

The Ancient of Days

Daniel 7:9-14

Old
Testament
Story Time

Around the year 500 BC (before Christ), there lived a devout Jewish man named Daniel. Daniel was among the Jewish people who were sent to live in exile in Babylon. Although Daniel lived under the rule of a pagan king, he always remained faithful to the one true Lord God.

While living in the Kingdom of Babylon, Daniel soon had a reputation for being able to interpret dreams. Whenever someone had a particularly important dream, they would go to Daniel to learn what it meant. Even the King himself called on Daniel to make sense of his dreams.

One night, Daniel himself had a dream. In the dream he saw four different beasts that came out of the sea. After the beasts came, one appeared whom Daniel called the Ancient of Days, who is the God of Israel. In Daniel's dream, the Ancient of Days was sitting on His throne and everyone came to worship Him.

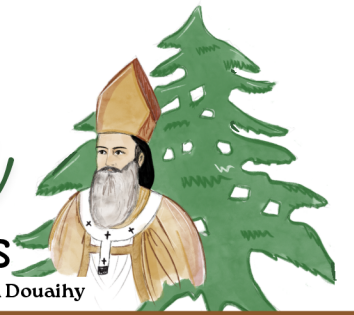


Later in the dream, Daniel saw one like the Son of Man, carried on the clouds of heaven, who came to the Ancient of Days. The Ancient of Days gave the Son of Man dominion, splendor, and kingship, where all nations and peoples would serve him. This would be the final kingdom - the eternal kingdom. As Daniel tells us, the Son of Man's dominion would be everlasting, would never pass away, and his kingship could never be destroyed.



For the people in exile in Babylon, Daniel's dream was a sign of great hope for the future. One day the people would no longer have to live in exile and the Lord God would restore His kingdom. This gave the Jewish people hope, but Daniel's vision was also pointing to an eternal kingdom in heaven with the Lord God and was a sign of hope for everyone.

Cedar Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

3rd Sunday after Holy Cross, Vol 1, No. 59



“...and they will see the Son of Man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

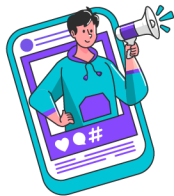




Gospel Corner

Matthew
24:23-31

Sad things happen in our world every day, but that doesn't mean that we can assume the end of the world is here. During your lifetime, you'll probably hear many people who mean well say that the end of the world is here because of the miserable things being reported in the news. We cannot presume to know that the world is ending simply because unfortunate things are happening. Jesus tells us that *only* the Father knows the day and time that the end of the world will come.



Even though many people are not *trying* to be deceptive when they say the end times are here, today's Gospel reading tells us that there *will* be people in the world who create lies about Jesus' return. You may see or hear someone on social media, TV, or in person who claims to have seen Jesus, but Jesus says not to believe them.

When Jesus returns to the earth, today's reading says that you *will* know and it won't be because someone on social media told you. It says, "and they will see the Son of Man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." You won't miss it!



Also remember, this may sound scary because it's all unknown, but as long as you are a baptized Christian doing your best to live a holy life, this is nothing to fear. In the end, Jesus wins which means that we also win. Jesus says, "In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world" (John 16:33b).



Did you know?

DEATH

Death is a passage from earthly life to eternal life. From the beginning God created mankind for life, but death entered as a consequence of Original Sin. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ then transformed death into a positive event. Death marks the end of the earthly pilgrimage and a time of mercy, determining one's ultimate destiny.

What you can do

Pray for anyone you know or know of who are not Christians that they would be drawn to the Church.

Invite your non-Christian friends to Divine Liturgy.

Tell your non-Christian friends and family about Jesus' love for them.



Complete the Picture



Use the grid to draw the other half of this picture of the gate of Heaven.

