



The Book of Daniel

Daniel the Dreamer

Interpreting the Text:

1. What does the imagery of beasts rising from the sea connote? How does this dramatic imagery emphasize how Daniel perceived the threats against the Israelites?
2. How should we understand the fact that the imagery of Daniel 7 suggests two divine figures, the Ancient of Days and the one like a son of man? Who are these figures (and how does this answer depend on your contemporary faith tradition)?
3. How does this chapter address the situation of the Jewish people under Antiochus Epiphanes?

Applying the Text:

1. What is the lasting significance of the chapter? Is this portion of Daniel merely meant to show us how the Israelites experienced exile, or does it tell us something about God, and God's human and divine agents in the world?
2. This story is meant to provide assurance to an oppressed people. Can this story of assurance still speak to marginalized groups today?