

# PROPHETS

## Community Group Discussion Guide

June 26, 2016

Rival Reign | Daniel 7:1-28

### QUESTIONS FOR STUDY

1. Daniel 7 touches on some "end times stuff" (the official word for this branch of theology is eschatology). How is the end of the world often portrayed in modern culture (think of things you may have heard on the news, or seen in the movies or on TV)?
2. Why is it important to think about eschatology ("end times stuff") in the right way? Are there dangers that can accompany an OVER emphasis on eschatology? Are there dangers that can accompany NEGLECTING eschatology? Explain.
3. Read Daniel 7:1-28 as a group and answer the following questions:
  - The "big idea" of Daniel 7 is this: **The battle is real.** (Evil and opposition to God exist, and this can take shape in difficult circumstances and ungodly ruling systems.) **But the victory is sure.** (God wins.) How does Daniel 7 develop this big idea?
  - Who are the beasts in the vision Daniel receives (vv. 1-8 - see v. 17 for a hint)? Who is the Ancient of Days (vv. 9-10)? Who is the "one like a son of man" (vv. 13-14)?
  - In vv. 19-28, Daniel focuses on the fourth kingdom - he wants to learn more about it and the "horn" that comes up out of it. Look at these verses again: What do we learn about this "horn"? Work as a group to observe a number of things the passage says about this figure.
4. This "horn" is ultimately made to manifest in the Antichrist - a person who will arise towards the end of history and institute a rival reign against God, His ways, and His people. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4,8 and Revelation 13:1-10. How do these passages share similarities to what you've read in Daniel 7? Do they add any new insights?
5. The Bible is clear THAT an antichrist figure will emerge sometime before Jesus' return. In light of this, followers of Jesus should consider HOW we live in light of this truth. Consider the following take-aways. Explain what each one means, why it's important, and what it looks like to "live this out" in your daily life:
  - **Remember that God is always in control.** His victory over evil and opposition is never in question!
  - **Focus on Christ.** The best way to identify and avoid a counterfeit is to focus most on the real thing.
  - **Run all the way through the finish line.** Remain faithful and persevere - even in the face of difficulty.
6. We're almost halfway done with the 365 Bible Reading Plan! Discuss how the group is doing, and continue encouraging each other to devote time to Scripture each day.
  - Share any "big take-aways" people have from almost 6 months of reading the Bible together.
  - How has this been impactful in your life?



This week's readings  
(June 27-July 3)

Mon - Daniel 4-6

Tues - Daniel 7-9

Wed - Daniel 10-12

Thurs - Ezra 1-3

Fri - Ezra 4-7

Sat - Ezra 8-10

Sun - Nehemiah 1-3