

**Life Group Notes**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021**

**Speaker:** Sean Green

**Title:** Daniel: Dreaming in Exile

**Passage:** Daniel 7:1-14

The people of Israel began as slaves in Egypt and rose to the high-water mark of King David and Solomon's kingdom. However, following a slow decline, the nation's cultural and spiritual home was ransacked, and many were taken to Babylon. We join the story of Daniel as he dreams about powerful empires assaulting God's people.

Dan 7:1-8: Four terrifying Beasts / Kingdoms

The winds blow, the waters churned and beasts emerge from the sea (mystery). The first is like a lion, that stands like a human, and given a human mind (Babylon?). The second is terrifying bear with an insatiable appetite for devouring human flesh (Medes & Persians?). The third was like a Leopold with four heads, with speed, mobility and great authority (Alexander the Greek?). The final beast was indescribable, powerful and dreadful, crushing and trampling it's victims (Rome?).

Dan 7:9-12: Hope in struggle

Now Daniel sees the Ancient One. The description speaks of one who is pure, wise, powerful and just. Though he is seated, he is active (Judge) and He is able (Angels). The Boastful Horn of the fourth beast is then destroyed, effortlessly.

Dan 7:13-14: An eternal kingdom is being established

Lastly, Daniel sees the Son of Man who is Enthroned over all things. His kingdom is everlasting and will be hallmarked by eternal obedience.

**What does this show us?**

**Dreams:** God did and still does, speak to us in dreams (Joel 2v1-2).

**Struggle:** Mystery surrounds suffering. We live in a battleground, face setbacks, even defeat. But there is always hope in the Gospel.

**God the Father:** Is not an impotent old man. His Justice will be served, it is all recorded in His books.

**God the Son:** His kingdom is here but not yet fully. We need to live in this Big Story.

**Questions:**

1. The Christian Life is struggle. Discuss!
2. How does this dream of the Ancient of days and the Son of Man change the way you view your life circumstances?
3. Has God ever spoken to you in a dream?