

Long-term is stronger than short-term.

Scenes of the past and future

1) God speaks to Daniel about the future – 7:1-8

*In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter.*

*<sup>2</sup> Daniel declared, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. <sup>3</sup>*

*And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.*

a. Lion with eagles’ wings: Babylon – 7:4

*The first was like a lion and had eagles’ wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.*

b. Bear with three ribs in its mouth: Media and Persia – 7:5

*And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, ‘Arise, devour much flesh.’*

c. Leopard with four wings and four heads: Greek empire – 7:6

*After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.*

- d. Beast terrifying, dreadful, exceedingly strong:  
Roman Empire – 7:7-8

*After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. <sup>8</sup> I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.*

- 2) Whenever you're anxious about the short-term future, remember the Ancient of Days – 7:9-12

*“As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. <sup>10</sup> A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. <sup>11</sup> “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. <sup>12</sup> As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.*

- 3) Whenever you're anxious about the short-term future, remember the long-term Future – 7:13-14

*“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup> And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*

- 4) Anxiety about the short-term future is a natural response – 7:15-18

*“As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. <sup>16</sup> I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. <sup>17</sup> ‘These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup> But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’*

- 5) When you’re anxious about what you may lose in the short-term future, rest in what you will gain in the long-term Future – 7:19-28

*“Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, <sup>20</sup> and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. <sup>21</sup> As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, <sup>22</sup> until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. <sup>23</sup> “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. <sup>24</sup> As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. <sup>25</sup> He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. <sup>26</sup> But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the*

end. <sup>27</sup> And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.' <sup>28</sup> "Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart."

### Reminders

- Anxiety about the short-term future is a normal response. But peace and joy are found in controlling our natural responses rather than them controlling us.
- Instead of swimming in anxiety about the short-term future, respond with action today.
  - How can I serve my family today?
  - What spiritual steps are next in my faith journey? Salvation + Baptism + Giving + Serving + Bible intake + Prayer + Missions/Gospel conversations
  - Where can I invest my time, talent, in my community via my local church?
  - Who do I know who is far from God? How can I reach them with the Gospel?