



Ministry of the Word

*Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017*

by Vincent Gannon

**Scripture:** Daniel 7:14-15

**Subject:** Chapter 7, Part 25 – Son of Man’s Rule

We are back into the book of Daniel and I hope you have been looking forward to getting back into as much as I have. Daniel was a prophet but not like others in the Old Testament. He never uttered the words “Thus saith the Lord” in that kind of clear manner. Yet not only did he record his prophetic visions and dreams but he also interpreted them. He not only forth told about the Jewish people return to Jerusalem but more than any other prophetic he specially prophesied regarding the Gentile world and the end times.

Last time we considered in some small detail the title that Jesus ascribed to Himself in the Gospels more than any other which was the Son of Man. In Verse 13 we looked at Jesus coming with the clouds of heaven! and this of course has to do with the second coming of Jesus, not as a baby but as King!

In Acts 1:10-11 it confirms this-

*“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”*

The doctrine of Jesus' second coming is not well known outside bible based Christian doctrine. It also proves to be a point of debate even within the church. Its importance lies in the facts that –

1. It gives immense hope to the believer, even in time of persecution,
- 2. It is a motivator for proper living
- 3. It gives us the assurance that all the troubles and terrors of this world will come to an end and finally
- 4. which is of great importance, finally God's justice will be had. Amen!!

Now let us examine verse 14 in more detail this morning. It is not about His return but His right to Rule. We are very blessed that we are redeemed. We know that Jesus came in the form of a man, in fulfilment to the Scriptures, and that Jesus ministered to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles, but even then, His own people rejected Him. On account of Jesus' death and resurrection, his ascension into Glory, all in accordance with Scriptures, he made a way for us to be grafted into the vine. Isn't it a tragedy that many will not accept this as reality regardless of even the historical evidence for these facts.

On the other hand, many believers hope that Jesus will not return in their time and spoil their lives. That was not in the early church, and ought not to be the attitude of the believer today. Especially when we are aware of how imminent His soon return is. The Bible teaches us that we have a choice either to live with eternity in view or choose to live for now. Pick any book in the New Testament, go through it and this becomes clear. Take for instance the Book of Hebrews and chapter 11. It gives us the account of both the privileged and the poor, of the choices they made and the consequences they reaped. That's just a sample of the facts that are presented to us as an encouragement to live with eternity in view. Is it possible that you are so caught up with the here and now, that you have lost sight of eternity? Remember where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Daniel has seen in his vision kings and kingdoms, their power and dominion. He had seen the four beasts, the last was the most perplexing and disturbing but his eyes and heart were turned to the incredible scene of what was to take place in heaven.

Verse 14a - *“Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.”*

No need for a rush or race for power in Heaven. Not like our sad world where individuals, past and present, step over everyone and everything to have world dominion. No-one in history or even presently has ever been worthy, or fit to rule. We instead find evidence of only mayhem and death left in their wake, and what have we learned? Apparently, nothing for they are still at it. Yet one day Praise God it will happen that the Creator will take back from His creatures what is rightful His.

The great verses of Colossians 1:15-20 tells us that there is only one who is fit and worthy to rule, who brings life, liberty and love, making the foulest clean.

*“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. <sup>18</sup> And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.*

*<sup>19</sup> For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, <sup>20</sup> and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross”.*

The prophet Zechariah confirms Daniel’s amazing prophecy in chapter 14:9. It says the following,

*“And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be — “The LORD is one, And His name one.”*

Revelation 5 develops what Daniel seen so beautifully. Here, the Lamb of God is alive, risen and ascended. Not marred as the psalmist seen Him in Psalm 22:12-18 in particular,

*“Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me. They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I*

*can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.”*

The prophet Isaiah saw Him also marred in Isaiah 53. Yet in Revelation 1:12-18 we are shown a different picture of what He is like now -

*“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. <sup>14</sup> His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup> His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; <sup>16</sup> He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. <sup>17</sup> And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”*

Praise God one day we will behold Him face to face and it will a day of rejoicing. I'm going to see the King, no more crying there, I'm going to see the King and there will be no more dying there, for I will be with the King. Hallelujah!! The thrill of it all will be to see the Lamb become the centre of everything. The day is coming when Jesus will step into the spotlight of time and fill the stage of this universe, drawing every eye and bowing every knee regardless of their faith or stance. As in Daniel 7 verse 14, Revelation 5 shows us something of immense importance not just for the Gentile but for the Jew also. Praise God!! Both have, in large measure, rejected Him and sought to live as if He doesn't exist, however, whichever way man views the Lord Jesus, he will one day have to acknowledge Him as King of kings and Lord of lords.

In the opening verses of Revelation as in Daniel 7:14 we find a number of divine things happening.

### **1. The Position of God is Proclaimed**

The gauntlet is now to be thrown down to men and angels, to principalities and powers, to thrones and dominions. Who, of all God's creatures, is fit to rule the world? None, which Revelation answers clearly. Our attention in Revelation 5 is firstly drawn to the scroll. John stated,

*"And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals."*

The earth is about to be judged and the scroll holds all the judgments that will fall upon the earth and on every single individual, the natural and the supernatural are all involved. Who has the right to judge? Firstly, "The Call" goes forth seeking a qualified applicant to come and take the scroll. Verse 2 –

*"Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loosen its seals?"*

In verse 4, John wept because as stated in verse 3

*"And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it."*

The right to rule the earth is now to be decided at the throne of God, once and for all.

Many would be willing to take the book and rule the earth, many such as Nebuchadnezzar, Darius and Cyrus, how about Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Napoleon, or Hitler; but the question was not "Who is willing?" but "Who is worthy?" The ranks of the living and the dead, those on earth, those in heaven, and those in hell, are combed for a worthy king, but not a single one was found. Abraham is not worthy neither Isaac nor Jacob, neither Enoch nor Elijah, neither David nor Solomon, neither Peter, Paul, James, John nor Jude. A deep silence descends upon the scene, as every voice is hushed and the angels themselves cease to sing. Not a voice could be raised to say, "Here am I, Lord, give that scroll to me!"

Suddenly the silence was broken by John's sobbing. He said,

*"And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon."*

Not a single creature of all the billions who have existed, not one fit to rule and reign!

## **2.The Promised Messiah is Presented.**

God never leaves Himself without a solution, and in this hour of solemn crisis, He has One ready. Observe the person of the Lord. John continues in verse 5,

***“But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”***

This must have struck a chord with John. For John had walk on earth with the Lamb of God and now he sees his friend and Messiah as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, living in His glorified state. This was the kind of Messiah the Jews had always wanted and expected, yes, they wanted the Lion to defend them. Yet, they had crucified Jesus because He was too tame for them. They had wanted a king who would smash the power of Rome and make Jerusalem capital of a new world empire. Instead, God was gentle and humble and with much love became the once and for all sacrificial lamb. The last thing they wanted was One meek and lowly, gentle and kind.

At last, that longed-for militant Messiah is to be unveiled, David's Son and David's Lord.

Note the position of the Lord. John said,

***“And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb.”***

How could he ever have missed Him? There He was, verse 6

***“In the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders,”***

John had been so taken up with the sights and sounds of glory, so occupied with the throne, the rainbow, the thunderings and lightnings, the sea of glass, the elders, and the cherubim, that he had completely missed the Lamb! Yet the Lamb was in the midst of it all! How often we do the same! We come and go to meetings, we listen to the most stirring messages, read the most profound passages from God's Word, sing the most sublime hymns, harken to the noblest of prayers, and yet miss the Lord in the midst - Matthew 18:20:

***“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”***

John turned to behold a Lion but instead he saw a Lamb! Was there ever a more dramatic moment in the history of the universe? The Lion was none other than the Lamb!

The Lord Jesus is referred to directly as the Lamb only twice in the Old Testament (Isaiah 53:7 and Jeremiah 11:19), only twice in the New Testament Gospels (John 1:29 and verse 36), only once in the book of Acts (Acts 8:32), and only once in the epistles (1 Peter 1:19). But He is referred to as the Lamb twenty-eight times in the book of Revelation.

The Lamb is His apocalyptical title. As Lamb, He came to save; as King, He comes back to subdue. The word for lamb used in the Apocalypse literally means *the little lamb*. Satan is the great red dragon in the Apocalypse; world power is concentrated in the hands of a fearful beast; the militant foes of God are massed on earth, in heaven, and in hell and numbered by the countless millions. Against all this God sets a little Lamb!

Surely this is what Paul meant when he said,

***"God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty; And the base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught the things that are"*** (1 Corinthians 1:27-28).

A little lamb! But this is no ordinary lamb, for this Lamb has the seven horns of omnipotence, and the seven eyes of omniscience. This Lamb is

***"Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God"*** (1 Corinthians 1:24).

***"And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne."***

Notice this, from the moment the Lamb is put into the picture, John cannot take his eyes off Him. He mentions Him again and again—four times within the space of the rest of this chapter alone (5:6, 8, 12, 13). Is this your experience?

Isn't it amazing as you read Daniel 7 verse 14 how this verse never seemed to stick in the mind and heart of the Jews? Perhaps because of the fact that we are seeing something that they found profoundly hard to except – a triune God!! Today religious man ascribes authority to everyone and anyone except to Jesus to whom all authority belongs.

### 3. The Choice of God is Praised.

Remember Daniel at the start of chapter 7 said that he was only giving us the main facts but not so with John as Jesus instructed him in Revelation chapter 1 to write down the things that were to be revealed to him, past, present and future.

Verse 8 –

*“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”*

Once the Lamb took His rightful position, worship was immediately given to Him. He is worshiped by all. Verse 9 and 10 –

*“You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals;  
For You were slain,  
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood  
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,  
And have made us<sup>as</sup> kings<sup>as</sup> and priests to our God;  
And we<sup>as</sup> shall reign on the earth.”*

The worship of glory is now lifted an octave higher. Remember previously the theme in chapter four was that they worshipped God as creator, He who spoke creation into being "Thou art worthy for thou hast created" but now the theme changes as they worship Him who gave up His Glory and the Splendour of Heaven so as to redeem us by his death, "Thou art worthy for thou was slain". Oh, the wonder of it all! That heaven's Beloved should beggar Himself, should be born in a barn, should be commonly called "the carpenter's son," should journey through time as a homeless Stranger in the very world His hands had made, should suffer unspeakable indignities and cruelties at the hands of His creatures, should be butchered on a cursed cross, and, above all, should be made sin! These are wonders which will never cease to draw out the awe and worship of those at the very focal centre of things in glory.

In that bright scene of splendour, far beyond the skies, at the inner most heart of the universe, they worship Him. They see no man except Jesus. They worship Him as the Lamb that was slain. There is one and only mediator between God and man – 1 Timothy 2 confirms this also in verse 5&6 –

*“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

*Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

It is Calvary which fills their vision and prompts their worship. In glory at this very moment they are doing what we do when we worship Him, when we come to the table of the Lord and remember Him. For as the hymn reminds us:

*“When in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song; 'Twill be the same old story That I have loved so long.”*

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain!" This is the theme of worship in heaven, and this is the theme of worship amongst those who are redeemed on earth.

The creatures at the throne worship Him! They praise God for putting the scroll of authority, of dominion, and of power into the hands of the Son of Man. What a God He is!! The countless angel throng worship Him. John recorded,

*"And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne, and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."*

The triumphant anthems swell, roll and thunder out to the farthest reaches of space and all that God has created. They awaken the echoes of the everlasting hills. They reverberate and throb until all heaven is filled with praise. Just as a great crowd will pick up a slogan and beat it out in unison, so in heaven they thunder out the theme: "Worthy is the Lamb! Worthy is the Lamb! Power! Riches! Wisdom! Strength! Honour! Glory! Blessing! Worthy is the Lamb!"

At the focal point of the universe He is praised and He is worshiped also at the furthest circumference of the universe. John told us,

*"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever."*

From every possible sphere and of every single tongue, rings out an acknowledgment that Jesus Christ is Lord. There will not be a single dissenting voice. The fallen angels, the angels imprisoned in the abyss, the angels bound near the Euphrates, the demon hordes, Satan himself, wicked, Christ-rejecting sinners of earth, one and all acknowledge Him as Lord. Deep in every heart will be the absolute conviction that Jesus is wise, just, blessed, honourable, glorious and irresistible regardless of their choice.

God has placed into the hands of men the decision as to whether or not they will accept Christ as Saviour, but the decision as to whether or not they will acknowledge Him as Lord is not theirs to decide. The supreme tragedy of a lost eternity will be to know that they are shut out from the focal centre, sentenced to the farthest, darkest, loneliest extreme of separation. His rejecters still have to acknowledge that Jesus is Lord. He will be praised at the focal centre of things by the sinless sons of light and by the redeemed of all ages with joy unspeakable and full of glory. He will be praised at the furthest circumference of things by every damned and outcast soul with sobs and tears and choking cries.

*"God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"*  
(Philippians 2:9-11)

It is true that Daniel did not record any of this, Calvary was an event yet to happen but that's not to say he was unmindful of it.

His dominion is without end. Dominion means power, authority, control, state, territory, region and protectorate, rule. Jesus is King and His rule has no limits or restricted like earthly kings. His rule is forever and ever.

Verse 14, Part 3 –

*"His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one, Which shall not be destroyed."*

Remember what is apparent to the believer is not so to the unbeliever. These verses establish without doubt the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, His sovereign right to Rule and that His kingdom will be establish forever, with no end. This is not just a prophetic word but pure revelation. This is more evidence to the Jews as well as for the Gentiles. It's not just for the religious who are 'pantheists' in reality but my, what a confirmation to the true church of Jesus Christ. Every word breaths and exhales eternity. God's kingdom is not only real but is eternal. Do you see the extent of Christ's promise to every believer? See John 3:13-16 and John 14:1-3. Are these promises based on feelings or the truth of God's word?

Let me draw your attention to a very important statement which we find here and it can easily be overlooked but se the implications.

"That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. Not restricted to the Jews only or to a tribe or class or colour or nation. But to the who-so-ever.

Do you realise the implications of this for our own lives, we know what is going to happen, we know who wins, Jesus and if so "what manner of person ought we to be" (2Peter3:11).

We certainly have every encouragement from the Lord to live as He would have us to live not religiously but righteously.

*Amen.*