

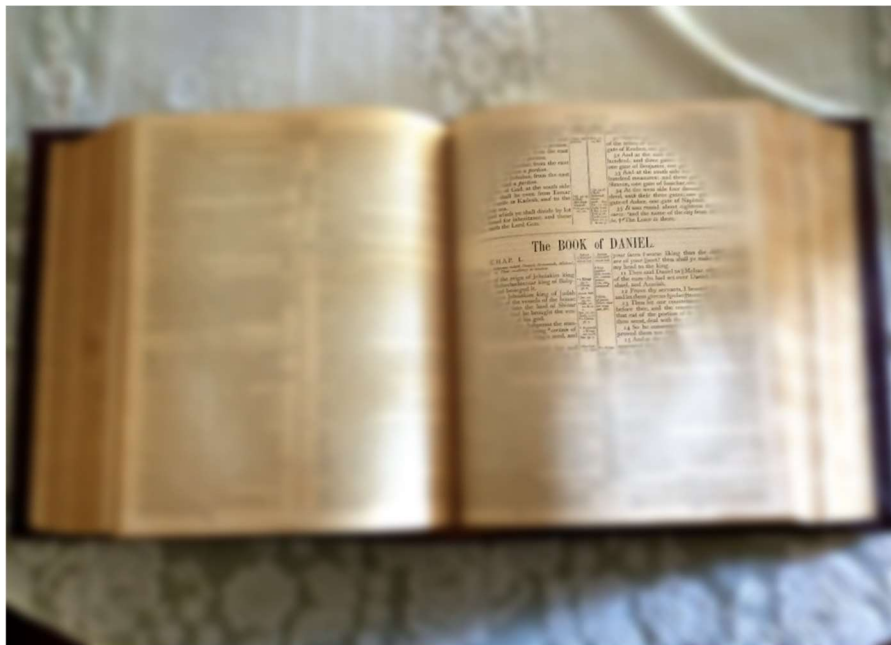
THE BOOK OF DANIEL

& THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY



By Dr. Thomas Haney

Chuck Eaton, Contributor



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HOPE LOOKS UP MINISTRIES

**THE BOOK OF DANIEL
& THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY**

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BOOK OF DANIEL BACKGROUND

Daniel, A Book of Prophecy

Daniel is a Book of Prophecy. One fourth of the books in the Bible are of prophetic nature (eschatological). Prophecies in Scriptures are either Fulfilled or Unfulfilled. The main subject of Prophecy is Jesus Christ. Other topics include Israel, the gentile nations, evil, Satan the Man of Sin, the Great Tribulation period and how this age will end. While the church is also a subject of prophecy, it is never mentioned in the Old Testament. In Isaiah God tells us that all prophecies “*will come to pass.*” This is an amazing statement that only God can make.

Isaiah 46:9-10 NLT 9 Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. 10 Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

This is God’s promise to us that His Prophecies will all come true. It’s made evident when we study the Fulfilled prophecies, which should be an encouragement concerning the Unfulfilled Prophecies.

Bible Scholars have identified 300 references to 61 specific prophecies of the Messiah were fulfilled by Jesus Christ. What are the odds of only 8 prophecies coming true about a single person?

Mathematicians have calculated the odds are 1 in 10 to the 21st power (10^{21}). Prophecies include: Virgin Birth, 30 pieces silver, Son of David, hands and feet pierced, cast lots for clothing, riding a donkey, Born in Bethlehem.

While the Study of Prophecy is a dominant part of the Bible, it is often ignored or skimmed over. Why, likely because it often takes much study to adequately absorb its meaning. The books of Isaiah (the Prince of Prophets) and Daniel (the King of Prophets) are very important to understand future events and are often attacked by Satan and unbelievers.

Book of Daniel Validation

Liberal and Conservative scholars have debated the book for centuries. Much of the controversy has to do with dating the writing of the book. However, there are strong evidences as to the date in the Septuagint (Greek version of the Old Testament) and the Dead Sea Scrolls. The arguments continue. Sir Isaac Newton declared; “*To reject Daniel is to reject the Christian religion.*”

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There is considerable evidence of the authenticity of the Book of Daniel. No other book has been more vindicated by history.

- **Quoted by Jesus in the New Testament.**

Matthew 24:15-16 NIV 15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand-- 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Mark 13:14 NIV 14 "When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation' standing where it does not belong--let the reader understand--then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

- **Quoted by Ezekiel, a contemporary of Daniel**

Ezekiel 14:13-14 NIV 13 "Son of man, if a country sins against me by being unfaithful and I stretch out my hand against it to cut off its food supply and send famine upon it and kill its people and their animals, 14 even if these three men--Noah, Daniel and Job--were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign LORD.

Ezekiel 28:3 NIV 3 Are you wiser than Daniel? Is no secret hidden from you?

- Daniel is one of only two persons of which no evil is spoken of; Daniel and Joseph.
- 332 BC Alexander the Great conquest of Jerusalem: Priest Jaddua showed him references to himself in Daniel and the city was spared. *Josephus*
- The Book of Daniel was included in the original Hebrew text written in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah.
 - Septuagint Translation (LXX) (Greek Old Testament) compiled from 285-270 B.C. by 72 scholars at Alexandria Egypt. It is the primary quoted text in the New Testament.
 - Masoretic Text (MT), Probably completed in the 10th Century AD. This is the Hebrew Text of the Old Testament written by the Masorettes (Jewish Rabbis)

Daniel Timeline

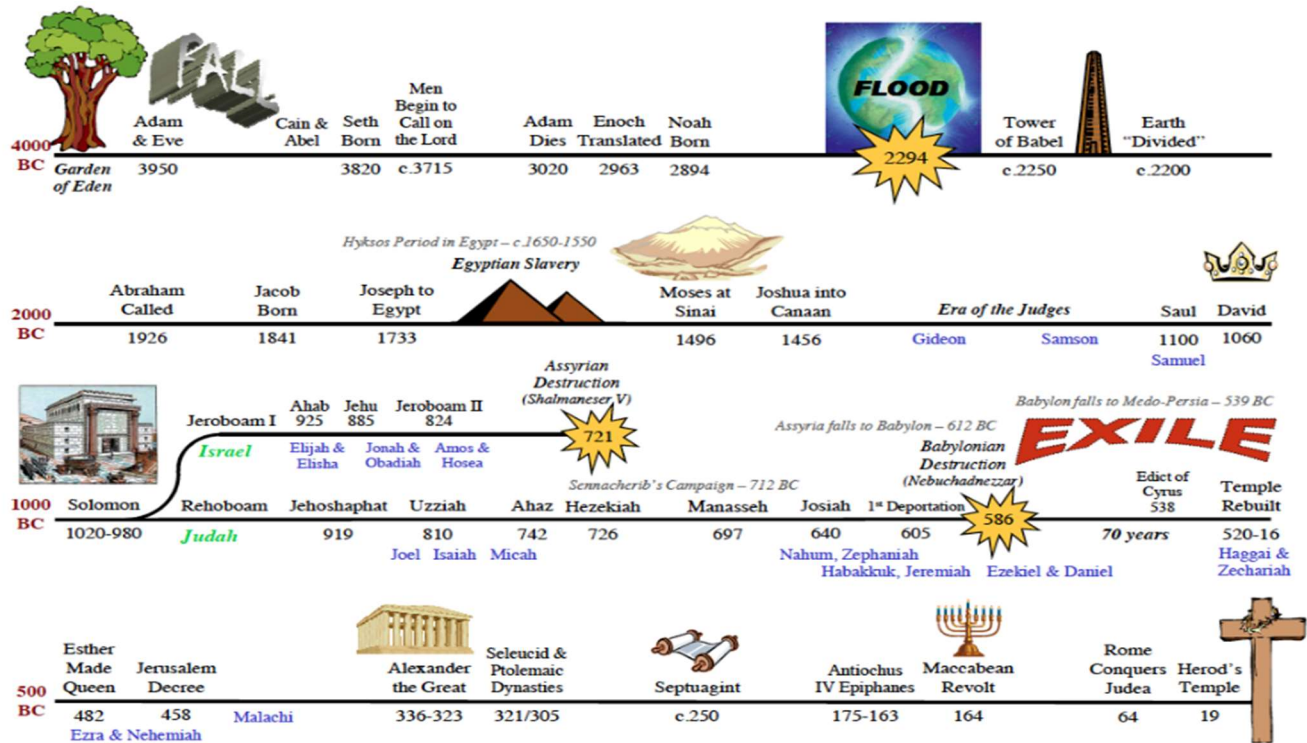
The book was written by Daniel who as a teenager, possibly about 15 years old, was kidnapped from a royal family in Judah and deported to Babylon to assist with the leadership of the Jewish exiles. There he spent the remainder of his 85 years. As previously mentioned, Daniel had the vision and Nehemiah is the one who is commissioned to return and build the Temple. Nehemiah was 75-80 years younger than Daniel and is very possible that they had very little contact during the short time their lives overlapped.

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The Book of Daniel begins in 605 BC when Babylon conquered Jerusalem and exiled Daniel, His three friends and many others. Babylon is replaced in 539 by the Medo-Persian besiegers (Assyrians) and Daniel goes even later.

Old Testament Timeline

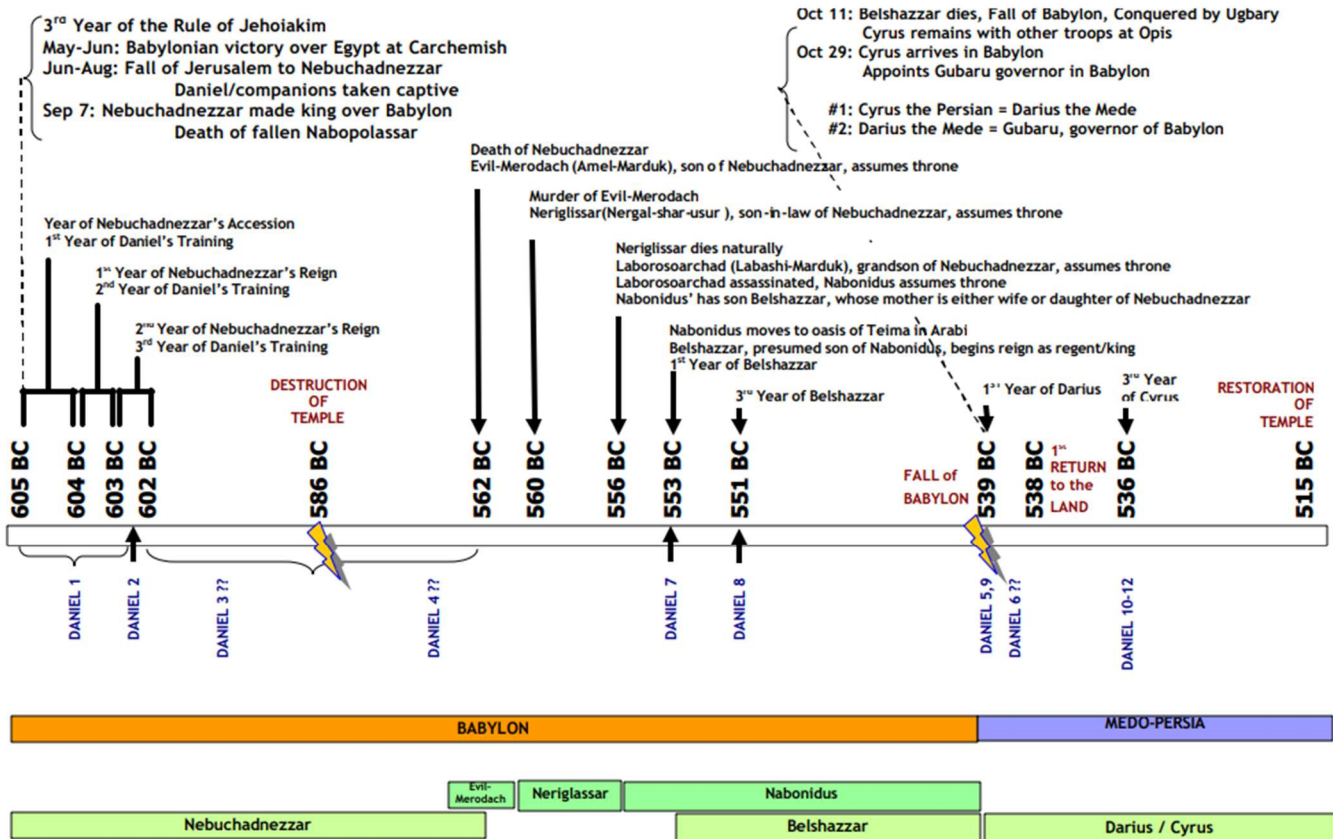


- Adam to Noah and the Flood 1700 years,
- Noah to Moses 800 years
- Moses to David 436 years
- David to Daniel 455 years
- Daniel to Jesus 600 years

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Timeline of the Book of Daniel



CHAPTER OUTLINE

Chapters 2 – 7

Written in Aramaic (Gentile Focused)

Chapter 4

Written by a Gentile King

Chapters 8 – 12

Written in Hebrew (Israel Focused)

Historical: Chapter 1 – 6

Visions: Chapter 7 – 12

1. Daniel Exiled to Babylon
2. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream, Image of a Man
3. Worship Golden Image, Fiery Furnace
4. Nebuchadnezzar's Vision of a Great Tree
5. Hand Writing on the Wall
6. Daniel and the Lion's Den

7. Four Great Beasts, God's View
8. Vision of a Ram and a Goat
9. Daniel's Prayer, 70 Weeks Prophecy
10. Vision of a Glorious Man
11. The "Silent Years," In Advance
12. Start of the "End Times"

Why Study the Book of Daniel?

Daniel was written to encourage the exiled Jews by revealing God's program for them, both during and after the time of Gentile power in the world.

“Prominent above every other theme in the book of Daniel is God’s sovereign control over the affairs of all rulers and nations, and their final replacement with the True King.”

It is clear, the book teaches that God, in His sovereignty, allowed the Gentiles to dominate Israel, Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, Rome and all the way to the Second Advent of Christ. These stages of Gentile power are set forth in Chapters 2-7. He repeats the theme in Chapters 8-12, and makes a focus on the Messiah coming to rule the world in glory over all the people.

The second theme woven into the fabric of Daniel is the display of God's sovereign power through miracles. This is one of the six periods of miracles in the Bible:

1. Creation and the Flood
2. The Patriarchs and Moses
3. Elijah and Elisha
4. Jesus and the Apostles
5. The Second Advent
6. The Time of Daniel

Many of the messages of Daniel are dreams given to Daniel and/or angel appearances with messages to Daniel. Daniel has been dated by imperial Aramaic and archeological discoveries to have been written in the 605 BC time frame, but many have attacked that conclusion because of all the prophecies that have been fulfilled.

Why Study the Book of Daniel?

- Daniel prophecies accurately cover over 2500 years of world history.
- Provides an accurate picture of History in advance.
- Daniel is the key to unlocking the prophecies of Revelation including the End Times
- Contains the most amazing passage in the Bible: the 70 Weeks of Daniel.

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DANIEL CHAPTER 1 - DANIEL EXILED TO BABYLON

Why Were the Jews Exiled? - Fall of Jerusalem

The Lord had compassion on His people Israel and was warning them again and again, through His messengers, to return to Him. But they continually mocked God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets. The result was the Lord sent His wrath upon them through the Chaldeans (Babylonians) who took many into exile. 2 Chronicles describes what happened.

2 Chronicles 36:15-21 NASB20

15 Yet the LORD, the God of their fathers, sent [word] to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; 16 but they [continually] mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against His people, until there was no remedy. 17 So He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or frail; He handed [them] all over to him. 18 He brought all the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and his officers, to Babylon. 19 Then they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its fortified buildings with fire and destroyed all its valuable articles. 20 He took into exile those who had escaped from the sword to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, 21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept the Sabbath until seventy years were complete.

Daniel was taken captive following the first besieged of Jerusalem. The city was besieged two more times ending with the burning of Jerusalem and destruction of the temple, which were all in Jeremiah's prophecy. Ezekiel was taken in the second siege.

Jeremiah 25:8-13 NIV

8 Therefore the LORD Almighty says this: "Because you have not listened to my words, 9 I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon," declares the LORD, "and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin. 10 I will banish from them the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, the sound of millstones and the light of the lamp. 11 This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 12 "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever. 13 I will bring on that land all the things I have spoken against it, all that are written in this book and prophesied by Jeremiah against all the nations.

Ezekiel and Jeremiah prophesy's help us understand why they were taken captive.

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Daniel 1:1-7 NIV

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. 3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility-- 4 young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. 5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. 6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

Personal Background of Daniel. It begins with the third year, by Babylonian dating, or the fourth in the Judean system (605 BC). Jehoiakim is the king of Judah and Nebuchadnezzar plundered Jerusalem. Resulting in:

1. Many Jews were conscripted for training: physically unblemished, mentally sharp and socially poised. They were probably all 14-17 years old.
2. They were renamed with Babylonian names. They were; Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Their new Babylonian names were Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, respectively.
3. These four men stood up to the trials that allowed them to remain loyal to their God and yet over whelming to the Babylonians.
4. Even with a desire to belittle them, they moved to the head of the class and Daniel was the greatest.

Nebuchadnezzar was a ruthless King. He was first a warrior leading the Babylonian armies in over taking many other kingdoms. He also was a "Builder King" by building up Babylon into a magnificent city unlike any other. He is best known for conquering Jerusalem and taking the Israelite people into exile.

This is an interesting prophetic note about Nebuchadnezzar. After his demise and burial, Nebuchadnezzar's corpse was exhumed and pierced by his enemies' swords, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah.

Isaiah 14:19-20 NIV 19 But you are cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch; you are covered with the slain, with those pierced by the sword, those who descend to the stones of the pit. Like a corpse trampled underfoot, you will not join them in burial, for you have destroyed your land and killed your people. Let the offspring of the wicked never be mentioned again.

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Daniel 1:8-21 NIV

8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. 9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, 10 but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." 11 Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, 12 "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." 14 So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. 15 At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. 16 So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. 17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. 18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so, they entered the king's service. 20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. 21 And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Unlike Daniel, most of us at that young age are very impressionable and would be awed in what they were seeing in this wealthy new country. It takes a special person to stand up for the principle were taught by our parents, let alone to do so in our youth. His guard/tutor feared for His life, if he could not get these young men to comply. I think it was very wise of Daniel to not only refuse to eat their food, but offered a solution, a test to demonstrate their actions.

Think about situations you have been in where you chose not to do what you know is right. If you are like me, the pressure to be liked and accepted are strong motivators to give in. Daniel trusted God to support his decision and God in return rewarded him for a lifetime. God rewards those who obey Him.

Many Bible leaders failed the test and compromised their values.

Adam – Ate the Forbidden Fruit - Lost Paradise

Sarah – Sent Abraham to Servant Hagar – Lost Peace in the Middle East

Esau – For a Meal - Lost Birth Right

David – Committed Adultery and Murder – Lost his child

Judas – Betrayed Jesus – Lost his eternal soul

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Daniel was a Godly man his whole life. Here are some points that highlight his life.

Daniels Life

- Personally, received the most astonishing prophecies (Daniel 9 – 12)
- Authenticated by Jesus (Matthew 24:15)
- His Righteousness, In a Class of Noah & Job (Ezekiel 14:14)
- Always obeyed the Lord
- Ministered under four Kings
- Lived to see the Jews return to their land.

Elements Of Daniel's Moral Heroism

- Discernment
- Resistance to Evil
- Power to Voice Disagreement
- Physical Courage
- Perseverance
- Determination
- Meekness
- Good Sense

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DANIEL CHAPTER 2 - NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM – IMAGE OF A MAN

Chapters 2-7 are written in Aramaic (Chaldean: Gentile focus)

In the Bible, God often communicated through Dreams (Asleep) & Visions (Awake).

Numbers 12:6 *“When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in Dreams”*

God did not limit speaking through dreams to just his prophets, He also spoke to pagans, which is the case with King Nebuchadnezzar. It's amazing that God would speak to the vilest world leader of the time. This would be like Hitler being revealed the fall of the Berlin Wall, the demise of the USSR and the Second coming.

Daniel 2:1-12 NIV

1 In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. 2 So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, 3 he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means." 4 Then the astrologers answered the king, "May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it." 5 The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. 6 But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me." 7 Once more they replied, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will interpret it." 8 Then the king answered, "I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realize that this is what I have firmly decided: 9 If you do not tell me the dream, there is only one penalty for you. You have conspired to tell me misleading and wicked things, hoping the situation will change. So then, tell me the dream, and I will know that you can interpret it for me." 10 The astrologers answered the king, "There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. 11 What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans." 12 This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar was frightened by this dream and desperately needed someone to interpret it for him. Being a worldly man, it was his practice to rely on his wisemen (magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers). Requesting that they tell him the dream and interpret it was humanly impossible. Their failure made him furious and he order them all executed. Note Daniel was considered one of the wisemen. Hear is a situation where Daniel was in the right place and the right time. Daniel, like the wise men, couldn't identify or interpret the dream. However, Daniel knew who could, God.

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Dan 2:13-23 NIV

13 So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death. 14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. 15 He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. 16 At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him. 17 Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 18 He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven 20 and said: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. 21 He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. 22 He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. 23 I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king."

Daniel quickly moved into the dream interpretation business because Nebuchadnezzar was given dreams he could not interpret. What did Daniel do when he finds out that he is about to be put to death because he was considered one of the wise men? Daniel approached the King and asked for time to learn and interpret the dream. He went to the house of his friends, where they prayed and God revealed the dream to Daniel in a night vision. Daniel not only approaches Nebuchadnezzar with the dream, he gives all the credit for the interpretation of the dream to the God Jehovah. The point that he conveys to the king is in **Daniel 2:27-28**, the dreams will be a revealing of the secrets of the latter days. This will be the emphasis of the Book of Daniel; this dream refers to the end of the times of the Gentiles. This phrase, "the end of the time of the Gentiles" runs concurrently with "the latter days" of the nation of Israel. Both will come to their fulfillment during the Great Tribulation period.

This is an example of how we can seek answers to our troubles. TAKE TIME TO SEPARATE AND SEEK GOD, EXPECT AN ANSWER, COOPERATE WITH BELIEVERS AND COMMUNICATE THE ANSWER RECEIVED.

Dan 2:26-35 NIV

26 The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), "Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?" 27 Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these: 29 "As Your Majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. 30 As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind. 31 "Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue--an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in

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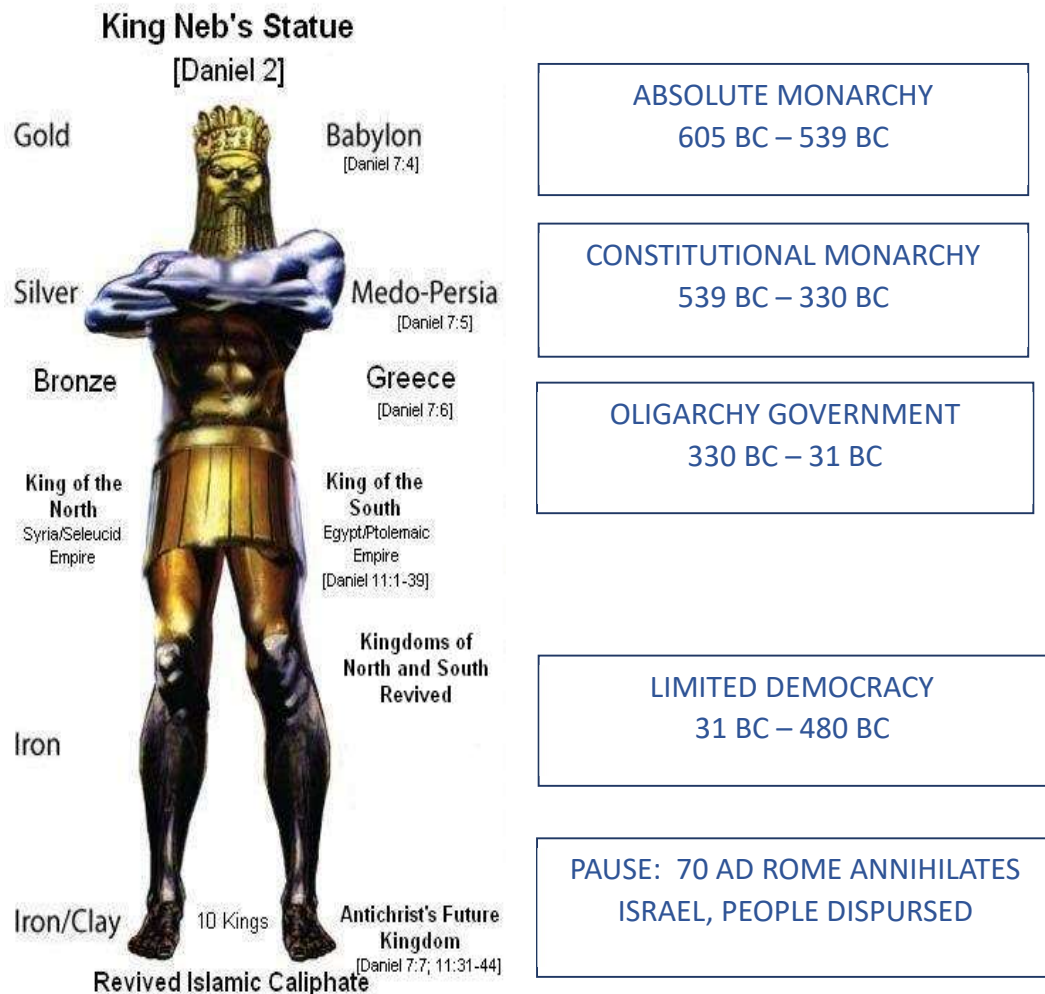
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appearance. 32 The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. 34 While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel's Vision of an Awe-inspiring Image

The awe-inspiring image was a strong man with the head of fine gold; the chest and arms of silver; his belly and his thighs of brass; his legs of iron; and his feet part iron and part clay. Daniel will give the interpretation but at his point he is just describing the image.

IMAGE OF A MAN



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Daniel 2:36-45 NIV

36 "This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. 37 Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; 38 in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold. 39 "After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. 40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron--for iron breaks and smashes everything--and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. 41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. 42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay. 44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands--a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

Daniel's Interpretation of the Image

Daniel will now interpret the dream as four kingdoms. Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom (Gold Head) was the first kingdom. The second kingdom that comes after the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar would be inferior and it would be a divided kingdom 539 BC (Medes and Persians) (Silver Arms & Chest). The next (third) inferior Kingdom would bear rule over all the earth; the Graeco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great 330 BC (Bronze Torso) and the fourth kingdom would be the Roman Empire 31 BC (2 Legs of Iron & Feet of Iron & Clay). It would be the fourth and last kingdom. There is no fifth kingdom, so we are currently in the suspended fourth kingdom today. This kingdom receives the most of the writing because Daniel is telling Nebuchadnezzar about the end of times (later times) and this will be the kingdom that is active in the latter times.

The Roman Empire fell apart and there have been a lot of men who tried to put it together again, but they have not succeeded. That was one of the missions of the Roman Catholic Church at the beginning, also Charlemagne, Napoleon, several emperors of Germany, the Hitler and Mussolini combination attempted it, but so far, the man has not yet appeared who will accomplish it. God is not quite ready for him to appear.

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At this point Daniel begins with the first of many prophecies about the Anti-Christ. He has about 35 aliases in the Scriptures, we will call him the Man of Sin here and he will bring back the Roman Empire. He will be a world dictator and rule the world just as Nebuchadnezzar did at the beginning, **Revelation 13**. He will be replaced by the Lord Jesus and Jesus will stop all rebellion, forcefully **Psalms 2:9**. He will be the stone which was cut out of the mountain without hands. He is not a man, but is God's Anointed. The Lord Jesus Himself made it clear that he is that Stone. **Matthew 21:44** and Paul wrote in I **Corinthians 3:11** that Jesus is that, Stone. He is the Rock of Salvation **Deuteronomy 32:15** and the Rock of Judgement **Deuteronomy 32:4**. He will come and put down the rebellion of earth against God **Revelation 19:11-21**. His coming will be climactic, catastrophic and cataclysmic. This world and its way of ruling have been judged and Christ will come as a result of that judgement. God is going to end man's little day down here. God's Kingdom will prevail and for 1000 years the earth will be tested under the personal reign of Christ. Apart from one brief moment when Satan and sin will be permitted to let everyone taste of the freedom of choice the Kingdom will continue on into eternity. **Revelation 20**.

Nebuchadnezzar worships Daniel and commands others to do the same. He wants to acknowledge the supremacy of the God of Daniel but the only way he knows how to do it is through this type of worship. Daniel is elevated in the kingdom, made a ruler over much of Babylon and chief of the chiefs. Daniel asked that his three friends also be exalted, but Daniel is supreme.

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DANIEL CHAPTER 3 - WORSHIP GOLDEN STATUE – FIERY FURNACE

Daniel 3:1-2, 4-6 NIV

1 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. 2 He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. 4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: 5 As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

Nebuchadnezzar erects a 90-foot tall, 9-foot wide golden statue, probably of himself. He dedicates this image with a worship time for the image. All were to worship the image or suffer terrible consequences. It appears that Nebuchadnezzar was very proud of all his accomplishments and wanted everyone to acknowledge his Greatness and worship him.

A similar image is described in **Revelation 13:14-15**: where everyone on earth was ordered to worship the image of the Beast (Antichrist). Those who would not worship the image would be killed.

Revelation 13:14-15 NIV

14 Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

Daniel 3: 8-9; 12-13 NIV

8 At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. 9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever. 12 But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon--Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego--who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up." 13 Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These men were brought before the king,

Daniel 3:15-18 NIV

15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

& THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY

As we know the three friends of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah did not worship the image. Following was a time of faith in which Nebuchadnezzar shows how little control he has over himself. He demands that they change their minds and worship him, but they respond; we have thought this out and this is what we should do. We will not worship you nor say what you want us to say. Our God is able to deliver us.

This is an example of True Faith: When we bring our requests to God and ask for healing, financial help or concern for our families, we should approach as did these men. I am willing to accept my fate as long as I know that God's will be done, whether or not the outcome is what I desperately want. Once our prayers are known, trust God and be confident that His will be done.

When we throw out our requests to God and say, "If You decide not to heal me, bring me that financial windfall, or save my business, it doesn't matter. All I want is Your will" That is **True Faith**.

Jon Courson

Daniel 3:19-23 NIV

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual 20 and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. 21 So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. 22 The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, 23 and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

Nebuchadnezzar, in his fury vented his anger towards these men and had a furnace of punishment heated to an almost uncontrollable temperature. Then threw the three men in the fire and in the process lost the lives of all who were handling them. The furnace apparently was an open furnace and Nebuchadnezzar described as one who was waiting for them to quickly be burnt alive was amazed to see them alive and walking about in the fire. In fact, he saw a fourth Man and described him as being in the form "like the Son of God." He did not look like Jesus, Nebuchadnezzar had no frame for saying that, but like a son of the gods. This was a miracle and everyone present knew that it was. These three, without Daniel even being present, represent the remnant which will be miraculously preserved during the Great Tribulation period. Jesus will be with them in the fire and in the preservation effort! He will not leave His people alone.

Daniel 24-27 NIV

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty." 25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." 26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL & THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY

Nebuchadnezzar comes and acknowledges that these are servants of the Most High God. They come out without a singe and not smelling like smoke even on their clothes. Nebuchadnezzar recognizes the omnipotence of the living god and His power in delivering these three men. He grants that their God is superior to his. These same three men have had the sentence of death upon them twice, twice they have been miraculously saved and twice they have been promoted.

Even this event was prophesied 150 years earlier by Isaiah.

Isiah 43:2 NASB20

*2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. **When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you.***

This is a reminder for us to have faith when we are in the fire knowing that God is with us and will protect us.



The Outlaw Bible Student

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

& THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY

DANIEL CHAPTER 4 - NEBUCHADNEZZAR VISION OF A GREAT TREE

Chapter 4 begins with the testimony of Nebuchadnezzar, the king. It shows the development in the faith of this man. In **Daniel 3:29** he had issued a decree and expressed a conviction. Here he gives a personal testimony. He gives the testimony and then goes back chronologically to explain how it happened.

He says this comes from a heart of peace. The same that any sinner receives when we know we have been accepted by God, forgiven by God, and are at peace with God. He has moved from speaking about the God of Hebrews to claiming him as his God. God has made peace with Nebuchadnezzar to make peace with God.

Daniel 4:1-7 NIV

1 King Nebuchadnezzar, To the nations and peoples of every language, who live in all the earth: May you prosper greatly! 2 It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. 3 How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation. 4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. 5 I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me. 6 So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me. 7 When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me.

Nebuchadnezzar begins to explain his personal problems which led to his form of insanity. He had another dream; the wise men of the kingdom could not interpret it, and finally, Daniel was called to interpret his dream. He was captured by hysteria and it showed itself in extreme emotionalism where he would move in any direction and to an extreme.

Daniel 4:8-12 NIV

THE VISION: *8 Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. 9 I said, "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you. Here is my dream; interpret it for me. 10 These are the visions I saw while lying in bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. 11 The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. 12 Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.*

The substance of the dream of Nebuchadnezzar centers around a tree that grew tall to heaven, wide enough to fill the earth. It was evidently an evergreen; it was beautiful and it produced fruit that was good to eat. A tree can represent a man; **Psalms 1:3**; a nation **Ezekiel 31:3-14**; the Kingdom of God, **Matthew 13:31**; and both Israel and the Gentiles, **Romans 11:16-24**. The tree here represents Nebuchadnezzar and his tie to the kingdom of Babylon.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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Daniel 4: 13-17 NIV

13 "In the visions I saw while lying in bed, I looked, and there before me was a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven. 14 He called in a loud voice: 'Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches. 15 But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field. " 'Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. 16 Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him. 17 " 'The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.'

The holy one or messenger is one of the angels of the Lord. They administer the world under the direction of God. Daniel and Revelation both reveal an entire order and explain some of their workings to the readers.

In the dream the tree was cut down, and a band of iron and brass was put around its stump; it will grow and flourish again in 7-years. The heart of the ruler, the tree was to be changed into that of a beast.

We learn three things from this dream:

1. God rules in the kingdoms of this earth. ***Psalms 2:2-6***
2. God gives power to the one he sets to receive power. ***Romans 13:1***
3. God gives the people the ruler that they deserve to serve over them.

INTREPRETATION: Daniel 4:19-27 NIV

19 Belshazzar answered, "My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries! 20 The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, 21 with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the wild animals, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds-- 22 Your Majesty, you are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth. 23 "Your Majesty saw a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live with the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.' 24 "This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: 25 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes. 26 The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

& THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY

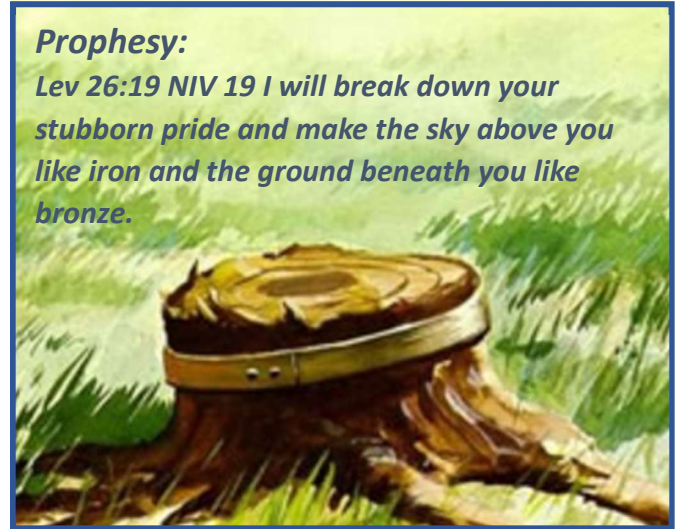
Daniel Interprets the Dream

Nebuchadnezzar had become his friend so the dream interpretation is a shock even to Daniel. He does not withhold any of the dream but gives it all to him. He begins the interpretation with a great deal of tact. The tree is Nebuchadnezzar and he and his kingdom have filled the world at that time. The tree will be cut off but not destroyed.

Nebuchadnezzar will live like an animal and not even recognize who he is. Daniel says this will happen because of the great pride that Nebuchadnezzar has. His hysteria has led to almost a manic-depressive psychosis. His hysteria had also led to amnesia; he thought he was an animal. This illness often runs in cycles and for Nebuchadnezzar it would be a cycle of seven years. This seems to be the last warning of God to Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 4:28-32 NIV

28 All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 Twelve months later... 30 he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" 31 Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. 32 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes." 33 Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled.



Prophecy:

Lev 26:19 NIV 19 I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze.

Nebuchadnezzar did not heed this warning but became even more proud and claimed all that he saw in the kingdom was the result of his efforts and his work. God took those words and let the prophecy curse fall on Nebuchadnezzar. He moves from the palace and becomes like an animal. Josephus confirms that **this event occurred in his history of the world.**

“Lycanthropy” – Lykos = wolf Anthropy = Man

The supernatural transformation of a person into a wolf as recounted in folk tales. A form of madness involving the delusion of being an animal, usually a wolf, with correspondingly altered behavior.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL & THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY

Daniel 4:35-37

35 All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" 36 At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

After 7 years, his reason is restored and he again gives a testimony that God is running things. His kingdom was restored to him and he gave all the glory to God. This is the last we read of Nebuchadnezzar. After his restoration, he lived about one year. Nebuchadnezzar's death was followed by a steady weakening of his regime. He died of an illness in 562BC. His son Amel-Marduk (Evil-Merodach) succeeded him as Babylon's next ruling monarch.

This is a story about Pride. Success brings pride and it is something we need to be aware of and to assess if pride is alive in our lives. The Bible contains many warnings about allowing pride to rule.

Psalms 10:4 NIV "In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God."

Proverbs 11:2 NIV When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

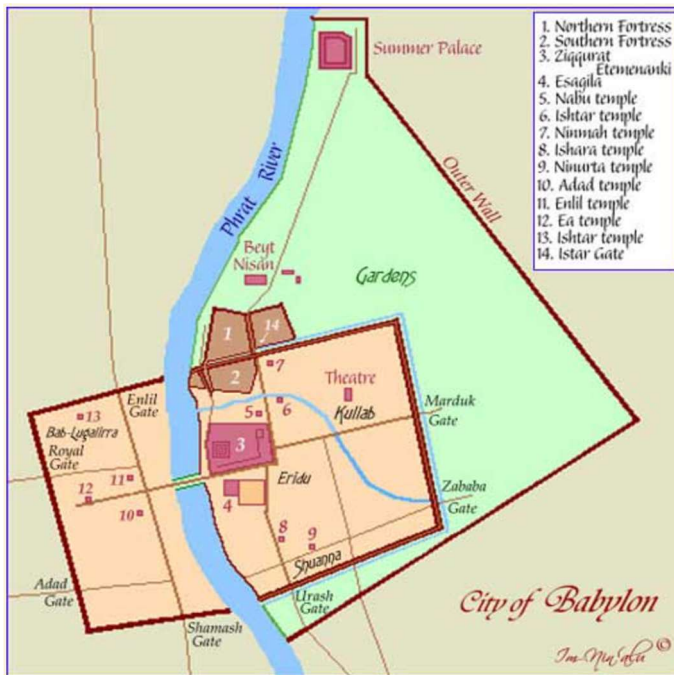
Proverbs 26:12 NIV "Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them".

Jeremiah 9:23-24 NIV " This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, 24 but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD."

THE BOOK OF DANIEL & THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY

DANIEL CHAPTER 5 - HAND WRITING ON THE WALL

There is a time gap between Chapter 4 (563 BC) and this event (539 BC) which brings us to the end of the Kingdom of Babylon. It begins with a king under siege, Belshazzar, a decedent of Nebuchadnezzar. But in reality, his father Nabonidus was the king. His father was in the field and Belshazzar was in the palace. Belshazzar was not concerned about the Persians who were outside the walls of Babylon seeking to over through the kingdom. The walls of Babylon were considered impregnable and were fortified by a great wall (100 ft tall, 87 feet wide, 60 miles long.) Inside the wall was a second wall with a moat between them and 250 watchtowers. The river Euphrates crossed the city and provided water for the moats and for survival purposes during a siege.



Jeremiah 51:24 NIV

“Before your eyes I will repay Babylon and all who live in Babylonia for all the wrong they have done in Zion, Declares the Lord”

The Great Banquet: Daniel 5:1-6 NIV

1 King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. 2 While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. 3 So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. 4 As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. 5 Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. 6 His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL & THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY

During the siege of the city, Belshazzar had a great feast with 1000 of his Nobles. Daniel was not one of them. After Nebuchadnezzar died, his ministers were sent away and Daniel dropped out of sight for almost a decade and lived in obscurity. The feast starts with a gigantic cocktail party. He not only defies the enemies outside the walls, but he draws on all the holy things he can. He orders the vessels from the temple in Jerusalem to be used in the feast. They all get drunk. While toasting all the gods of Babylonians, they see the fingers of a man's hand write on the wall.

Daniel Called to Interpret: Daniel 5:7-12 NIV

7 The king summoned the enchanters, astrologers and diviners. Then he said to these wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing and tells me what it means will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around his neck, and he will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom." 8 Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king what it meant. 9 So King Belshazzar became even more terrified and his face grew more pale. His nobles were baffled. 10 The queen, hearing the voices of the king and his nobles, came into the banquet hall. "May the king live forever!" she said. "Don't be alarmed! Don't look so pale! 11 There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father, he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners. 12 He did this because Daniel, whom the king called Belteshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means."

The king reacts in shock, he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees knocked. He calls for the enchanters, astrologers and diviners to come to tell him what it means. The reward will be the third ruler of the kingdom. As always, they could not read it and the queen said they should send for Daniel. This is the queen mother, the wife of Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 5:13, 16-18, 21-23 NIV

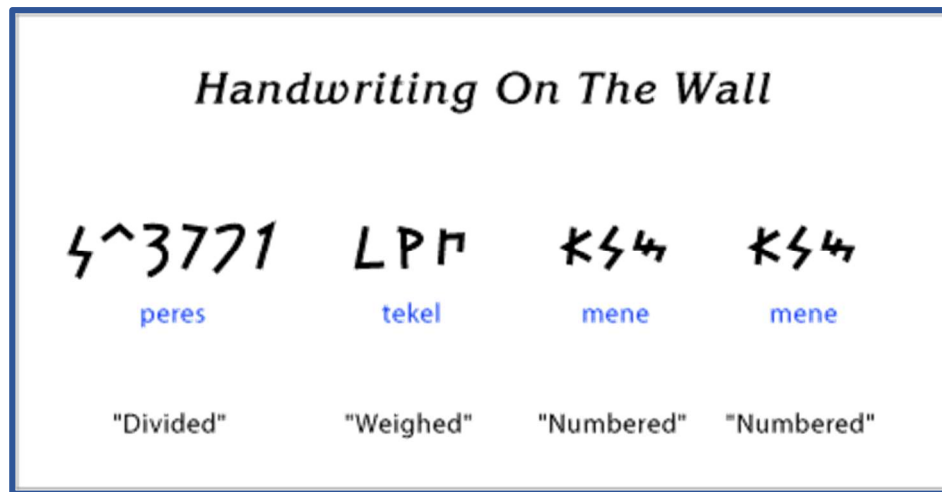
13 So Daniel was brought before the king, and the king said to him, "Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah? ... 16 Now I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom 17 Then Daniel answered the king, "You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means. 18 "Your Majesty, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor. 21 ...he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and sets over them anyone he wishes. 22 "But you, Belshazzar, his son, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. 23 Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways."

THE BOOK OF DANIEL & THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY

Daniel is brought before the King. He is recognized as one of the exiles and that he is able to interpret dreams and solve difficult problems. For his interpretation of the hand writing on the wall, he offers him the third highest ruler position along with purple cloth and a gold chain. Daniel, tells him to keep his gifts and give them to someone else, but he would tell him what it means. He first tells him of the Most High God who is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth. He continues to chastise him for his behavior, in particular his use of the scared goblets that they were drinking from. Telling him that he was not honoring the God who holds is life in his hands. These are bold statements to make to the King who holds Daniels life in his hands.

Daniel Interprets the Hand Writing Daniel 5:24-31 NIV:

*24 Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription. 25 "This is the inscription that was written: mene, mene, tekel, persin 26 "Here is what these words mean: **Mene:** God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. 27 **Tekel:** You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. 28 **Peres:** Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians." 29 Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.*



The interpretation of the words written on the wall is this:

Mene: *God has numbered your kingdom and finished it. The word literally means “number”. The days of the kingdom were numbered.*

Tezel: *They are weighed in the balance. The word literally means “weight”. The people of Babylon were lightweights.*

Peres: *The kingdom is divided. The word literally means “divisions.” It will be divided and given to the Medes and Persians.*

The king adorns Daniel anyway. Belshazzar hung a gold chain around his neck and proclaimed him third highest ruler in the kingdom.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL & THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY

Babylon is Conquered: Daniel 5:30-31 NIV:

30 That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, 31 and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.

As this was happening, the Persians diverted the Euphrates River allowing their army to enter the fortified city and conquer the Babylonians. Belshazzar was slain and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom at age 62. Belshazzar had rejected God and he was slain. This is a reminder that we cannot save ourselves, we are sinners and our only hope, acceptance of the forgiveness in the shed blood of Jesus. We all have a choice: We either accept or we reject. Salvation is a free gift for those who accept.

This event was prophesied in ***Isaiah 45:1*** which was written 200 years before Cyrus (Darius) was born.

Isaiah 45:1 ASV

1 Thus saith Jehovah to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him, and I will loose the loins of kings; to open the doors before him, and the gates shall not be shut.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

& THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY

DANIEL CHAPTER 6 - DANIEL AND THE LIONS DEN

This is another sectional slice of the life of Daniel and it takes place while Daniel is serving Darius King of the Medes. Daniel was at least 83 years old, with 66 years in public office and still in a position of honor. Daniel was an exceptional administrator, partly because of his extensive experience under Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 2:48) for about 39 years. This is the last of the strictly historical chapters and each chapter has had a purpose.

Darius, the King of the Medes, put Daniel (a former Jewish captive) in charge of this hereditary priesthood and bestowed on him the title of Governor (one of three appointed in Daniel 6:2) because Daniel had gained favor with him. The King placed Daniel over all of the Governors and he had seniority and superiority in this group. They plotted for his removal and death by coercing Darius to make an edict over the worship of anyone else but him for the next 30 days.

PLOT AGAINST DANIEL

Daniel 6:1-9 NIV

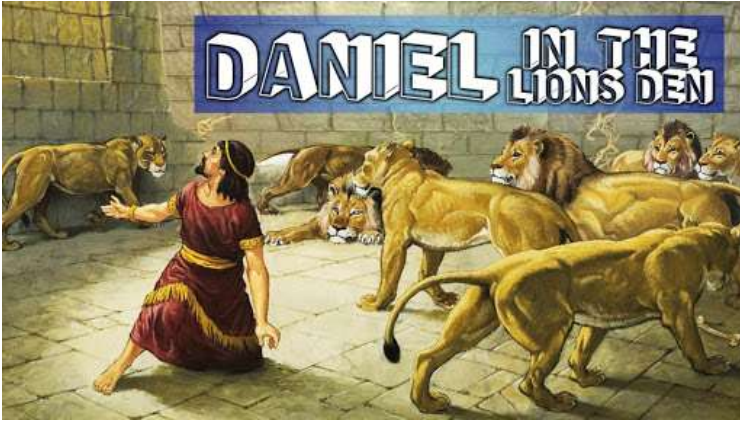
1 It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, 2 with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. 3 Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. 4 At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. 5 Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God." 6 So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: "May King Darius live forever! 7 The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den. 8 Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered--in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." 9 So King Darius put the decree in writing.

Daniel again is a prime minister to the king of the Medo-Persian Empire, Darius. Darius had come to love and respect Daniel. So much so that he placed him as Prime Minister, governor overseeing 120 satraps. Daniel had seniority and superiority in this group. In fact, the king wanted to place Daniel over all of them. (These were the Magi, a hereditary priesthood of Astrologers/Dream Interpreters). Being a foreigner, He probably wasn't received very well by those he oversaw. I am sure many of them were envious of his position and felt betrayed that one of them was not in his position. Bear in mind, Daniel earned the respect of the King.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL & THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY

The other Governors plotted for his removal and death by coercing Darius to make an edict over the worship of anyone else but him for the next 30 days. The decree was put in writing and violators would be thrown in the lion's den. Under Medo-Persian Law, once a decree was signed it could not be changed. It's obvious that they wanted to see him fail, thus the plot against him.

DANIEL IN THE LIONS DEN



River City Church

THE MAGI

Who were the Magi who came to worship Jesus at his birth? The Magi were a hereditary priesthood of Astrologers among the Medes. In the Medo-Persian world, Darius the Great (522 B.C. – 486 B.C.) recognized that the Magi were very, very skilled at dream interpretation. As such, they were attached to the court and they eventually became the king-makers.

Daniel 6:10-16 NIV

10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. 11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. 12 So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "The decree stands--in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." 13 Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." 14 When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him. 15 Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, "Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed." 16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

When Daniel learns of the decree, he turns to prayer, praying to his God, toward Jerusalem with the window open, three times a day as was his custom. They observed Daniel praying to God and told the king. Since Darius could not change his own law, he had to put Daniel in the lion's den. Darius loved Daniel and he was sickened that it had come to this and he hoped that Daniel's God would rescue him.

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GOD PROTECTS DANIEL

Daniel 6:18-23 NIV

18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. 19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. 20 When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" 21 Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! 22 My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty." 23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Daniel is in the lion's den all night without any harm to him. The lions did not hurt Daniel because he trusted in his God. The next day the king sees that he is delivered and orders all the ones who plotted against him and their families to suffer the fate of the lion' den.

KING DARIUS DECREE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GOD OF DANIEL

Daniel 6:24-28 NIV

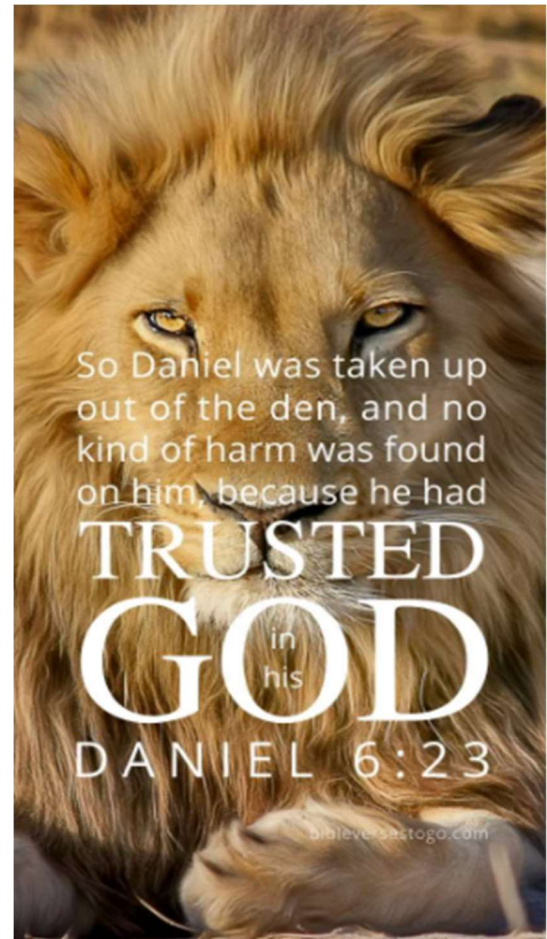
24 At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. 25 Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly! 26 "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. 27 He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." 28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

King Darius proclaimed: " I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom, people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end." It appears that Daniel helped to convert another world emperor. He found the same peace that Nebuchadnezzar had and told all to fear the God of Daniel. What are the lions in your life? They could easily be illness, business failure, domestic friction or slander. It is inevitable that we all face trials (lions) sometime during our lives. **I Peter 5:8 says:** " *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*" For those who love the Lord, God promises that he will keep us safe among the lions in our lives. **Ps 34:7,10** "7 *The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. ... 10 The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.*"

THE BOOK OF DANIEL & THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY

From all we know about Daniel thus far he was Consistent, by exhibiting Three Characteristics we should all aspire to:

1. **Consistent Attitude:** He had a good attitude, no matter how dire the circumstance. He was a positive guy, which is one reason people loved to be around him. Attitude makes a big difference in how our Christianity impacts those around us.
2. **Consistent in His Performance:** He took his responsibilities seriously; he was trustworthy and carried out his assignments because his credibility was important to him. You could count on Him.
3. **Consistent Purity:** Daniel is one of two biblical characters that nothing bad was said about him. Many in their bible had some flaws like Abraham who lied about his wife and David committed Adultery.



River City Church

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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DANIEL CHAPTER 7 - FOUR GREAT BEASTS – GOD’S VIEW

The last six chapters of Daniel will show prophetic light and they will touch base with history. The first six showed historical direction and they touched on the prophecies about them.

In this chapter, Daniel has a dream about four beasts in concern about what would happen to him and his empire. In Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Chapter 2, there were four different kinds of metals in his image of a man that gave a picture of the progression of the gentile nations. These are two versions of the same story. Daniel now records a vision of beasts that God showed him to see how the Lord would deal with the people of Israel.

How would God’s plan and program of raising up a world ruler from David fit into all of this about these powerful Gentile rulers? That is the history that we see detailed over the past 2500 years and will be detailed until the time of the second coming of Christ.

God dealt with the outward image of the kingdoms when he spoke to Nebuchadnezzar because he knew that is what would attract his attention. Now he speaks of the inward character of each kingdom. They are like wild bests, carnivorous in nature and destructive killers every one of them.

Daniel wrestled with a question when he interpreted the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and the warrior image. How would God’s plan and of raising up a world ruler from David fit into all of this about these powerful Gentile rulers? That is the history that we see detailed over the past 2500 years and will be detailed until the time of the second coming of Christ.

FOUR BEASTS: Daniel 7:1-7 NIV

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream. 2 Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. 3 Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea. 4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it. 5 "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!' 6 "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back, it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule. 7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast--terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

In **Daniel 7:1** "In the first year of Belshazzar" 553 BC sets the date of the vision. He actually has three visions, one of the first three beasts, one of the fourth beast only and the third vision is a scene in heaven. The setting,

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Revelation 17:1, 15, is the entire population of Gentiles throughout the world. The great sea is the home and place of the beasts.

Revelation 17:15-17 NIV

15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. 16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. 17 For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God's words are fulfilled.

The Lion: The lion with eagle wings represents Babylon in particular. It went through stages: The wings plucked (Nebuchadnezzar humbled), stand as a man (actually Nebuchadnezzar became much better as a believer) and finally a man's heart was given to him (he converted to God). Babylon is a heap of ruins today but suburbs around it are growing and Saddam Hussein tried to restore it as a city. They were highly civilized in comfort but very pagan in human offerings, murder of people and the destruction of constant war.

The Bear: The bear represented the Medo Persian kingdom. He was ambidextrous, the Medes and the Persians each conquered and the three ribs in the mouth are the three kingdoms that constituted this empire: Babylon, Lydia and Egypt.

The Leopard: The Leopard, better termed the panther, and it had four wings. When Alexander died at the tender age of 33, the kingdom had no successor and so it had four heads. Four of the generals of Alexander divided the world: Cassandra took Macedonia; Lysimachus took Asia Minor; Seleucus took Syria and finally Ptolemy took Egypt.

Nondescript Beast: The next vision of the nondescript beast with ten horns, represents the Roman Empire. All of the first beasts have counterparts in the

jungles and zoos of today. But the beast of the fourth vision has never been seen. It is dreadful and terrible and exceedingly strong. It has iron teeth and was very destructive. It was truly never defeated but just fell apart. It exists today as many nations in Europe and the northern rim of North Africa. The emphasis of the vision is not on the start of this kingdom, but on the end of this kingdom when the ten horns will come into play. We need to see that Daniel is directing us to the time of a ten-leader Roman Empire not a single Caesar or Emperor. So, this vision is unfulfilled. Apparently, it will appear in the end times, (remember the last days are any time after Christ's first appearance upon this earth). The fourth kingdom of Rome appeared, but it fell apart and it will come back together by the one whom the word of God has labeled the Antichrist. The ten horns come out of the same beast and they do not represent a fifth kingdom. In the midst of this, another little horn becomes the key to the entire situation. He uproots three of the horns and established himself over all. In this horn were eyes, denoting human intelligence and genius and a mouth speaking great things, denoting the blasphemy of this man.



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THE FOURTH BEAST - Daniel 7:8-14 NIV

8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully. 9 "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. 10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. 11 "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. 12 (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.) 13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

In **Daniel 7:9-12** the scene shifts to heaven and the throne of God is revealed. **See Revelation 4 and 5.** Daniel is not concerned about the church and its future so he only gives us the traits of God. The contrast between the works of God, trying to determine who will enter the Kingdom and the "little horn" blaspheming and boasting the loudest, is shown. This shows that the vision is on the end of time and the little horn will become prominent shortly before Christ comes to judge the living nations and individuals. The first three kingdoms fell, but their teaching and ideologies will surface in these last days.

In **Daniel 7:13-14** the Son of Man in heaven is here invested with the authority to take the kingdoms of this world from the Gentiles and establish His kingdom. See **Mark 14:61-62.** Jesus is the stone cut out without hands and he will kill the image. He will establish his kingdom here on earth. He will put out all rebellion and those who are obedient will enter into the Kingdom. This will be set up for the coming of Christ and the smashing of the image when He is given all dominion. **Revelation 19:11-16** There will be 1000-year test time and then that will pass right into eternal dominion. This 1000-year test time under the leadership of Jesus Christ will be here on the earth. **Micah 4:2**

DREAM INTERPRETATION: Daniel 7:15-22 NIV

15 "I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. 16 I approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this. "So, he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: 17 'The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. 18 But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever--yes, for ever and ever.' 19 "Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws--the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. 20 I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell--the horn that looked more imposing than the others

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and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. 21 As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

Daniel 7:15-20 Daniel now begins to define the four beasts: He asks for an explanation. The messenger gives him a meaning and also speaks of the saints. **Daniel 7:18** the saints here refer to people of Israel, not to all Israel but to the believing remnant only. That the church saints are not in view here is evident since Daniel does not refer to the church in any sense. **Daniel 7:19** Daniel wants to know about the fourth beast. It is one of power and fierceness. The ten horns will be a later development, not a separate kingdom.

Daniel 7:21-22 Rome will again be a world power under Antichrist. The Antichrist will be able to put this kingdom back together again and the Antichrist will be the one who can do it. The Europeans ever move closer to losing national identity and cling to a European identity. They even list their gross national products now often in terms of the EU and not in the terms of an individual nation.

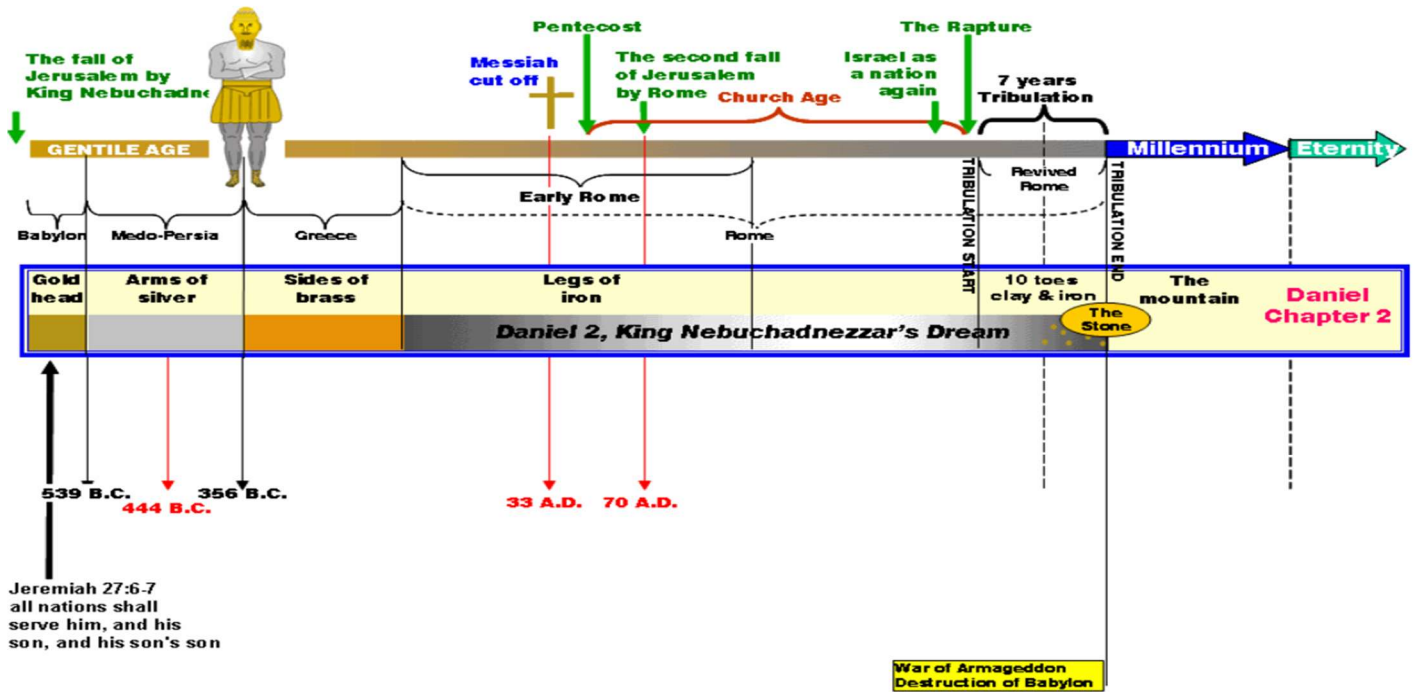
In the explanation it was told to Daniel that the Ancient of days will be able to put down the Antichrist with the saints, Old Testament saints. The ten horns that come out of this fourth beast denote the final form of the fourth kingdom. The little horn will arise and will actually gain control by defeating three other members of the ten. He will be a blasphemer. In **Revelation 13:5-6** he will be against Christ and against God. He will attempt to change times and laws. Judgement will set on him and the end result will be a Millennial kingdom led by Christ. Daniel wrote about this vision and its meaning but he did not discuss it.

Revelation 13:5-6 NIV

5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. 6 It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

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Daniel 2 Timeline – Age of the Gentiles



Man's Perspective
of
World History



God's Perspective
of
World History

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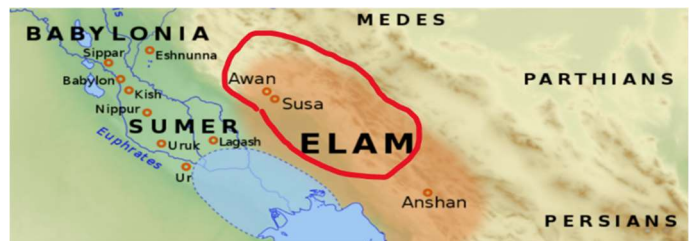
DANIEL CHAPTER 8 - VISION OF A RAM AND A GOAT

This concludes the strictly historical section of the Book of Daniel. The language shifts back to Hebrew in the original text. (Chapters 8-12). The rest of the book will be mainly concerned with the visions and prophecies which were given to Daniel over the long period of his life spent in a foreign land. They are not based on chronology, but on the direction of the teaching and the prophecy.

Daniel Chapter 8 is the last chapter of history and has been the basis for most of the liberal late dating of the book of Daniel. It was prophetic when it was written but it has all since been fulfilled. The passage includes the vision of the ram with two unmatched horns and the he-goat with one horn. It puts a microscope down onto the conflict between the second (Medo-Persian) and third (Greece) empires and the struggle between the East and the West. This vision includes another “little horn” who has already been fulfilled in Antiochus Epiphanes; the great persecutor of the Jews called the “Nero of Jewish History”.

Daniel 8:1-7 NIV

*1 In the third year of King Belshazzar's reign, I, Daniel, had a vision, after the one that had already appeared to me. 2 In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal. 3 I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later. 4 I watched the ram as it charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against it, and none could rescue from its power. It did as it pleased and became great. 5 As I was thinking about this, suddenly **a goat with a prominent horn** between its eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground. 6 It came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at it in great rage. 7 **I saw it attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering its two horns.** The ram was powerless to stand against it; the goat knocked it to the ground and trampled on it, and none could rescue the ram from its power. 8 The **goat became very great**, but at the height of its power the **large horn was broken off**, and **in its place four prominent horns grew up** toward the four winds of heaven. 9 **Out of one of them came another horn**, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land.*



Daniel 8:1-4 This is the third year of the reign of Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon and the vision in Chapter 7 was the start of his reign and now this is toward the end of the empire. Daniel is in Shushan, Susa, the capitol when the dream takes place. He is in the palace near the fortress. This

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vision concerns the second and third world empires. The events foretold in this vision were all fulfilled within two hundred years. Late 500 BC to 300 BC.

The dream starts with the ram with two horns, later identified as the Media-Persian Empire, vs 20. The Medes began it with the conquest of Babylon but the Persians gained ascendancy over the Medes and took the empire to its highest peak. In the dream the Ram is pushing westward, northward and southward. This is the bear of Chapter 7 and he is motivated by conquest.

Daniel 8:5-9 Daniel was marveling at the power and ability of the ram, when out of the west came a goat with great movement (fast and mobile army) and a dominate horn. The goat represents Greece, vs. 21 and the horn was Alexander the Great. Xerxes intended to move west but the goat moved so fast that it did not touch the ground, the four wings of the panther that allowed Alexander to move his army so quickly. The struck to kill the ram. Alexander the Great rose as a military genius and his army was quick.

This is one of the most amazing passages of prophesy, in these 5 verses it presents in detail, 5 Prophecies. Daniels vision was in 551 BC and these 5 prophecies came to pass 217 years later in 334 BC.

5 PROPHECIES, Daniel 8:5-9

1. Goat with “a prominent horn” rises up and moves swiftly (Alexander the Great.) vs 5
2. Goat shatters the horns of the Ram (Medo Persian Empire) brings it down” vs 7.
3. Goat becomes very Great. Goat’s horn is broken off at the height of his power, death of Alexander at 32. vs 8
4. Four prominent horns replace the great horn, kingdom divided and ruled by four generals. vs 8.
5. Another horn, a fierce king (Antiochus Epiphanes) rises up and causes devastation. Vs 9.

DANIEL VISION 551BC – ACTUAL EVENTS 334 BC

ALEXANDER THE GREAT (356 BC – 323 BC)

Alexander the great gained power of the Macedonian Empire upon the assassination of his father King Philip in 536 BC and reigned until his death at 33 years of age in 523 BC. He conquered the Medo Persian empire and most of the civilized world at that time. He went on to conquer Egypt where he founded the city of Alexandria which was a famous city in the New Testament. He was one of the World’s Great Military Geniuses.



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ALEXANDER THE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT



- Conquered Medo-Persian Empire and the Civilized World in 12 years w/o losing a battle.
- Conquered Egypt & Founded Alexandria
- Hellenized the kingdoms he amassed, brought them Greek language & Culture, unknowingly preparing the way for the scriptures to be written in Greek (Greek New Testament)
- Built vast highways to all provinces which he ruled, which eased missionary travel and the proclamation of the Gospel



The focus of verses 9 – 12 is on Alexander the Great's death, his replacement with his four generals (Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Ptolemy.) and the rise of the "little horn" from the Kingdom of Seleucus, Antiochus Phiphanes.

Daniel 8:9-14 NIV

9 Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. 10 It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them. 11 It set itself up to be as great as the commander of the army of the LORD; it took away the daily sacrifice from the LORD, and his sanctuary was thrown down. 12 Because of rebellion, the LORD's people and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground. 13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, "How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled--the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, the surrender of the sanctuary and the trampling underfoot

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of the LORD's people?" 14 He said to me, "It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated."

Daniel 8:9-12 When the goat was strong, the horn was broken, not by human power, but by an all-night drinking bout followed by a fever. Alexander was in Babylon at the time. With his death, four of his generals rose in his place: they are the four heads of the panther and correspond to Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Ptolemy. This produced a "little horn", not the one of Revelation but the one of the third kingdom. That was the kingdom of Seleucus who controlled all of Asia. He came from Syria and he was Antiochus IV or Phiphanes the son of Antiochus the Great. He came to throne in 175 BC and he made an attack on Jerusalem. He was the force the Maccabees were raised up to send away. Antiochus IV was Anti-Semitic and tried to exterminate the Jews. He placed an image of Jupiter in the Holy Place in the Temple. This was the first "Abomination of Desolation." He also poured swine broth over all the holy vessels. He seems to have been demon possessed because of some of the things that he was able to do and he was permitted to capture Jerusalem and the Temple. He was a devotee of Jupiter and he even thought he was a reincarnation. He chose for himself the title "Theos Epiphanes" or "god manifest". He only ruled and prospered because God allowed it.

Daniel 8:13-14 The Creatures of God or supernatural creatures talk about the temple being profaned. If this prophecy is interpreted by days, it would be the same time as the rule of Antiochus. Finally, the Jewish priest, Judas Maccabee, the hammer drove out the Syrian army, cleansed the temple, and rededicated it after the cleansing. This is celebrated in the Feast of Lights or Hanukah.



ANATIOCHUS EPIPHANES

He came from Syria and he was Antiochus IV or Phiphanes the son of Antiochus the Great. He came to throne in 175 BC and he made an attack on Jerusalem. He was the force the Maccabees were raised up to send away. Antiochus IV was Anti-Semitic and tried to exterminate the Jews. He proclaimed himself as King of Israel and compelled the Jews to worship him. He placed an image of Jupiter in the Holy Place in the Temple. He also poured swine broth over all the holy vessels. This was the first "Abomination of Desolation." He seems to have been demon possessed because of some of the things that he was able to do and he was permitted to capture Jerusalem and the Temple. He was a devotee of Jupiter and he even thought he was a reincarnation. He chose for himself the title "Theos Epiphanes" or "god manifest". He only ruled and prospered because God allowed it.

Antiochus VI, Epiphanes the Son of Antiochus the Great

- Conquers South and East
- Invades Palestine
- Desecrates temple by erecting image of Jupiter and sacrifice of a pig
- Temple remains desecrated until the rebellion and reform of Judas Maccabeus
- Cleanses and dedicates on December 25, 165 BC. 2300 days later!

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The Vision Explained: Daniel 8:15-23 NIV

15 While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision." 17 As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end." 18 While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet. 19 He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end. 20 The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia. 21 The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between its eyes is the first king. 22 The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power. 23 "In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue, will arise.

Daniel 8:15-23 Daniel was puzzled by the vision and he desired to learn what it meant. Gabriel, mentioned in the Bible for the first time, gives an explanation that will make it clear that Antiochus Epiphanes is but a picture in miniature of the coming Antichrist. At the time of the end, this Antichrist or the Man of Sin and the little horn of Chapter 7 will be much worse than Antiochus was. Daniel reacts to this prophecy and Gabriel moves to the local fulfillment in the end of the Times of the Gentiles. He names who was in his vision, Medes, Persians, Greeks, Alexander, and Antiochus. But he shows that the Antichrist to come is much worse than Antiochus was.

Daniel 8:24-27 NIV

24 He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy those who are mighty, the holy people. 25 He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power. 25 He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power. 26 "The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future." 27 I, Daniel, was worn out. I lay exhausted for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

Daniel 8:24 Now Daniel refers to his own people, Israel, as "the holy people." He shows that their slaughter will seem unbelievable, but it was not as bad as the one to come.

Daniel 8:25-27 This one coming will be worse than Antiochus in four areas:

1. He will control the economy with a vengeance. **Revelation 13:17**
2. He will be one who claims great things and blasphemies and will continue for 42 months. He will be filled with pride. **Revelation 13:5**
3. He comes in as a lamb but is really a lion. He is the rider on the white horse. Following the whiter horse is the red horse of war, for he has brought in a false peace. **Revelation 6**

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4. He will oppose and fight against Christ. He is the first beast of **Revelation 13** and he is against Christ.

Daniel is told this will be in the future and the effect on Daniel was so devastating that he was sick.

This prophecy goes beyond the immediate future and is projected into the distant future. Antiochus is merely a vague foreshadow of the other “little horn” in Chapter 7 who will come at the end of the “times of the Gentiles.”



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DANIEL CHAPTER 9 - DANIEL'S PRAYER –70 WEEKS PROPHECY

In the first 6 verses of Chapter 9, Daniel is telling what happened in the first year of Darius the Mede, probably 536 BC. Daniel turns to prayer and the study of the Word of God. Why, because the:

"The study of God's word, followed by prayer, is the formula for determining God's Will"

J Vernon McGee.

RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY PROPHECY

Daniel was likely aware that their captivity would end. We can see that from the following verse in Jeremiah 29:10-11.

Jeremiah 29:10-11 NIV

10 This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



Ezra 1:2-3 tells how the prophesy of the return to the Promise Land was fulfilled;

Ezra 1:2-3 NIV

1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing: 2 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: " 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. 3 Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them."

Daniel has spent a lifetime in prayer and here this prayer is a culmination of a life of prayer. Although we looked at this chapter some, we will again show it in the context of prophecy.

CONFESSION

Daniel 9:1-6 NIV

1 In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom-- 2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. 3 So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. 4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who

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love him and keep his commandments, 5 we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. 6 We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

Daniel 9:1-6 Daniel is telling what happened in the first year of Cyrus, probably 528-536 BC. He conquered Babylon in 538 BC. Daniel is wondering how this great gentile world empire will fit with the future of his own people. Daniel turns to a study of the Word of God. Jeremiah said that Israel would be in captivity for 70 years. Soon they would be given an opportunity to return to their own land. What would happen to them in light of the little horn of Chapter 8? Daniel has been studying the 70 years and he begins to confess the sins of his people.

PRAYER OF PETITION

Daniel 9:7-23 NIV

7 "Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame--the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you.

*8 We and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame, LORD, because we have sinned against you. 9 The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; 10 we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. 11 All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. "Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. 12 You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing on us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. 13 Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. 14 The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him. 15 "Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. 16 Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us. 17 **"Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary.** 18 Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. 18 Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. 19 Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name." 20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill-- 21 while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight*

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and understanding. 23 As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision:

Daniel 9:7-23 Daniel turns to prayer, which is very personal to him which is evident by his use of the words “I, We, and Our. Daniel begins his confession by contrasting the goodness of God with the sin of Israel. He contrasts God’s righteousness with the shame of face of his people Israel. Daniel knew that his people were **not** spiritually ready for the promise of restoration. Daniel acknowledges God’s “**covenant of love**” for those who love him and keep his commandments. Daniel approaches God to claim the mercy of God and stop making any excuses for his people. He was appealing to God’s own words and he identified himself with his people, acknowledging his oneness with them. Daniel recognized that the captivity was the judgement of God and was clearly stated in God’s word in Jeremiah.

Daniel gives his petition and plea. God led Israel out of Egypt, God demonstrated his righteousness, and God heard their groaning and he responded with mercy. Daniel asks Him to do it again. In verse 19 Daniel gives an impassioned plea to God to hear and answer. He admits the sins of the nation and asks God to forgive. While Daniel was praying, the Lord was preparing an answer. The Bible does not record a sin of Daniel, it is only this verse where Daniel asks for his sin to be forgiven that we have any record of his sin.

Isiah 65:24

Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.

The man (angel) Gabriel appeared in human form and at 3:00 pm, hour of evening sacrifice at Jerusalem, he begins the prophecy. It was not long after this prayer that Cyrus, king of Persian issued the decree to let the Jews return to their land and rebuild the Temple, which is recounted in the book of Ezra.

DANIELS EXAMPLE OF FERVENT PRAYER WITH FASTING

- **PRAISE** vs 4 “O Lord, the Great and Awesome God who keeps His covenant and loving kindness for those who love Him and keep His Commandments”
- **CONFESSION** vs 5 “We have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from thy commandments and ordinances.
- **FORGIVENESS** vs 9 “The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him”
- **PETITION** vs 17 "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary.”

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PROPHECY OF THE 70 WEEKS

The Prophecy of the 70 Weeks answers two questions:

1. How would the 70 years of Jeremiah fit into the long period of Gentile world dominion? Israel's kingdom will not come immediately. The 70-weeks must run their course. They will come to an end at the same time the "Times of the Gentiles" ends.
2. The 70-weeks will be about Israel and what will happen to Israel through the end of history.

Daniel 9:24-27 (NKJV)

24 Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

26 And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it [shall be] with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week, He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.

MAIN FEATURES OF THE 70-WEEKS OF DANIEL PROPHECY

We will begin with an analysis of the 70-Weeks Prophecy's main features. It is important to keep in mind the following points:

1. The entire prophecy has to do with Daniels's "People" and Daniel's "City", the Nation of Israel and the City of Jerusalem. vs 24
2. Two different princes are mentioned, who should not to be confused:
 - a. First is named Messiah, the Prince or The Anointed One. vs 25
 - b. Second is described as "the prince that shall come" vs26
3. The entire time-period involved is exactly specified as 70-weeks, vs 24 and these 70 Weeks are divided into three lesser periods. vs 25-27
 - a. First, a period of 7-weeks
 - b. Second, a period of 62-weeks
 - c. Third, a period of 1-week

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4. The beginning of the whole period of Seventy Weeks is definitely fixed, “the Decree to Restore and Rebuild Jerusalem “ vs 25
5. The end of the 7-weeks and the 62-weeks (69 weeks) will be marked by the appearance of Messiah and the “Anointed One” of Israel. vs 25
6. At a later time, after 62-weeks which will follow the first seven weeks, the “Anointed One” will be cut off and Jerusalem will again be destroyed by the people of another “prince” that is yet to come. vs 26
7. After these two important events, we come to the last, or Seventieth Week, the beginning of which will be clearly marked by the establishment of a firm covenant or treaty between the coming prince and the Jewish Nation for a period of “one week”. vs 27
8. The middle of this Seventieth Week, the coming prince will break his treaty and cause the sacrifices and offerings to stop and cause the Jewish people to have a time of wrath and desolation that lasts to the “full end” of the Week. vs 27
9. With the full completion of the whole period of Seventy-Weeks, there will be ushered in a time of everlasting righteousness, a sealing of the vision and prophecy, and an anointing of the Most Holy.

To begin this short but often used Biblical Prophecy, the following questions will be addressed:

1. The period of the 69 weeks is from the kingly order to restore and rebuild Jerusalem and will end with the exaltation of the Messiah as the “Anointed One” of Israel. What is the nature and length of the “weeks”?
2. What events in History mark the beginning and the end; and do they fit together?
3. When did these first 69-weeks of years end and what happened on that date?
4. What does it mean to have 70 “Weeks”?
5. What is the measure of time indicated by weeks in this prophecy?

Many have accepted this as 7-day weeks and then translated the days into years. This may sound quite reasonable, but we have to realize that **Revelation 12:6** quotes 1260 days, and this is just half of the Seventieth Week of Daniel’s prophesy. The Hebrew for the word “*shabua*”, which means literally a “seven”. This would be more accurate to just translate **Daniel 9:24** as seventy sevens. The Scriptures will explain what sevens are.

In Hebrew the word “*shabua*” = “Sevens” which translates “weeks” = Seventy Sevens (weeks).
Daniels focus is on 70 years of captivity; penalty for violating Seventy Sabbatic Years
70 years. x 7 (week) = 490 years. = **70 Weeks of Years.**

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The Jews had both a “seven” of years and a “seven” of days. This Biblical week of years was just as familiar to the Jew as the week of days. Six years, the Jew was free to till and sow the land but the seventh year was to be a solemn Sabbath rest of the land. **Leviticus 25:3-4** When the Jews reached the 7 times of these 7 years (49 years), they had a great Year of Jubilee in which the social and economic adjustments were made for the entire land. Debts were wiped out, estates returned to the original holders, and debtor slaves went free. **Leviticus 25:8-9**

Daniel 1:1-2 tells us that Daniel had already been thinking of years not days. The very length of Babylonian captivity had been based on Jewish violations of the Devine Law of the Sabbath year. **II Chronicles 36:21** tells us the Jews had been removed from the land in order that it might rest for 70 years. This would mean that the number of 490 years was involved. Now at the end of the judgement of the violations, the angel is sent to reveal the start of a new era of God’s dealing with the Jew which would extend for the same number of years, a cycle of 490 years of the Seventy - Sevens of years. **Daniel 9:24**

Timing of the events demands that we also look at years. If it had only been 70 -sevens of days, then the building of the city and it once more being destroyed would have happened in the 490 days, or a little over one year. The Hebrew word is used only one more place and that is in **Daniel 10:2-3** which gives insight into the fact that weeks of days were what Daniel meant.

The “Seventy-Sevens” will be taken by us to mean years, not days, which have to be turned into years to make the prophecy come out right anyway.

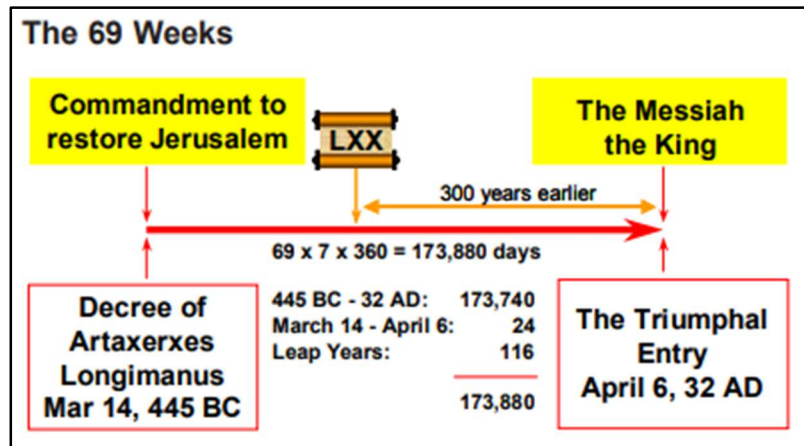
70-Weeks of years are a period of 490 years, a very specific number. In **Daniel 9:24-27** Daniel had been reading in chronicles and had become directed to the 70 years that Jeremiah said would be the punishment of the Lord for specific sin of not keeping the Sabbath years of the Lord. **2 Chronicles 36:20-21** says:

2 Chronicles 36:20-21 NKJV

20 And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, 21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate, she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

The prophecy had clearly stated that the 70 years of captivity were the specific penalty for violating 70 Sabbatic years. That would be the 70 – 7’s, a total of 490 years. In those 490 years, Israel had violated exactly seventy Sabbatic years; so, they would go into captivity for seventy years.

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Daniel had just been given a vision in Chapter 7 and 8 about the Gentile world dominion. He obviously thought that the end of the seventy years his people would be returned to the land, the promised Messiah would come and the Kingdom which had been promised to David would be established. How could both be true? It appeared to him to be an irreconcilable situation created by these seemingly contradictory prophecies.

Keep in mind that Daniel had not only been studying the prophecy of **2 Chronicles**, he had also been in prayer about Israel and the Lord's deliverance. God sent Gabriel to answer the prayer request of **Daniel 9:20-23** and the answer is another prophecy of the 70 - 7's.

How did this answer Daniel's concern and confusion?

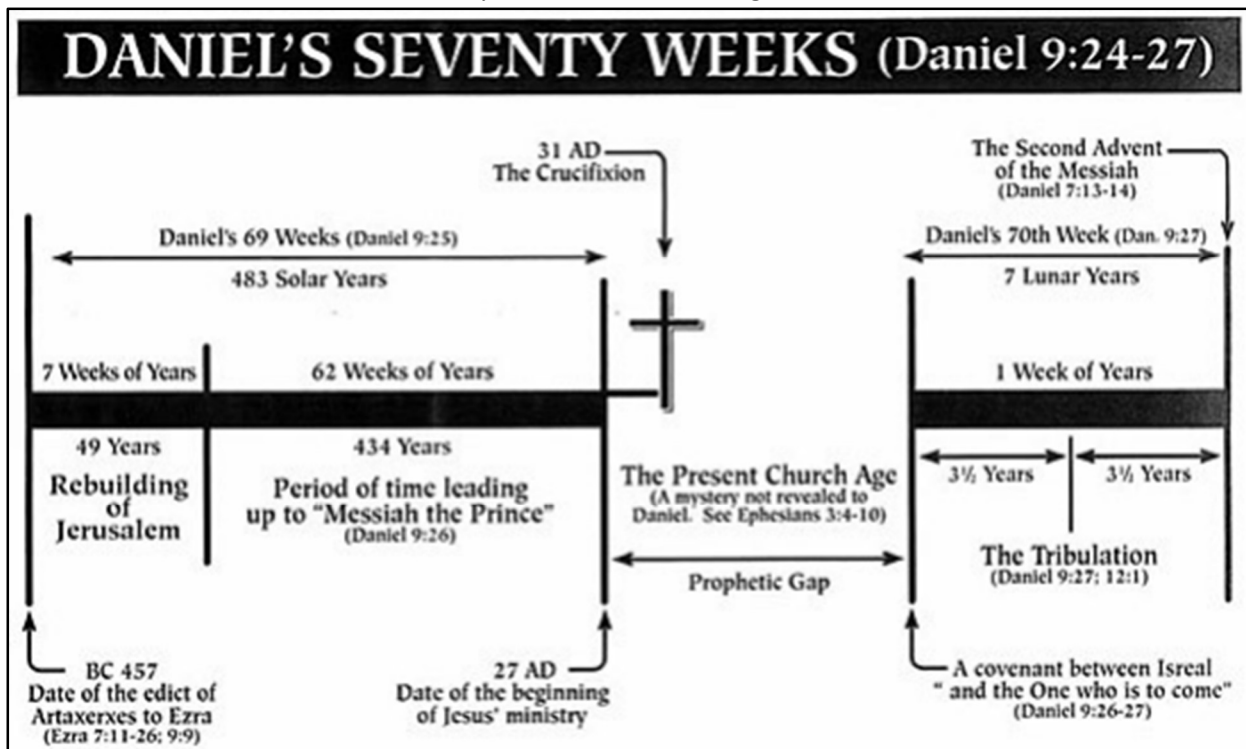
1. It answered the main confusion for Daniel. The new kingdom of Israel will not come immediately. The seventy sevens must run their course. This fits into the time of the Gentiles Jesus referred to in **Luke 21:23-24**. It will run concurrently with an overwhelming time of the Gentiles. The word (decreed or determined) literally means "cutting off". These seventy sevens are to be cut off, as the following verses will indicate. The seventy sevens for Israel and the Times of the Gentiles will both come to an end at the same time, that is, at the second coming of Christ. This is important to know for the correct understanding of the prophecy.
2. The Seventy Weeks concern "your people" or the Nation of Israel, Daniel's People, and concern the Holy City or Jerusalem. Six things will not all be in the 69 weeks that have already passed, or will all of them be in the one week that is still remaining in history. The six things to be accomplished: **Daniel 9:24**
 - A. **"Finish the Transgression"** of the Nation of Israel. The cross provided redemption for sin, for the sin of a nation, but not all accepted it. This is one that will primarily focus on the last week, for God tells us in **Zechariah 12:10** and in **Zachariah 13:1**, *"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the*

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inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.” That has not been opened yet. All you have to do is look at the Land of Israel and you will know this has not been totally fulfilled.

- B. **“To Make an End to Sins.”** The national sins of Israel will come to an end at the second coming of Christ. They are just like any other people or any other nation. They are sinners as individuals and as a nation. They have made many mistakes as a nation, just like us, but God will make an end to that.
- C. **“To Make Reconciliation for Iniquity.”** During this period of Seventy Weeks, God has provided redemption through the death and resurrection of Christ. This, of course, is for Jew and Gentile alike.
- D. **“And to Bring in Everlasting Righteousness”** refers to the return of Christ at the end of the 490 years to establish the Kingdom.
- E. **“To Seal Up the Vision and Prophecy”** means that all will be fulfilled which will vindicate this prophecy as well as all other prophecies in Scripture.
- F. **“To Anoint the Most Holy”** has reference to the anointing of the Holy of Holies in the Millennial Temple about which Ezekiel spoke in **Ezekiel 41-41**.

By Dr. David R. Reagan



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Starting Point for the 490 Years is essential to correct understanding of the prophecy.

1. The 490 years is the period projected into the Times of the Gentiles. It must fit into secular history and originate from some date connected with the Times of the Gentiles. It seems clear that Daniel is telling us that it is the Decree of Artaxerxes at the twentieth year of his Reign **Nehemiah 2:1-8** meets the requirements of the prophecy. The command to rebuild the city was issued in the month of Nisan 445 BC and is our starting point.
2. The first seven weeks of the 69 weeks brings us to 397 BC and to Malachi and the end of the Old Testament. These were troubled times as witnessed by both Nehemiah and Malachi.
3. Sixty-2 weeks or 434 years brings us to the Messiah. A case can be made that this coincides with Christ riding into Jerusalem and offering Himself for the first time publicly and officially as the Messiah.
4. There is a time break between the 69th week and the 70th week when two events of utmost importance happen.
 - A. The Messiah will be cut off. **Matthew 16:21, John 3:15**
 - B. The destruction of Jerusalem, which took place in 70 AD when Titus the Roman was the instrument.

The final week of period of seven years is the projected future and does not follow chronologically the other sixty-nine weeks. The time gap between the two is the "Age of Grace" unknown to the prophets: **Ephesians 3:1-2 and I Peter 1:10-12**. The Seventieth Week is the final period and is yet to be fulfilled.

The "prince who is to come" in **Daniel 9:26** is a Roman; he is the "little horn" of **Daniel 7**; he is the beast of **Revelation 13**. The church is removed from earth and he will make a covenant with Israel. Israel will accept him as her Messiah but in the midst of the week he will break the covenant by placing an image in the temple Revelation 13. This is the abomination of desolation. What Israel thought to be the millennium will turn out to be the Great Tribulation **Matthew 24:15-26**. Only the coming of Christ can end this frightful period **Matthew 24:27-31**.

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DANIEL CHAPTER 10 - VISION OF THE GLORIOUS MAN

These last three chapters should be treated as one vision. It is the nation of Israel in the immediate future and also in the latter days. The key in understanding these last three chapters is found in the explanation the angel gives to Daniel in 10:4. It will be a long time before this is fulfilled and it is not the church. We see the order of angels, good and bad, fallen and Unfallen, and we will see the kingdom of Satan which is here today. It does point out the free-will of angels. God has made thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers, and each is a different realm of the heavenly creatures. Both good and bad spiritual realms have ranking in their orders and direction.

Daniel 10:1-9 NIV

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision. 2 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. 3 I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over. 4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, 5 I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. 6 His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude. 7 I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. 8 So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. 9 Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

Daniel 10:1-4 Daniel gets this vision when he is old, and is given a new way of communication. This will be the final fulfillment and is the distant future not the immediate future. The vision was made crystal clear to Daniel. Daniel mourns for three weeks and it is probably to the poor response to resettle Jerusalem and Judah. The location of the vision was given as “by the side of the great river, that is the Tigris.

Daniel 10:5-6 This is a new method of revelation. Daniel does not see an image, visions or beasts or weeks. He sees a man. Who is he? The only one that fits this description is Jesus Christ! This is a phrase Jesus used, “a certain man”, and the others match the description in **Revelation 1:12-16**. Notice how similar the descriptions in these verses are.

Revelation 1:12-16 NIV

12 I turned around to see the voice that like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a

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*furnace, and his **voice was like the sound of rushing waters**. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His **face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance**.*

Daniel 10:7-9 Daniel alone saw the vision. This is just like Saul on the road to Damascus. Daniel is left alone and he has had his strength drained. He has lapsed into unconsciousness but when he came too, the angel had come and ministered to him.

Daniel 10:10-14 NIV

*10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 13 But the **prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.** 14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."*

Daniel 10:10-13 The messenger is there to answer Daniel's petition. Daniel slowly stands and again is commended for who is. He sees the veil lifted and observes heavenly warfare going on. It is the conflict going on around us. Daniel has prayed, the answer was prepared but conflict entered into the picture. **Ephesians 6:11-12** we have to have the full armor of God to contend with all the devil will do.

Ephesians 6:11-12 NIV

*11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

Why would the messenger's path be blocked? Daniel will be given information about the kingdom of Persia and about the kingdom of Greece; Satan did not want that kind of information to come. It was secret information that he did not want released to the human family. God wanted the information to come to Daniel. Evidently there was a conflict among the princes of Persia and the Lord wanted to give Daniel the information needed. **Daniel 10:14** is the key which opens the door to the understanding of the rest of the Book of Daniel. It is about "Daniel's people", it will happen in the latter days. It is the vision of many days and it will be historical and prophetic.

Daniel 10:15-21 NIV

15 While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless. 16 Then one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, "I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I feel very weak. 17 How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and

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I can hardly breathe." 18 Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. 19 "Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong." When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength." 20 So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; 21 but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.

Daniel 10:15-21 Daniel is strengthened physically and this vision will affect all that it touches. The experience of seeing an angel certainly had a tremendous effect upon Daniel, and he will see another that will represent Greece which will be a satanic principality. The angel who was speaking to Daniel had to get back to the battle that was going on. The angel turns Daniel to the Word of God for the battle.

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DANIEL CHAPTER 11 – SILENT YEARS – IN ADVANCE

Daniel Chapter 11 is all part of the same vision that started in Chapter 10 and will end in Chapter 12. It is very important because it fills in some of the details of the Seventy Weeks of Chapter 9, especially as it affects Israel. It also fills in some of the details of the last three of the four nations symbolized in the multi-metallic image of Chapter 2 and the beasts of Chapter 7. The very importance of this information caused Satan to hinder the angel in coming to give Daniel the answer to his prayer, because this prophecy does concern two of the nations which were all-important in relation to Daniel's people. The two nations were Persia and Greece.

Daniel Chapter 11 also bridges some of the time between the Old and New Testament. This time was a terrible time for conflict between Syria and Egypt and they fought each other, often right in and through Israel. This will be the rise of Antiochus Epiphanes, a type of the Antichrist of the future. He was a member of the Seleucid family and he was a persecutor of the Jews. He was called the Great Profaner. This chapter has a great division which separates the history and prophecy, but remember it was all prophecy when it was originally written. Just that part of it has since been fulfilled.

DANIEL CHAPTER 11 Represents Three Different Periods of History

1. **The Persian Period** (verses 1 - 2)
2. **The Greek Period** (verses 3 – 35)
3. **The End Time Period** (verses 36-45)

Daniel 11:1-4 NIV

1 And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him.) 2 "Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will arise in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece 3 Then a mighty king will arise, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases. 4 After he has arisen, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others.

Daniel 11:1 The prophecy bridges the gap from the Medio-Persians to Greece and from Asia to Europe. It tells of the transition of world powers from one continent to another from the East to the West. This prophecy concerns the people of Daniel. It was especially important to Israel because they would be caught in a vise between these different powers. It would be a period of great suffering for these people.

The speaker here is an angel and it is a continuation from Chapter 10. The angel may have been Gabriel, we are not told his name. This is the time in life of Daniel when he was thrown into the den

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of lions. The angel stood and confirmed and strengthened Darius. He also comforted and assisted Daniel. Remember, Daniel said the Lord sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions. **Daniel 6:22.**

From here to verse 3-4 we have one of the most remarkable examples of prewritten history. There are many clear-cut examples of prophecy that have been accurately fulfilled. When the angel gave this information to Daniel, he knew that Daniel would not live to see it fulfilled. Obviously, it was recorded for the comfort and encouragement of the people of God who would live through the difficult days it describes. Also, it was written for all generations as a testimony to the fact that God knows the end from the beginning. The angel told him there would be four notable kings of Persia to follow Cyrus. We assume they are Cambyses, 529 BC; Psuedo-Smerdis, 522 BC; Darius Hystaspis, 521 BC; Xerxes who invaded Greece in 480 BC. Xerxes could easily have been Ahasuerus of the Book of Esther who was very rich and who made a bid for world dominion, but was defeated when he invaded Greece.

Four Persian Kings after Cyrus (verse 1-2)

1. **Cambyses** (530 – 522 BC) – Cyrus First Born Son
2. **Pseudo-Serdis** (522 BC) – An Imposter who looked like Cambyses
3. **Darius I** – (522 – 486 BC)
4. **Xerxes** (Ahasuerus, Book of Ester) (486 – 465 BC) Most powerful and Rich, commanded one of the largest armies the World has known. Defeated by Greeks.

Daniel 11:3-4 A mighty king is Alexander the Great who came to power in 335 BC. Over the Greco-Macedonian Empire. He put down Persia and assumed world dominion. Alexander the Great was a world ruler and probably the greatest military strategist the world has ever seen, but he died an alcoholic in 323 BC. Four of his generals divided the empire into four geographical areas and each was ruled by one general. They all lost their kingdoms when the Romans invaded.

Alexander the Great (336-323 BC) - Mighty Greek Kings Rules (verse 3)

Four Greek Generals (verses 4) - Lysunachus (Asia Minor), Seleucus (Syria), Cassander, Greece and Ptolemy Egypt.

Daniel 11:5-9 NIV 5

"The king of the South will become strong, but one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power. 6 After some years, they will become allies. The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance, but she will not retain her power, and he and his power will not last. In those days she will be betrayed, together with her royal escort and her father and the one who supported her. 7 "One from her family line will arise to take her place. He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress; he will fight against them and be victorious. 8 He will also seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For some years he will leave the king of the North alone. 9 Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country.

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Daniel 11:5-35 Tells a detailed history of almost 200 years of fighting between the Kings of the North and the Kings of the South. This Chart shows the battles between the Kings of the North (Seleucus, Antiochus) and the Kings of the South (Ptolemy). Time Period 323 BC to 163 BC. Antiochus Epiphanies reigned near the end of the period 175 – 163 BC. The Romans took over at the end of his reign. In those days the Kings would marry their daughters off as “Peace Treaties”

Daniel 11:5-9 The king of the south; south of what? Directions in the Bible are figured from Palestine as the center of the earth. He is the one south of Israel, so this would be the king of Egypt, one of the Ptolemies.

The king of the north refers to the line of the Seleucids (Syria). This verse would bring us to around 250 BC. It became an alliance of intrigue. To form an alliance between these two warring families, Ptolemy Philadelphus of Egypt gave his daughter Berenice in marriage to Antiochus Theos of Syria. He was already married to Laodice, whom he divorced. After two years Ptolemy Philadelphus died, so Antiochus Theos put away Berenice with her son and took back his first wife. She in turn poisoned Antiochus Theos and ordered the death of Berenice and her son. Then Laodice put her own son, Seleucus Callinicos on the throne. That was some juggling act, and it is clear that this is covered in the prophecy given Daniel.

This new branch was Ptolemy Euergetest, the brother of Berenice who came with an army and captured Syria, and he seized the fort which was the port of Antioch in that day. It is recorded that Ptolemy Euergetest took into Egypt as booty four thousand talents of silver and 2500 idols. Do you see how this scripture was very literally fulfilled?

DANIEL Verse	KING SOUTH	KING NORTH
	PTOLEMIES EGYPT	SELEUCIDS SYRIA
11:5	PTOLEMY I Soter 323 - 285 BC	SECEUCUS I Nicator 312-282 BC ANTIOCHUS I Sotert 281-262 BC
11:6	PTOLEMY II Philadelphus 285-246 BC	ANTIOCHUS II Theos 262-246 BC
11:7-9	PTOLEMY II Euergetes 246-221 BC	SELEUCUS II Callinicus 227-223 BC

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Daniel 11:10-14 NIV

10 His sons will prepare for war and assemble a great army, which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his fortress. 11 "Then the king of the South will march out in a rage and fight against the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated. 12 When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be filled with pride and will slaughter many thousands, yet he will not remain triumphant. 13 For the king of the North will muster another army, larger than the first; and after several years, he will advance with a huge army fully equipped. 14 "In those times many will rise against the king of the South. Those who are violent among your own people will rebel in fulfillment of the vision, but without success.

Daniel 11:10-14 This is the continual warfare that took place between Egypt and Syria. This is the period where Israel seemed to repeatedly make the wrong choice and found herself being made captive first by one and then by the other. Many in the nation of Israel were slain at this time. They incurred untold suffering from both the king of the north and the king of the south.

Daniel 11:15-20 NIV

15 Then the king of the North will come and build up siege ramps and will capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will be powerless to resist; even their best troops will not have the strength to stand. 16 The invader will do as he pleases; no one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land and will have the power to destroy it. 17 He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South. And he will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans will not succeed or help him. 18 Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back on him. 19 After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more. 20 "His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle.

Daniel 11:15-17 The king of the north shall stand in “the glorious land.” Now we know why this has been recorded and given to Daniel since it concerns the “glorious land,” which is Israel the land that God had vouched safe to Abraham and to those coming after him. These two verses predict what history now records as the victory of Antiochus the Great over Egypt. It was a decisive victory and it caused Israel to suffer immeasurably. Suffice it to say that Daniel’s prophecy was fulfilled in a remarkable way. There is a period of 125 years that was fulfilled in detail. This brings us to about 198 or 195 BC when Antiochus the Great made a treaty with Egypt and gave his daughter Cleopatra to Ptolemy Epiphanes in marriage.

Daniel 11:18-20 The prophecy continues with the prince of the north. He shall turn his face unto the isles refers to Greece and all of the Greek islands. This is where Antiochus the Great was beginning to move at this time, not only against Ptolemy in the south, but against Lysimachus in the west (Rome). “A prince for his own behalf” would refer to another line, that is Rome, which was beginning to arise in the west and move toward the east. Rome exacted taxes from Syrians. The Romans were the best tax assessors and tax gatherers in the world. Rome began a tremendous empire by taxing

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the people she was capturing. As the Syrians began to fall before Rome, there were many historical details that flesh out this story.

DANIEL Verse	KING SOUTH	KING NORTH
	PTOLEMIES EGYPT	SELEUCIDS SYRIA
11:10-13	PTOLEMY IV Philopator 221-204 BC	ANTIOCHUS III "The Great" 262-246 BC
11:17-20	PTOLEMY V Epiphanes 204-181 BC	SELEUCUS IV Philopater 187-176 BC

Daniel 11:21-27 NIV 21

He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty. He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue. 22 Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed. 23 After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power. 24 When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses--but only for a time. 25 "With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him. 26 Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle. 27 The two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time.

Daniel 11:21-27 Now introduced is the vile man. Antiochus Epiphanes, who was king in Syria and is easily identified in history. This is the "little horn" that has already been fulfilled, as we studied back in Chapter 8. It is a special prophecy about one king in the line of the Seleucides, Antiochus Epiphanes. He is the type of the Antichrist and is an illustration of the Man of Sin who is yet to come. The "prince of the covenant" was the high priest of the Jews, on that Antiochus had murdered was Onias III, but he deposed and murdered several when he came to power until he had a High Priest that he could control. He was successful in his campaign against the king of Egypt and that brought him many riches and prestige. He was an unreliable liar and we can see that the conference tables of that day were very much like the conference table of our own day.

Daniel 11:28-32 NIV

28 The king of the North will return to his own country with great wealth, but his heart will be set against the holy covenant. He will take action against it and then return to his own country. 29

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"At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before. 30 Ships of the western coastlands will oppose him, and he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant. 31 "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation. 32 With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.

Daniel 11: 28-32 Antiochus made a second campaign against Egypt but was not successful due to the navy of Rome, *"the ships of the western coastlands"*. He broke his covenant with Israel, but notice that some of the Jews betrayed their own people, so he shall even return and show favor to those who go with him. Antiochus attacked Jerusalem in 170 BC at which time over 100,000 Jews were slain. He took away the daily sacrifice from the temple, offered the blood and broth of a swine upon the altar, and set up an image of Jupiter to be worshiped in the holy place of the temple of God. This was the "abomination that causes desolation" but it was not the abomination to which our Lord Jesus referred which was future even to the time of Christ. It is the abomination which the Antichrist will set up. Some played the role of Judas but many stayed strong to God. It was during this time that God raised up the family of the Maccabees in 166 BC. Mattathias the priest raised a revolt against the awful blasphemy. They were God's men for that time.

DANIEL Verse	KING SOUTH	KING NORTH
	PTOLEMIES EGYPT	SELEUCIDS SYRIA
11:21-32	PTOLEMY VI Philometer 181-145 BC	ANTIOCHUS IV Epiphanes 175-163 BC

Daniel 11:33-39

Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered. 34 When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them. 35 Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time. 35 Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time. 36 "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. 37 He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. 38 Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. 39 He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.

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Daniel 11:33-36 This is a time between the Testaments where there was great suffering. Many were faithful to God. *“The time of the end”* leaps out of the prophecy from Antiochus Epiphanes to the Antichrist. We move now from the history of that day into that which is yet in the future, even for us. At this point, history that has been fulfilled ends and prophecy begins. The text passes from a vile person to a vicious character. It is an unmeasured time. Antiochus Epiphanes was a contemptible person, but he was not like the Antichrist of verses 36-39. It does give us rise to think that the Antichrist will rise out of the geographical boundaries of the ancient Grecian Empire.

Description of the Antichrist

There will be a political Antichrist, the one who is mentioned here, a Gentile raised out of the Roman Empire. There will also be a religious Antichrist who will pretend to be Christ and who will arise out of the land of Israel. He is given many names in Scripture:

- Bloody and deceitful man
- Wicked one
- Man of the earth
- Mighty man
- Enemy
- Adversary
- Head of many countries
- The violent man
- Assyrian
- King of Babylon
- Sun of the Morning
- Spoiler
- Branch of terrible ones
- Profane wicked Prince of Israel
- Little Horn
- Prince that shall come
- Vile person
- Sinful king
- Idol shepherd

Revelation 12:12 NIV

12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.

- Man of sin
- Son of Perdition
- Lawless one
- Antichrist
- Angels of the Bottomless pit
- Beast
- One coming in his own name
- King of fierce countenance
- Abomination of Desolation
- Desolator

He will do as he wills and he will be self-willed. He will exalt himself. He, the *“little horn”* will try to be a big horn. He will exalt himself above every god. See ***II Thessalonians 2:4*** of ***Revelation 13:8***. But it is blasphemous rebellion against God which marks the willful king as the final and logical expression of humanism. He is the typical representative of that which is against God and that which is our old nature. The carnal mind of men will turn to the Antichrist. When men choose their own

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rulers and leaders generally, they choose someone like themselves. He will be successful at first, for a brief time. God will permit this to come to pass during the last half of Daniel's Seventieth Week.

Daniel 11:37 Wherever he comes from, he will disregard his heritage, his spiritual heritage. This office will have two men:

First: A political ruler which comes out of the Roman Empire and probably the Greek section.

Second: "Beast that arises" is a religious leader that imitates Christ; he could easily be an Israelite.

He will become the advocate for the women that had followed and longed to mother the messiah. He will oppose all religions and worship, except the worship of himself. He will promote the ecumenical movement and he is it. One religion or the one world and he will be that religion. He will magnify himself above all. His total ambition is self-adulation. See **Revelation 13:15-17** to see the power by which he will be able to operate.

Daniel 11:38-39 The God of fortresses who held the kingdoms of this world will be who he honors; who is that? It is Satan who offered to Christ the kingdoms of this world. Antichrist will accept the offer and become the world's dictator. **II**

Thessalonians 2:4, Revelation 13:4 This is going to be Satan's hour. He will make the most of it as he knows his time is short. **Revelation 12:12.**

Antichrist will be the pliant tool to completely do the will of Satan in that day. He will rule over many people and dispose of property as he pleases. He is the willful king and the final world dictator.

Daniel 11:40-45 NIV

40 "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood. 41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. 42 He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. 43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Cushites in submission. 44 But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. 45 He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

Daniel 11:40-44 This is the time of the end, not the end of time. It is the end which Daniel has had in mind all through this section. It will be the last days of the nation of Israel, which the Lord Jesus labeled the Great Tribulation. The king of the south, ruler of Egypt and probably all of Africa will

2 Thessalonians 2:4 NIV

4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

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come against the Antichrist. The king of the north is more easily identified. He takes the place of Seleucide dynasty and will be some combination of Russia and their allies, and the king of the north will be quickly eliminated as God moves judgment upon that nation.

The entrance of Russia and allies into Palestine starts a great crisis conflict of the Great Tribulation period. He will come and have trouble with Edom, Moab and Ammon. This is the territory where the sons of Ishmael, the Arabs, are today. Egypt and the king of the south will surrender to the Antichrist.

Now he will have control of the wealth of this world. He will control the entire money markets of the world at that time. Libya and Ethiopia will surrender to him and whatever nations were not in the battle with the king of the south will now fall. He will control all of Africa.

Warnings of the east means that the Orient, with billions of people, will come as well as those of the north to form a great army to the Battle of Armageddon and this world ruler will be troubled.

Daniel 11:45 He will establish his tabernacle between the Mediterranean Sea and the beautiful Holy Mountain in Jerusalem. This will be his headquarters for world conquest. However, instead of ruling from there he will be destroyed by the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, **Revelation 19:19-21**. Evil will have taken over, and only in the personal coming of Christ to establish His Kingdom will any on this earth be delivered and saved.



Revelation 19:19-21 NIV

19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. 20 But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21 The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

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DANIEL CHAPTER 12 - START OF THE “END TIMES”

Daniel Chapter 12 is a continuation of the vision which started in Chapter 10 and it allows everything to fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. The following three items need to be applied to this entire vision:

1. It is a prophesy that concerns the nation of Israel after the church is removed from the earth.
2. It is “*in the latter days*”. In the Old Testament the latter days are identified with the last days of the New Testament, which the Lord Jesus called the Great Tribulation period and which corresponds to the 70th week of Daniel
3. “Yet the visions are for many days”, means there will be a long period of time before you come to the latter days.

Read the first verse of this passage and then compare it to what Jesus said in **Matthew 24:15-26**

Daniel 12:1 NIV

1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book will be delivered.

Matthew 24:15-26 NIV

15 So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand-- 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. 18 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. 19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again. 22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. 23 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you ahead of time. 26 "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.

This time was what Christ called the “*Great Tribulation*”. He said it would be a brief time of trouble and that there would never be a time like it before or afterward. “*At that time*” identifies the time frame as the time of the end and the latter days. This is the time of the end and is in reference to the period that ends with the establishment of the Messianic kingdom.

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The angel Michael is clearly identified for us. He is the only angel called an archangel, **Jude 9** and is the one who will cast Satan out of heaven, **Revelation 12:7-9**. He is the one who protects the nation of Israel and stands in her behalf, as Daniel makes clear here. His strategy is outlined by John in **Revelation 12:14-16**. The prophecy is about the Jews and how they will be affected in the time of trouble, **Matthew 24:21**. The believing remnant of Israel will be preserved, **Matthew 24:22** and **Romans 11:26**. It is a clear answer to who are the 144,000 of **Revelation 7:4**.

Daniel 12:2-4

2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.

Daniel 12:2-3 The remnant of Israel living in the Great Tribulation period will be preserved and the great company of Gentiles who are to be saved during that time also will be preserved. Those of the Old Testament who died belonging to the remnant and the Gentiles saved during the Old Testament will be raised to everlasting life at the end of the Great Tribulation. When the church is raptured out of the world, the Old Testament saints will not yet be raised. Why? Because the time to enter the kingdom is at the end of the Great Tribulation period when Christ comes to establish His kingdom on the earth. Then all of the saints will be raised to enter the Kingdom on this earth. However, if they were raised at the time of the Rapture of the church, they would not have a purpose yet to the lost of the Old Testament who are raised for the Great White Throne judgment at the end of the Millennium. **Revelation 10:11-15**.

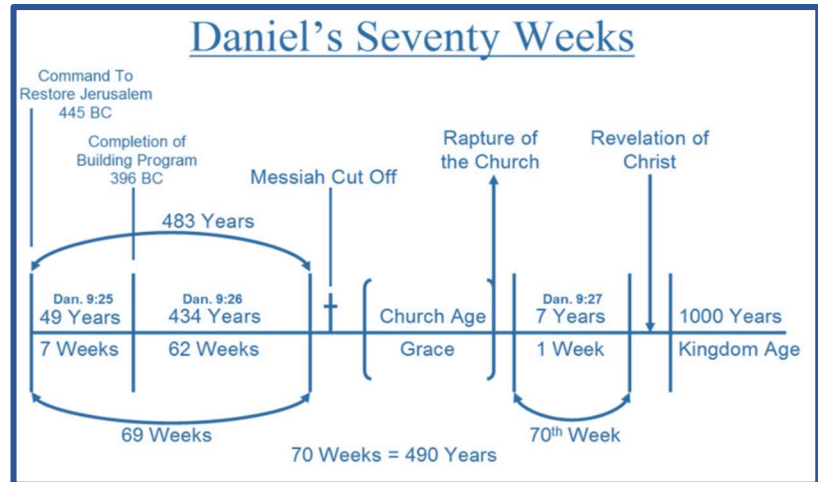
Daniel 12:4 The prophecies of Daniel were to be sealed until “*the time of the end.*” That is, they were to be sealed until the 70th week. Since we are in a time right before this, we may understand most of this but it may not be revealed in its entirety until the time actually starts. When Jesus comes to take the Church the understanding for all will change, **Titus 2:13**. Prophecy will be front and center at that time and knowledge will be increased. This would be knowledge of prophecy.

Daniel 12:5-10 NIV

5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. 6 One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?” 7 The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, “It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.” 8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, “My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?” 9 He replied, “Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.

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Daniel 12:5-7 These verses return us to the vision which Daniel had seen at the beginning of Chapter 10. The man clothed in linen is the post incarnate Christ. Two others join him here, one stands on one bank of the Tigris River and the other on the opposite bank. One asks how long will these events take, and the post incarnate Christ tells him it will be 3 and ½ years, or the last half of the 70th week of Daniel. The phrase, “the power of the holy people broken” speaks about the fact that there will not be any rebellion of Israel by the end of the Great Tribulation. They will have all turned to God at that time and none will be left who do not know Him as Savior.



Daniel 12:8-10 Daniel had watched all of this but he is not understanding what he saw and heard. He was puzzled and wanted to know how all of these things he had just witnessed would work out. Daniel is reminded again that these things would take place in the “time of the end” (verse 4) and they have been temporarily sealed until the times is right to open them. There are several principles of God that will prevail from Daniel’s day to the time of the end, regardless of the time.

1. Many will come to salvation and be purified, which is referring to those who have come to Christ. **Titus 3:5**
2. Those who are wicked (natural man) will not change their way of thinking. **I Corinthians 2:14**
3. The wise will be insightful. **John 16:13** The power of the Holy Spirit will allow people to be able to see and interpret prophecy and understand what will happen in the last days.

Daniel 12:11-13

11 From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. 13 "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.

Daniel 12:11-13 This is a personal blessing to Daniel that he will be blessed by being in the kingdom and that will happen after all the Gentile empires have expired. Forty-five more days, even beyond the 1290 days, allows for transition between Israel’s time of being shattered and God’s setting up His kingdom. Daniel’s career would soon involve death, but he will arise in the resurrection **John 5:29** and so the kingdom of the Messiah will come after the prophesied days.

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Resurrections in the Bible:

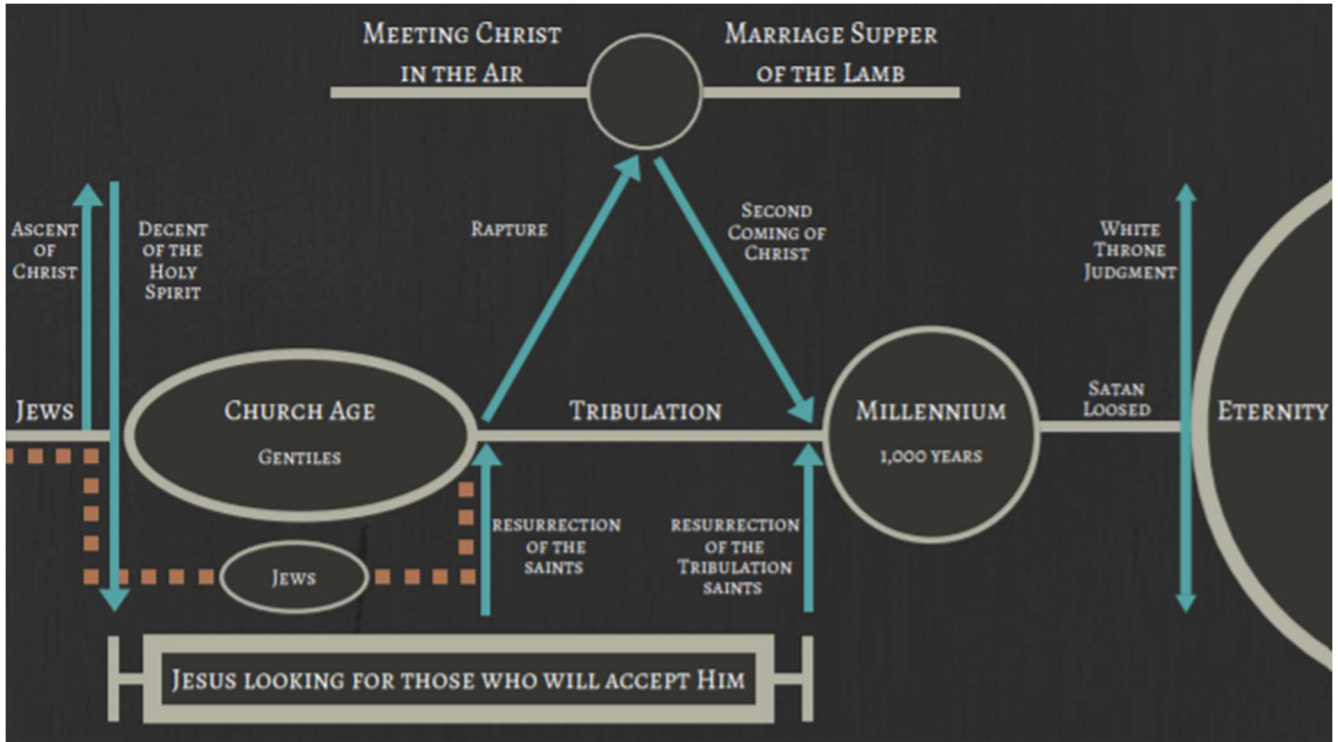
1. The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Matthew 28:1-7*
2. The Resurrection of a few saints at the time of the resurrection of Christ. *Mathew 27:50-53*
3. The Resurrection at the Rapture. *I Corinthians 15:51-58*
4. The Resurrection of the two witnesses in Jerusalem. *Revelation 11:3-13*
5. The Resurrection of Old Testament Saints. *Isaiah 26:19-21; Ezekiel 37:12-14; Daniel 12:1-3*
6. The Resurrection of the Tribulation Saints. *Revelation 20:4-6*
7. The Resurrection of the unbelieving dead to stand at the Great White Throne Judgement. *Revelation 20:11-15*

From a Jewish perspective, the purpose of the Tribulation period is to purge out the rebellious part of the Jewish nation and do away with apostate Judaism. A righteous remnant will remain and go into the Millennium with Jesus Christ as King.

WHO WILL BE IN THE MILLENNIUM?

- **First Resurrection:** Jesus Christ
- **Second Resurrection:** Rapture: The Church, including the Dead in Christ. Before the Tribulation Period
- **Third Resurrection:** Old Testament Saints & Those who died during Tribulation Jewish righteous remnant. (1/3 rescued) those who accepted Christ during the Tribulation

THE BOOK OF DANIEL & THE 70-WEEKS PROPHECY STUDY



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WHAT HAS THE STUDY OF DANIEL TAUGHT US?

“Prominent above every other theme in the book of Daniel is God’s sovereign control over the affairs of all rulers and nations, and their final replacement with the true king, Jesus.”

“I believe we need a prophetic perspective on life. If we do not have this perspective, we will get caught up in trying to do the things that Gods says He alone can do, trying to get the kingdoms of this world under our control and manipulate them our way. Daniel had a clear understanding of the sovereignty of God through the empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome which he foretold and the time when God will bring down the curtain on the program of Satan.”

Dr. David Jeremiah