

# *From Man to Monster*



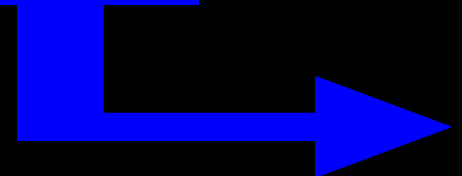
## Daniel 7

## *Daniel 7 summary*



- The vision Daniel sees (1-14)
- The interpretation Daniel receives (15-28)

What was the content of the vision?



# *The Vision in Daniel 7*

- **Scene 1:** four beasts arise from the sea (2-8)
- **Scene 2:** God (“the Ancient of Days”) sits on His throne in judgement (9-10)
- **Scene 3:** the four beasts are judged (11-12)
- **Scene 4:** a human figure comes on the clouds to receive an eternal kingdom from God (13-14)

# *Daniel 7*

## *Men and Monsters*



- The Men who Rule
- The Monster who Ruins
- The Master who Reigns
- The Man who Receives

## *Daniel 7:17*



“The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.”

## *The 1st Beast (verse 4)*

The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.



# *The Men who Rule*

- The 1<sup>st</sup> beast (verse 4)
  - a powerful but humane leadership



The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.

## *The 2nd beast (verse 5)*

And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'





# *The three ribs? (Daniel 7:5)*



- 3 kingdoms?
  - Assyria, Babylon, Media?
  - Babylon, Media, Persia?
- 3 kings?
  - 3 Babylonian kings?
  - 3 Persian kings?
- John Calvin's wise warning: "Those who understand three definite kingdoms by the three ribs seem to refine far too minutely."

# *The Men who Rule*

- The 1<sup>st</sup> beast (verse 4)
  - a powerful but humane leadership
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> beast (verse 5)
  - a hungry for success leadership



And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'

## *The 3rd beast (verse 6)*

After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.



# *The Men who Rule*

- The 1<sup>st</sup> beast (verse 4)
  - a powerful but humane leadership
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> beast (verse 5)
  - a hungry for success leadership
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> beast (verse 6)
  - a quick rising leadership

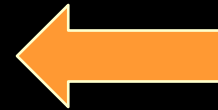


**People in Power**



# *The Interpretation of the Vision*

- The Men who Rule Temporary Kingdoms
  - the first three beasts (4-6)
- The Monster who Ruins
  - the fourth beast (7-8, 19-26)



After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast-- terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.



## *The Monster who Ruins*

- The 4th beast (verses 7-8, 19-26)
  - a cruel and terrifying leader (7,19)
  - “different from the rest” (7,19,23)
    - no animal analogy
    - active verbs
    - destroyed (11-12)
    - much worse!! (2 feet, 3 ribs, 4 wings, not 5 but 10 horns!!)

**A Terrifying Monster!**

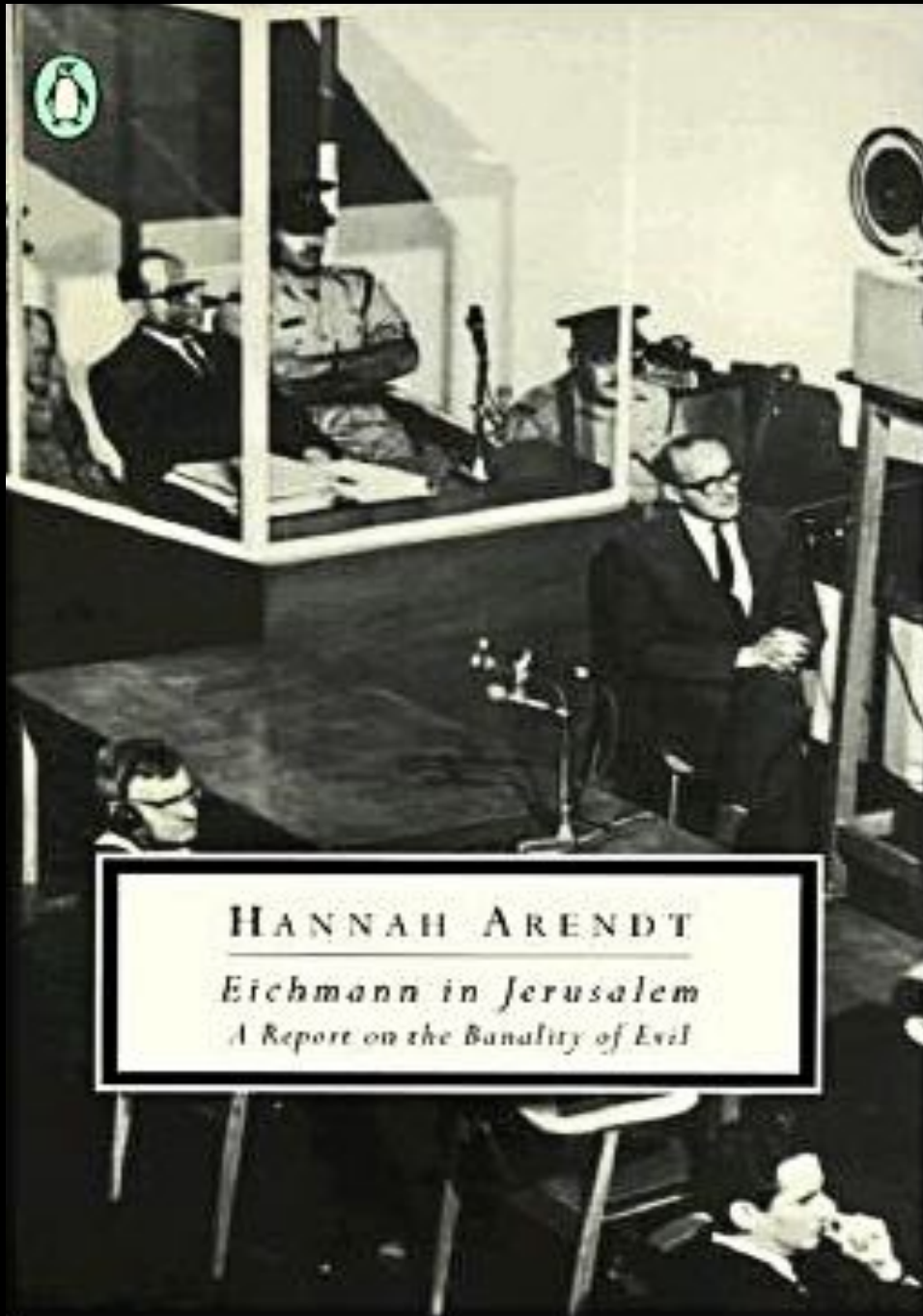
# *The 4th beast*

## *(Verse 25)*



He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws.





HANNAH ARENDT

*Eichmann in Jerusalem*  
*A Report on the Banality of Evil*

*Eichmann in  
Jerusalem:  
A Report on the  
Banality of Evil  
by Hannah Arendt*



# *Adolf Eichmann: Architect of Horror*

## *An Ordinary Man?*

Eichmann had two eyes, two ears and two legs; only one head, one nose and one mouth.

**What did you expect?**

A man with a jagged tail and two horns sticking out of his head?



# Left to die in monsoon drain

Bangladeshi, paralysed in worksite accident, may go home soon

“The change from man to monster sometimes occurs slowly, sometimes more quickly. But we almost never recognise that change in ourselves. We almost never realise when we change from being someone who *rules* to being someone who *ruins*.”

cries; call ambulance



Mr Mohammad Bashir sold all he had to raise the money to come to Singapore to work. — Picture by NG CHEE BENG.

By Jasbir Singh

CRIPPLED Bangladeshi worker Mohammad Bashir, 24, stranded in Singapore for more than three months, may be going home soon.

The construction worker had been dumped in a monsoon drain in a remote forested area in Sembawang by two men, after he was hurt in a worksite accident which left him paralysed.

‘I thought I could make money here to pay off my debts and support my family in Bangladesh. Instead I will now be a burden to my family.’

— Crippled Bangladeshi worker Mohammad Bashir.

thinking of was my family,” he said. “I kept asking myself if I would ever see them again.”

He was admitted to Toa Payoh Hospital for spinal injuries and has been there all these months.

But although he may soon be home he is depressed at the thought of returning paralysed and broke to his village of Naria in Bangladesh.

“What can I do when I go home?”

# *The Message of Daniel 7*



- Though you may not be able to change the monsters, do not succumb to them. Do not let them change you.
  - **Do not succumb by becoming a monster yourself!**

# *The Interpretation of the Vision*

- The Men who Rule Temporary Kingdoms
  - the first three beasts (4-6)
- The Monster who Ruins
  - the fourth beast (7-8, 19-26)
- The Master who Reigns
  - “the Ancient of Days” (9-10)
- The Man who Receives (verses 13-14)





## *The Master who Reigns*

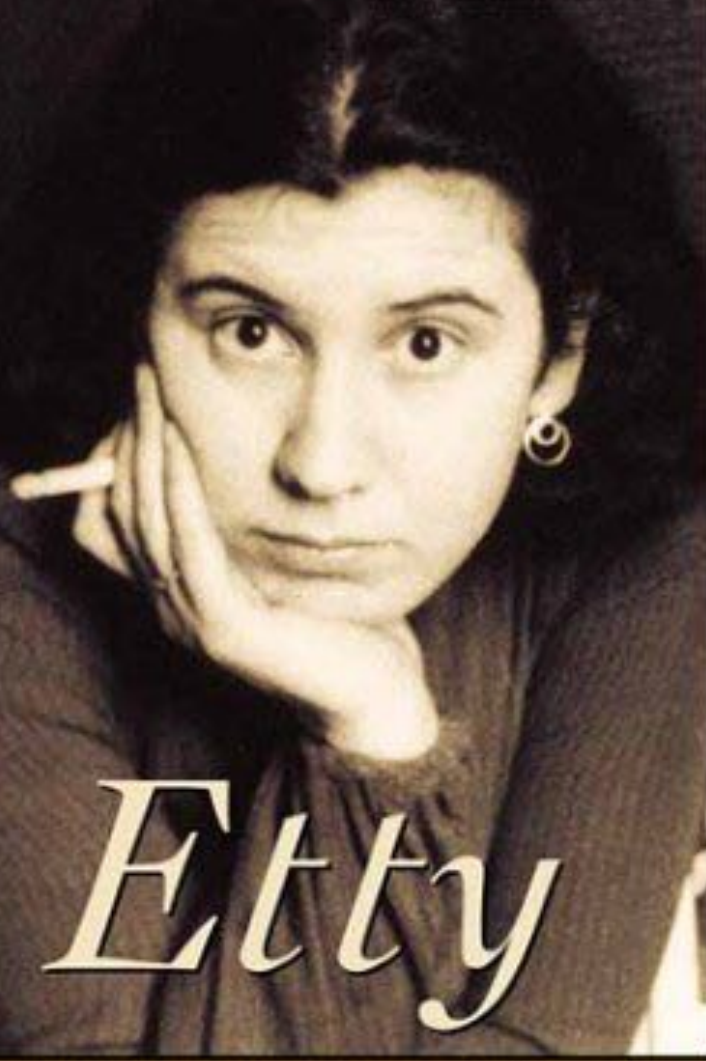
- God seated on His throne (9-10)
  - the “ancient of Days” = GOD
  - “clothes white as snow” = purity, dazzling glory
  - “white hair” = eternal, wise (not old and weak!)
  - “fire” = power, purity, judgement
  - “open books” = judgement, justice

**GOD in control:  
powerful, pure & just**



"A story of spiritual growth such as I have seldom seen anywhere . . .  
Etty's diaries complete Anne Frank's . . . a marvelous gift."

—TERRENCE DES PRES  
The New York Times Book Review



# *Etty*

*The Letters and Diaries of Etty Hillesum*  
1941–1943

**“Very well then, this new certainty, that what they are after is our total destruction, I accept it... I have come to terms with life.. And the funny thing is, I don’t feel I’m in their clutches anyway ..I don't feel in anybody's clutches; I feel safe in God's arms... and I shall always be able to stand on my own two feet even when they are planted on the hardest soil of the harshest reality.”**

# *The Interpretation of the Vision*

- The Men who Rule Temporary Kingdoms
  - the first three beasts (4-6)
- The Monster who Ruins
  - the fourth beast (7-8, 19-26)
- The Master who Reigns
  - “the Ancient of Days” (9-10)
- The Man who Receives an Eternal Kingdom
  - the “human” coming on clouds (13-14)



# *The Man who Receives*

*(verse 13)*

There before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven... He was given authority, glory and sovereign power ...

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

**Who is this “son of man”?**



# *Who is this “one like a son of man”?*

- Jesus in the New Testament
  - Jesus is the Man who comes on the clouds (Mark 13:26)
  - Jesus is the holy human (Adam) *par excellence* (1 Cor 15:45; Rom 5:15)
- But how would pre-NT readers understand the Daniel 7 vision?


## Vision

## Interpretation

- In the vision of verse 14, it is the one “**like a son of man**” who receives the everlasting kingdom.
- In the interpretation of verse 27 (also verse 18), it is “**the saints, the people** of the Most High God” who receive the everlasting kingdom.

# *The Man who Receives*

- The human coming on clouds (13-14)
  - “like a son of man” = a human being
  - “coming on the clouds” = the hero who conquers chaotic sea monsters



**The hero is human (not beastly)!**  
**Faithful people of the Most High God**  
**will reign for ever, *not* powerful beasts or**  
**tyrannical monsters**

## *The way the chapter ends*

- “This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.” (verse 28)
  - A warning of the harsh realities of life
    - Men who Rule & Monsters who Ruin
    - The Master who Reigns & the Man who Receives



# *The Message of Daniel 7*

- The Men who Rule Temporary Kingdoms
  - the first three beasts (4-6)

- The Monster who Ruins
  - the fourth beast (7-8, 19-26)

**Be Prepared**

- The Master who Reigns
  - “the Ancient of Days” (9-10)

**Be Assured**

- The Man who Receives an Eternal Kingdom
  - the “human” coming on clouds (13-14)

**Be Faithful**

# *Suggestions for Group Discussion*



- Can you think of situations in which people today are suffering cruelly and unfairly? How can the promise and judgement of heaven give hope and courage to such people?

(Be Prepared, Be Assured)

- In a world of cut-throat competition and increasing demands for productivity, what are some practical ways in which offices can be run in a more humane and kind way?

(Don't become a Beast; Be Faithful)

*Any  
questions?*



## *Daniel 7 & Jesus*

- Jesus said: “In this world you will have tribulation. But take courage, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)
- This is the message of Daniel 7 in a nutshell!

**Beware of the harsh realities of life on earth governed by Men and Monsters. But take courage, GOD is in control and we will reign with Him long after the monsters have all disappeared.**