

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Daniel 7  
Stand Strong Series  
May 5/6, 2018

Main Idea:

*“Then the sovereignty, power, and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey Him.” (Daniel 7:27)*

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## Discovery Questions

1. If you could be an animal, what would you be and why?

This week we head into the second half of the book of Daniel. The second half of the book is known as the “apocalyptic” section of Daniel. As its name implies, the second half deals with events surrounding the “apocalypse”—the end of the world. This unique dream/vision that Daniel has in Daniel 7 serves as a foundational chapter to what the whole rest of the Bible teaches about the end of the world. We’ll take a look at the interpretation that Daniel receives for this vision, and then see what it means for us.

2. Read Daniel 7:15-28. This passage is the interpretation of Daniel’s dream. What do we learn from this passage about events that will happen at the end of the world? List as many things as you can find.

3.
  - a. What are common thoughts, questions, misconceptions or beliefs that you have heard people have about the end of the world? What thoughts, questions or beliefs do you have yourself?
  - b. Why do you think that God gave us glimpses of the end of the world? Why don’t you think God gave us more detailed information concerning dates and sequence of events?
4.
  - a. When you think of Christian teaching about the end of the world, what comes to your mind? Are you excited? Frightened? What makes you answer the way that you do?
  - b. Daniel makes it clear that when the events of the “fourth beast” take place, those on this earth will experience suffering and persecution for their faith. How can we know whether we are prepared to undergo such persecution if it actually comes to that? What can we do to better prepare for potential persecution?
  - c. Since we know that God is ultimately victorious at the end, how does that impact some of the decisions you make in the here and now? Name one area where you might feel led to live differently in light of the truth of Daniel 7.

5. In his commentary on Daniel, Iain Duguid writes, “Today we live in a world of terrifying beasts, but we shall not live in their world forever...when you feel the beasts surrounding you and their hot breath closing in on you, look upward and onward. Look up to your judge, look up to your Savior, and look onward to your glorious inheritance.” Where do you feel like you’re the recipient of evil right now in your life? How does this passage give you hope in the midst of it? How can you hold onto that hope?

*Leader Guide Starts on Next Page*

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

## Leader Guide

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### 1. If you could be an animal, what would you be and why?

*This is a “lighter” question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.*

This week we head into the second half of the book of Daniel. The second half of the book is known as the “apocalyptic” section of Daniel. As its name implies, the second half deals with events surrounding the “apocalypse”—the end of the world. This unique dream/vision that Daniel has in Daniel 7 serves as a foundational chapter to what the whole rest of the Bible teaches about the end of the world. We’ll take a look at the interpretation that Daniel receives for this vision, and then see what it means for us.

### 2. Read Daniel 7:15-28. This passage is the interpretation of Daniel’s dream. What do we learn from this passage about events that will happen at the end of the world? List as many things as you can find.

*This weekend, we shared three primary things that this passage teaches us about the end of the world. They were:*

- *The end of the world will be preceded by an especially evil and powerful final empire.*
- *This final evil empire will be led by a Satanic ruler who will persecute God’s people.*
- *God will bring an end to this evil empire and its Satanic ruler and will inaugurate an eternal Kingdom established by His Son Jesus Christ.*

*Within these three “broad” truths there are many details that Daniel gives us about what precisely this wicked ruler will do, how long he will do it, and the effect that this dream has on Daniel. Your group may find a lot of minor details that are worth pointing out, but the three truths above are the main take-aways from this passage.*

*Spend 10-12 minutes on this question.*

- ### 3. a. What are common thoughts, questions, misconceptions or beliefs that you have heard people have about the end of the world? What thoughts, questions or beliefs do you have yourself?
- ### b. Why do you think that God gave us glimpses of the end of the world? Why don’t you think God gave us more detailed information concerning dates and sequence of events?

*For part “b,” we note that God gave us glimpses of the end of the world to both warn us and to encourage us. We need to be warned that things on this earth will get tougher before they get better—that people will hate us simply by virtue of being a Christian. But we also need to know that there is coming a day when evil will be vanquished and God will prove himself victorious—and we as Christians are “more than conquerors” (Romans 8:37). Thus we can hold on through the tough times because we know how it will all turn out in the end.*

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

*Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

4. a. When you think of Christian teaching about the end of the world, what comes to your mind? Are you excited? Frightened? What makes you answer the way that you do?
- b. Daniel makes it clear that when the events of the “fourth beast” take place, those on this earth will experience suffering and persecution for their faith. How can we know whether we are prepared to undergo such persecution if it actually comes to that? What can we do to better prepare for potential persecution?
- c. Since we know that God is ultimately victorious at the end, how does that impact some of the decisions you make in the here and now? Name one area where you might feel led to live differently in light of the truth of Daniel 7.

*For part “b,” knowing is half of the battle. Some Christians have a tendency to think that if they are going through tough times, it’s because they are doing something wrong. The Bible teaches us that we can be doing everything right and still go through tough times—in fact, going through tough times may be an indication that we are doing everything right. Not seeing tough times as a “lesson” to be learned is something important to take hold of.*

*For part “c,” knowing how all of it will end affects things like anxiety, where our hope is found, where we invest our money, etc. If this world will ultimately pass away, then we must focus on what is most important in this life.*

*Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

5. In his commentary on Daniel, Iain Duguid writes, “Today we live in a world of terrifying beasts, but we shall not live in their world forever...when you feel the beasts surrounding you and their hot breath closing in on you, look upward and onward. Look up to your judge, look up to your Savior, and look onward to your glorious inheritance.” Where do you feel like you’re the recipient of evil right now in your life? How does this passage give you hope in the midst of it? How can you hold onto that hope?

*Make sure as a group to pray for those who are going through tough times. While evil won’t be fully defeated until the end of time, we can pray for justice and an end to evil now. God gives us glimpses of His victory over evil at the end of time as he listens and responds to our prayers today.*

*Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.*