

DANIEL (DARE TO BE GOD'S MESSENGER)
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SERIES: Daniel (Dare To Be God's Messenger)

TITLE: Program 21 – Lions And Leopards And Bears, Oh My!

MONDAY

OPEN

Surely you've seen the Wizard of Oz. You saw Judy Garland playing the role of Dorothy as she went in her ruby shoes up the yellow brick road. Where was she going? She was going to see; I'm off to see the wizard, the wonderful wizard of Oz. But what happened along the way she met lions and tigers bears, oh my. Today we're going to meet lions and leopards and bears and a dreadful beast, all telling us about our future.

PART ONE

I'm as excited as Dorothy was when she was off to see the wizard of Oz. And I'm all excited because of what you and I are going to see today. O beloved, we have entered a new segment of the book of Daniel. I love the first segment. I love the lessons that we learn about God. I love what we learn about Daniel and the example that he gives us. But now at chapter 7 we have a break in the book. Up until this time from Daniel, chapter 1 all the

way through Daniel, chapter 6 we have moved chronologically through Daniel's life. We have had him living under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar when he was taken captive into Babylon from Israel. We have seen him under the reign of Belshazzar in the very last year of his reign, on the very last day of his reign when Belshazzar was put to death. And then we have seen him at the end of chapter 6 into the reign of Cyrus the Persian. Now in Daniel, chapter 7 we're moving to a new segment. And what's going to happen is from chapter 7 through chapter 12, we're going to look at visions that were given to Daniel at different periods of time. As a matter of fact, let's stop and just look at those so that you can see where we're headed. Because we're headed into the future; we're going to get a good look at the past, but we're headed into the future. And when you get through studying this book with me you're going to have God's blueprint for prophecy. And you know what? Every prophetic scripture fits within the framework of the book of Daniel, which is absolutely awesome. So Daniel is like the skeleton. And as we study prophecy more and as I add insights from other scriptures, we're going to begin to put flesh on those bones. And you're going to have an understanding that is going to hold you in good standing, so that whenever you hear anyone teach on prophecy or when anyone might come along and say the Lord's coming, the Lord's coming; do this, do that, you can know is the Lord coming or is He not. And you can know that because God is very careful to tell us what He's going to do ahead of time. Let's look at Daniel and I want to show you the openings of these various chapters so you can see the year and the revelation that was given to Daniel. In Daniel, chapter 7, verse 1 it says in the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw dreams and visions. So this one happened in the first year of Belshazzar. So in your workbook or in your Bible you would write the year 553 B.C. Now remember Belshazzar ruled until 539 B.C. when Babylon the great was brought down by the Medes and the Persians. So this is in the first year. Now I want you to go to Daniel, chapter 8, just so you can see where

we're going. In Daniel, chapter 8 it says in the third year of the reign of Belshazzar, a vision appeared to me, Daniel, subsequent or following the one which appeared to me previously. So that would be in the third year, so that's 551 B.C. Then we go to Daniel, chapter 9. All right, so we've had two visions already, both given to Daniel. Daniel, chapter 9; in the first year of Darius the son Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans. All right, so this is in the first year of Darius. So this is another time, but it follows, because now we've moved from Babylon to the Medes and the Persians, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans. Then we come to chapter 11, chapter 10, in verse 1 it says in the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision. So this in the third year of Cyrus the king of Persia. Well Daniel served all the way through the time of Cyrus. I want you to see that for just one minute. In Daniel, chapter 1 in verse 21, the last verse tells us this: And Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king. So Daniel served all the way through the first year of Cyrus the king and Cyrus was the Persian king. He was part of the Medo-Persian Empire. But what you have in Daniel, chapter 10 is you have him getting a vision from God in the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia. Now when you read this you read a vision that goes from 10, 11 and 12. And I tell you what happens in that last chapter is he takes that prophesy and he nails it down and he nails it hard and it is firm and it is going to stand and you are going to be so excited. So what you have in the first half of Daniel, in chapters 1 through chapter 6 is you have the account of Daniels service in Babylon from Nebuchadnezzar all the way through to Cyrus. And you say but Daniel, chapter 6 opens up with Darius. Yes, it opens up with Darius appointing 120 satraps over the kingdom when he takes over Babylon. But the last verse of chapter 6 says this: So Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

So it gives us Daniel's life. Now the visions that we have seen are visions that belong to Nebuchadnezzar, visions, dreams that Nebuchadnezzar had. But now from Daniel, chapter 7 on, these are all visions that were given to Daniel, himself in addition to what was given to Nebuchadnezzar, which Daniel interpreted for us. As we look at Daniel, chapter 7, I want you to know, I know who the lion, the bear and the leopard and the D.T. beast are. I know that. I've studied; I've gone all the way through and I've studied the history associated with this. But I'm not going to tell you because what I want you to do is I want you beloved to catch the beauty of studying the Bible inductively. I want you to catch the awesomeness of the truth that you can discover on your own, no matter what your education is or no matter your lack of education. Now I'm not demeaning the theologians. I'm not demeaning those men that have the gift of knowledge, that have, have given us wonderful, wonderful insights and that have the opportunities to read other languages and I'm not demeaning them at all. I have benefited greatly from them. But the way that I know whether they're right or wrong, even though I have no degree, is because I know the Word of God, because I've studied the Word of God inductively. Now let me just review. Inductive study means that instead of going to a book about the Bible to find out what it means, you go to the Bible itself to discover for yourself what it says. Did you hear that? What it says. So you observe the text. Observation is finding out what is God saying to me in this book because this is God's book? Holy men of God wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. All scripture is given by inspiration of God. It's God-breathed. That's what the word inspiration means in 2 Timothy 3:16. And so it's given by inspiration of God and it's profitable for doctrine. And this is what we're going to get. We're going to get doctrine. We're going to get solid teaching on what the Word of God says, what it means. So you move from observation, discovering what does it say to interpretation. And that interpretation comes out of good, accurate observation. And you discover what it means and then you live in

the light of it. Now when we look at prophecy, you say how do you live in the light of prophesy? You order your life in accordance with what this truth is saying. So this is going to be very, very informative. But you're going to see truth for yourself. So there's some things I'm not going to explain to you and I'm telling you why, because God is going to explain them to you in this book. And we're going to see it as it unfolds and we're going to look at it inductively. All right, Daniel, chapter 7, verse 1. In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, and what you were instructed in your study guide was to mark that and to put a time clock on it so that you know when this revelation is being given. And that's important because Babylon is the first kingdom we know on the statue in Daniel, chapter 2. It's the head of gold. All right, so this was given during the day when Babylon was still the great power. All right, verse 1: In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream. Mark the word dream, and visions in his mind as he lay on the bed; then he wrote the dream down. He sees the dream; he writes it down and related the following summary of it. He's relating the beginning of this dream. And it says Daniel said, I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds were stirring up the great sea. And what comes out of the great sea? O my, we'll tell you when we come back.

PART TWO

Welcome back, my friend. Let me introduce you to four great beasts that were coming up out of the sea. Now as we look at this next to verse 2 in the margin either of your Bible or in the margin of your study notes that you have downloaded, in the margin write the vision. When you get it neat on your notes then put it in your Bible. All right so, Daniel said, verse 2, I was looking in the vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And you'll see later on in scripture that the sea is like just the mass of humanity. So here are the four winds and later on you'll want to follow what you learn about the four winds. We're going to see a

little bit about that today. The four winds were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts were coming up out of the sea, different from one another. So he wants us to understand that these are four separate entities. All right verse four: The first and I would mark them because he has told us there's four beasts and so what I would do is I would underline four and then next to the first I would put a 1 there and put a circle around it. The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked up and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given it. Now we're going to come back to that. Verse 5: And behold, another beast, a second one; put a 2 there, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side. Imagine it raised it raised up on one side and three ribs were in its mouth and it says, "And they said to it, arise and devour much meat." After this I kept looking and behold, another one. Now it doesn't say a third one, but another one is the third. So let's put a three there. And another one like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads and dominion was given to it. Verse 7: After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, number four; you've got it; dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet. The remainder of what? The remainder of the other three beasts. All right, and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. Verse 8: While I was contemplating the horns. How many were there? Ten horns. All right, while I was contemplating the horns, behold another horn. All right so if you have ten and you add one, what have you got? You've got eleven horns. And another one, a little one came up among them. Them what? Them ten horns. And three of the first horns. What first horns? The first ten, were pulled out by the roots before it and behold this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts. All right now, I want to stop there for a minute and I want you to see. What have we got so far? We've got a

description of a lion, a bear and a leopard and a what. O no, I don't know. It's a dreadful and terrifying beast. It is the fourth beast, but it's not described like an animal. It's just described as dreadful and terrifying. So this is what I call it the D.T. beast, all right. Now, what I want us to do is to mark the references to the dreadful and terrifying beast, okay and I'm just going to give you colors. You can choose any colors you want. You be as independent as you want to be, but I just picked brown for the beast. But I also am very curious about this little horn that has eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts. So what I want to do is mark that horn, okay. So I just marked it orange, okay. So I want to mark it in a color distinctive, but because it belongs to the fourth beast I've got it orange and underneath I've got it underlined in brown, okay, got it. Good. All right now, I'm going to read verse 7 again and let's get this fourth beast. After this I kept looking in the night visions and behold a fourth beast; color it brown; dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong. And it had large iron teeth. It, and you want to mark the it. Color it brown. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet. All right, so its feet you want to color brown. And it, and you want to color that, was different from all the beasts that were before it. And it, color that brown; had ten horns. All right, while I was contemplating the horns, behold another horn; color it orange, a little one came up among them and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it. Color that orange. And behold this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts. All right now, we're going to look at this later in detail. But we know, we've not walked down the yellow brick road, we've gone and explored Daniel's vision and what we have seen is a lion, and a bear and a leopard and a what; you got it a D.T. beast with ten horns and another little horn coming up among those ten. And that little horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts. Now the vision's not over. And this is what is exciting. It says I kept looking until thrones were set up and the Ancient of Days took His seat.

And His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool and His throne was ablaze with flames and its wheels were like a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him and thousands upon thousands were attending him and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him. And the court sat and the books were opened. Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the little horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain. And that's the fourth beast so you color it brown. You color the horn orange. And its body, the fourth beast, was destroyed and given to the burning fire. As for the rest of the beasts, it says their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was given to them for an appointed period of time. I kept looking in the night visions and behold with the clouds of heaven, one like the Son of Man was coming. And He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom that all the peoples and nations and men of every language might serve Him and His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which will not pass away. And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed. That's the end of the vision and Daniel's alarmed. And you ought to be terribly curious. And what I want you to do is I want you to read through Daniel, chapter 2. Sketch out a rough sketch of that statue, if you don't have the study guide. Name the parts of that statue. Put the stone on there. Look at what happens and how each part is described, then lay out the four beasts in the end of this vision and see what you see on that road of Daniel.