

I'm sorry so many were late today; we've a lot of ground to cover. Concerning the assignment today-- the first part, Daniel 8 -- I think everyone did pretty well on that in noting which verses were included in the vision and which verses in the interpretation. That is much simpler in that passage than in ch. 7.

Then, how many kingdoms were involved? I believe you had no difficulty with that.

Which kingdoms in ch. 2 and in ch. 7 do these kingdoms correspond to? I believe most of you said the second and third kingdoms, in chs. 2 and 7. Of course the critical view would say it's with the third and the fourth, but I believe we saw pretty clear evidence it is with the second and the third.

The second part: glance over the last 6 chs. of Daniel and see what divisions you would make of that. Let's look at that. We noticed the first verse of ch. 7 says, "In the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream . . . . ."

I had a very interesting question given to me at the end of the last hour. Does this mean that Daniel saw real, things, or does it mean that God cause Daniel to ~~see~~ appear before him, or that he had a dream and there were pictures in his head. How God gave it to him we really don't know. You might say that everything we see is a picture in our heads. Did you ever think that you get light in through the right eye and light in through the left eye. But you only see two pictures; you see one. They tell us that everything from the right side of both eyes goes to the left side of the brain, and everything from the left side of both eyes goes to the right side of the brain. How are those four things put together to form one picture? We don't know. But we see one picture, and God caused Daniel to see one picture.

Maybe it was simply a dream. Maybe he was still conscious when God caused him to see things, but he knew it was a vision. ~~Thought~~ He knew it was not things that were actually happening then, but things God caused him to see. These things sometimes might be representations, the actual picture of something that was going to happen in the future but more often they are symbolic, they are represented in the statue like that Nebuchadnezzar saw and in the four beasts he saw, they are symbols.

Ch. 7 starts, In the first year of Belshazzar, Daniel had a dream. Then we read about the dream and the interpretation mixed in with it.

Ch. 8 begins, In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar, a vision appeared unto me, even unto me, Daniel, after that which appeared unto me before. So here we have a new vision, a new experience= two years later.

In ch. 9, In the first year of Darius, the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes . . . in the first year of his reign, I Daniel understood by books the number of the years..... And he goes on and tells what happens.