

Christ the King
November 25, 2018
*CW-S – “There Is a Higher Throne”

Daniel 7:13, 14
217-216-727*-370

Look – The Sight Is Glorious!

- I. Look – our Savior King!
- II. Look – our almighty King!
- III. Look – our eternal King!

Dear Christian friends,

With the book of Daniel you probably think of Daniel in the LION’S DEN or the THREE MEN in the **“fiery furnace.”** Maybe you even remember the names of those three friends of Daniel – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

The book of Daniel ALSO HAS some very strange – **some** would say bizarre – visions - visions similar to those in the book of Revelation. These two verses come at the end of one such vision – the vision of the FOUR BEASTS. This vision certainly caught Daniel’s **attention** and it left him shaken. In the very next verse he writes, **“I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me.”** Even after hearing God’s explanation of the visions he wrote, **“I was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”**

As we close out another church year and focus on **“Christ the King”** we turn to this vision that **God gave** to Daniel some 600 years before Jesus was born. Echoing the hymn we just sang we look at these verses with **this thought** – LOOK - THE SIGHT IS GLORIOUS! What a **glorious sight** – 1)our Savior King – 2)our almighty King – 3)our eternal King.

I. Look – our SAVIOR King!

Look – what a GLORIOUS SIGHT - our Savior King! In the **gospel reading** as Jesus stood on trial before the Roman governor Pontius Pilate Jesus sure didn’t look like much of a king. Pilate flat out asked Jesus, **“Are You the King of the Jews?”** Pilate was probably thinking to himself, “You’ve got to BE KIDDING!” **Later on** with our King hanging from His cross – His back scourged raw – **nails viciously pounded** through His hands and feet – a crown of thorns on His brow – His blood flowing so freely – Pilate wanted to RUB THAT in the **face** of the Jews. He had a sign posted above Jesus’ head, **“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”** The Jewish leaders got Pilate’s **point** and protested, **“Don’t write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be the king of the Jews.”**

Look again – look CLOSELY at your glorious Savior King. Look at this GLORIOUS SIGHT that Daniel saw. **“I kept watching the night visions, and there, in the clouds of heaven, I saw one like a son of man coming.”** Earlier in this vision Daniel had seen four great beasts **“come up out of the sea.”** But now he sees our King **“coming in the clouds of heaven.”** We hear that and WE THINK of those **many NT passages** that talk about Jesus **“coming with the clouds”** on Judgment Day. The **OT believer** would think of God. The psalmist, for example, wrote that God **“makes the clouds His chariot.”**

Showing Jesus **“coming with the clouds of heaven”** God was picturing for Daniel the BLESSED TRUTH that **Christ our King is God Himself** – **none other** than the **“beloved” Son** of God Most High. Jesus is true God from all eternity yet He comes to us **“like a son of man.”**

From reading and hearing the gospels you know that **“the Son of Man”** was Jesus’ FAVORITE NAME for Himself. Think of Jesus saying that **“the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”** That name **“Son of Man”** reminds us that **Christ our King** is our real flesh and blood brother. But it GOES FARTHER than that. Jesus is not just a human being – Jesus is THE human being God wanted all people to be. Jesus is **“the Son of Man”** –

the ONLY MAN who ever lived His **whole life** with a perfect love for God – a perfect trust in God – a perfect obedience to God.

Perfect – that sure doesn't describe your life or mine. Perfect LOVE for God? **How often** haven't been more in love with OURSELVES – our own personal comfort and **convenience**? Perfect TRUST? **How often** haven't we questioned God's **ways** – wondered if God REALLY KNEW what He was doing? Perfect OBEDIENCE? **How often** don't we know exactly what God wants and then we deliberately do the exact opposite? Obey my parents? They don't know what they talking about! "GLADLY HEAR and learn God's Word?" I've got better things to do than that!

Look – what a GLORIOUS SIGHT our Savior King is! We see Jesus live that **perfect life** and we then hear Him GIVE US all the credit for it. We see Jesus suffer and die on the cross – literally go through hell on that cross – and we hear Him cry, "***It is finished!***" Our forgiveness is an ACCOMPLISHED **historical FACT**. Jesus has personally paid for **every one** of our sins – His shed blood "***cleanses us from all sin.***" NO WONDER John exclaimed in the epistle reading, "***To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood ...to Him be glory and power for ever and ever!***"

SO GLORIOUS is the sight but there's more God **wants us to see**.

II. Look – our ALMIGHTY King!

To really understand and appreciate these two verses we need to know what **came before** them. Daniel had seen "***four great beasts ...come up out of the sea.***" The first beast "***was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle.***" The second beast, "***looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth.***" The third beast "***looked like a leopard. On its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads.***" The fourth beast "***was terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It had ten horns.***" Then Daniel saw "***a little horn which came up among the ten horns. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.***" NO WONDER Daniel was "***troubled and disturbed!***"

Later on in this chapter God explains to Daniel that those four beasts pictured "***four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.***" Without going into ALL THE DETAILS those beasts pictured the Babylonian – Persian – Greek – Roman empires. That "***little horn***" was further explained as "***speaking against the Most High and oppressing the saints and trying to change the set times and laws. The saints will be handed over to him***" for a set time. That horn rising from the ASHES of the Roman empire pictures the **Anti-Christ** – the Roman papacy – defying and denying God's **Word** – persecuting and oppressing God's **people** with its lies.

What Daniel saw was not a PRETTY SIGHT! He saw brutal and vicious kingdoms RISING and falling – conquering and being conquered. That would also include war – **bloodshed** – hardships and inhumanities of all kinds. IN ADDITION to that would be the spiritual war going on – **God's people** UNDER ATTACK from all kinds of **false prophets** – **false religions** – **false ideas**. NO WONDER that Daniel was "***deeply troubled and (his) face turned pale!***"

Daniel's vision pictured what we ALSO SEE in Revelation – God making clear that we are to expect NO HEAVEN here on earth. The Church on earth is the Church MILITANT – the Church under attack – the Church AT WAR. God's picture of life in **these last days** is ANYTHING BUT pretty. "***We must through MUCH tribulation enter the kingdom of God.***" Like Daniel what **God shows** us can leave us "***troubled and disturbed.***"

That's why we ALSO NEED to see what Daniel saw here – the glorious sight of Christ our ALMIGHTY King. "***He (Jesus) approached the Ancient of Days (God the Father) and was led into His presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nation and men of every***

language worshiped Him.” What a sight for SORE EYES our almighty King is! The world is a mess. In our personal lives we may be STRUGGLING and **dealing with** all kinds of problems – health problems – **financial** – **marital**, etc. ADD to that the devil never leaves us alone – the world constantly tempting us – our **sinful natures** always acting up. We can SO EASILY become discouraged – **depressed** – **dejected**. “It’s HOPELESS! Why bother?”

But look – the sight is SO GLORIOUS – Christ our almighty King! **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. (He) is with us always, even unto the end of the world.”** He has promised that **“the gates of hell will not prevail”** – promised that He will protect us and **“work all things”** for our eternal good. What a GLORIOUS sight – Jesus IN CONTROL at all times of **all things** – Jesus WITH us **always**. THERE is our comfort – our peace – joy and strength as we LIVE NOW in a world **falling apart**.

But there’s still more to see.

III. Look – our ETERNAL King!

“His dominion is an eternal dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.”

Nations rise and fall. Kings and kingdoms come and go. The OH-SO-MIGHTY end up the **oh-so-low** in the dust. But **Christ our King** is an ETERNAL King – His kingdom an **eternal** kingdom – HIS VICTORY – our victory! – an **eternal** victory. The life He gives us – ETERNAL life in heaven.

The sight is SO GLORIOUS – **Christ our King** and we His people ETERNALLY AT REST in that **“new heaven and new earth, the home of righteousness, every tear wiped from our eyes.”** Sin and death – the devil and hell – ETERNALLY defeated. All the consequences of sin – pain and **suffering** – guilt and **grief** – headaches and **hardships** – all ETERNALLY gone. The peace – ETERNAL. The joy – **eternal**. The REUNION – **eternal**. The life – **eternal**. When Christ our King returns – when **“the Son of Man comes on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory”** – we will hear Him invite us, **“Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the KINGDOM prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”** We read in Hebrews 12, **“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.”**

That **glorious** ETERNAL DAY is still to come. We’re still waiting – still struggling. We lift up our **hearts** and **eyes** wondering, “HOW LONG, O Lord? HOW MUCH MORE?” Then God does for us AS HE DID for Daniel **so long ago**. He shows us this vision of Christ our SAVIOR King – our ALMIGHTY King – our ETERNAL King. He tells us, “TAKE a good, hard, long look!” Yes – LOOK – THE SIGHT IS GLORIOUS! Amen.

Hymn #727