

DANIEL - PART 7
Tampering with God's Law
Dr. Derek Morris

Preaching passage: Daniel 7
Subject: What power would emerge out of the ruins of the fourth beast
Complement: a little horn kingdom that would speak against the Most High, make war with the saints of God and seek to change times and laws.
Exegetical idea: A little horn power would emerge out of the fourth beast that would speak against the Most High, make war with the saints of God and seek to change times and laws.
Homiletical idea: **Share the truth in love.**
Purpose: To remind my hearers to share the truth in love.

Introduction

There are some messages that are difficult to deliver. God instructed the prophet Nathan to deliver a difficult message to his king. I'm sure that Nathan loved King David. But God had directed him to tell King David a story about a man who committed a terrible crime. Then the prophet Nathan looked straight at the king and declared, "You are that man!" That was not an easy message to deliver.

Jesus had a difficult message to deliver on His way to Calvary. As He was leaving Jerusalem, he noticed that women were mourning his suffering and imminent death. Jesus loved those daughters of Jerusalem. He had prayed for them. But he had a difficult message to deliver to them. "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children." Jesus prophesied the calamity that would befall them. That was not an easy message to deliver.

The message that I am going to deliver today is a difficult one. It would be easier to avoid it. To leave it unsaid. But as we make our way through the book of the prophet Daniel, I would be an unfaithful witness if I remained silent on the message of Daniel chapter 7. My

prayer is this: that I would share the truth in love.

Jesus Himself had warned that false teachers would come. “Watch out for false prophets,” Jesus said. “They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.” The apostle Paul had this to say about those who would turn people away from the truths which Jesus had taught: “I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. [30] Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.” Acts 20:29-30.

The prophecy of Daniel chapter 7 predicts such an apostasy.

(Begin slide presentation)

The year is 553 BC. Daniel is now almost 70 years old. Fifty years have passed since the vision of Daniel 2. The events of Daniel 5 and 6 are still in the future. And God gives Daniel another dream. We pick up the story in Daniel 7:2.....

The prophecy that God had revealed to Daniel made him feel sick. Not just that one world power would be succeeded by another. Daniel had already received such a message in the vision of the huge metal man, recorded in Daniel chapter 2. What made this message so difficult was this: a power would arise out of the fourth world power that would speak against the Most High, would persecute the saints of the Most High, and would seek to change times and laws.

And this message is still difficult for many to hear. I remember a father in northeastern Pennsylvania who was attending some meetings that I was conducting in Sybertsville, Pennsylvania. This man, Eddie, was a welder. He car-pooled with another young welder named

Tim Goff. In fact, they had started to study the Bible together. And when we started the meetings in Sybertsville, Tim invited his friend Eddie to attend. I remember the evening that this difficult message of Daniel chapter 7 was presented. Like Martin Luther, Eddie had grown up in the church. It was all that he knew. His young daughter who had been killed by a school bus was buried in that church's cemetery. He faithfully attended church each week. And when he heard the message of Daniel chapter 7, it made him sick. He thought that he was going to vomit. I learned that day that we need to be sensitive how we present truth of God's Word. Don't just crash into people's lives and dump truth in their laps. Share the truth in love. Ask for wisdom when and how to present difficult messages from God's Word. That's been my prayer this week. I want to share the truth in love.

Pastor Barbara remembers the time when she first heard the message of Daniel chapter 7. Like Martin Luther and Eddie, Barbara had grown up in the church. Her family was actively involved in church life. I've asked Barbara to share her thoughts and feelings as she listened to the difficult message of Daniel chapter 7.

(Barbara comes forward and shares her story in a semi-structured interview).

Barbara. I understand that you grew up actively involved in church.

When did you first hear the difficult message of Daniel chapter 7?

How did that message affect you?

How has your experience affected the way that you share this truth with others?

What are hear you saying , Pastor Barbara, is that we need to share the truth in love. We need to be sensitive to the feelings of others, and ask for wisdom to know when and how to present difficult messages from God's Word. Thank you for sharing your testimony today.

I remember the Sabbath that Raphael Gonzalez came to our church in Allentown, Pennsylvania. I wish that I could share his entire testimony with you today. It's recorded in a book entitled "A Brand From The Burning." Father Gonzalez was a Jesuit priest, ministering in Guatemala. One day, he was given a copy of a book called The Great Controversy. It wasn't given to him by some obnoxious person who was totally insensitive to his feelings. It was given to him in love. He wasn't supposed to read it, because it didn't bear the imprimatur, but Father Gonzalez came under deep conviction of the Spirit of God. This book contained a clear explanation of the message of Daniel chapter 7. Father Gonzalez testified to me that every question that he had from 15 years of training within the church, every question was answered in that book.

When I met Raphael Gonzalez, he was a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. And he continued to share the truth in love. He realized that there are many sincere followers of Jesus who have not yet heard all of the truths of God's Word. And we need to share the truth in love.

I have brought some copies of the book that Father Gonzalez read—the book that God used to change the course of his life. Perhaps our study today has raised a lot of questions in your mind and you're thinking, "I need to study this topic more carefully." I would invite you to take a copy of The Great Controversy and read it for yourself. Don't take it and dump it in

someone else's lap, totally insensitive to their present situation. Don't run off and rent a billboard and post a message that will offend and hurt sincere followers of Jesus. Share the truth in love. Will you do that? The message of Daniel chapter 7 is an important one. But remember this: Share the truth in love.