

REVEALED Special Study– Daniel Language in Revelation 1

Comparing Daniel’s Vision to John’s Vision in Revelation 1

Revelation 1:12-18 borrows heavily from **Daniel 7:9-14** and **Daniel 10:5-6**. This intertextual connection helps **establish Jesus' divine identity** and His role as the sovereign King over history.

Let’s compare what **Daniel saw** with what **John saw** and explore why these similarities matter.

1. Daniel’s Vision of the “Ancient of Days” (Daniel 7:9-14) vs. John’s Vision of Jesus (Revelation 1:12-18)

In **Daniel 7**, the prophet sees **the Ancient of Days (God) seated on a throne**, and then he sees **one like a Son of Man** who is given power and dominion:

"As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire." (Daniel 7:9, ESV)

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And 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 one that shall not be destroyed." (Daniel 7:13-14, ESV)

Now compare this to Revelation 1:12-18:

"Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength." (Revelation 1:12-16, ESV)

Key Similarities Between Daniel 7 and Revelation 1

Daniel 7

Revelation 1

Significance

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"Ancient of Days" has hair like white wool (7:9)	Jesus has hair like white wool (1:14)	Jesus shares divine attributes with God, indicating His full deity.
"Son of Man" comes on the clouds (7:13)	Jesus is described as "one like a Son of Man" (1:13)	Jesus is the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy , given authority and dominion .
Ancient of Days sits on a throne of fire (7:9)	Jesus' eyes are "like a flame of fire" (1:14)	Jesus possesses purifying judgment and omniscience .
The Son of Man receives eternal dominion (7:14)	Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last (1:17-18)	Jesus reigns eternally and holds all authority .

What This Means

- In **Daniel 7**, the "Son of Man" is distinct from the "Ancient of Days," yet in **Revelation 1**, **Jesus takes on the attributes of both**.
 - This **confirms Christ's divinity**—He is not just the Messianic figure in Daniel but also **shares in the identity of the Ancient of Days**.
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2. Daniel's Vision of the Glorious Man (Daniel 10:5-6) vs. John's Vision of Jesus (Revelation 1:12-16)

Later in Daniel, he sees a **heavenly figure with a striking appearance**, which closely parallels John's description in Revelation 1:

"I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude." (Daniel 10:5-6, ESV)

Compare this to **Revelation 1:13-16**, where Jesus is described as:

- **Wearing a robe with a golden sash (1:13)** → Like Daniel's figure with a **belt of fine gold**.
- **Having eyes like blazing fire (1:14)** → Like Daniel's figure with **eyes like flaming torches**.

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- **Having feet like glowing bronze (1:15)** → Like Daniel's figure with **legs like burnished bronze**.
- **Speaking with a voice like rushing waters (1:15)** → Like Daniel's figure with **a voice like a multitude**.

Key Similarities Between Daniel 10 and Revelation 1

Daniel 10	Revelation 1	Significance
Gold belt around his waist (10:5)	Golden sash around Jesus' chest (1:13)	Symbol of royalty and priesthood .
Eyes like flaming torches (10:6)	Eyes like blazing fire (1:14)	Symbol of purifying judgment and omniscience .
Feet like burnished bronze (10:6)	Feet like bronze glowing in a furnace (1:15)	Represents strength, stability, and purity .
Voice like a multitude (10:6)	Voice like rushing waters (1:15)	The power and authority of divine speech .

3. Theological Implications: Why Does John Use Daniel's Language?

John **deliberately echoes Daniel** to reinforce that:

1. **Jesus is Divine:**
 - The **Ancient of Days (God)** has white hair in Daniel 7, but in Revelation 1, **Jesus has the same attribute**, showing that **Jesus shares the identity of God Himself**.
2. **Jesus is King:**
 - The **Son of Man in Daniel 7** is given **authority and an everlasting kingdom**.
 - **Revelation 1 presents Jesus as already ruling**, confirming that **He reigns now, not just in the future**.
3. **Jesus' Power Overcomes Fear:**
 - Both Daniel and John **fall in fear before the vision** (Daniel 10:9; Revelation 1:17).
 - Yet **both are reassured** with a touch and words of encouragement.

N.T. Wright on Revelation's Use of Daniel

N.T. Wright, in *Revelation for Everyone*, notes:

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"John's vision of Jesus is **not just a new revelation—it is the fulfillment of an old one**. The Jesus he sees **is the same figure Daniel foresaw, now unveiled in His full divine glory**. This is not just a comforting Jesus—it is a **majestic and ruling Jesus**, ready to lead His people through tribulation." (*Revelation for Everyone*, p. 21)

G.K. Beale on Jesus as the Fulfillment of Daniel

G.K. Beale, in *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, argues:

"John's vision intentionally merges the **Ancient of Days and the Son of Man** into one, demonstrating that Jesus **is both the Messianic ruler and fully divine**. This is a crucial moment in the book's Christology—**the Lamb is the Lord of history**." (*The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, p. 202)

Conclusion

In Revelation 1, John **borrowed language from Daniel to reinforce Christ's majesty, sovereignty, and trustworthiness**. **The Son of Man of Daniel is now fully revealed as the glorified Christ**, who reigns over history.