

# GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



## GIG136 – The Saints Possess the Kingdom

Welcome back to the podcast. Today we find ourselves once again in the book of Daniel. This is a great book, and I have been spending a lot of time in it. However, this podcast was actually initiated by a dear brother who contacted me and said he felt I should make a podcast out of the message that I recently brought in church in Brazil. So I am going to take these notes and bring this teaching, which I hope is going to be a real help to you.

I want to start with First Corinthians 10:11-12. It says, “Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.” These encouragements from Corinthians are telling us that the Scriptures, and the stories that we read in the Scriptures, and the visions and the prophecies that we read, were written for examples to us, and that we should follow these examples. We have a saying that history repeats itself, and that we should learn from history; and I believe that is really true. I think there is a lot in the Scriptures that is given as an example for us, and is told to us because many times history does repeat itself. One of the reasons, spiritually, that we find history repeating itself is because we are always dealing with God, whose will and purpose never change. God is after one thing, always has been after one thing – bringing forth His Kingdom in this earth. And so, we find that His purpose down through the ages is not different; therefore, He is doing things constantly to bring about that Kingdom. We also find that the adversary, or satan, if you will, his purpose hasn’t changed either. If he gets his way, all flesh will be destroyed, and God’s Kingdom will be blocked; because he is always after one thing, and that is usurping God’s place as the ruler of the world and the possessor of the Kingdom on this earth.

Because of that, when we experience things in spiritual warfare, or we witness things through the Scriptures that have taken place, we find that many times there is that which repeats itself. When we look at the book of Daniel, we are seeing several visions and instructions that come to us that show us this progression of spiritual warfare, or battles that take place, both natural and spiritual, down through the ages up until the possession of the Kingdom. And we see that these things do apply for us, and they instruct and guide us. For that reason, I want to jump into these verses. I am not necessarily going into Daniel to interpret the prophecies or interpret the visions that are given here. Instead, what I am looking for is practical instruction for us as believers in the end time; because if we are walking through these days, or days similar to what we witness here in the book of Daniel, then we see specific aspects of what the saints experience in the vision, and what individuals experience, that really is applicable for us today.

I am going to start at Daniel the seventh chapter and go through this whole chapter very quickly, so that we can get to these points. In Daniel 7, we get a broader picture of what the total story is really about; even though it is repeated in different chapters with a different chronology and different emphasis, much of what is being discussed is the same content as what we have in Daniel chapter 7. I am picking this because I think it gives us the clearest ideas of what God was showing to Daniel, and what the purpose of the visions was. In verse 1, we see that Daniel has a vision. He saw the vision as he was in

bed, and he wrote the dream or the vision down and related the following summary. Thus, chapter 7 is a summary of this dream or the visions in his mind that he wrote down after receiving them.

In verse 3 it says, “And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.” This dream, these visions, discuss four beasts that he sees coming up out of the water. And we know, as we go through these verses, that these four beasts represent four kingdoms or governments that will be on the earth. These governments are battling with one another, and in a spiritual context, they are also battling against Israel, and they are battling against God in the establishment of His Kingdom. But in verses 9-13, it says, “I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat, and the books were opened. Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time. I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him.”

Now, the reason I want to give time to this aspect of the dream is because one of the lessons that we need to learn, that needs to be burned into our hearts very deeply, is that whatever we are experiencing – we can look at the terror that seems to exist in these kingdoms that are coming, these beasts that are coming upon the earth to control, to destroy – but the emphasis really is the fact that, although all this is transpiring, God is fulfilling His purpose to establish His Kingdom and the Kingdom of His Son on the earth. Whatever we are going through in these days that we are living in – because you may believe, as I do, that we really are in last days; and that can be defined many ways, but we are in last days – and the greatest event in the last days is the establishment of the Kingdom. It is this picture that we have here, where the Ancient of Days comes and takes up His seat. We see the myriads and myriads, and thousands upon thousands that attend Him. This is why He is referred to throughout the Scriptures as the Lord of hosts, because there are these myriads of beings, angels, principalities, powers, whatever their status, authority, and position be, that attend God. And God, at some point, takes His seat – even though all of this is going on, and I know it was presented to Daniel really in a very scary way; he was taken back by this dream that he had. He was in fear and trembling, and it was very disturbing to him. And we are going to be in times that are very disturbing to us. But we cannot lose the focus that what is really happening, whether it is visible to us at the moment or not, is that God Himself is beginning to take up His seat, and He is establishing His Kingdom. The Kingdom court will sit, and the books will be opened. This is the greatest event of all the events that take place.

We can focus on beasts, we can focus on the horn, we can focus on whatever. We can go to the book of Revelation and we see, again, many scary things that seem to be presented in those chapters about the days of the end leading up to the establishment of the Kingdom. But the true focus is the Kingdom. The true focus is this picture of His throne, this picture of the Ancient of Days who comes and finally takes His seat and begins to move in the authority and in the judgment. The court sits. We are going to see court begin to open in heaven and the books be opened, and the judgements will be rendered. And one of the results of that Kingdom court sitting is that, even though the horn is still sounding off with boastful words and all of these things are transpiring, in verse 13 we see that in the night visions, “Behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of

Days and was presented before Him.” In this time, we, by our faith, understand that the Son of Man is now seated at the right hand of the Father in this heavenly court. He has been presented before Him. Verse 14 goes on to say, “And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.” If you get nothing else out of this podcast, let somehow this be so embossed upon our hearts, embossed upon our minds, that it cannot be taken away from us no matter what experiences we have, no matter what tribulations we may go through, no matter what persecutions or sufferings we may face – this Kingdom is going to be established. It is an everlasting Kingdom. It will not be destroyed, it will not pass away. That is the fact of the end days, and it is what we know is transpiring even now, and we know it is what will be completed by the end of the story.

In verse 15 it says, “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed.” See, all this is very distressing. And again, I want this to be real to us – we will go through distressing times, because we are going to be living through times that he is seeing. Things that he is witnessing in a dream will be a reality surrounding us; so if it has been alarming to him as a vision, imagine what it may mean to us. But Daniel, even through his distress, began to approach one of the ones that was standing around and he asked him, “What exactly is the meaning of all of this?” Verses 16-18 say, “So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: ‘These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth. But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’”

Let me say this again to us: whatever we are facing, whatever is coming upon the earth in the day in which we live, the big point and the takeaway is that the saints of the Highest One will receive the Kingdom, and will possess the Kingdom forever and for all ages to come. That is to be our focus. It is to be our faith. It is to be what grounds us and establishes us in a way that we become unshakeable before the Lord in all that we are doing in the lead up to His Kingdom.

Verse 19 goes on to say, “Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast.” Daniel, even though God keeps saying to him, “The Kingdom is coming, the saints are going to receive the Kingdom,” he is still looking to see what exactly is the meaning of the fourth beast. What is this fourth kingdom, this fourth king? What is really transpiring? And so, they go into more detail about it. But what I want to point out are the things that are interesting to us, and what become takeaways for us in our walk with God as we are walking through these end days. Jumping to verses 21-23, “I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. Thus he said, ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.’”

One of the differences with this fourth kingdom, which is probably what got Daniel’s attention, is that this kingdom is unique in the fact that it covers the whole earth. The kingdoms prior to this that are being discussed never affect the entire earth, but this fourth kingdom is something that affects the whole earth. And I think we are living in a time now when we see that what is transpiring doesn’t just transpire in isolated geographic locations, it is really happening on a global level. We see, for instance, one of the principalities and spirits that is working so much in this day and age is the spirit of division and hate. That is happening throughout the planet, throughout every nation, culture, people; we see

division, we see hatred being a prime mover in what is transpiring in the earth. So the unique thing about this fourth kingdom is that it impacts the globe – and that is, in a sense, what Satan does, right? He tries to mimic what he knows God is going to do. And as it was already said, the Kingdom of God possesses the whole earth; it covers the whole earth, and it is without end. Therefore, what the devil is doing in trying to usurp the plan of God is that he is trying to take over the whole earth; he is trying to affect the entire earth, and to thwart the plan of God and the Kingdom of God. So he is trying to set up his kingdom in all of the earth in order to block God's Kingdom in all of the earth. But what is unique here is what is said in verse 25, that "he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law." So, specifically, as this kingdom is trying to assert itself against the whole earth, we see that it has a specific focus to wear down God's people, to wear out the saints of the Highest One. Also, we recognize that it is trying to make alterations in times and laws; and we can see that very much taking place in the day that we are living in. But I want us to be forewarned that as these battles take place, there is a very specific focus – as it is trying to absorb the whole earth and consume the whole earth and tread it down, it is coming directly against the saints to wear us down. Therefore, we must be prepared. We must not be vulnerable to being worn down, number one, in our faith. We need the kind of faith that can stand. What is the faith? The faith is knowing that God is setting up His Kingdom; and whatever we are experiencing for right now is very short-lived, because the emphasis and the focus of this whole time is the judgments to come as God sets up His Kingdom on the earth. And that will happen.

I am going to jump down to Daniel the eleventh chapter. I know that is going a few chapters away from where we are in Daniel 7, but it is covering a lot of the same material, and it is showing things that transpire specifically in their influence on God's people. In Daniel 11:32 it says, "By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action." So we need to be ready. How are we ready? How do we live through these days? We must know the Lord. We must really come to a knowledge of the Lord. We should be seeking Him, crying out to Him, pressing into Him, reaching for the knowledge of the Lord. And part of the promise is that the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. So we need to know God – if we know the Lord, if we know the Father, if we know the Son, if we know the Holy Spirit, we are going to be able to display strength and we are going to be able to take action. And that is important for us to do in these times, to be the people who are enabled to do that.

In verse 33, it goes on to say, "Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days." So during the time of this warfare, the battle of this kingdom that is trying to absorb the whole earth, there are going to be those among God's people who have insight and understanding, and they will give understanding and insight to many. We know the Word says that God does nothing but what He reveals it to His prophets. During this time, even though there may be great difficulty, there will be those who have a word from God, who like Daniel have understanding of what God is doing; and by that understanding they will be able to teach others, and to impart to the many what is taking place, so that salvation and encouragement can be ministered to people. We also know that they will fall by the sword, by flame, by captivity and plunder for many days. There will be persecution during this time, and we should be prepared for that. We shouldn't be caught off guard by some of the teaching of the church that says this is not going to happen to you. There will be these things. Those who have insight, those who know their God, are going to experience both the fact that they are strengthened, they are taking action, they are moving in the things of God during these times; and they are also giving understanding and ministering

to others. But there also will be persecution, and there will be martyrdom; that will transpire. If we see it, we again are strengthened because we know our God. And I bless us to know Him and to be strengthened in that.

I am going to a different version of the Bible, the *Complete Jewish Bible*, to read verses 32 and 33 again. It says, "Those who act wickedly against the covenant he will corrupt with his blandishments, but the people who know their God will stand firm and prevail." I love that. In these days we are going to stand firm and we are going to prevail, because we are going to know our God. Verse 33, "Those among the people who have discernment will cause the rest of the people to understand what is happening." We are not going to be in confusion. Those that have discernment, those that have understanding and insight, they are going to cause the rest of the people to understand also. I like that because it is very inclusive – "They will cause the rest of the people to understand what is happening" – and we pray for that. Let there not be a confusion as we go through these days, but let there be a tremendous understanding of what is taking place. "Nevertheless, for a while they will fall victim to sword, fire, exile and pillage." So once again, it is emphasized that during these days, there will be persecutions.

I am now jumping to Daniel the twelfth chapter to conclude this, and I want to read from verses 9-10, because these are final instructions that were given to Daniel about all that he had seen in vision and experienced through dreams. "He said, 'Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.'" These things are for the end time, and I want to emphasize that; because if we are believing that we are dwelling in the days of the end, then we should understand that we will experience these things that are being discussed. "'Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.'" Listen, the enemy's forces are going to be ignorant; but God's people are going to be strengthened and have insight, and they will understand what is going on. We will not be ignorant in these days. God give us the wisdom. The Holy Spirit is here to give us wisdom, discernment, and understanding, and we reach in for a new level of existence in the Holy Spirit during these times. We know that we will be purged, purified, and refined; this will be a difficult time, but it will be a time of our refinement and purification in God. The wicked, however, will continue to act wickedly. So we see this tremendous dichotomy in these days through which we are living, where there will be tremendous revivals and outpourings of God's Spirit and His Presence, "but the wicked will continue to do wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand." There is going to be a block over their understanding and over their eyes. They will not have eyes to see or ears to hear, but those who have insight will understand.

We bless these days that we are going into. One thing we should feel is blessed. Thank You, Lord, for choosing us to be a part of this time. Let us walk faithfully before You. Let us walk in a strength. Let us know You, Lord.

I want to emphasize a few points, going back to the first part of this podcast and the emphasis of it. The Messiah will come during this time and establish His Kingdom on the earth. But there will be battle leading up to that Kingdom, and it will be specifically focused on wearing out the saints. It will come to wear us out through lies and deceptive words; people will be corrupted and they will be turned to godlessness by virtue of those words. Yet the people that know their God will display strength and take action, and they will stand firm, and they will prevail. We will be that people, and we will prevail. The people who have discernment will cause others to understand. It will be a great time of impartation, and teaching, and seeing many come to the truth; there will be those true prophets and vessels of God's truth and wisdom that will be able to impart to the many the truth of what God's Word is. And once

again, yes, there will be persecution against God's people; but the Lord will strengthen us and allow us to walk in faith during these days, no matter what we face.

We thank You, Lord, for these words. We take them as instruction and as encouragement that we might walk with You through these times as faithful saints of the Lord.

I bless you all in this teaching. I hope it is a strength and a help to you. Amen.