope to be strong in your faith?**

## **Relevance during Lent Season**

As we observe the Lent season symbolically by fasting (abstaining from certain food), let us also spiritually cleanse ourselves being aware of what we do – being humble, being thankful, being good to others, being generous, by praying and by obeying his laws. Let us be ready for his judgement any day. While we get ready to celebrate his death and his resurrection, let us also prepare ourselves for his second coming. Let this season be not just one of symbolic fasting (abstaining food) but let us fast against sin and vice.

**Let this Lent season be our Spiritual Spring.**