

“The saints and the kingdom” (Daniel 7:15-27)

Verses to Remember: “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” (Daniel 7:21-22).

The nature, challenges, and triumph of the saints

1. The nature of the saints

- The term here for “saints” means ‘holy ones.’ Saints/holy-ones are believers. This term is used throughout the Bible to describe all believers (Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 14:33). All of us who believe in Jesus are saints. We are not saints due to righteous deeds, or by performing miracles, but rather by receiving the righteousness of Jesus and being washed clean by the Holy Spirit (Heb 10:10; Titus 3:5-7).
- The saints in this chapter are overpowered for a time and worn down by the Antichrist, who will rule the last powerful kingdom on earth before the return of Christ. As believers in Jesus, we always need to be ready to hold onto our faith in the midst of persecution. The Antichrist will come, but there have already been and will likely be more ‘little a’ antichrists (1 John 2:18).

2. The challenges of the saints

- The Antichrist attempts to do several things. One is to exalt himself and demand worship as he speaks out against the Most High (v. 25). Another thing is to try to alter and stop worship of the true God (v. 25 cf. Dan 9:27). The challenge put forth to the saints is to refuse to bow to the Antichrist, just as Shadrack, Meshack, and Abed-nego refused to bow to the golden statue set up by Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 3); and to refuse to stop worshipping God, just as Daniel continued to pray to God three times a day even though doing so would put him in the lion’s den (Dan 6).
- The saints will be overpowered for a time and worn down, but God is still in sovereign control over all, and this will all happen according to his timing.

3. The triumph of the saints

- For those who hold on and show they are followers of Jesus and have been washed by his blood, the end result is triumph.
- Three times in this chapter, it is written that the saints will ultimately triumph and will share in the Kingdom of Jesus (vv. 18, 21-22, 27).
- Regardless of whether we will be the saints who are worn down by the Antichrist, all who believe in Jesus will be the saints who will inherit a place in his kingdom, and have a place of authority within the kingdom (cf. 1 Cor 6:2).