

Worship Material
King Jesus: Pictured and promised
Material from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 24th November

Begin with an opening prayer

As we come together to worship King Jesus,
we offer him all that we are,
in honour and worship,
praise and adoration
of the King of kings.

Amen.

Read Daniel 7:9-10,13-14

Bible Notes

The Book of Daniel is set during Israel's exile in Babylon (c597-538 BC), but was probably written for a later crisis around 160 BC that raised essentially the same issue: 'How can we live faithfully as God's people when the powers that govern the world are against us?' This passage is part of Daniel's first of four visions in the second half of the book. They all have much the same message. God's victory over his people's enemies is assured and will soon be entrusted to his faithful people.

Daniel sees four terrifying beasts, symbolising four earthly rulers, emerging from the sea (Daniel 7:1-8). Then he sees the heavenly throne room, where God, 'the Ancient One', presides over the heavenly court (vv.9-10). Here is a picture of God who is beyond human imagination. God's shining, fiery appearance symbolises everlasting power, glory and holiness, worthy of all worship. The fourth beast with its 10 horns is put to death (v.11), the other three lose their authority but still live. Then Daniel sees 'one like a human being' (some Bible versions translate this as 'a son of man') coming with clouds before God's throne, and this figure is given universal and everlasting dominion (vv.13-14). Here is a picture of humans – 'the holy ones of the Most High' (vv.18,27), God's people who, like Daniel, remain faithful despite oppression – who are promised a share in God's victory over evil empires.

Jesus reinterprets Daniel's vision and applies it to himself, to show what it means to be God's Messiah (see especially Mark 8:31-9:1; 14:62). Like Daniel, Jesus trusts in God's promise to vindicate him and his faithful followers in the face of every evil.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
we praise you for your kingship of all that is good and generous;
we praise you for bearing witness to the truth;
for bearing the burdens of those who are struggling;
for bringing strength to those who admit their weakness;
for bringing purpose to those who name their emptiness;
for bringing hope to those who acknowledge their despair;
for painting a picture of a kingdom where all are called
and all belong, we praise you.

Amen.

A prayer to conclude

King Jesus,
may you be enthroned in our lives,
and may we seek to live according to your will,
as members of your kingdom,
this week and always.

Amen.