

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14

King Jesus: Pictured and promised

On Christ the King Sunday, we encounter Daniel's vision of 'one like a human being' being given everlasting kingship over all peoples, nations and languages.



LISTEN

Listen to 'Behold him' by Paul Baloche.



BAKE



Make some gingerbread biscuits shaped as crowns and decorate them with various symbolic sweets. Jelly Babies: Jesus is one of us. Chocolate stars: Jesus is king of everything. Smarties: Jesus is king of everyone. Love Hearts: Jesus loves and cares for us all.

CREATE

Using modelling clay, or by drawing, create a finger labyrinth that leads from any start point to the centre, where God is represented. Search for examples online to help you get started. These labyrinths can help us to focus on God, as we draw near to the centre, in quiet prayer.

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.

First impressions

- What do you think this image represents?
- How do you picture King Jesus?
- What pictures and promises help to sustain you in your faith?



Pray



Dear Lord,
thank that you are King of kings, and Lord of lords.
We pray that your kingdom would come,
and your will be done,
more and more in our lives,
in our communities,
and in our world.
Amen.

PLAY

Type some of the descriptions from Daniel 7:9-10 into an AI image generator like Google Gemini to discover how Daniel's dream might have looked.