

Atik Yomin: Ancient of Days

Daniel 7.13–14

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • March 15, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2020

Scripture Reader and Reading: Jacob Noveske – Psalm 90.1–2

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – Songs on God

Prelude:

I. Yet another message on the names, titles, and attributes of God.

II. This one comes from the Book of Daniel.

A. It is an expression that we do not use very much in reference to God, but

B. Atik Yomin, Ancient of Days appears in the perfect context.

1. However, the *concept* is not unique,

2. which I know will not surprise you.

Persuasion:

I. The Concept

A. Moses wrote Psalm 90, and

1. if anyone knew God,

2. it was the man who spoke to God face to face:

1 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**

– Psalm 90.1–2

a) Notice that Moses did not say

b) that before the mountains came to be

(1) God came to be, but

(2) God is before the mountains, the earth, and the world, because

(a) He is from everlasting to everlasting, or

(b) you can say that He is the Ancient of Days.

B. In the opening thirteen verses of Isaiah 43,

1. God spoke many words of love for Israel.
2. He reminded them of His love and
 - a) of what He was going to do.
 - b) He could do all those things because:

**13 “Indeed before the day was, I am He;
And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand;
I work, and who will reverse it?”**

– Isaiah 43.13

- (1) Before He created the first day,
- (2) He said that He already was, “I am He.”

II. Then there is Daniel 7.

A. Daniel had a vision of four beasts.

1. The first one resembled a lion with wings,
 - a) representing Babylon.
2. The second one resembled a bear with one side higher,
 - a) representing the Medes and the Persians, but
 - b) showing the Persians dominating.
3. The third one resembled a leopard with four wings and four heads,
 - a) representing Greece and
 - b) the four generals who followed Alexander.
4. Then Daniel saw a fourth beast and
 - a) he provided more details for this beast:

7 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had

ten horns. 8 I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words."

– Daniel 7.7–8

b) This beast troubled Daniel greatly.

(1) After the vision is over,

(2) Daniel asks someone, probably an angel,

(a) about the fourth beast,

i) noting its exceeding dreadfulness,

ii) its pompousness and how it will devour:

19 "Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; 20 and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows."

– Daniel 7.19–20

(b) When the whole vision was over, the prophet said:

28 "This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart."

– Daniel 7.28

B. These four beasts represented what we call today Super Powers.

1. These super powers all fought against the Jews and

2. the fourth one also fought against Christians.
 - a) It just seemed as though after the fall of Israel, Judah, and Jerusalem,
 - b) that world empires were then in control.

C. However, Daniel saw something else in his vision

1. that gives great assurance to the soul, because
2. this other part of the vision shows who truly rules all things,
 - a) just by the fact that the God of heaven
 - b) revealed what was coming,
 - (1) giving Daniel this vision.
 - (2) The existence of the vision shows that God is in control.

D. Watch how the vision shows who controls all things, what Super Power is always in control:

**9 I watched till thrones were put in place,
And the Ancient of Days was seated;
His garment was white as snow,
And the hair of His head was like pure wool.
His throne was a fiery flame,
Its wheels a burning fire;
10 A fiery stream issued
And came forth from before Him.
A thousand thousands ministered to Him;
Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.
The court was seated,
And the books were opened.**

11 I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

**13 I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,**

14 **And they brought Him near before Him.
Then 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 the one
Which shall not be destroyed.**

– Daniel 7.9–14

1. God is in control because
 - a) He is the Ancient of Days,
 - b) He sits on His throne,
 - c) His throne is a flaming fire,
 - d) a stream of fire issues from Him,
 - e) millions minister to Him,
 - f) one hundred million stand before Him,
 - g) He conducts the court,
 - h) He slays the beast, and
 - i) He receives the Son of Man.
2. Did you see what happened in verse 13?
 - a) Daniel foresaw the ascension of Jesus Christ,
 - b) not from the vantage point of earth like the apostles in Acts 1, but
 - (1) from the vantage point of heaven.
 - (2) Daniel watched the Son of Man come up from the earth
 - (a) to heaven on the clouds of heaven and
 - (b) He came right up to the Ancient of Days.
3. Then did you see what happened in verse 14?
 - a) When the Son of Man got to the Ancient of Days,

- b) the Son of Man received dominion, glory, and a kingdom and
 - (1) that meant all peoples, nations, and languages
 - (2) would serve Him.
 - (a) The Son of Man received from the Ancient of Days
 - (b) an everlasting dominion.
 - i) It is so everlasting that
 - ii) it cannot pass away and
 - iii) it cannot be destroyed.
- E. Therefore, the Jews then and Christians now
 - 1. have nothing to fear,
 - 2. regardless of all the crises, tumults, and other problems and troubles
 - a) going on around us, because
 - b) our God is the Ancient of Days.
 - (1) He was here long before the current powers and troubles were.
 - (2) He will be here long after they are all gone.
 - (a) He allows them to be and
 - (b) He will make them cease to be.

III. Jesus Christ

- A. The Gospel According to John shows plainly who the Son of Man is.
- B. John opens his Gospel Account with amazing words about Jesus of Nazareth:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

– John 1.1–5, 14

1. Whatever you can say about God the Father
2. that makes Him or pictures Him as the Ancient of Days,
 - a) you can also say about the carpenter turned preacher/teacher.
 - b) In the beginning,
 - (1) Jesus already was,
 - (2) not came to be.
 - c) He is God.
 - d) He made everything.
 - e) He gave us life.
 - (1) This all qualifies Jesus of Nazareth as being Ancient of Days.
 - (2) Yet, amazingly, He took on a body like ours and lived here!

C. He took on flesh,

1. He had a body as we do.
2. Thus, when you saw Him,
 - a) He had the appearance of age.
 - b) He never looked old because
 - (1) He never made it past the age of 34.
 - (2) Therefore, in John 8,
 - (a) some Jewish leaders could not accept
 - (b) a claim that He had made,
 - i) that in my opinion equated Him
 - ii) with the Ancient of Days.
3. In verse 51,
 - a) Jesus made the claim

- (1) that if anyone keeps His word,
- (2) such a person shall never see death.

4. The Jews then said that they knew He had a demon for sure because:

52 Then the Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.’ 53 Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?”

– John 8.52–53

5. They should not have asked Him who He was, because

- a) they would like His answer even less than
- b) what He had already said:

56 “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.”

– John 8.56

6. They continued speaking:

57 Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” 58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

– John 8.57–58

- a) Jesus was young.
- b) Just think of a man you know who is in his early 30s.
 - (1) Jesus claimed to be the I AM.
 - (2) Jesus claimed to be equal to the Ancient of Days.

7. That did it for them:

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

– John 8.59

Exhortation:

I. Do you know who our God is?

II. Do you know who Jesus of Nazareth is?

A. Let all the earth be still in the presence of the Ancient of Days.

B. Let every soul come to know the Ancient of Days.

1. Become His follower.

2. Become His imitator.