



Grain

“Remember that all through history, there have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they seem invincible. But in the end, they always fall. Always.”
Mahatma Gandhi

Field

1 In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: 2 I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, 3 and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another...

15 As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. 16 I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: 17 "As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever." Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Thoughts

What are some of the most striking dreams that you have had, the ones that stay with you after you wake up? I don't remember most of mine, but every now and then one will stay with me. Several years ago, an over-the-top scary dream not only lingered in the back of my mind, but even served as a warning in an unexpected dangerous situation.

Many dreams might just be the result of what we ate, or encounters we had that day. Some say dreams can be guides to helping us work through a problem. It's interesting that as disturbing events unfold in a society that similar themes can be shared in people's dreams. In Germany, as Nazis began to gain power, a number of people reported having nightmares.

Daniel had a dream that deeply troubled him. If you read the missing verses from the lesson, Daniel describes the terrifying powers of the four beasts, which many have seen as the political powers of the Babylonians, Medes, Persians, and Greeks. But in verse 13, a human figure descends from heaven to reign. Daniel's dream acknowledges abusive power, but also offers hope. What seems overwhelming in our own lives and world do not have the last word.

Brian McLaren refers to Daniel as perhaps the earliest anti-imperial text, and interprets the human figure from heaven as "a new generation of humanity." Empires were seen as subhuman, destroying the earth and people in poverty, but didn't define reality and would not win in the end. Later in history, when Daniel was quoted to offer hope in times of crisis, its enigmatic language eluded empires. I wonder if God's followers at times simply said, "Daniel 7" to encourage one another. Daniel 7. Happy Monday!

Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to cindyc@loppw.org
All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at www.loppw.org

Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy