**Kingdom Prophecies**

***Daniel 7***

What we believe about God’s providence determines how we face trials, how we celebrate victories, how we love our enemies and how we influence our friends and family. God’s providence keeps us from fearing the future, worrying about the present and complaining about our past. What is God’s Providence?

**The doctrine of God’s providence affirms that the LORD governs everything that happens in His world . . . He directs all events and all things in wisdom and love for the glory of His Name and for the good of His people.** As Christians we affirm that God never does evil, and we affirm that human choices are real and impactful. Yet we also affirm that God uses even the evil choices of people to bring Him glory and good to His people.

*. . .having been predestined according to the purpose of him* ***who works all things according to the counsel of his will,”*** *(Ephesians 1:11* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Eph._1:11)*)*

**Spurgeon eloquently describes God’s providence this way, *“****I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam does not move an atom more or less than God wishes-that every particle of spray that dashes against the steamboat has its orbit as well as the sun in the heavens-that the chaff from the hand of the winnower is steered as the stars in their courses. The creeping of an aphis over the rosebud is as much fixed as the march of the devastating pestilence-the fall of sere leaves from a poplar is as fully ordained as the tumbling of an avalanche.” Charles Spurgeon*

Illustration: Drop six pencils or crayons on the floor.

This question of God’s providence became in sharp focus for nearly every person in our country eight days ago whenan assassin’s bullet struck the right ear of former President Donald Trump . . . millimeters away from ending his physical life on earth.

**I listened with fascination how people pressed the details of this event through one of two filters:** the filter of “luck” and the filter of “providence”. And some pressed this event through both filters at the same time!

**It is NOT A SMALL matter which filter we choose to press this event through.** We either see the hand of God or the hand of fate in it. And the difference will be one of hope or despair; faith or unbelief, purpose or chaos.

**Some considered the former President’s survival and chose luck as the guiding force.**

The Washington Post titled one of their stories about it, “Trump’s Incredible Lucky Streak”.

Boston University professor Tom Whalen said, *"I think President Trump yesterday was very lucky,".*

James Pechi, a former Green Beret commenting on the sniper shot said, *“He is extremely lucky to be alive.”*

Senator Lindsey Graham was indecisive about it, *“Fate stepped in.”* Now he then added . . . *“the*[*hand of God,*](https://www.foxnews.com/category/faith-values/faith)*call it whatever you like.”*

**Others chose God’s providence as the guiding force behind the near fatal bullet.** President Trumps first post was clear, *“Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers yesterday, as it was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening.”* President Trump wavered a little from that position in his first speech after the assassination attempt.He said,*“But I got lucky. God was with me, I tell you.*” Still later he would say, “*By luck or by God, many people are saying it’s by God I’m still here. I’m supposed to be dead. I’m not supposed to be here.”*

**So how do you interpret this event? By luck or by God?**  Now what we say of former Pres. Trump, we also say of James Copenhaver. We have to say either by bad luck or by God’s providence the bullet ended his earthly life.

This morning we open our Bible’s to Daniel 7 where God gives the prophet Daniel a dream. This vision he sees teaches us about God’s providence over the affairs of the nations of this world.

**Main Idea: Though the nations seem to be in chaos, God places His wise and power hand upon them. He allows human kings to exercise authority for a time for His good purpose. One day He will send His Son to the earth to rule over all forever and ever. Amen.**

*“In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon,” (Daniel 7:1* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:1)*)*

Remember that the story of Daniel reading the writing on the wall in chapter 5 takes place at the END of Belshazzar’s reign, not the beginning. So Daniel 7 chronologically takes place between the events of Daniel 4 where Neb. loses his mind and then is converted and Daniel 5 where Belshazzar throws his wild party. This record of a vision is a FLASHBACK for Daniel some 16 years before he was thrown to the lion’s.

The first revelation Daniel’s vision gives to us communicates what God sees when He looks at the Nations during “the times of the Gentiles”.

**The Character of the World’s Nations**

*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. 2 Daniel declared, “I saw in my vision by night, and* ***behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea****.” (Daniel 7:1-2* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:1)*)*

God uses the “great sea” as a metaphor to describe His understanding of our world. Our world is stormy, chaotic, unstable, churning. As we look at our world today with its wars, its political unrest, its racial hatred, its horrific crime . . . do we not agree that God chose a perfect picture to describe the world in which we live?

*“And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.” (Daniel 7:3* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:3)*)*

**Out of this turbulent sea leaps four wild beasts!** As we read the descriptions and meaning of these beasts we will be reminded of the statue in Daniel 2. Daniel’s vision and Nebuchadnezzar’s dream communicate much of the same idea about the future of the Gentile kingdoms and about the coming of a future king who will rule in power forever and ever.

You recall the giant statue with a head of gold, a chest and arms of silver, a middle and thighs of bronze and legs of iron with feet made of mixed iron and clay. And then a stone cut out of a mountain came hurtling through space and smashed the feet of the statue and then the stone became a huge mountain that filled the earth.

*And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold.”(Daniel 2:44-45* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._2:44)*)*

**Daniel’s vision and Neb’s dream both speak about the future end of the Gentile kingdoms.**

Both foretell the establishment of four human kingdoms before God concludes human rule over the world.

Both foretell the coming of God’s king to defeat the Gentile nations and establish His own kingdom on earth.

Both speak of this kingdom of God as standing forever.

Here in Daniel 7, the Lion matches the golden head of the statue. Which points to the present kingdom of Babylon.

The Bear matches the chest and arms of silver. Which points to the future Medo-Persian kingdom.

The Leopard matches the middle of bronze. Which points to the Greek kingdom.

The Terrifying and Dreadful Beast matches the iron leg and iron/clay feet of the statue. Which points to the Roman kingdom.

**Question: So why does God give a similar vision to both Daniel and Nebuchnezzar? Why repeat Himself?**

While there are many similarities between Daniel 2 and 7, there are some important differences. We could make a long list, but i**n brief, Nebuchadnezzar’s dream reveals the nations as man sees them . . . impressive, stable, powerful. But Daniel’s vision reveals the nations as God sees them . . . violent and unreasonable.**

If we ask the question, **“What can we expect from governments ruled by man?”** Our human answer is that we expect salvation from all our problems! Man sees the nations of the world as **strong, capable and impressive.** So the United Nations is formed with the confidence that the statue is made of materials like gold, silver, bronze and iron. The governments of mankind can solve our problems!

**But what does God see when HE LOOKS at the Gentile kingdoms?** He sees the hunger of beasts for more food. He sees the ferocity of beasts to kill and destroy in order to impose their will upon others. While the LORD ordains human government for good, human government always fails His good purposes. **The LORD ordains a future end for the rule of man over the face of the earth.**

**Two truths to glean from Daniel’s vision:**

1. **Man cannot change the basic nature of the nations.**

What believers expect from human government is vastly different from what others expect. This difference is because we have listened to God’s view of human government and agree with Him!

There is no human way to tame the beastlike nature of nations . . . a kind of nature that produces chaos, violence and unrest in the world. As Christians, we do not trust in politics or peace talks or treaties to bring prosperity and harmony to mankind. This is not to say that we cannot work to make society LESS beastlike. So we are right to be careful about our voting. We are right to be involved in human government like Daniel was. BUT we do not place our HOPE in human government! We do not despair when human government shows its true nature. We must keep our hope in God regardless of the beastlike character of human rule.

1. **God rules over the nations.**

**This is the main idea of this Book!**

Note the vision’s description and observe God’s working in these kingdoms:

*“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.” (Daniel 7:4*** [***ESV***](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:4)***)***

*“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.’****” (Daniel 7:5* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:5)*)*

*“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****.” (Daniel 7:6* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:6)*)*

*“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.” (Daniel 7:8* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:8)*)*

**Application: If God is the ACTOR who controls the destiny of every human nation, let us PRAY!** **The most significant way we can influence the course of our nation is fervent prayer from righteous people.**

It is not wrong to watch the conventions of political parties and to talk about the speeches.

It is not wrong to put signs in our yard.

It is not wrong to be very very active in political matters. There can be much that is right about those actions.

BUT first, middle and last is prayer.  **If we believe what the Bible says, we will pray and then pray some more.**

**The Future of the World’s Nations**

**If you were to predict what will happen to the nations of this world, what would you say will happen?**

Every one of the four kingdom’s in Daniel’s vision looks like it is going to last forever. But then it comes to an end. And when it ends, the next chapter in God’s plan for mankind begins.

**Truth: Stability in this world is a short-lived illusion.**

**The final chapter of God’s plan for the nations is described in the coming of this fourth beast. And specifically with the rise of one evil king:**

*“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.”(Daniel 7:8* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:8)*)*

*“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, 20 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. 21 As I looked,* ***this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them****, 22 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.*

*23 “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. 24 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. (Daniel 7:19-24* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:19)*)*

**What is happening? The fourth and final kingdom is still ahead of us**. The ten horns refers to ten kings that will reign simultaneously on the earth. And out of the ten will arise one king who will take power from the others.

*25 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.*

*26 But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.” (Daniel 7:25-26* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:19)*)*

This world ruler will speak defiantly against the LORD.

This world ruler will set his heart to harm and kill God’s people.

This world ruler will change laws to suit his evil desires.

This world ruler will have power for 3.5 years.

This world ruler will be destroyed by God.

**Truth: The future of human kingdoms will grow darker not brighter through the times of the Gentiles. But the LORD will not allow evil to last forever. His kingdom is coming!!**

**This little horn is identified in the NT in 2 Thess. 2 and Rev 13:**

*Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#2Th._2:3)*)*

*The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#2Th._2:9)*)*

*And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. If anyone has an ear, let him hear:*

*10 If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain.* ***Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.”*** *(Revelation 13:5-10* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Rev._13:5)*)*

**Application: The LORD tells us to expect much to be wrong with our present world. He calls His saints to endure the present evil age with faith, hope and love. He urges us away from bitterness, complaining, grumbling and destructive anger.**

**The Future of the World’s Nations**

**The Glory of the Most High God**

*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. 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.” (Daniel 7:9-10* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:9)*)*

**“Ancient of Days”. God is BEFORE human history, IN human history, ABOVE human history, OVER human history and BEYOND human history.**

What a comfort to know that fate or accident or luck are NOT moving the wheels of our times. But the hand of God is moving all things according to His good purposes. Many of those things are hard and will be hard. But the LORD knows what He is doing!

Thin of the picture of God in vv 9-10. When you think of the LORD, are these perceptions in view?

In the midst of the happenings of the nations sits the LORD on His throne.

He is in heaven and He is not asleep.

He is full of energy and power and wisdom.

He is holy and pure and fiery.

He is unchanging and faithful.

All creatures in heaven acknowledge and worship and tremble before Him. He sits in judgment over every nation and every person. **No one stands against Him. No one escapes His rule and judgment.**

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” (Proverbs 9:10 [ESV](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Prov._9:10))

**Two truths flow from this picture of God in heaven.**

**Truth #1: The LORD alone controls human history. No one is His co-pilot.**

*“remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’” (Isaiah 46:9-10* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._46:9)*)*

COMFORT!! He has us all in His hands. We are not in our own hands. We are not in fate’s hands. We are not in evil people’s hands. We are in GOD’S HANDS! And for this reason we do not have to be an anxious people! We can have joy and peace in the face of adversity! Simple song that captures the heart of the saints as we consider the majesty of God.

*He's got the whole world in his hands.   
He's got the whole world in his hands.   
He's got the whole world in his hands.   
He's got the whole world in his hands.*

*He's got you and me, brother, in his hands. . . .   
He's got the whole world in his hands.*

*He’s got my great big problems in his hands . . . .*

*He’s got November’s election in his hands . . .*

**Truth #2: The LORD works in human history to bring glory to Himself.**

The whole of the vision is mapping for us a plan that God has designed to bring praise to His Name. God has a purpose for what He does. His purpose is the glory of His own Name. His glory works to our good IF we submit to Him. If we do not submit to Him, His glory works to our destruction.

The LORD alone is on the throne. He does not share His seat with anyone. Not you. Not me. Not the rich. Not the smart. Not the wealthy. Not human governments. Not any one!

**The Dominion of the Son of Man**

The attention of this heavenly vision turns from God the Father to God the Son.

*“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.*

*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.” (Daniel 7:13-14* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:13)*)*

Underline the words “like a son of man”. So important to understanding who God is. He is the Ancient of Days. But here is one who is made to be like us. He is far more than human, but He is not less than human. He is the God-man. And to Him, an everlasting kingdom is given.

**Truth #1: The Son of Man will enter human history in power and glory.**

This son of man came from OUTSIDE humanity . . . “with the clouds of heaven”. Yet He enters human history. He is given dominion and glory and a kingdom and all peoples and nations will serve Him. We now know this Son of Man to be Jesus. The One born of a Virgin. For Daniel, His coming is future. For us His coming is both past AND future.

This prophecy does not describe the accomplishments of Jesus’ first coming. **This prophecy solely describes the accomplishments of Jesus’ second coming.** So all this is future for us. Yet just as surely as Babylon gave way to the Medo-Persians and the M-Ps gave way to Greece and Greece gave way to Rome . . . **just as certainly Rome will be ruled by a little horn and then Rome will give way to the dominion of the Son of Man.** And the Son of Man will never give way to any nation or person . . . but will reign forever and ever.

Jesus will take this title “Son of Man” and use it over and over and over to refer to Himself. He uses it 81 times in the Gospels. Why does Jesus love this title so much? James Boice makes four key observations regarding how Jesus used this title:

**Jesus’ uses of the title “Son of Man”:**

1. **Jesus used this title to teach his pre-existence.**

*“No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.”(John 3:13* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#John_3:13)*)*

1. **Jesus uses this title to teach that He must suffer.**

*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,*

*that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” (John 3:14-15* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#John_3:14)*)*

1. **Jesus used this title to teach that a person must be joined to Him to be saved.**

*So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:53-54* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#John_6:53)*)*

1. **Jesus used this title to teach He will judge every person.**

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.”(John 5:25-27* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#John_5:25)*)*

**Truth #2: Jesus will triumph over this world’s kingdoms and His kingdom will never come to an end.**

Human government is temporary. It is not the final answer to man’s big problems. Jesus is. Jesus’ kingdom is. Let us not emotionally live as though the answer to our big problems is rooted in human government.

*“Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”” (Revelation 11:15-18* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Rev._11:15)*)*

**Truth #3: Jesus will rule His kingdom with His saints.**

*“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.’” (Daniel 7:27* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:27)*)*

**God wants Daniel to know that while God’s people will suffer for a time on the earth . . . the suffering of His people leads to a glorious outcome.**

**What difference does this make?**

**Applications:**

1. **Since we are to reign with Jesus in the future, let us show wisdom and justice in all our relationships now. Let us not get caught up in unrighteous speculation about people and groups. But let us display the wisdom, love, honesty and fairness NOW.**

*When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!” (1 Corinthians 6:1-3* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#1Cor._6:1)*)*

We must not be so prone to believe evil reports and evil accusations against others!

1. **Let us endure in faith so that we will be among those who reign with Him!**

*“if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;” (2 Timothy 2:12* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#2Tim._2:12)*)*

I believe Daniel shows us a way to live by faith in God’s promises through very difficult circumstances. Daniel became known for his REASONABLENESS . . . in a pagan world!! Unbelievers pointed to him as a man who could be trusted not to fly off the handle and treat others with injustice. Daniel also shows us how we can persevere and endure hardship as we look forward to that future day!

**Jesus’ prophecy in Matthew fits perfectly with this vision of Daniel 7.**

*“ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (Matthew 24:29-30* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Matt._24:29)*)*

*“ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” (Matthew 25:31-32* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Matt._25:31)*)*

Note that the God of heaven has not yet fulfilled what He said He would do . . . namely place His son upon the throne.

God promised that the little horn will make war with the saints and prevail over them for 3.5 years. . . that is future in the tribulation.

God promised that the Ancient of Days would come and bring judgment upon the little horn.

God promised that the Son of Man will appear in the clouds and be given dominion over all the nations. That is yet future.

The effect will be that the kingdoms of the world will come to a dramatic end and that the LORD will establish HIS OWN kingdom to rule over the world.

*Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God,” (Revelation 11:15-16* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Rev._11:15)*)*

**So what do you think is the controlling influence in our world? God or luck?**

Conclusion:

*the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.” (Daniel 7:9-10* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Dan._7:9)*)*

*Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.” (Revelation 20:11-12* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Rev._20:11)*)*

*And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:13-15* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Rev._20:13)*).*

*because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (Romans 10:9-10* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Rom._10:9)*)*

**The Character of the World’s Nations**

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**The Glory of the Most High God**

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