

The Book of Daniel

Dan Snaddon

Used by permission, as published on plymouthbrethren.org. More of his ministry at dansnaddon.org.

Also online at <https://plymouthbrethren.org/series/11788>

KEE Ministry Library · Faithful Men
kee-ministry-library.netlify.app

Outline of Daniel

The man Daniel – The Prophet, the fourth of the major prophets.

He belonged to a family of high rank.

He was taken to Babylon at the age of sixteen.

His whole life from that time was spent in Babylon

He lived a saintly life in an ungodly country

Though he belonged to a captive race, he never swerved from devotion and loyalty to God, and he rose to the highest position in the State.

He not only was a State servant but also a prophet of God and as we shall see his prophecies deal principally with the Gentiles and are among the most remarkable in the Bible. He was a man of prayer—He was a man of God. Jer 25-Bondage; Jer 29 Freedom The Book of Daniel The great mysteries of Matt 24, 25: Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Thess 2, and Revelation can only be unlocked through an understanding of Daniel.

Daniel is rightly classified as an “apocalypse”. In this category it takes its place with Revelation in the N. T. and Ezekiel and Zechariah in the O.T.

The word “apocalypse” means unveiling (Apoclyptical; Apocolyptic)

Writings of this kind were composed during oppressive conditions. The prophet used symbols to express what they saw in the same way as the Lord used parables to explain the mysteries of the Kingdom.

It is interesting to note the conditions and the men who wrote the great books of prophecy.

Ezekiel was written during the Babylonian captivity. Ezekiel was also in exile with Daniel.

Zechariah was written in the difficult years of restoration – everyone was trying to hinder the work.

Revelation was written when John was banished to the Isle of Patmos and in all probability worked in the mines there. The church was suffering terrible persecution and did so for 300 years.

Daniel was written during the Babylonian captivity.

Some highlights in the Book:

Ch 1 describes somewhat the life of Daniel in Babylon

Ch 2 Nebuchadnezzar's vision of the great image. The image described by Daniel.

Ch 3 The image of gold – the fiery furnace

Ch 4 Nebuchadnezzar's pride and punishment

Ch 5 Belshazzar's feast and his downfall.

Ch 6 Daniel in the den of lions

Ch 7 Daniel's vision of future world history

Ch 8 The vision of the ram and the goat

Ch 9 The prophecy of Daniel's 70 weeks

Ch 10 The vision of the glory of God

Chs 11-12 The history of the world from Darius to the time of the end.

The prophecy's in the book covers the period of "the times of the Gentiles", that is from the reign of

Nebuchadnezzar to the return of the Lord to Mount Olivet.

Chapter 1

This chapter is really the introduction to the book, and it explains how Daniel was called, prepared, matured, and blessed of God.

Read verses 1-2

These verses give the historical setting

The reason for the captivity was the disobedience of the nations. They had forsaken the law and had ignored God's commandments.

They also had gone into idolatry - this brought on moral apostasy.

The record of this spiritual decline should be considered by every church and individual.

v. 3-7 is the account of some Jewish youths who were selected for training.

We are introduced to four of them. v. 6 v. 7 They are given new names.

v. 8-10 Daniel's solution

The food they were allotted did not meet the requirements of the Mosaic Law. (unclean beasts).

The wine in all probability had been offered to idols.

Daniel could not accept this, and brought his objection to the chief steward.

This was an awkward situation for the steward. He could lose his life for not obeying the king's command.

v.11-14 Daniel requested a ten-day test period for himself and the other three.

This the steward consented to do.

The other selected had the rich food.

Daniel and his three cohorts had vegetables.

v.15-16 The end of the test.

God honored these for their faithfulness.

Their request was granted.

v.17-21 God's blessing continued on them.

This test had gone on for three years - they were now 20 years old (approx)

Their natural abilities far exceeded their contemporaries and they were ten times wiser than the king's wise men.

Honor Me - I will honor you.

Daniel 1

Introduction

Daniel whose name means “God is my Judge” was a Jewish captive in Babylon.

He belonged to a family of high rank. Taken captive at 16 years.

He was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar in the first invasion. There were three.

Daniel spent his whole life in Babylon. (69 years).

Although he lived in a sordid and sinful court he lived a saintly life, so much so that Ezekiel referred to him as a model of righteousness in 16:20, 28, 23.

In addition to Ezekiel, Daniel’s contemporaries during the times of captivity were Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and Obadiah.

Daniel was one of the most outstanding statesman in Babylon and probably of all time.

He served with distinction under four kings. Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, Cyrus.

The events cover a period of 72 years.

Daniel died at the age of a round 90 years.

I will refrain from a comprehensive analysis of the book at this time preferring to each section as we come to it.

All written in times of stress: Daniel the Prophet – man of God. Ezekiel – Zechariah – Revelation – Daniel There are three main sections of the book. Ch1 is the first of these.

Chapter 1 is the introduction.

This introductory chapter explains how Daniel was called - prepared - matured - and blessed of God.

Apart from Moses and Solomon, Daniel was probably the most learned man in the Old Testament.

Prior to the destruction of Jerusalem, Israel had forsaken God's Law. Despite the many warnings by the prophets, they elected to continue their godless and rebellious course.

Isaiah described their condition. Ch. 1:4-6

"The whole head is sick, the whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores." Churches or individuals should not the warning.

Daniel was chosen to serve the King after a period of training. Shadrach-Meshach and Abednego were chosen, too.

v. 8

"Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself."

The food did not meet the requirements of the Mosaic Law. The meat probably was from forbidden or unclean animals.

The wine as well as the meat had been offered first to idols.

Daniel resolved even at great peril to abstain.

The other three Hebrew children followed his example.

Describe Daniels request for a ten day test. V. 11-16.

v. 17-21

God's blessing on Daniel and his companions.

God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom. v. 17.

The king found them ten times wiser than all his own magicians and astrologies. v. 80.

The narrative stands as an eloquent testimony to the power and grace of God.

In every age God is looking for those whom He can use.

Daniel was a man of prayer and of uncompromising moral character.

God honored him and will honor all who are like minded.

God's Plan for the Ages

2 Tim 2:11-16

A study of this plan will necessitate not only a look at the past, but also a look at the future.

From the beginning of time people have tried to uncover tomorrow, before they have lived today.

By the help of prophets, seers, magicians, astrologers, witches, warlocks, occultism and also by the newest member of this debased family, drugs, people seek to tear away the veil that conceals the future.

Housewives and hippies alike are looking for horoscopes for "spiritual" guidance.

1220 of the 1750 daily newspapers carry columns on astrology. They are read by millions.

What of these so called prophets?

There are many frauds among these mediums, but do not be deceived, some do make contact with spirits.

What does the Bible say about all this spiritism?

1. Lev 19:31 - "Regard not them who have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards to be defiled by them."
2. 1 Chron 10:13, 14 - Saul died for asking counsel of a medium. Heads of State have asked for counsel.

Is there any way of accurately foretelling the future?

1 Peter 1:9 "We have an absolute (more sure) word of prophecy."

Many of the predictions made by the so-called prophets have been wrong.

But not one prophecy in the Bible has failed.

In the next few Sundays we are going to take some of these prophecies and show you the absolute accuracy of the prophetic word.

For this introductory talk let us take the prophecy of the birth of Jesus. There are over 300 prophecies concerning this in the Old Testament.

The predictions were not made by one person, but by many, over a period of 1500 years.

Were they correct? Absolutely.

Note the difference in methods.

1. Human prophets prophesied on the principle of supposition.
2. Bible prophets prophesied on the Divine Principle of Foreknowledge.

Before we can study prophecy we must have a proper understanding of dispensational truth. Dividing the Scriptures this way helps us to see God's dealings in the past and in the present. They also reveal His plans for the future.

The Dispensations

What is meant by a dispensation?

"A dispensation is a period of time marked out by some special dealing of God with men, imposing upon him responsibility, and always ending in failure.

There are seven of these dispensations clearly revealed in the Scriptures.

1. The dispensation of Innocence. Gen 2:7 to 3:24

Adam created innocent – head over creation – given Eve as his wife – tested – in an attempt to rise and become as gods, they fell.

The dispensation ended in failure.

a. The introduction of sin b. The fall of the human race.

2. Unrestrained will or conscience. Gen 4:1 to 7:6

Man as made a free agent -- no restraint.

The result. He corrupted and defiled himself so much that God in mercy and judgment ended this period with a flood. Only 8 were saved. "As it was so shall it be." 2 Peter 10:12. By fire.

3. Human Government. Gen 8:15 to 11:9

Man was put in control of the purged earth. Noah ruled ... but could not rule himself – he was found drunk. As the population increased the tragedy of the flood was

forgotten. They became godless – they built a tower (Babel) – God intervened, destroyed the tower – confounded the language – scattered the people.

Human government had miserably failed.

4. Promise. Gen 12:1 to Ex 18.

Began with the call of Abraham and continued to the Exodus.

Some of the promises were unconditional and have been fulfilled others are yet future.

5. The Law. Ex 19:2 to 2 Kings 25.

This period extended from the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai to the captivity. To the Cross The ten tribes – Northern kingdom were taken into captivity by the King of Assyria in 740 B.C.

Judah – Benjamin – Levites by the King at Babylon in 599 B.C.

6. The times of the Gentiles. Luke 21:24

Grace from the Cross (Pentecost) to Second Coming to earth.

The record of this period is covered by the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. The great image in Dan 2 – Vision of Daniel. It began with Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, and will end when Christ returns to earth and puts all enemies under his feet.

This would be the fulfilling of the prophecy of “The Stone cut without hands.” Falling upon the feet of the image. (see v. 35). This great event will end this dispensation, also the times of the Gentiles.

Meanwhile Israel has been set aside temporarily. Government and authority have been given to the Gentiles. "The times of the Gentiles." The period covered by Daniel's prophecy. The Dispensation of Grace arises within this period. That is to say that God is dealing with mankind on the pure principle of grace. This dispensation will end when the Lord comes to the earth.

7. The Millennium. Rev 20:4-6 and many O.T. Scriptures. This period covers the personal reign of the Lord Jesus over the earth. 1000 years.

From this survey we see that the age in which we live is "The Times of the Gentiles". Toward the end.

For over 7,000 years God's program has progressed according to plan. Not one promise has failed. Peter did say. "We have an absolute Word of Prophecy." Surely the God who has brought to pass His predictions will bring to pass future prophecies. This being so, consider what He has said. "Behold I come quickly." Rev 22.

Explain Mark 13:33-37

The story of a man who went off on a long journey and gave his servants charge over his household. The door keeper was commanded to keep a careful watch for the return of the master.

Only the master knew the time of return. So all must be ready for his return at any given time. Mark uses this illustration to urge us to "Watchfulness, to readiness, for the return of the Lord."

At even 6-9 p.m. At midnight 9-12 a.m. At cockcrowing - 12-3 a.m. At morning 3-6 a.m. Four times "watch" is

mentioned. He is coming again. His prophecies cannot fail.

Daniel 2

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream.

This second chapter introduces us to the first great prophetic unfolding.

This is one of the great pivotal chapters of the Bible.

It is the foundation of all the other visions which follow in the book.

An interesting and unique division takes place from the 1st verse of Ch 2 to the end of Ch 7. This is written in Aramaic ... the Babylonian language. The prophecies contained in this section concern the Gentile nations. The heathen king and the Prophet of God both received communications concerning the great world monarchies.

This period is designated by the Lord as "The Times of the Gentiles". Luke 21:20-24

"Jerusalem is to be trodden down until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

The Times of the Gentiles began when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, and wrecked the temple and carried the Jews into captivity. At this time the Glory of the Lord departed from the city.

Ezekiel describes it. Ch 11:22-23. Departure of Shekinah Glory.

"Then did the Cherubim lift up their wings, and the wheels beside them; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above. And the glory of the Lord went up

from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is in the east side of the city.”

God also ordained that Nebuchadnezzar should reign over the nations. See Jer 27:5-9.

Prior to this Jerusalem had been invulnerable because the throne and the glory of Jehovah was there. Their enemies were kept in check by the Presence and power of God.

With the removal of the glory and Presence of God because of great wickedness, dominion was taken away from the Jews and transferred to the Gentiles.

So then the Times of the Gentiles began with Nebuchadnezzar and will end when the Lord Jesus returns to the earth.

The chapter can be divided into five parts.

1. The forgotten dream of Nebuchadnezzar.
2. The prayer meeting and the Divine answer.
3. Daniel before the King.
4. The revelation and interpretation of the dream.
5. The effect upon Nebuchadnezzar and the promotion of Daniel and his companions.

(1) The forgotten dream of Nebuchadnezzar.

Describe the attitude of the King and the positions of his advisors. Daniel and his friends were included in this treat.

(2) The prayer meeting and the Divine answer.

Daniel steps upon the scene and in great calmness and faith asks for time to consult God. Now see four young

men on his knees, acknowledging their often helplessness to the God of heaven. Daniel is characterized by faith and prayers. Three times a day he opened his windows and prayed. In the night the answer came. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

(3) Daniel before the King

Daniel humbly acknowledges that he could not recall the dream or its interpretation but he said, "The God of heaven revealeth secrets." Then he makes known to the king "what shall be in the latter days."

(4) The revelation and interpretation of the dream.

Imagine the king's surprise as this young Jewish prisoner recalled the dream and then gave the interpretation.

The great image, the form of a man, is the prophetic image of the times of the Gentiles.

The four metallic parts of this great man-image, according to divine interpretation, represent four great world empires which were to appear on earth successively.

The youthful prophet pointed to Nebuchadnezzar and said "Thou art this head of gold."

He had received authority and dominion directly from God.

The kingdom which followed the Babylonians and which is represented by the chest and arms of silver, is the Medo-Persian world monarchy.

In Ch. 5 the overthrow of the Babylonian empire is announced. "Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

The great monarchy which supplanted the Medes and Persians was the Grecian Empire.

In Ch 7 of Daniel we read of how the King of Persia was broken by the King of Greece. It was a great empire.

It is represented in the belly and thighs of brass.

Alexander the Great wept because there were no more worlds to conquer. His great ambition was world rule and dominion over all nations and languages.

The fourth monarchy during the Times of the Gentiles is represented by iron.

This was to be strong breaking every known power and subduing it.

This Kingdom was divided into two parts, represented in the legs of the image.

It was divided into the East Roman and West Roman Empire.

The legs are the longest part of this image and uniquely the Roman Empire existed longer than any of the others.

The feet were made from iron and clay.

In this we see the last form of Gentiles would power represented by ten toes which represent ten kingdoms.

Notice another important truth in the composition of the dream images. It tells of deterioration. From the most precious metal gold, it goes down to silver, brass, iron, clay.

This is not progress and improvement but rather deterioration. The opposite of this would be modern man's assessment.

The final form of the Times of the Gentiles.

The ten toes of iron and clay represent this.

John in the Revelation, as well as Daniel, tell us that the ten toes as well as the ten horns are ten kings who will receive power from the antichrist.

The formation of the Common Market in Europe would equate to this.

As we follow the interpretation of the dream
Nebuchadnezzar saw a stone fall from heaven, it struck
the ten toes of iron and clay.

Suddenly, the whole image collapsed and became
pulverized. The wind carried it away and the great
colossus was gone.

What became of the smiting stone?

It became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

This stone represents Christ.

Isaiah ... Zechariah ... Paul ... all talk of Christ as a
stone.

Interestingly, Matthew says, "And whosoever shall fall on
this stone shall be broken; but on whosoever it shall fall,
it will grind him to powder."

When will the Stone fall?

After the Stone falls and pulverizes the image, it becomes
a great mountain filling the whole earth.

The Stone which falls from above is the second coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ. He's coming in great power
and glory. He will destroy the Gentile nation, break their
power, judge the awful apostasy, smash all rebellion.

Then the God of Heaven will establish the Kingdom of
Christ.

The Stone became a great mountain filling the whole earth.

Up till now not a word had escaped the lips of the king.

Now he falls on his face and worships Daniel.

He acknowledges God as the God of gods, the Lord of Kings and the Revealer of secrets.

Daniel receives an exalted position along with his three friends for whom he intercedes.

How long will it be before the final stage of Nebuchadnezzar's dreams will be fulfilled?

Let the conditions among the nations give the answer.

It cannot be much longer.

Before this comes to pass the shout of our Lord will call all His people into His presence.

Appeal here.

Daniel 3

Nebuchadnezzar's pride ... The image of gold.

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar previously, "Thou art this head of gold."

He became puffed up and in the pride of his heart attempted to unify the religious worship of his vast empire.

He had an immense image of gold made, the image of a man and it was set up in the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

In essence it was idolatry and the deification of man.

These are the moral characteristics which have prevailed during the times of Gentiles.

The image is 60 cubits high and six broad (90 feet x 9 feet)

Six is the number of man (contrast No. 7)

Sixty cubits and six remind us of the number given to the anti-Christ.

Events at the beginning of the Times of the Gentiles foreshadow the climax of the same age.

See Revelation 13.

The Roman Empire is restored ... the ten kingdoms are established.

Then a great emperor, whom Daniel describes as the "little horn", appears and makes a covenant with the Jews for seven years, this normalizes life in Palestine, and allows the resumption of worship.

After 3 ½ years he breaks his treaty.

Then there appears a second beast. He is equally energized by Satan.

He erects an image of the beast and demands its worship.

Then idolatry and deification of man will reach its full climax.

The Antichrist and the Images will sit in the temple and will be worshipped by all. Explain 666.

Those who refrain will die.

We see then from this brief review how the actions of Nebuchadnezzar clearly points to the time of the end.

In his day Nebuchadnezzar tried to force universal religion upon the people. See verses 1-7.

The worship of the image was accompanied by the sweetest of music. The music in some of our great churches is so arranged to stir up the religious emotions of those in attendance to worship an idol.

Furthermore, we hear from all sides cries for a new religion, universal.

Describe the ecumenical church. It is almost upon us.

This church is characterized by false worship – bloodless religion – Cain cult, the religion which exalts man.

There you can hear the sweetest of music by well-trained, unconverted singers and players.

Beloved, the Father's desireth that all men worship Him.

"They that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth."

The faithful three

The proclamation had been made.

When the sweet music was heard all the people in the Empire worshipped.

Those who did not were to be cast into a fiery furnace. V. 13-18.

Three men refuse to worship the image of gold.

Notice the change in Nebuchadnezzar's attitude.

See him bowing before Daniel, acknowledging God as Lord of Kings.

Now he says in arrogant style, "Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands!"

The Hebrew children were unperturbed at the threats of the king.

They were men of faith ... confidence in God.

They answered the King, He will deliver us out of thy hand, O King. But if not be it known unto you that we will not serve your gods."

The King was infuriated ... he ordered the furnace to be heated to seven times its normal temperature ... he commissioned his most mighty men to cast the three into the furnace.

As they did the flames consumed them.

Afterwards when the King looked into the furnace he saw not three men bound and burning up, but four men loose and actually walking in the fire.

"One was like unto the Son of God."

When they were brought up from the furnace there was no smell of fire on them, not even a hair was singed. Only the ropes which bound them were burned off.

The Lord was with them in the fire.

In times past He has promised His people: "When thou walkest through the fire thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle on thee."

Apply this great truth.

Consider some of the events of history:

The Roman Empire: The destruction of Jerusalem.
Persecution of true believers ... multitudes martyred.

The Roman Church: Europe was plunged into the Dark Age. Believers were tortured and murdered. The Inquisition. The Waldensians ... The Huguenots ... Covenanters.

Exalt Christ and His sustaining power.

Describe the final scene at the end of the Age.

The Antichrist terrorizes the Christianized world.

All are commanded to worship the beast and his image, failure to do so brought death.

The present scene ends in an unprecedented outburst of brutality.

Then the Lord appears in glory that will dazzle every eye, He will smite His enemies and deliver His people.

Daniel 4

The first four verses of this chapter were probably written after King Nebuchadnezzar had had the terrible experience recorded toward the end of the chapter.

From v. 4 thru 27 is the record of the dream and the interpretation there of.

Nebuchadnezzar had been successful in many military campaigns and at this particular time was resting in his palace.

He had a dream which disturbed him greatly.

He called all the wise men of his kingdom to present themselves before him, told them his dream and asked for the interpretation.

The so called wise men were unable to do so. v. 4-7.

v. 8 Daniel is brought in v. 10 The King begins to tell Daniel of his dream.

He saw a high tree on the earth. The tree grows till it reached heaven. It was a fair tree giving food and shelter. The animals and birds lived under its shadow.

All at once an angel appeared with a message from heaven.

Read verses 14 thru 16.

When Daniel heard the King's dream and received the interpretation from God he was reluctant to tell it.

Finally he said, "My Lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation of it to thine enemies." v. 19.

In short it meant that Nebuchadnezzar would be driven from his throne. He would live like a wild beast, he would eat grass like a cow, for seven years.

At the end of this time he would be humbled and acknowledge that the Most High ruleth in the kingdoms of men. v. 24-25.

v. 28 “And all this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.”

A year later while walking with friends he made a fatal mistake. Read v. 30.

Note the pronouns, “I have built”; “My power”, My majesty”.

Pride is the rock upon which he perished.

Heaven reacted immediately. While the words were still in the king’s mouth, there came a voice from heaven. “Thy kingdom is departed from thee.” v. 31.

That same hour Nebuchadnezzar was driven from his kingdom, he lived with and like a beast, ate grass like a cow, lived in the open without shelter.

His hair grew until it looked like eagles feathers.

His nails were like bird’s claws.

He remained in this condition for seven years.

During this time he lost his reason.

At the end of this time it returned to him. He repented of his sin.

He was restored to the throne and putting the postscript and the epilogue of the chapter together it seems as if this heathen king was converted.

This is the last we hear of Nebuchadnezzar.

First consider the sin of Nebuchadnezzar. See verse 30.
Then relate it to others who committed the same sin.

1. Satan. The overthrow of Lucifer because of pride and rebellion.

Describe who Lucifer was. Show his pride.

I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mount of the congregation. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. I will be like the Most High.

Describe how he was cast down and his ultimate end.

2. Adam and Eve. See Genesis 3:1-6

“Ye shall be as God.” Lust of flesh ... lust of eye ... pride of life.

Brought ruin on the human race.

3. The rich farmer. Soul thou hast much goods laid up, etc. Luke 12

God stepped in. Tonight thy soul will be required of thee.

4. The proud Pharisee. I thank God I am not as other men. I fast twice a week ... I give tithes ... Despite these he remained a sinner.

Describe the sinner attitude. God be merciful to me a sinner, etc.

This man was justified.

Apply these truths.

Daniel 5

About 40 years had elapsed since the capture of Jerusalem recorded in Daniel 1.

In the interpretation of the image in Ch. 2 Daniel had predicted to Nebuchadnezzar, "After this shall rise another kingdom inferior to thee."

Now in Ch. 5 this prophecy is about to be fulfilled.

Approximately 23 years had elapsed between Ch. 4 and Ch. 5.

A number of monarchs had succeeded Neb. According to history but only one is mentioned in the Scripture, Belshazzar, who was the grandson of Neb.

The holding of this banquet at this time was rather unusual. If the setting can be reconstructed Bel's father Nabonidus previously had gone forth to fight the Medes and Persians and had already been captured.

The territory and the related provinces surrounding the city already had been conquered.

Only Babylon with its massive walls and fortifications remained intact. This feast may have been called to bolster faith in their gods and increase their courage and morale.

Also their pride in their deities may have been bolstered by the magnificence of Babylon itself.

According to Herodotes, the historian, Babylon was fourteen miles square, the outer walls were 87 feet thick and stood 350 feet high.

There were 100 great bronze gates into the city.

There was also a system of inner and outer walls, with a water moat between.

So broad were the walls that chariots could parade around them four abreast.

Herodotus then describes towers at appropriate intervals reaching another 100 feet into the air from the top of the wall.

The Great Euphrates River ran through the city, there were beautiful parks and gardens, avenues and palaces.

The famous hanging gardens of Babylon were included in this vast array of magnificence and splendor.

Finally, the Babylonians believed that their city was impregnable. With their gods, and supplies which could last for 20 years, plus their own pride they felt safe. So Belshazzar made this great feast for a thousand of his princes.

This is what man saw and what man was doing at this crucial time.

Let us look for a moment through the eyes of God.

Isaiah and Jeremiah many years before this prophesied concerning the downfall of Babylon. Isa 3:17-22; 21:1-10; Jer 51:23-58.

Isa 21 "My heart panteth, fearfulness affrighteth me. The night of my pleasure he has turned into fear."

Finally, the tidings came, "Babylon is fallen, if fallen and all this gods are broken to the ground."

Jeremiah is even more explicit, "And I will make drunk his princes, and his wise men, capturing rulers and

might men. And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the Lord of Hosts.”

Note now how these prophecies were fulfilled.

When this licentious and sensual feast was at its height the inebriated King called for the holy vessels which had been brought from the temple in Jerusalem.

He distributed them among his guests, filled them with wine and climaxed the sin of the evening by drinking from these holy vessels.

Heaven could remain silent no longer.

Suddenly there appeared the fingers of a man’s hand writing on the plaster of the wall.

The King’s countenance changed.

His courage though bolstered by alcohol failed him.

He was filled with terror and shook all over uncontrollably.

He calls for his wise men to interpret what had been written.

They were unable to do so, despite the attractive reward offered.

On the advice of the Queen, Belshazzar asked Daniel’s help.

Daniel by this time is an old man, 86 years old.

Years had passed since he interpreted Neb’s dream. He probably was in semi-retirement.

Daniel as God’s messenger got right to the point, he preached one of the greatest sermons ever recorded.

Daniel reminded Bel. Of how God had dealt with his grandfather and also reminded him that despite his knowledge he had not humbled himself before God and had committed a blasphemous sin in drinking wine from the holy vessels of God.

With eloquent scorn Daniel lashes the king and princes for their sacrilege.

A great hush fell on that rowdy throng. A death-like silence filled the banqueting hall.

Then Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall.

Mene, mene = Numbered, numbered. "God has numbered your kingdom and finished it."

Tekel = weighed. "Thou are weighed in the balance and found wanting."

Peres = divided. "Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

God's judgment was carried out.

The Medes and the Persians changed the course of the river, swept into the city, and captured it.

"In that night was Belshazzar king of the Chaldean's slain." v.30

Note finality:

God's judgment on a kingdom. Babylonian

Describe God's final judgment on Babylon

Final phase of Armageddon. Rev 16

Secondly:

Describe the far more serious aspect of the judgment of the individual. The Great White Throne ... eternal punishment.

Lift up Christ as the only hope for sinners.

Daniel 6

In this chapter we are on the ground of the second world empire, the Medo-Persian.

This empire is represented in the dream of Neb. by the chest and arms of silver.

Daniel is seen in this chapter occupying the highest position in the empire.

Darius had heard of the wisdom of Daniel and had given him a position of honor.

The old prophet, over 80 years of age, is soon envied by the other presidents and princes.

They look unsuccessfully for a flaw in his administration regarding the empire's affairs. v. 4

So they resort to attack him in the matter of his religion.

The plan reveals the cunning of the Serpent. See v. 5-9.

The king is well pleased with this proposition for it flatters him. He signs the decree which made it law and it could not be withdrawn.

Notice Daniel's attitude, v. 10. He knew the decree was signed.

1. See the man of faith, the aged man of prayer in sweet communion with God.
2. Three times a day, upon his knees.
3. Windows open ...
4. In a voice that could be heard, he communed with his God.

Brethren and sisters, prayer is the highest activity of which the human spirit is capable. Luke 11 "Lord teach us to pray."

Wm. Gladstone - "Prayer is the highest exercise of the human intellect."

Rabbi Burns: "Prayer is a correspondence fixed with heaven."

President Eisenhower: Addressing a large group of students said, "Prayer is still the highest force in the world, and when used by dedicated men and women, nothing in this world is impossible."

Prayer can be a working force in a believer's life.

Prayer is a dynamic rather than a doctrine.

All great men of God have been men of prayer.

If this simple yet profound spiritual exercise was practiced by believers there would be fewer marital and family problems.

Fewer lean years and desert experiences.

Fewer spiritual dwarfs - fewer human wrecks on the rocks of time.

Beloved, nearly all of our trouble can be traced to our negligence in prayer.

Prayers should be the Pilot ... Pivot ... Perimeter ...
Source ... Center ... Circumference of our lives.

Men and women of God in every age have stormed the battlements of heaven with unshakable confidence.

The evidence of these spiritual victories stand all around.

Shall we in our generation do less?

Daniel is cast into the den of lions, v. 16.

Despite his efforts, the King could not deliver Daniel.

When Daniel is thrown to the lions a stone is laid upon the mouth and it is sealed with the Kings' signet.

He is strictly speaking in a grave.

This brings to our attention another tomb in the garden, Christ's tomb ... the stone was placed before it and it was sealed, etc. But as Daniel could not be hurt by the lions, so he who went into the jaws of death could not be held by it.

The tomb is empty and Christ is victor over death and the grave. All this is foreseen in the experience of God's prophet, Daniel.

God rewarded Daniel's prayer of faith. God closed the lion's mouth.

The King was upset ... ran to the den early in the morning, see v. 19-20.

Daniel's reply, verses 21-22. "Because he believed his God."

Daniel 7

Daniel's Vision of Future World Prophecy

In the interpretation of biblical prophecy this chapter occupies a unique place.

It provides the most comprehensive and detailed prophecy of future events to be found anywhere in the O.T.

Daniel traces the course of four great world empires, namely, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.

The prophecy concludes in the climax of world history, the second coming of Jesus Christ, and the inauguration of the eternal kingdom of God.

This is represented as a fifth and final kingdom which is from heaven.

In all probability Daniel had this vision some 14 years before the fall of Babylon.

Much of what Daniel prophesied has been fulfilled in past history.

But much of it deals with the time of the end, the closing scenes of the times of the Gentiles.

1. He depicts the great struggle of the end times.
2. The appearance of the little horns.
3. The uprising of the Antichrist, the eleventh horn.
4. The great tribulation with its unparalleled persecutions.
5. The complete overthrow of the enemies of Israel.

6. The establishment of the kingdom of God on earth.

The chapter is really one vision but is divided into four. Their interpretation:

1. The night vision of these hearts, v. 1-6

2. The night vision of the fourth beast with the ten horns and the little horn, v. 7-8

3. The judgment vision, v. 9-12

4. The Son of Man and His Kingdom, v. 13-14.

Then follows the divine interpretation of these four visions.

Vision V.1-6 Part I

Daniel saw four great beasts coming up from the sea.

The sea in prophecy speaks of the unorganized masses of humanity.

Both Isaiah and John use this imagery.

1. The first beast to emerge was a lion with eagle's wings.

As gold is the most precious metal, so the lion is the king among the beasts of the forest.

The head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream image and the first beast represented the Babylonian empire.

The resplendent image is what man saw.

God viewed these same empires and saw four various beasts.

In the beginning the Babylonian empire was a lion with eagle's wings.

But they were plucked out; it lost its strength and eventually was overthrown by the Medes and Persians.

2. The second beast was like a bear

It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth.

This bear stands for the Medo-Persian Empire.

This empire is also seen as the chest and arms of silver.

One paw was lifted up higher than the other, because the Persian element was stronger than that of the Medes.

The three ribs represent three kingdoms that had been conquered.

3. The third beast was like a leopard.

Protruding from its back were the four wings of a fowl. This beast also had four heads.

This is a picture of the Grecian empire, corresponding to the belly and thighs of brass in the image of Neb.

The four wings denote the swiftness and stealth with which Alexander executed his campaigns. After his premature death, the empire was divided between his four generals ... represented in the four heads.

In the vision God reveals to Daniel the moral character of each succeeding empire.

The lion devours ... the bear crushes ... the leopard springs upon its prey.

The fourth and last empire is so cruel and ruthless that no beast on earth is found to describe its true character.

Vision V. 7-8 Part 2

In these verses we have the divine description of the iron empire, Rome.

There are some unique characteristics of this empire which are worth noting.

See how aptly and accurately the Spirit of God describes this monstrosity.

It is dreadful ... terrible ... exceedingly strong ... it has great iron teeth.

It devours ... breaks in pieces ... and stamps down.

It has ten horns ... then in their midst arises a little horn, with eyes like a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

This is the kingdom which will be in power at the end of the age. When it has reached its zenith; the ten nations working closely together, the beast and the false prophet wielding immeasurable power ... then the end will come.

V. 9-10 is a scene in heaven. Part 3

Daniel gives an unprecedented view of God ... Ancient of days.

He is sitting on an awesome throne.

It is a burning flame ... not "like" a burning flame. KJV

The wheels, whatever their meaning, are also burning.

In all this we see the glory of God.

The pureness and holiness of God's judgment.

In this scene of blazing glory, innumerable saints and angels are pictured as ministering to God.

In God's glorious presence the books are opened.

This is the final hour for the nations of the world.

The sequence of events will be as follows:

1. The Son of man will descend in glory, v. 13
2. The beast and the false prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire, v. 11. The rebels will be dealt with, 1/3 slain.
3. The nations of the world will be judged, v. 10
4. The fifth world kingdom will be established, v. 14

The stone which totally destroyed the image of Nebuchadnezzar now becomes a mountain which fills the whole earth.

Daniel 8

Two important factors mark Daniel 8 as the beginning of a new section.

1. The language returns to Hebrew from Aramaic (Ch 2:4-7:29)

2. From here to the end of the book the prophecy is occupied with human history as it relates to Israel.

Chapter 7 is a broad summary of the times of the Gentiles with emphasis of the climactic events, culminating in the coming of Christ to the earth.

v. 1-2 Daniel finds himself projected in a vision to a palace in Shushan, in the province of Elam, by the river Ulai.

The first part of the vision concerns the second and third world empires. In Neb's dream they are represented as the chest and arms of silver. And the belly and thighs of brass.

In Daniel's vision he saw them as a bear with those ribs in its mouth and a leopard with four wings and four heads. These same empires are before us in the vision.

The Medo-Persian empire appears as (v. 20) a ram with two horns, the one was higher than the other. This counts with the bear with one paw higher.

v. 14 This verse describes the conquest of the empire.

Westward, northward and southward = Three ribs in its mouth.

This empire ruled irresistibly for 200 years until an he-goat came on the scene.

v. 5 The he-goat is interpreted as the king of Greece. v. 21

The “notable horn” is Alexander the Great.

The phrase “and touched not the ground”, v. 5, denotes the swiftness and the tremendous speed which characterized the conquests of Alexander.

v. 6-7 gives us in capsule form a description of Alexander’s conquests against the Medo-Persian empire.

Between the years 334 B.C. and 331 B.C. Alexander destroyed the power of Persia. Then went on and swiftly conquered Syria-Phoenicia-Cyprus-Egypt-Babylonia.

v. 8 describes the death of Alexander.

“Where he was great and strong, the great horn was broken.”

As he reached the pinnacles of his power Alexander died.

Although he had conquered the world, he never conquered himself.

After a reign of almost 14 years, he died at 32 years of age a broken and debauched man.

After his death Alexander’s kingdom was divided among his four top generals.

Verses 9-12 describe the rise of a “little horn”.

This little horn emerges from one of the four “notable horns”.

He became exceedingly great, as his armies thrust towards the south, the east and in particular towards the “pleasant land” – Palestine.

This “little horn” has been identified as Antiochus Epiphanes, the mad man, the eight king in the Syrian dynasty who reigned from 175-166 B. C.

This king was a tyrant who oppressed the Jews ruthlessly.

His wicked deeds, blasphemy and sacrilege are fully described in the book of the Maccabees.

The stone which he cast down to the ground and stamped upon are symbols of the people of Israel.

His actions against the sanctuary of the Lord are also prophetically pictured.

Note what this man did (1) He made himself as God, (2) he stopped all worship of God, (3) he desecrated the truth and the temple.

The facts of history.

When he conquered Jerusalem he sacrificed a pig upon the altar and sprinkled its inwards over the whole temple.

He changed the feast of tabernacles to the feast of Bacchus.

He corrupted the youth, true worship was forbidden, idol worship was enforced especially of Jupiter Olympus.

The city of Jerusalem and the land of Palestine was devastated, some 100,000 pious Jews were massacred.

In verses 13-14 Daniel heard the conversation of two holy ones - angels.

They are discussing the duration of this fearful desecration by Antiochus.

They told Daniel that it would last 2,300 days, then the sanctuary would be cleansed. 7 ½ years.

The period was fulfilled from 171 B.C. to 164 B.C. It culminated in the death of this cruel and wicked king.

Verses 15 through 22 is the interpretation of the vision.

A close examination of this brings us to the conclusion that part of this chapter is now history, and part is still to be fulfilled.

1. The one spoken of (the Antichrist) is to appear in the latter times of Israel's history. v.23 "The king of fierce countenance."

2. Through alliance with other nations he achieves world-wide influence, v. 24.

3. A peace program helps his rise to power, v. 25.

4. He is extremely intelligent and persuasive, v. 23

5. He is characterized by Satanic control, v. 24.

6. He is the great adversary of Israel and of the Prince of princes, v. 24-25

7. A direct judgment from God terminates his rule, v. 25.

v. 26 Daniel was instructed how to shut up this vision.

Daniel himself could not understand it, the prophecy is for the benefit of future generations.

v. 27 Describe the effect of the vision on Daniel.

He fainted and was sick for three days.

Consider:

2 Thess 2 — The man of sin.

Revelation 19 - His end-broken without hands.

Daniel 9

This chapter is entirely taken up by Daniel's prayer and prophecy.

v. 2 Daniel is reading from the book of Jeremiah.

He prophesied that the desolation of Jerusalem would be fulfilled in seventy years.

Jeremiah wrote his prophecies in the closing days of Jerusalem before its destruction by the Babylonians. He predicted 70 years of captivity. The prophet had been taken captive at this time and carried off to Egypt where he died and is buried in a nameless grave.

The timeless Scriptures which he wrote found their way across the desert and mountains to far away Babylon and fell into the hands of Daniel.

As Daniel read these prophecies he realized that the seventy years had about run their course. 67 years to be exact.

Jeremiah prophesied: "This whole land shall be desolate and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. And it shall come to pass when seventy years are accomplished that I will punish the "king of Babylon and that nation, saith the Lord for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeons, and will make it perpetual desolation." 25:11, 12.

Daniel's preparation for prayer. V. 3-4

When Daniel realized that the time of captivity had almost run its course, and the return to Jerusalem was imminent, he was disturbed as to the spiritual condition of the nation. They had been absorbed into the life of

Babylon, many had adopted its ways and worship and were totally unprepared for the return to Jerusalem.

He turned to prayer.

This is a description of real prayer.

1. Daniel turned from other things to concentrate on his prayer ... "I set my face unto the Lord God."

2. He fasted ... he would not be divested from prayer by food.

3. He put on sackcloth ... speaking of abject need.

4. Ashes ... the traditional symbol of grief and humility.

Daniel left nothing undone that would make his prayer more effective or more persuasive.

Effective prayer requires (1) faith in the Word of God, (2) proper attitude of mind and heart, (3) privacy, (4) and unhurried confession and petition.

Humility, reverence and earnestness are the hallmarks of effective prayer.

Daniel's prayer of confession. V. 5-14

At a glance we see how Daniel identifies himself with the nation's in, rebellion, transgression and general wickedness. Though he had no part in them.

Of all the Bible characters, Daniel appears to be the purest.

The failures of Abraham, Moses, Aaron, David and others are recorded, but Daniel appears without flaw in his character.

Despite this note the words of this aged saint.

“We have sinned ... we hearkened not unto thy servants
... we have rebelled against The ... neither have we
obeyed your voice ... we have sinned and done wickedly
...

Oh the grandeur of the stature of this holy aged prophet
= Christ.

This is the way to blessing.

The interrupted prayer. V. 20-23.

Daniel was not permitted to finish his prayer.

Suddenly Gabriel stood before him.

He informed him that he had come to give him skill and
understanding.

He addresses him as “greatly blessed”.

Then he tells Daniel that when he began his
supplications, he, Gabriel, received the command to fly
swiftly and bring Daniel the answers to his prayer.

This brings up an interesting question, How far, as how
near is heaven?

Astronomy tells us of the immeasurable depths of the
universe.

And beyond the most distant constellations there is the
Heaven of heavens, where God sits on His throne in all
his glory.

Yet to the Christian heaven is not far away.

Before Daniel was finished praying Gabriel was at the
intercessors side. This is inconceivable speed.

Beloved heaven is not far away.

There is no distance with God.

The moment we raise our voice in earnest prayer, in the Spirit, and in the Lord's name our prayer are heard in heaven.

The Lord's answer to Daniel's prayer. V. 20-27

This one of the most important prophecies in the O.T.

v. 20-23 Gabriel appears to Daniel to give him skill and understanding of the revelation about to follow. The over-all picture is given in vs. 24-27.

v. 24 The prophecy as a whole is presented here.

v. 25 Describes the first 69 weeks.

v. 26 Describes some events which will take place between the sixty-ninth week and the seventieth week.

v. 27 Describes the final period of the seventieth week.

This prophecy has to do with Daniel's people and Daniel's city. It is the revelation of the entire future of Israel from the end of the Babylonian captivity to the time of the end, when they will be delivered by the return to earth of the Lord Jesus.

What is the seventy weeks?

The literal translation of this is "seventy sevens."

From a host of evidence the sevens means "years".

So then, Gabriel revealed to Daniel what would take place regarding Israel in a period of 490 years. Not necessarily running consecutively.

v. 24 Describes the great things which are to be accomplished during this time.

1. to finish the transgression

2. to make an end of sin

3. to make reconciliation for iniquity
4. to bring in everlasting righteousness
5. to seal up the vision and prophecy
6. to anoint the most Holy.

v. 25 shows the division of the seventy weeks.

These are the parts

The first consists of 49 years. The second 434 years. The third 7 years and is still future.

This prophecy started with the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem.

From this time to Messiah the Prince there will be 49 years plus 434 years making a total of 483 years.

Nehemiah 2 tells us when this commandment was given the 20th year of Artaxerxes which was 445 B.C. The month Nisan.

History shows that it took 49 years to rebuild and restore Jerusalem.

Then the prophet writes that after 434 years, Messiah would be cut off.

Exactly 434 years after Jerusalem was rebuilt the Lord Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem presenting Himself as the Messiah, a few days later he was "cut off" = crucified.

Then a prince shall come and destroy the city. A.D. 70.

Daniel 10

The final three chapters of the book contain the last great vision given to the aged prophet, a vision which is without parallel anywhere in the Scripture.

The 10th chapter is introductory to the vision proper.

It contains the account of the deep soul exercise through which the prophet passed and his encounter with supernatural beings.

The remaining point of the Book can be divided as follows:

1. Chapter 10 is introductory to the prophecy.
2. The next section is divided into two major sections.
3. Ch 11:2-15 deals with the immediate future, from Darius to Antiochus.
4. Ch 11:36 thru Ch 12:4 deals with the far future, the end times just before the second advent of Christ.

Daniel's preparation for the vision.

v. 2 He spent three weeks in mourning v. 3 he ate a meager diet ... the bread of affliction.

Daniel's fasting was probably caused by his concern for his people in Jerusalem. They had encountered great difficulty. The altar had been built ... the foundation of the temple had been laid ... but the work had been stopped because of stiff opposition. This was of great concern to Daniel ... hence his prayers and fasting. This period prepared Daniel for the great experience to follow.

v. 4 Daniel is on the banks of the river Tigris. While there he received a tremendous revelation. "A certain man" appeared to him.

This "certain man" was a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ.

This is what is known as a "Christophany" or a "Theophany".

v. 5-6 give a description of the hand in His glory.

v. 7-9 describes the effect of this vision upon Daniel and his companions.

Describe the effect of a similar vision on Saul of Tarsus and the apostle John on Patmos. Transfiguration ...
Moses at Sinai.

What are the lessons in this for us?

We see here the progress of the faith life.

Daniel started this life of faith in God as a young captive in Babylon.

Then Daniel cast himself upon God for the revelation of Neb's dream.

Then he talked with angels.

Visions were given to him.

Then Gabriel was sent swiftly with a message to him.

And now after prayer and fasting, Daniel's faith is culminated in an appearance of the Lord Himself.

Daniel went from glory to glory.

Consider a few of the other Theophany's: Abraham, Jacob, Gideon, Joshua.

v. 10-11 Daniel is strengthened by an angel.

This heavenly visitor addressed him as a “man greatly beloved.”

As he stood trembling before this angel, Daniel is given the reason for the delayed answer. V. 12-14.

For three weeks Daniel had travailed and agonized in prayer with no answer.

Compare his previous prayer.

The angel had been dispatched immediately with the answers but was delayed by the King of Persia. He was the powerful, wicked spirit who was a messenger of Satan, controlled by the affairs of the Kingdom of Persia.

Satan is not omnipotent, omniscient, nor omnipresent.

He has his wicked agents everywhere. Paul describes them as “the world rulers of this age.” Eph 6:12.

Over each kingdom he puts an evil spirit to control it for him.

John reminds us that “the world lies in the lap of the wicked one.”

Rome – Berlin – Moscow – Peking.

v. 13 shows us that Michael was dispatched to deliver the angel who was being held captive.

Michael is strong. He and his angels engage in a great conflict in the heavenlies with the devil and his angels. Revelation 12.

Michael casts them out.

Here are some points to ponder.

1. Satan through his evil agents controls the nations of the world.

2. He is responsible for the bloody wars.

3. He is responsible for the practices and crime today.

Furthermore, while our knowledge of the real activities of these wicked spirits is limited, this passage shows us that even believers are subject to attack and harassment by the evil forces.

On the other hand there is conflict in the fact that there are good angels who keep and defend those who are the Lord's.

Notice how Daniel is strengthened by angels.

v. 16 "One who was like a man touched my lips."

v. 18 One who had "the appearance of a man."

"I was strengthened, and said, let my Lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me." Samuel, "Speak, Lord", etc.

The chapter concludes in a very interesting way. V. 20-21

The angel reveals that he is obligated to return to fight with the Prince of Persia, and later with the Prince of Greece. The implication here is that there is constant spiritual warfare going on behind the scenes.

The stage is now set for the revelation of the consummation of God's purposes in the world.

As time permits show the pain of Satan of blinding and holding men and women in his grasp. Leading them on to hell. 2 Cor 4:4

Daniel 11

This chapter is divided into two sections.

The first 35 verses deal with the immediate future, from Darius to Antiochus.

Verse 36 through Ch. 12:4 deals with the far future, the end times, just prior to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the first 35 verses we have history, pre-written.

So accurate are these predictions, and their subsequent fulfillment that the enemies of the "Scripture of Truth" have declared that it could not have been written by Daniel several centuries before these persons and events came into existence.

These verses with amazing detail contain approximately 135 prophetic statements, all now fulfilled.

These prophetic utterances were made in the year B.C. 524 and cover history which commenced with the invasion of Greece 480 B. C. and continued through the centuries till the death of Antiochus Epiphanes.

Between verses 25 and 35 there is what some commentators call the "Great Parenthesis."

This is the present dispensation ... the age of Grace, and will continue until the king spoken of in v. 36 is revealed.

Who is this king?

He is the New Testament antichrist. 2nd Thess 2

The 'little horn' of Daniel 7 ... the beast out of the sea of Revelation 13:1-10.

A description of his character is given in v. 36.

He assumes complete political rule also assumes the role of God.

“He shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god.”

He shall blaspheme against the true God.

But it will only be for a time.

This man will be a monstrosity. He will fear neither God nor man.

He will be devoid of natural desires.

He will honor the goal of might and of war.

This man will be a smooth talker ... have a terrific personality ... he will be the deceiver of all deceivers. He will eventually captivate a great portion of the nations of the world. His peace programs will be the greatest.

v. 40 The final world war erupts.

“At the time of the end (see v. 28) the King of the South shall push at him. The ruler of Egypt ... the United Arab Republic ... possibly the African nations, too, will move first against the Antichrist.

The Antichrist after making a treaty with the Jews for seven years, guaranteeing them military protection, suddenly breaks the agreement, occupies Jerusalem. Stops all Jewish worship, and sets himself up as supreme ruler.

At this point the nations of the south and north will make their move. The advance of the northern armies is described as a whirlwind. According to Ezekiel they will come by land, sea and air, a great irresistible force. This

invincible force will eventually defeat the defending army. The Middle-East, including Palestine will go under his control. As they re-group and rest around the area of Armageddon, God steps into the scene and unleashes His fury against these evil forces.

By natural means He destroys them.

1. a great earthquake
2. overflowing rain
3. great hail
4. fire
5. pestilence

The result of God's intervention is that 5/6 of the armies of the Northern Confederacy is destroyed.

v. 41-43 When God has finished this phase of his program, the Antichrist enters into Palestine and with his almost intact powers and might, subdues all enemies and establishes his throne there.

v. 44 As he rules with an iron hand, and reaps the fruit of an unearned victory, he receives disturbing news from the East. This is probably the beginning of the gigantic invasion described in Revelation 9:13-21.

An army of two hundred million men is descending upon the Holy Land.

The River Euphrates has been dried up.

At this point the Antichrist musters his forces, goes forth with great fury to destroy the invaders.

The opposing armies meet on the plains of Armageddon.

Describe the awesome array of military might.

As they wait for the strategic moment to precipitate an awful carnage there appears the sing of “the Son of man”. Matt 24.

This sign melts the hostility and hatred and unites this ungodly force as one, to fight against the returning Lord Jesus. This is the scene David saw through prophetic eyes in Psalm 2, “Why do the nations rage and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take council together, against God and His Anointed. Let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us. He who sitteth in the heavens shall laugh. He shall have them in derision.”

Revelation 17:14 “Thee shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them; for He is Lord of Lords and King of kings.”

How will God deal with the nation?

God again will destroy His enemies with natural and supernatural means. Rev. 19

Zechariah 12 – He will cut them in pieces

He will smite the men with terror and blindness and madness.

Zechariah 14

Their flesh shall rot away. Their eyes corrode. Their tongue decay. The carnage will be indescribable.

Rev. 9:15 – “And the four angels were loosed, who were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, to slay the third part of men.”

God will only stop when His enemies lie crushed and broken. Then the beast and the false prophet will be cast

into the lake of fire. Then comes the Judgment of the nations. Sheep to the Millennium; Goats to hell.

Picture a world without Communism as an active force.

Describe some of the judgments of the Tribulation.

The first four seal judgments are connected with the defeat of Russia.

The fifth with the souls of martyred tribulation saints.

The sixth depicts the total collapse of the moral and political systems... Anarchy Describe the next events chronologically

1. War in the heavens – Satan cast out. Rev 12. His first major task on earth was to incite the Kings of the North and South to attack Palestine.

2. The fifth trumpet – “Hell let loose.” 5 months of pain. Rev 9

3. The first bowl = a foul and painful sore Rev 16:1-2

4. The sea became blood ... everything therein died. Rev 16:3

5. The rivers and fountains became blood. Rev 16:4

6. Humanity is scorched by fire = a great heat; the blasphemed Rev 16:8-9

7. God poured out His wrath upon the throne of the beast. Darkness enveloped the kingdom and great pain gripped their body. Instead of repenting they blasphemed God. Rev 16:10-11

8. The river Euphrates is dried up. Rev 16:12

9. The Far Eastern armies march, two hundred million men. Rev 9:13-21. Describe the confrontation. The scene as depicted in Psalm 2

10. Describe also the coming of the Son of man. Matt 24... Rev 19

11. The final conflict. Earth's last great battle. Zech 12 and 14; Rev 17:21

The fulfillment at Dan 2 - "The stone which smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."

The beast and the false prophet are taken and cast into hell.

The nations of the earth are judged.

The goats are banished into hell - the sheep go with the Lord into the Millennium.

Daniel 12

The events described in the fourth vision of Daniel beginning in Ch. 10 has its climax in the great tribulation and the resurrection which follows.

This vision of Daniel's constitutes a revelation of the major events of the time of the end.

These may be summarized as follows:

1. The revelation of a world ruler.
2. A world war.
3. A world religion
4. A time of great tribulation for Israel.
5. Deliverance of the godly remnant at the end of the tribulation.
6. Resurrection and judgment
7. Reward of the righteous v. 1 This verse reveals that this is a time of unprecedented persecution coming for the people of Israel.

Jeremiah refers to this time as "the time of Jacob's trouble". Jer 30:7

The Lord also warned Israel of that time and instructed them to "flee to the mountains."

"For there shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matt 24:21-22.

When we study Rev chapters 6 thru 19 and note the catastrophes which descend upon the world as the seals are broken, the trumpets are blown, and the vials are poured out, we can visualize the decimation and extermination of the human race, except the days of judgment are shortened.

In their distress Israel is specially aided by Michael the archangel.

v. 2 The Resurrections

As the climax to the time of tribulation there will be a resurrection from the dead.

Who will be resurrected at this resurrection?

1. All those who have died in Christ after the Rapture of the Church. Rev 20:4-6

2. Old Testament saints will be raised at this time.

As the Lord's coming is in two phases ... so is the first resurrection.

1. The resurrection at the rapture of the Church

2. Those resurrected at the Lord's coming to earth, prior to the Millennium Finally, there will be the resurrection of the unbeliever prior to the judgment of the Great White throne.

As a point of interest let us look at the different resurrection of the Scriptures.

1. The resurrection of Christ.

2. At the resurrection of Christ there was a token resurrection of O.T. saints.

Matt 27:52-53 "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints that slept arose and came out of the

graves after this resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared to many.”

1. Then there will be the resurrection of N.T. believers.

2. The resurrection of O.T. saints and martyred believers of the tribulation period, prior to the setting up of the Millennial kingdom.

3. The resurrection of the wicked dead prior to the Great White Throne.

v. 3 The reward of the righteous.

v. 4 The conclusion of the Revelation

The impact and import of Daniel’s vision would not be fully realized until the time of the end.

The end times will be recognizable in that men “shall run to and fro”. The age will be characterized by restlessness.

Also “knowledge shall be increased.”

This increase of knowledge will be seen in two areas, the physical and the spiritual.

First the physical

Describe the tremendous development in communications - the arts - the sciences - culture - natural phenomena.

Knowledge has increased more in the last 50 years than during all previous recorded human history.

By means of radio, television, automatic printing presses, illiteracy has almost disappeared in many developing countries.

Consider also the field of medicine. Biology-Physiology-Surgery-Chemistry-Physics-Literature-Agriculture-Electronics-Astronomy-Meteorology.

Men have also topped what many believe to be the secret of the Universe. The splitting of the atom and the discovery of atomic energy through nuclear fission.

To keep up with this “Intellectual Explosion” places of higher education are inadequate and we, the people, are being taxed to capacity to provide more learning institutions.

The Word of God, through Daniel, described this current condition 2,500 years ago.

The tragedy of this enlightened age is that with the increase of knowledge and worldly wisdom, man understands less about God.

Secondly, the increase in the spiritual sphere particularly in the area of prophecy. Describe.

At the conclusion of the vision Daniel sees two individuals, one on one side of the Tigris and the other on the other side.

These no doubt were angelic beings.

One of these angels said to a man who was clothed in fine linen and who stood above the waters of the river. How long will it be to the end of these wonders?

Daniel observes that this man raised both hands to heaven, and swore by “Him that liveth forever”. – God Almighty Then he informed Daniel that the things spoken of in the vision would be finished or accomplished in “a time, times and a half a time”. 3 ½ years.

Daniel is bewildered, he cannot understand and asks, "O my Lord, what shall be at the end of these things?"

v. 9-13 The concluding explanation by the angel.

The angel says to Daniel in answer to his question, "these words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

However two things are revealed.

1. The saints will be purified.
2. The true character of the wickedness of the human heart will be revealed.

The wise please take note

In verses 11-12 two important revelations are given to help us determine the duration of the time of the end.

From the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away and the abomination of desolation is set up, until the time of the end will be 1,290 days.

1260 days is 3 ½ years. Why the extra 30 days?

The 1260 day period will culminate with the second advent of Christ to the earth.

This is followed by several divine judgments

1. The judgment of the nations. Matt 25:31-46
2. The regathering and judgment of Israel Eze 20:34-38

These great judgments beginning with the living on earth and purging out of unbelievers who have worshipped the beast, although handled quickly will require time.

By the 1335 days or 75 days after the second advent these great judgments will have been completed and the Millennium kingdom brought into being.

Those who attain to this period are those who have been judged worthy to enter the kingdom. Hence they are called "Blessed."

I believe we are a privileged generation.

Daniel's prophecies have more meaning today than ever before.

In the light of world conditions the how many not be far distant when faithful saints in the midst of great trial in the great tribulation will turn to these pages of Scripture and find in them strength and comfort and courage to remain true even though it means a martyr's death.

Prophecy in Daniel

Daniel 3

The two important events are (1) the making of an image of gold, and (2) the deliverance of the Hebrew children from the fiery furnace.

The building of this image was the king's reaction to the revelation of Ch. 2 where he is depicted as the head of gold. Pride Proverbs 29:23

"A man's pride will bring him low, but honor shall uphold the humble in heart."

Proverbs 16:18

"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Read v. 1-7

The image was 90 ft high and 9 ft broad.

When it was built all the chief men of the kingdom were gathered before it.

Then they were instructed that at a given signal they were to fall down and worship it.

Those who failed to do so would be cast into a furnace of fire.

Read vs. 8-12

The accusations of the Chaldeans against the three Jews. Their accusations were three-fold.

1. They have no regard for the king
2. They do not serve the king's gods

3. They do not worship the image.

Any one of these accusations if proven meant death.

Read vs 13-18

The Hebrews are brought before the king.

Usually men who were accused of such serious matters would have been slain immediately.

The king evidently had a high regard for these men and in spite of his anger gave them a second chance. See v. 15

Note the challenge of the king at the end of v. 15

“And who is that God, that shall deliver you out of my hands?”

All this despite what he said in Ch. 2:46-47

This describes the arrogance of the king.

See Acts 12:20-23. Herod eaten with worms.

In contrast to the arrogance of the king, note the quiet confidence of the three Hebrews.

v. 16 “There is no need for us to answer you in this matter.”

v. 17 They state positively that their God is able to deliver them.

v. 18 They also face the alternative that God might not deliver them. They did not doubt God’s ability to do this, but allowed for the will and purpose of God. Either way, they affirmed that they would not worship the golden image. See Ex. 20:4-6. These men were fully resigned to the will of God.

Job 13-15 “Though He slay me yet will I trust Him.”

Read vs 19-23

Daniel's companions cast into the furnace.

The king is full of fury – heat the furnace seven times more than usual.

These men had really punctured the pride of the king consequently he lost his temper and judgment.

Heating the furnace to seven times its normal heat would not increase the torment of the offenders.

Actually to have cooled the furnace would have added to their torment.

v. 20 Mighty men were assigned to bind these men.

v. 21 They were bound in their clothes.

v. 22 The flames were so hot that the men who bound them were burned.

v. 23 The three were thrown into the furnace.

Read v. 24-27

The miraculous deliverance from the furnace.

v. 24 The king looked into the furnace and saw a strange sight.

1. instead of three men there were four

2. instead of being bound they were free.

3. instead of writing in anguish in the flames, they were walking around making no attempt to escape.

4. The fourth figure was like unto the Son of God.

v. 27 The king realizes that this must be of God working
"You servants of the Most High God, come forth." The Hebrew children came forth.

There was no question that a mighty miracle had been performed.

1. The hair of the men had not been singed.
2. Their garments had not been damaged with the fire.
3. They did not even have the smell of burning.

This is a picture of the deliverance of Israel, particularly at the end of the Tribulation, when they will be in fiery affliction.

Isaiah 43:1-2

“Fear not for I have redeemed you, I have called you by My name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers they shall not overflow you; when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon you.”

v. 28 Nebuchadnezzar’s acknowledgment of God. He did this in Ch. 2.

v. 29-30 The king’s decree

The chapter brings to our notice the age long dilemma of the Christian – Obedience to God – or man.

The chapter is a thrilling account of three young men who remained true to God under severe trial.

The chapter also demonstrates God’s ability to help His children even in impossible situations.

Chapter 3 is the introduction to Chapter 4.

We see for the last time Daniel’s three companions, there is no record of their subsequent experiences.

Daniel 7

Daniel's first vision: The four great Beasts.

Read verses 1-3

Daniel's dream chronologically occurred between ch. 4 & 5.

Daniel had an experience with God which left him considerably shaken. When he regained control of himself, he was so impressed that he wrote it down, this he calls "the sum of the matter."

v. 2 In the vision, four winds are seen striving on a great sea.

Symbolically the sea represents the mass of humanity or the nations of the world.

See Matt 13:47 "The net cast into the sea"

Rev 17:15 "The waters which you saw are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues."

Rev 13:1 "The beast rose up out of the sea, etc."

The striving of the wind upon the sea is probably symbolic of God's sovereign power in conflict with sinful man.

The history of the Gentiles is the record of God striving with the nations and ultimately bringing them into subjection when Christ returns to reign.

The first beast: Babylon - compare with Ch. 2 Head of gold.

Read verse 4 - A lion with eagles wings

Lion = King of beasts, the jungle - strength - power

Eagle's wings = King of the birds of the air - strength - speed. This describes Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom.

Daniel saw the wings plucked and the lion made to stand upon his feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

This was Nebuchadnezzar's experience. See Ch. 4

His lion-like power was taken from him and he was humbled.

Also in Ch. 5 the empire which he had established was conquered - defeated.

The second beast: Medo-Persia. Breast-arms of silver.

Read v. 5 - a bear - powerful, ferocious, less majestic, less swift, less glorious.

It raised itself up on one side - Persia was greater than the Medes Three ribs in its mouth - These represent nations which had been subdued, conquered.

Devour much flesh - this refers to additional conquests.

The third beast: Greece - belly-thighs of bronze

Read v. 6 - A leopard with four heads and four wings

This symbol denotes the swiftness of Alexander's conquests, and also the stealth. Describe.

After Alexander's death the Grecian kingdom was divided between his four generals.

The fourth beast: Rome - legs of iron, feet & toes of iron & clay.

Read v. 7-8

This beast was so terrible that it could not be likened unto any known species.

The description given here describes the Roman Empire.

Dreadful and terrible – strong exceedingly – great iron teeth – devoured and broke in pieces – stamped the residue with its feet.

The Roman generals were ruthless in their conquests.

This beast also had ten horns.

v. 8 As Daniel gazed on this beast he saw another little horn emerging from its head, in the process it uprooted three of the first horns.

The little horn is then described.

It had eyes like a man and a mouth speaking great things. It was a man. This horn has been identified as the Antichrist.

Ch. 9:6 the prince that shall come

12:11 The abomination

Rev 13:1 the beast out of the sea

This one will head the revived Roman Empire.

Paul refers to him as “the man of sin” 2 Thess 2:4-8

Vision of the Ancient of days

Vs 9-10 These verses are a vision of heaven at the time of the final judgment of the nations.

Vs 11-12 describes the destruction of the antichrist and his empire V 13 Depicts the coming of the Son of man V 14 Describes the coming in of the fifth kingdom and the everlasting dominion of God

Daniel 9

Daniel's prayer.

Daniel's prophecy of the seventy weeks.

Let us look at Daniel's prayer. Daniel, the man of prayer.

It extends from v. 4 through 19

It is divided into three parts.

v. 4 Adoration vs. 5-15 Confession v. 16-19 The Petition v. 2 tells us what prompted the prayer.

Daniel understood certain prophecies (Jeremiah 25 and 29)

Jeremiah under inspiration wrote that:

"The land and the city were to be desolate for 70 years."

Then these would be rebuilt.

Daniel realized that the time for the fulfillment of this prophecy had almost arrived. He also realized that the people were not ready for the restoration, so he confessed their sin and prayed for them.

Notice the pattern of his prayer.

Adoration – Confession – Petition

1. He gives to God the highest possible place. "The great and awesome God."

2. Then he confesses the wickedness of the nation. He says We have sinned, transgressed, committed iniquity, done wickedly, rebelled, forsaken the precepts and ordinances.

All Israel has transgressed. V. 11

Though God had judged them for that sin and though they were suffering for their sin, the captivity, yet they did not pray and confess to God. V. 13

3. Having cleared all sin out of the way through confession Daniel presents his petitions.

- a. He asks God to turn His anger from them.
- b. He asks that the reproach be taken away from them.
- c. H asks that god's presence will fill the sanctuary.
- d. Then finally Daniel admitted that there was nothing in them to deserve this, but appealed to God's great mercies. V. 18

The prophecy of the seventy weeks

While Daniel was praying, v. 20 Gabriel the archangel came and touched him. v.21

The reason for Gabriel's coming to Daniel was to show him a great prophecy. V. 22-23

The verses 24 to 27 contain the prophecy which has been called the Backbone of prophecy. This is entirely Jewish.

v. 24 "Seventy weeks are determined" cut off or set apart

This could also be interpreted "seventy sevens". Week contains 7 years.

These are weeks of years - or 490 years = 7×70 years.

Verse 24 informs us what will happen at the expiration of these 490 years.

His death:

1. Israel's transgressors will be finished.
2. Their sins will be brought to an end.
3. Reconciliation for their iniquity will be made.

His reign:

1. Everlasting righteousness will be brought in.
2. All visions and prophecy will be sealed up.
3. The most Holy will be anointed.

Shekinah glory will return to the temple.

When was this period of 490 years to begin?

v. 25 from the going out of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem.

This commandment was given in 445 B. C. See Nehemiah 2 Artaxerxes From this time unto Messiah the Prince, was 69 weeks or 483 years.

For some reason Gabriel separates the last week of seven years from the 69 which were to be completed at the coming of the Messiah the Prince.

These 69 weeks are divided into two periods.

Seven weeks or 49 years.

Sixty-two weeks or 434 years.

During the first 49 years the streets and walls of Jerusalem would be built, the city would be built in troublesome times. The books of Ezra, Nehemiah describe this.

v. 26 And after threescore and two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, without being recognized. 483 years Sir Robert Anderson calculates that it was exactly 483 years to the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem as Messiah.

Each Gospel writer reports this. Matt 21

Within a few days of His entry into the city He was crucified.

After threescore and two weeks cut off.

The prophecy continues

“The people of the prince shall come and destroy the city,” etc. fulfilled in A. D. 70. Romans The future of the Jewish nation foretold war and desolation till the end.

v. 27 There is still an other 7 years to be accounted for. The Great Parenthesis.

This final week has been postponed by God and is still future.

This period begins with the signing of a treaty between the Antichrist and the Jews. The duration 7 years.

Tribulation After 3 ½ years he will break the treaty – will stop all temple worship – will set his own image there and demand obedience and worship – it will remain there until the Lord comes – and the final judgment will be meted out upon the desolator.

Daniel 11

The prophecy revealed in this chapter extends from the reign of Darius the Mede (589 B.C.) to the last Gentile ruler in the time of the end. (Antichrist) (Man of sin)

The chapter divides into two main sections.

History

1. v. 1-35 describe the major rulers of the Persian Empire, then the verses which follow describe some of the important events of the Empires that followed, concluding with the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes. There is no mention or record of the Church Age in the chapter. This Age chronologically fits in between v. 35 and 36.

2. The second section – v. 36-45 deals with the last Gentile ruler who will be in power (Tribulation) when Christ returns to the earth. The Antichrist. The first 35 verses cover a period of approx. 200 yrs. These verses also contain approx. 135 prophetic statements and are all fulfilled without exception. So accurate are these prophecies that the critics have said that they could not possibly have been written before the events. This is the background in which is set the futuristic aspect of Daniel's prophecy concerning the last days.

v. 36 Read.

The king is the Antichrist – the little horn of Daniel 7 – he will be the absolute ruler in the end time.

“He shall do according to His will”

“He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god.” The abomination of desolation. Dan 12:11; Rev 13

“He shall speak marvelous things against the God of Gods”

On his head are blasphemies. Rev. 13:5; also v. 1

“He shall reign until God's purposes are fulfilled”

He will be destroyed when the Lord returns to earth.

Rev. 17 The religious side destroyed.

Rev. 18 The political side destroyed.

v. 37 Neither shall he regard the (pagan) gods of his fathers.

Nor regard the desire of women. He is inhuman.

Nor regard any god including GOD.

He will be a proud monstrosity. He will not have the affections and emotions of an ordinary man.

v. 38 He will honor the god of war. Rev 13:7

He will invest the wealth of the world in war.

v. 39 He will divide the land and appoint rulers.

These verses give us a complete analysis of the character of this super-man.

There is a combination of materialism, militarism, and religion.

This man will force his worship on all men.

He is Satan's masterpiece – Satan's substitute for Jesus Christ.

Therefore properly identified as the Antichrist.

v. 40 Read the first phrase of this verse.

The breaking up of world rule by the Antichrist. This describes the invasion of the kings of the north and south against Israel and also against its protector. The battle that takes place is described in Ezek 38:18-22.

The result is about 5/6 of the invading forces are slain. This apparently is done by God. Ezek 39:2. (7 months to bury the dead. Ezek 39:12).

The counter attack. Last phrase v. 40. He shall enter into the countries.

v. 41-43 The invasion of the middle east countries by the western forces under the Antichrist. Roman Victory is not complete Moab – Edom – Ammon escape.

v. 44 After the Antichrist has established himself in Palestine, news from the north and east will trouble him.

v. 45 Read between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.
The world kingdom or empire is continuing to break up.

This is made the more sinister by the drying up of the
Euphrates. Rev 16:12

Two hundred million men advance from the Far East.
Rev 9

Before the East and West fight, a sign appears in
heaven. The sin of the Son of Man. Matt 24:30.

This sign causes them to turn from their hostility toward
each other, and to unite to fight the Lord. Psalm 2

The result of this battle is found in (Zech 12:1, 3, 5; Zech
14:12-13)

“Supper of the great God” Rev. 19:17

“He shall come to his end”

At the return of Christ to the earth. Rev 19:17-21