

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

## Daniel - Introduction

The Book of Daniel, like the book of Revelation, is a book of prophecy, which means a revealing of future events. In fact the prophecies contained in this book are one of the clearest ways that we can be sure that the Bible is no ordinary book, that it is in fact divinely inspired, for no ordinary book could reveal the future so clearly, powerfully and accurately as does the book of Daniel.

To the casual reader the book may appear to be full of mysterious dreams, strange beasts and symbols and many other things which are apparently hard to understand, and yet, like the book of Revelation, the book of Daniel was written specifically for our time today, for our generation living in the closing moments of earth's history, and God intends that everyone should understand these prophecies, since they apply especially to our own time.

God's faithful servant Daniel, from whom the book takes its name, was instructed to "seal up" the prophecies he was given, and which he wrote down, until the "time of the end":

*Daniel 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."*

The book of Daniel reveals clearly that we today are living in that "time of the end", and the prophecies contained in the book have now been "unsealed" for us, making it possible for us to understand them clearly today.

In his book, the prophet Daniel outlines in vivid detail world events that we can see unfolding before our eyes today. His prophecies, which cover twenty-five hundred years of history, clearly outline world events from his own time (around 606/605 B.C., approximately six hundred years before Christ) to the very time in which we are living today.

In Daniel's prophecies we see clearly revealed such things as:

- The time of Christ's first advent.
- The rise of the antichrist power that would persecute God's faithful people.
- The progression of world empires from his own time until the second advent of Christ.

As we draw near the close of earth's history, these prophecies provide "inside information" on Satan's plans and activities, and reveal the last-day deceptions and delusions which Satan uses to deceive the world's population. His prophecies help us to see where we are in the stream of time and help us to know and be sure that Christ's coming is "even at the door".

Finally, we see clearly revealed in the prophecies of this book, that God is always in ultimate control of human events, and also that He cares faithfully and tenderly for all who are faithful to Him and wonderfully delivers them from the power of their enemies.

So now let's begin the exiting journey as we begin to unlock the mysteries contained in the amazing book of Daniel...

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## Daniel - Chapter 1

### The Captive Children

*Daniel 1:1-2 "1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god."*

Time after time, Israel turned away from the true God to heathen idolatry, choosing to join in the exciting festivals and holidays of the idol worshippers. Long had the Lord pled with the nation of Israel, through prophets and providential happenings, to return from their apostasy and idol worship that they had copied from the pagans around them. God had allowed the nation to become divided into two parts after the reign of Solomon. Israel had fallen years before to the Assyrians, and now the forces of Babylon under the young prince Nebuchadnezzar were threatening Jerusalem. They were warned by God's prophets that Jerusalem would be taken.

**Siege of Jerusalem** — Like one conscious of uttering only well-known truth, he proceeds at once to state a variety of particulars by which his accuracy could be tested. The overthrow of Jerusalem recorded here was predicted by Jeremiah, and was accomplished in 606 B.C.

*Jeremiah 25:8-11 "8 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, 9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. 10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. 11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years."*

The date 606 B.C. is widely supported by Ussher, Hales, and other chronologists, but more recent research by archaeologists favors the date 605. This apparently more accurate date, however, in no way affects the calculation of prophetic periods presented here, for it should be remembered that the Jews and other ancients counted both the first and last years of a period.

Jeremiah places this captivity in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, Daniel in the third. This seeming discrepancy is explained by the fact that Nebuchadnezzar set out on his expedition near the close of the third year of Jehoiakim, from which point Daniel reckons. But the King did not accomplish the subjugation of Jerusalem until about the ninth month of the year following, from which year Jeremiah reckons. Jehoiakim, though bound for the purpose of being taken to Babylon, humbled himself and was permitted to remain as ruler in Jerusalem, tributary to the King of Babylon.

This was the first time Jerusalem was taken by Nebuchadnezzar. Twice subsequently the city revolted, but was recaptured by the same King, and more severely dealt with each succeeding time. The second overthrow was during the time of Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim, when all the sacred vessels were either taken or destroyed, and the best of the inhabitants were led with the King into captivity. The third was under Zedekiah, when the city endured a formidable siege. During its continuance for a year and a

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half, the inhabitants of the city suffered all the horrors of extreme famine. At length the garrison and the King attempted to escape from the city, but they were captured by the Chaldeans.

The sons of the King were slain before his face. His eyes were put out, and he was taken to Babylon. Thus was fulfilled the prediction of Ezekiel that he should be carried to Babylon, and die there, yet he should not see the place ([Ezekiel 12:13](#)). The city and temple were at this time utterly destroyed, and the entire population of the country, with the exception of a few husbandmen, were carried captive to Babylon, in 586 B.C.

Such was God's passing testimony against sin — not that the Chaldeans were the favorites of Heaven, but that God made use of them to punish the iniquities of His people. Had the Israelites been faithful to God, and kept His Sabbath, Jerusalem would have stood forever ([Jeremiah 17:24-27](#)).

But they departed from Him, and He abandoned them. They profaned the sacred vessels by bringing idols into the temple; therefore God allowed these vessels to be further profaned by letting them go as trophies to heathen shrines abroad. Nebuchadnezzar also took captives from the royal family. About this time, Nebuchadnezzar's father, the King Nabopolassar, died and he returned to Babylon quickly to secure his throne. He left some special orders:

***Daniel 1:3-4** "3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; 4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans."*

Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, were among these captives taken away from their homes to Babylon. They were just youths at the time. When they arrived in the Great City of Babylon, they were given over to the Prince of the Eunuchs who was to see that they were educated. For three years they were to study in the schools of what was then the most advanced kingdom on earth. After their training they were to go in before the King, who would assign them duties in his government.

***Daniel 1:5-7** "5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. 6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: 7 Unto whom The Captive Children the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego."*

The Hebrew boys were given new names honoring the Babylonian idol-gods. However, it seems that he took no means to compel his royal captives to change their religion. Provided they had some religion, he seemed to be satisfied, whether it was the religion he professed or not. The change of their names signify some connection with heathen worship which may have been more to avoid the use of Jewish names by the Chaldeans than to indicate any change of sentiment or practice on the part of those to whom these names were given.

This change of names was probably made on account of the signification of the words. In the Hebrew, Daniel signified "judge for God"; Hananiah, "gift of the Lord"; Mishael, "who is what God is"; and Azariah, "whom Jehovah helps". Since these names had some reference to the true God and signified some connection with His worship, they were changed to names which had definitions linking them to the heathen divinities and worship of the Chaldeans.

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Thus Belteshazzar, the name given to Daniel, signified "prince of Bel"; Shadrach, "servant of Sin" (the moon god); Meshach, "who is what Aku is" (Aku being the Sumerian equivalent of Sin, the name of the moon god); and Abednego, "servant of Nebo". However, they were to be fed straight from the King's own table and be given the King's wine to drink. This was a great honor the King had bestowed on those who were his captive slaves, but Daniel recognized a problem.

***Daniel 1:8*** "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

But Daniel "purposed in his heart" - he made up his mind that come what may, he was not going to eat the rich food and meats from the King's table, nor was he going to drink his alcoholic wine.

***Daniel 1:9-11*** "9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs. 10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? Then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king. 11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah."

He spoke to Melzar, the man that had been put in charge of himself and his three friends, and asked that they be allowed to have "pulse" — fruits and vegetables for their diet and plain water to drink. Now the Bible tells us that God had caused the Prince of the Eunuchs that had charge over Daniel to be very fond of him. The request put to Melzar seemed impossible, "what do you think will happen to me, if the King sees you not looking as ruddy and healthy as the rest of the young men? Why — he will have my head!!" Why did Daniel and the three faithful worshippers of the God of Heaven not want to have the King's diet of rich, succulent dainties, and his alcoholic wine? There were several reasons; and these reasons are important to you and me as well.

One of the reasons was that the King's meat was first offered before idols and blessed by the heathen priests. To partake of it would be a form of worship to these idols. Daniel and his friends well knew that this decision could cost them their lives; but they determined that come what may, they would be faithful to their God. Another reason was that most of the King's meat was from animals that God had declared in the Holy Scriptures to be unclean and defiling and not to be used as food. In the Holy Scriptures, God had shown the difference between clean and unclean animals and that the unclean were not to be eaten (See Leviticus 11).

The next reason was that Daniel knew that a simple vegetarian diet with plenty of pure water to drink, was the healthiest diet and he wanted to keep his mind alert. Daniel knew that there in the heathen court of the King of Babylon, there would be many temptations for his companions and himself. He knew that he could depend on God to give them strength to be faithful, but that if he did not do his part to follow God's rules of health and keep his mind alert, he would be in real danger. So Daniel had proposed a test:

***Daniel 1:12-14*** "12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. 13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants. 14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days."

The word translated "pulse" here in this verse, does not just refer to beans and peas. The menu for which Daniel asked and which he received was made up of cereals, legumes, fruits, nuts, and

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vegetables — a vegetarian diet of good variety, together with the universal drink for man and beast, clear water.

Melzar agreed to try the boys for 10 days. They could have their strange diet, and after the test he figured they would see that the King's diet was much better and they would agree to that. The ten days passed; the other captives all gorged themselves on the rich meats and spicy dainties, washed down with goblets of the finest vintage wines. Perhaps they may have cracked a few jokes at the four at the one table with bread, fruit and vegetables and plain water on it. The day came when Melzar made his inspection, lining up the captives to evaluate their health.

***Daniel 1:15-17** "15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. 16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse. 17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams."*

Now the Bible lets us in on another important secret—after the three years of intense schooling were completed, the graduates were brought in before the King himself to have their final exams.

***Daniel 1:18-20** "18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm."*

Now these were the best educated men in the world at that time; and Daniel and his three friends were 10 times smarter! Would you like to be ten times smarter? Well, that diet of Daniel's, plain fruits grains and vegetables, simply prepared and lots of pure water will definitely help you.

And there is also another secret; when we "purpose in our hearts" to follow God and obey both His physical and His moral laws, then He will bless us in whatever we undertake. With His blessing and guidance it is easy to be 10 times smarter.

***Daniel 1:21** "And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus."*

He lived to a ripe old age and remained physically and mentally active.

## Further Thoughts

***1 Corinthians 10:11** "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."*

The Bible is not just a story book of history; everything in it has a message for our days here at the end of time. If it was important for Daniel to abstain from rich and unhealthy foods and beverages, how much more is it important to us who expect shortly to be facing the trials and tests of the closing up of God's work for planet earth?

In our day it seems customary to live to indulge in every kind of unhealthy habit and consider such indulgence a "treat". At a time when animal food has been clearly demonstrated to be unnecessary to human nutrition, we still hear from "official" sources about the importance of protein in the diet with the emphasis placed on animal flesh. Yet never has there been a time in history when animal products were more objectionable.

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Because of the factory farm methods of raising food animals and the unnatural diet fed them disease is rampant and these diseased animals are sent to the slaughter houses to appear on our tables. Mad Cow and other deadly scourges have emerged from the shadows to take their toll in human lives of men, women and even children. Careful and unbiased researchers have found that most of the diseases bringing misery and suffering to people of our day have at least some of their roots in the use of animal flesh and animal products for food.

The message of Daniel 1 is a message for today. A simple diet of fruits, vegetables, grains, seeds and nuts with adequate pure water will still work the wonders today that it did for the four youth in Babylon. Also such a diet will protect us from much if not most of the diseases that are crowding our hospitals and doctor's clinics with suffering humanity seeking, too often in vain, to obtain relief through chemical drugs and surgeries. Take heed of the lesson, pray for strength and guidance and start today to put it into effect in your life—you will be glad that you did.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."*

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## Daniel - Chapter 2

### A Mysterious Dream

*Daniel 2:1 "And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him."*

Daniel was carried into captivity in the first year of Nebuchadnezzar. For three years he was placed under instructors, during which time he would not of course be reckoned among the wise men of the kingdom, nor take part in public affairs. Yet in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar, the transactions recorded in this chapter took place. How, then, could Daniel be brought in to interpret the King's dream in his second year?

The explanation lies in the fact that Nebuchadnezzar reigned for two years conjointly with his father, Nabopolassar. From this point the Jews reckoned, while the Chaldeans reckoned from the time he began to reign alone on the death of his father. It appears that the next year after Daniel had completed his preparation to participate in the affairs of the Chaldean empire, the providence of God brought him into sudden and remarkable prominence throughout the kingdom. Babylon, the first world empire, was the greatest, richest, and most influential of all the empires in the then known civilized world.

It also had the most powerful King. This leader of men had managed by sheer force to put down his enemies one by one until his kingdom stood as the Queen of nations.

In the second year of his reign, King Nebuchadnezzar went to bed wondering just how long his kingdom would endure. He wanted to know about the future. That night, God looked down from heaven and chose to entrust this King with a look into the future. The King had a strange dream and when he awoke he was really upset, because although he knew it was important, he could not remember what the dream was.

*Daniel 2:2-3 "2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. 3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream."*

He sent for his wise men and magicians and told them he had dreamed a dream and was anxious to know the meaning of it. Wise men = psychics, Magicians = casters of spells, witches Astrologers = Foretelling future by star charts, fortune tellers, Sorcerers = Claim to communicate with the dead. Spiritualists Chaldeans = Philosophers of psychic divination, numerology etc.

*Daniel 2:4 "Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation."*

It is clear that these ancient magicians and astrologers seem to have been clever in getting enough information to be able to give answers in such a vague manner that they would seem right whichever way the events turned. Now, true to their cunning instincts, they called upon the King to make known to them his dream. If they could get full information respecting this, they could easily agree on some interpretation which would not endanger their reputation. They spoke to the King in Syriac, a dialect of the Chaldean language which was used by the educated and cultured classes. From this point to the end of Daniel 7, the record continues in Chaldaic, the language spoken by the King.



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**Daniel 2:5-7** *"5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. 6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof. 7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it."*

These men claimed to have access to all the secrets of the living and the dead, past and future, including the knowledge of the gods. This was not an unreasonable request the King was asking of them if all their boastful claims were true. It is important to realize that in all the ages of earth's history Satan has tried to duplicate the powers of God and his counterfeits do not come close to the 100% accuracy of God's prophetic Word.

**Daniel 2:8-9** *"8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me. 9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof."*

The wise men and magicians were confident that they could easily make up an interpretation to please the King if they knew the dream, but no-one could dare to make up the dream as well!

**Daniel 2:10-11** *"10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. 11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."*

"Tell us the dream, and we'll tell you what it means" pleaded the magicians. Nobody can tell you what your dream was. No King ever asked such an unreasonable thing!"

**Daniel 2:12** *"For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon."*

It was obvious to the King their claims were only idle tales, they couldn't do it. They even complained that the King was being unreasonable and this threw Nebuchadnezzar into a fury. He was so angry that he ordered that all the wise men and magicians should be killed. Some have denounced Nebuchadnezzar in this matter, as a heartless, unreasonable tyrant. But what did these magicians profess to be able to do?—reveal hidden things, to foretell events, to make known mysteries entirely beyond human understanding, by supernatural means. There was therefore nothing unjust in Nebuchadnezzar's demand that they should make known his dream. When they declared that none but the gods whose dwelling was not with flesh could make known the King's matter, they admitted that they had no communication with these gods, and knew nothing beyond what human wisdom could reveal.

**Daniel 2:13** *"And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain."*

The soldiers started collecting all the magicians to execute them.

**Daniel 2:14-15** *"14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: 15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel."*



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Daniel and his friends were to die too because they were among the wise men and magicians. Daniel asked why the King wanted to kill all his wise men. It was strange that Daniel and his companions, declared by the King ten times better than all his magicians and astrologers, should not have been called first in this matter. But God had a reason for this. Had the King called on Daniel at the first to make known the matter, the magicians would not have been brought to the test. But God would give the heathen systems of the Chaldeans the first chance. He would let them try and fail, that they might be the better prepared to acknowledge His intervention when He should finally manifest His power in behalf of His captive servants, and for the honor of His name. Daniel, first learning of the situation when the executioners come for his arrest, asked for time that he might consult the God whose dwelling was not with men, and pray for wisdom to make the dream known to the King.

***Daniel 2:16** "Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation."*

The King agreed to give Daniel time to consider the matter—a privilege which probably none of the magicians could have obtained, as the King had already accused them of preparing false words, and seeking to gain time for this very purpose.

***Daniel 2:17-19** "17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: 18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven."*

Daniel at once went to his three companions, and asked them to unite with him in asking light from the God of heaven concerning this secret. He could have prayed alone, and doubtless would have been heard. But in the union of God's people there is prevailing power. The promise tells us that when two or three shall agree as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of the Father which is in heaven ([Matthew 18:19,20](#)).

***Daniel 2:20-23** "20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: 22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. 23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter."*

Daniel offered up praise to God for His gracious dealing with them. God is honored by our praise to Him for the things He has done for us, as well as by our petitions to Him for help. Let Daniel be our example in this. Let us not forget to return thanksgiving and praise for blessings given us. In the days of Christ's ministry on earth, did He not cleanse ten lepers, and only one returned to give Him thanks? "But where", asks Christ sorrowfully, "are the nine?" ([Luke 17:17](#)).

Daniel had the utmost confidence in what had been shown him. He did not first go to the King to see if what had been revealed to him was indeed the King's dream, but he immediately praised God for having answered<sup>1</sup> his prayer. Although the matter was revealed to Daniel, he did not take honor to himself as though it were by his prayers alone that the answer had come. He included his friends in his thanksgiving. It was, said he, "what we desired of Thee", and Thou hast made it "known unto us".

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**Daniel 2:24-25** *"24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation. 25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation."*

Daniel's first plea was for the wise men of Babylon. Destroy them not, for the King's secret is revealed, he implored. They were worthy of as much condemnation as before. But their own confession of utter impotence in the matter was humiliation enough for them, and Daniel was anxious that they should so far partake of the benefits shown him as to have their lives spared. They were saved because there was a man of God among them.

**Daniel 2:26-28** *"26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? 27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; 28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;"*

"Art thou able to make known unto me the dream?" was the King's greeting to Daniel as he came into the royal presence. In spite of his previous acquaintance with this Hebrew, the King seemed to question his ability, so young and inexperienced, to make known a matter in which the aged and venerable magicians and soothsayers had utterly failed. Daniel declared plainly that the wise men, the astrologers, the soothsayers, and the magicians could not make known this secret. It was beyond their power. Therefore the King should not be angry with them, nor put confidence in their vain superstitions. The prophet proceeded to make known the true God, who rules in heaven, and is the only revealer of secrets. He it is, said Daniel, who "maketh known to the King Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days".

**Daniel 2:29-30** *"29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. 30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart."*

Unlike some rulers, who fill up the present with folly and debauchery without regard to the future, the King thought upon the days to come, with desire to know what would be in the future. It was partly for this reason that God gave him this dream. Yet God would not work for the King independently of His own people. Though He gave the dream to the King, He sent the interpretation through one of His acknowledged servants.

Daniel first disclaimed all credit for the interpretation, and then he sought to modify the King's natural feelings of pride in being thus noticed by the God of heaven. He informed him that although the dream had been given to him, it was not for his sake alone that the interpretation was sent, but also for their sakes through whom it should be given, God had some faithful servants there, and it was for them that He was working. They were of more value in His sight than the mightiest Kings and potentates of earth. By this one act of revealing the King's dream to Daniel, God made known to the King the things he desired, He saved His servants who trusted in Him, He brought before the Chaldean nation the knowledge of Him who knows the end from the beginning, He poured contempt on the false systems of the soothsayers and magicians, and He honored His own name and exalted His servants in their

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eyes. He also laid into history an important prophetic waymark for us who live in the time of the end of the world.

***Daniel 2:31-33*** "31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. 32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay."

Nebuchadnezzar, a worshiper of the gods of the Chaldean religion, he was an idolater. An image was an object which would at once command his attention and respect. Moreover, earthly kingdoms, which, as we shall hereafter see, were represented by this image, were objects of esteem and value in his eyes. But how well suited was this image to convey a great and needful truth to the mind of Nebuchadnezzar. Besides delineating the progress of events through the whole course of time for the benefit of His people, God would show Nebuchadnezzar the utter emptiness and worthlessness of earthly pomp and glory. How could this be more impressively done than by an image whose head was of gold? Below this head was a body composed of inferior metals descending in value until they reached their basest form in the feet and toes of iron mingled with miry clay.

***Daniel 2:34-35*** "34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

The whole was then dashed to pieces, and made like the empty chaff. It was finally blown away where no place could be found for it, after which something durable and of heavenly worth would occupy its place. So God showed to the children of men that earthly kingdoms are to pass away, and earthly greatness and glory, like a gaudy bubble, will break and vanish. In the place so long usurped by these, the kingdom of God shall be set up and have no end, while all who have an interest in that kingdom shall rest under the shadow of its peaceful wings forever and ever.

***Daniel 2:36-38*** "36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath e given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold."

Now opens one of the most comprehensive histories of world empires. Eight short verses of the inspired record tell the whole story, yet that story embraces the history of this world's pomp and power. A few moments will suffice to commit it to memory, yet the period which it covers, beginning more than twenty-five centuries ago, reaches from that far-distant point, past the rise and fall of kingdoms, past the setting up and overthrow of empires, past cycles and ages, past our own day, to eternity.

It is complete, yet it is so minute that it gives us the great outlines of earthly kingdoms from that time to this. Human wisdom never devised so brief a record that embraced so much. Human language never set forth in so few words such a great volume of historical truth. The finger of God is here. Let us heed the lesson well. With what interest and astonishment must the King have listened as he was informed by the prophet that his kingdom was the golden head of the magnificent image? Daniel informed the King that the God of heaven had given him his kingdom, and made him ruler over all.

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This would restrain him from the pride of thinking that he had attained his position by his own power and wisdom, and would enlist the gratitude of his heart toward the true God.

**Daniel 2:39** *"And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth."*

The next kingdom that was to come on the scene of action would be Medo-Persia. Medo-Persia was a coalition of two powers, the Medes and the Persians, they came together to form one power, that's why the image has two arms, because these are two powers that are coming together. The Persians are the strongest that's why in our history books many times it's referred to as the Persian kingdom. Now there may be some of you that think the Bible is a good history book, or that's it's a good book of literature, maybe you think that it's a good book of morals, but this book is divine. God is going to call a man by name over 100 years before he was born, and tell exactly how he would overthrow the city of Babylon, according to the word of God.

**Daniel 2:40** *"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise."*

## The Iron Monarchy of Rome

Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome are represented respectively by the head of gold, the breast and arms of silver, the belly and his thighs of brass, and the legs of Iron, with the feet of Iron and Clay being the overthrow of Rome. The testimony of history is full and explicit on this point. Rome subdued all things; like iron, it broke in pieces and bruised. Says Bishop Newton:

*"The four different metals must signify four different nations: and as the gold signified the Babylonians, and the silver the Persians, and the brass the Macedonians; so the iron cannot signify the Macedonians again, but must necessarily denote some other nation: and we will venture to say that there is not a nation upon earth, to which this description is applicable, but the Romans."* **Thomas Newton, Dissertations on the Prophecies, vol. I, p. 240**

Gibbon, following the symbolic imagery of Daniel, thus describes this empire:

*"The arms of the Republic, sometimes vanquished in battle, always victorious in war, advanced with rapid steps to the Euphrates, the Danube, the Rhine, and the ocean; and the images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their Kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome."* **Edward Gibbon, The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Vol. III, general observations following chap. 38, p. 634**

At the opening of the Christian Era, this empire took in the whole south of Europe, France, England, the greater part of the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the south of Germany, Hungary, Turkey, and Greece, not to speak of its possessions in Asia and Africa. Well therefore may Gibbon say of it:

*"The empire of the Romans filled the world, and when that empire fell into the hands of a single person, the world became a safe and dreary prison for his enemies. . . . To resist was fatal, and it was impossible to fly."* **Ibid., Vol. I, chap. 3, pp. 99,100**

It will be noticed that at first the kingdom is described as being as strong as iron. This was the period of its strength, during which it has been likened to a mighty colossus bestriding the nations, conquering everything, and giving laws to the world. But this was not to continue.

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*Daniel 2:41-42 "41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken."*

## Rome Divided

The element of weakness symbolized by the clay, pertained to the feet as well as to the toes. Rome, before its division into ten kingdoms, lost that iron vigor which it possessed to a superlative degree during the first centuries of its career. Luxury, with its accompanying effeminacy and degeneracy, the destroyer of nations as well as of individuals, began to corrode and weaken its iron sinews, and thus prepared the way for its disintegration into ten kingdoms. Iron and Clay In this mixture of metal and mud we see a very unnatural situation, the strength of the iron is undermined by the brittleness of clay and the fact that they do not even stick together makes it even worse. But there is a deeper meaning in this symbol and we learn much by looking into it.

Iron is used in the Bible as a symbol of ruling power (see [Psalms 2:9](#); [Revelation 2:27](#)). It stands for Civil or State power. Clay is used in a figurative way in describing God's people or church:

*Isaiah 64:8 "But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."*

Also see [Jeremiah 18:1-6](#). But here we do not see just clay; we are told it is miry or dirty clay. Miry clay denotes filthy or corrupted churches.

The combination of the iron and miry clay represents the mingling of State-craft and Priest-craft which is an abomination to God. The feet come into history at the time of the beginning of the Papal supremacy of the 1260 years where the church ruled the secular governments and used them for her own corrupt ends. The ten toes are also of this same material and our attention is called to them by the explicit mention of them in the prophecy. The Roman kingdom was finally divided into ten parts.

## The Ten Toes

The image of Daniel 2 is exactly parallel with the four beasts in the vision of Daniel 7. The fourth beast represents the same kingdom as do the iron legs of the image. The ten horns of the beast correspond naturally to the ten divisions of the Roman Empire. These horns are plainly declared to be ten Kings which should arise, but here we are also told that 3 would be uprooted. It is only when we look to Revelation 17 that we find further information regarding the final ten toes on the image and what they stand for. Daniel and Revelation are actually one prophetic book with the first part having been given by Christ to Daniel and the second part having been given by Christ to John on Patmos. Any attempts to truly understand these prophetic books separately will yield poor results.

In Revelation 17 we see a beast with seven heads and ten horns. The seven heads correspond with the seven kingdoms of the earth and the ten horns here are described:

*Revelation 17:12 "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten Kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as Kings one hour with the beast."*

At the end of time there will be a confederacy of ruling powers that will have one mind and will give their power to the Beast for a short time. These correspond with the ten toes on the Image of Daniel 2. They are not ten kingdoms, but one kingdom with ten Kings. We will learn more of this later. In

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Daniel's interpretation of the image he uses the words "King" and "kingdom" interchangeably meaning the same thing.

In verse 44 he says that "in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom." This shows that at the time the kingdom of God is set up, there will exist this plurality of confederated kings acting as one kingdom and giving their power to the Beast.

## The Ten Kingdoms

This division of the Roman Empire was accomplished between A. D. 351 and 476, a hundred and twenty-five years, from about the middle of the fourth century to the last quarter of the fifth. The map of the Roman Empire during that time underwent many sudden and violent changes, as the paths of hostile nations charging upon its territory crossed and re-crossed each other in a labyrinth of confusion. But all historians agree in this, that out of the territory of Western Rome, ten separate kingdoms were ultimately established as follows: Huns, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Burgundians, Heruli, Anglo-Saxons, and Lombards. The connection between these and some of the modern nations of Europe, is still traceable in the names, as England, Burgundy, Lombardy, France, etc.

*Daniel 2:43 "And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."*

With Rome fell the last of the world's universal empires. No other world kingdom was to succeed it, as it had the three which went before it. It was to continue until the kingdom of the stone smote it, upon its feet; broke them in pieces, and scattered them as the wind does 'the chaff of the summer threshing-floor!' Yet, through all this time, a portion of its strength was to remain. And so the prophet says, 'And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.' Time and again men have dreamed of rearing on these dominions one mighty kingdom. Charlemagne tried it. Charles V tried it. Louis XIV tried it. Napoleon tried it. Hitler tried it. None of them succeeded. A single verse of prophecy was stronger than all their hosts. 'This shall not be,' says the word of God. 'This has not been' replies the book of history.

But then, another plan remains. If force cannot avail, diplomacy and reasons of state may. And so the prophecy foreshadows this when it says, 'They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men' — i.e., marriages shall be formed, in hope thus to consolidate their power, and, in the end, to unite these divided kingdoms into one. To avert future conflicts, rulers resorted to the expedient of intermarriage to ensure peace, until by the opening of the twentieth century it was asserted that every ranking hereditary ruler of Europe was related to the British royal family. And shall this device succeed? World War I showed the futility of these attempts. No. The prophet answers: 'They shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.' Alliances may come, and it may appear that the iron and miry clay of the feet and toes of the great image have finally fused, but God said, "They shall not cleave one to another." It may seem that old animosities have disappeared, but "the Scriptures cannot be broken" ([John 10:35](#)).

*Daniel 2:44-45 "44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."*



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The coming kingdom! This ought to be the all-absorbing topic with the present generation. He who enters this kingdom shall dwell in it not merely for such a lifetime as men live in this present state. He shall not see it degenerate, or be overthrown by a succeeding and more powerful kingdom. No, he enters it to participate in all its privileges and blessings, and to share its glories forever, for this kingdom is not to "be left to other people." Are you ready? The terms of heirship are most liberal:

*Galatians 3:29 "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*

Are you on terms of friendship with Christ, the coming King? Do you love His character? Are you choosing to walk humbly in His footsteps, and, by His enabling grace, obey His teachings? If not, read your fate in the cases of those in the parable, of whom it was said:

*Luke 19:27 "But those Mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before Me."*

There is to be no rival kingdom where you can find an asylum if you remain an enemy to this, for God's kingdom is to occupy all the territory ever possessed by any and all of the kingdoms of this world, past or present. It is to fill the whole earth. Happy are they to whom the rightful Sovereign, the all-conquering King, at last can say:

*Matthew 25:34 "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."*

The 'Stone cut out without Hands' represents the final generation of God's faithful who will be prepared by God to carry forth an important work in the final hours of earth's history. They carry forth the final message of mercy and warning that leads quickly to the Second Coming of Christ to take His faithful home.

*Daniel 2:46-47 "46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him. 47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret."*

Nebuchadnezzar felt that he could accept this interpretation as a divine revelation; for to Daniel had been revealed every detail of the dream. The solemn truths conveyed by the interpretation of this vision of the night made a deep impression on the sovereign's mind, and in humility and awe he "fell upon his face, and worshipped." Nebuchadnezzar saw clearly the difference between the wisdom of God and the wisdom of the most learned men of his kingdom. In fulfilment of his promise of rewards the King made Daniel a great man. There are two things which in this life are specially supposed to make a man great, and both these Daniel received from the King: A man is considered great if he is a man of wealth; and we read that the King gave him many and great gifts. If in conjunction with riches a man has power, certainly in popular estimation he is considered a great man; and power was bestowed upon Daniel in abundant measure. He was made ruler over the province of Babylon and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. Thus speedily and abundantly did Daniel begin to be rewarded for his fidelity to his own conscience and the requirements of God.

*Daniel 2:48-49 "48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king."*



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Daniel did not become bewildered or intoxicated by his signal victory and his wonderful advancement. He first remembered the three who were companions with him in anxiety respecting the King's matter. As they had helped him with their prayers, he determined that they should share his honors. At his request they were placed over the affairs of Babylon, while Daniel himself sat in the gate of the King. The gate was the place where councils were held and where matters of chief moment were considered. The record is a simple declaration that Daniel became chief counselor to the King.

*Proverbs 22:29 "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men."*

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## Daniel - Chapter 3

### The Fiery Furnace

***Daniel 3:1** "Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon."*

The King had acknowledged the power of God, saying to Daniel, "Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, . . . and a revealer of secrets". For a time afterward, Nebuchadnezzar was influenced by the fear of God; but his heart was not yet cleansed from worldly ambition and a desire for self-exaltation. The prosperity attending his reign filled him with pride. In time he ceased to honor God, and resumed his idol worship with increased zeal and bigotry. The words, "Thou art this head of gold", had made a deep impression upon the ruler's mind.

Instead of reproducing the image as he had seen it, he would excel the original. His image should not deteriorate in value from the head to the feet, but should be entirely of gold—symbolic throughout of Babylon as an eternal, indestructible, all powerful kingdom, which should break in pieces all other kingdoms and stand forever. The King gave the orders and soon work began on an immense golden image that would tower 90 feet high on the plain of Dura. And he told all his people all over the world to come on a certain day and worship this huge image. The fact that the image was sixty cubits high and six cubits wide is of great significance, for the number six and multiples thereof was common in ancient Babylonia. Their great gods had numbers.

The number of Anu, their highest god, was sixty, and that likewise was the number of Marduk or Bel, when he replaced Anu as head of the Babylonian pantheon. The number six and multiples thereof was common in occult circles. Often it had evil or sexual connotations. 'Hex' is the Greek word for six, and 'sex' is the Latin word for six. In [Revelation 13:18](#) the number of the beast is given as 666. There are indications that six is the number chosen by the evil one as a symbol of himself.

***Daniel 3:2-3** "2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. 3 Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up."*

Then decrees were sent worldwide telling the important people all over the world to come on a certain day and worship this huge image. Daniel was most likely somewhere else at this time but Daniel's three friends, Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego were commanded to attend. They must have been watching the construction of this great image and had probably been praying for courage to do what they must do.

***Daniel 3:4-7** "4 Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, 5 That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: 6 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. 7 Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp,*

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*sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up."*

The day came, the King and all his important men gathered to see the people worship the golden image on the plain of Dura. "When you hear the music play", he told the people, "Then you must bow down and worship my image or you will be thrown into the burning fiery furnace!" Satan has always used seductive and fascinating music to further his ends and attract people to his false religions. Music can create a trance state in the mind that opens the doors to satanic control. Force is the last resort of every false religion. At first it tries attraction, as the King of Babylon tried the power of music and outward show. If these attractions, invented by men inspired by Satan, failed to make men worship the image, the hungry flames of the furnace were ready to consume them. The music played — everybody bowed down except Daniel's three friends, Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego. They would not worship any other god than the true God. There they stood as tall as they could. They didn't even bend down to 'tie their shoes!'

***Daniel 3:8-12** "8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. 9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever. 10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image: 11 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. 12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."*

On that eventful day the powers of darkness seemed to be gaining a signal triumph; the worship of the golden image bade fair to become connected permanently with the established forms of idolatry recognized as the state religion of the land. Satan hoped thereby to defeat God's purpose of making the presence of captive Israel in Babylon a means of blessing to all the nations of heathendom. But God decreed otherwise. Not all had bowed the knee to the idolatrous symbol of human power. In the midst of the worshipping multitude there were three men who were firmly resolved not thus to dishonor the God of heaven. Their God was King of Kings and Lord of lords; they would bow to none other.

To Nebuchadnezzar, flushed with triumph, was brought the word that among his subjects there were some who dared disobey his mandate. Certain of the wise men, jealous of the honors that had been bestowed upon the faithful companions of Daniel, now reported to the King their flagrant violation of his wishes.

***Daniel 3:13-15** "13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? 15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"*

The King commanded that the men be brought before him. "Is it true", he inquired, "do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?" He endeavoured by threats to induce them to unite with the multitude. Pointing to the fiery furnace, he reminded them of the punishment

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awaiting them if they should persist in their refusal to obey his will. But firmly the Hebrews testified to their allegiance to the God of heaven, and their faith in His power to deliver.

The act of bowing to the image was understood by all to be an act of worship. Such homage they could render to God alone. As the three Hebrews stood before the King, he was convinced that they possessed something the other wise men of his kingdom did not have. They had been faithful in the performance of every duty. He would give them another chance, if only they would signify their willingness to unite with the multitude in worshiping the image, all would be well with them; "but if ye worship not", he added, "ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace". Then with his hand stretched upward in defiance, he demanded, "Who is this God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"

**Daniel 3:16-18** *"16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."*

The three Hebrews told the King that they would not worship the image, whether he put them in the furnace or not—and that their God would take care of them. Their faith strengthened as they declared that God would be glorified by delivering them, and with triumphant assurance born of implicit trust in God, they added, "But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

**Daniel 3:19-20** *"19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. 20 And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace."*

"Make the furnace seven times hotter and throw them in!" screamed the angry King. He commanded the mighty men of his army to bind the worshipers of Israel's God, and execute them.

**Daniel 3:21-23** *"21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. 22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace."*

When the King saw that his will was not received as the will of God, he was "full of fury," and the form of his visage was changed against these men. Satanic attributes made his countenance appear as the countenance of a demon; and with all the force he could command, he ordered that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than it was, and commanded the most mighty men to bind the youth, and cast them into the furnace. It was so hot that the soldiers who threw the men into the furnace were killed by the fierce heat.

**Daniel 3:24-25** *"24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. 25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."*

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But the Lord did not forget His own. As His witnesses were cast into the furnace, the Saviour revealed Himself to them in person, and together they walked in the midst of the fire. In the presence of the Lord of heat and cold, the flames lost their power to consume. Then the King turned pale and exclaimed; "Didn't we throw three men, bound into the furnace? Look! I see four men, loose and walking in the furnace, and the fourth is like the Son of God". How did Nebuchadnezzar know about Jesus? Through the faithful witness of Daniel and his three friends.

***Daniel 3:26-27** "26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. 27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them."*

And now, his own greatness and dignity forgotten, Nebuchadnezzar descended from his throne and, going to the mouth of the furnace, cried out, "Ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither". They did, and they were not hurt — not even the smell of the fire was on them. Forgotten was the great golden image, set up with such pomp. In the presence of the living God, men feared and trembled. Then the King sent a letter to the entire world, saying that all people should reverence the God of the Hebrews — the God who saved His children from the burning fiery furnace.

***Daniel 3:28-30** "28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon."*

It was right for the King to make public confession, and to seek to exalt the God of heaven above all other gods; but in endeavoring to force his subjects to make a similar confession of faith and to show similar reverence, Nebuchadnezzar was exceeding his right as a temporal sovereign. He had no more right, either civil or moral, to threaten men with death for not worshiping God, than he had to make the decree consigning to the flames all who refused to worship the golden image. God never compels the obedience of man. He leaves all free to choose whom they will serve.

The tidings of their wonderful deliverance were carried to many countries by the representatives of the different nations that had been invited by Nebuchadnezzar to the dedication. Through the faithfulness of His children, God was glorified in all the earth. This is more than just an interesting story. We have come to the time when we may soon stand where the three Hebrew Children stood. You can read about it in Revelation 13. There we are told that the Powers of the Earth will unite to try and force all to bow down to an Image. This is a symbolic image, however, it means they will seek to force a religious observance on all, but that observance will break God's Law.

Those who refuse to 'bow down' to the decree to keep holy a day that God has never sanctioned— will certainly be thrown into a Fiery Furnace of affliction. May we pray and prepare earnestly now so that when that time comes when the rage of earthly Kings combines to destroy God's people, we will, in the strength of our Redeemer stand tall, as did the Three Hebrews on the Plain of Dura.

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Jesus promises that we will not stand alone. We are not to fear. The same mighty God who walked with those Hebrews in that fiery furnace then will be with us too. The form of the Fourth will be with us, and soon man's cruel and proud tyranny over his fellow men will be at an end for good.

*Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."*

## Daniel - Chapter 4

### The Mad King

Nebuchadnezzar was one of the greatest Kings ever. As a prince he had begun rapidly conquering and bringing under subjection all nations round about him. After his father's death, he ruled wisely and greatly valued education and knowledge. As he had conquered nations, he had collected up some of their wisest men and then trained them to work in his court. As we know, Daniel the prophet of God was among those he had brought to Babylon for this purpose. The King had supervised the building of what was probably the most beautiful city ever built this side of the flood. Its hanging gardens were a wonder of the world and have never been duplicated. He had made great walls around the city so thick that two chariots could drive side by side on top of them. The river channelled to flow through the city provided water and there was a system of storage for food that would make the city able to withstand the longest siege. Truly, Babylon was a great city and its King a great King. But as happens with most monarchs as they become rich and powerful, he became proud and tyrannical. He began to oppress his subjects and bring cruel burdens and severe taxation upon them so he could become even richer. He also began to take honor to himself that only was due to the God of Heaven.

*Daniel 4:1-3 "1 Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. 2 I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. 3 How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation."*

In Daniel chapter 4 we have an amazing event written, not by Daniel, but by King Nebuchadnezzar himself! It tells about a lesson that he had to learn the hard way. When he wrote this, he was the richest and most powerful man on earth. He was also wise and highly educated, he had a lot to be proud about, we would admit, but God changed him from being a proud monarch, boasting about himself, to a humble child of God. Already God had taught a few important lessons to Nebuchadnezzar. In the dream of the image, God had shown him that God is the one who sets up and brings down kings and kingdoms. On the plains of Dura Nebuchadnezzar had been shown that his power was limited.

*Daniel 4:4-7 "4 I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace: 5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. 6 Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream. 7 Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof."*

The lesson had still not completely sunk in, we now we see Nebuchadnezzar awakening from another disturbing dream. He could remember this one so again he sent for the wise men and magicians. It is a fact that if God sends a prophetic dream to a person who is not a follower of God, they will have to find a true worshipper of God to correctly interpret it. The psychics and astrologers will not be able to do it, because they do not understand spiritual truths, it was the same that way back then; and it is that way today. Those who neither love nor fear God cannot understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. They cannot approach unto the throne of Him who dwelleth in light unapproachable. To them the things of God must remain mysteries.



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**Daniel 4:8-9** *"8 But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying, 9 O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof."*

Once more in this idolatrous nation, testimony was to be borne to the fact that only those who love and fear God can understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. The King in his perplexity sent for his servant Daniel, a man esteemed for his integrity and consistency and for his unrivalled wisdom. Daniel came before the King and told him the dream that had made him feel afraid. Now this King was a mighty warrior, he did not panic easily, but when God chooses to frighten someone, even the bravest man trembles!

**Daniel 4:10-13** *"10 Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great. 11 The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: 12 The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it. 13 I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven;"*

This heavenly being approached the tree, and in a loud voice cried:

**Daniel 4:14-17** *"14 He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches: 15 Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: 16 Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. 17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."*

**Daniel 4:18** *"This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee."*

The King told the strange dream to Daniel and then asked him for the meaning.

**Daniel 4:19** *"Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies."*

But Daniel didn't answer right away. For an hour he was 'astonied' (filled with consternation or dismay). He didn't know what to say. It was not an easy thing to tell to the King. Sometimes God's people have to tell people things that are not easy to say; nevertheless they have to be said.

Notice in the account of the dream the Bible mentions 'seven times'. In prophecy this expression is associated with God's punishment for rebellion against Him. In Leviticus 26 where Moses lists the blessings and curses, we see this phrase:

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*Leviticus 26:18 "And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins."*

The same phrase appears four times in this chapter in the curses that would come upon Israel if they refused to remain loyal to the God of Heaven and adopted the customs of the heathen. Here in the case of Nebuchadnezzar it is to be seven literal years. Finally Daniel said; "This dream be to your enemies!" Slowly Daniel explained the dream. "The great tree that you saw where the birds nested and the beasts found shelter is you and your government". The tree in the dream, making shelter for birds and beasts, was what a government is supposed to be. Governments are meant to serve the interests and needs of the people, not the other way around.

*Daniel 4:20-22 "20 The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; 21 Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: 22 It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth."*

Nebuchadnezzar was at one time a superior ruler; a man more compassionate toward his subjects than was the ruler of any other heathen nation, and his rule was symbolized by a lofty tree. But the man who thinks it is his right to command his fellow men and says, "You shall," and "You shall not," is entirely out of his place. He takes upon himself that which was never given him and lords it over God's purchased possession. Every man is accountable to God for his actions. The man in a position of trust who is guided by the spirit of God will always protect the weak, relieve the needy, and look after the widow and the fatherless.

*Daniel 4:23-27 "23 And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him; 24 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: 25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. 26 And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. 27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity."*

Daniel continued to tell about the Watcher, the Holy One who commanded the tree to be cut down and only leave the stump. But the stump was to be bound with brass and iron. Solemnly he told the King that he would be driven from men and eat grass like an ox and live with beasts out in the dew and rain for seven "times". Seven "times" = seven years of real time.

When Daniel said this to the King it seemed impossible that it could ever happen. The King had powerful bodyguards — who could ever drive him away? Now Daniel knew that God is very gracious and forgiving so he advised the King to be humble, kind and gracious and consider the poor. He hoped by this that the terrible judgment would not happen to the King. The King did this for a while but he gradually forgot the fear he had felt when he saw the Watcher in the dream.

A year later, he was walking in his palace and looking at the beauty and might of what he had built and he started again to boast. For twelve months he was tested and proved of God, to see if he would

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humble his proud heart, and the witness was with him when he came in and when he went out; This was his probationary period, this was the time when he could have repented and put things right, but he did not, and at the end of the twelve months as he walked in his palace in the kingdom of Babylon the dream he had had was brought to fruition.

**Daniel 4:28-32** *"28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. 30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? 31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. 32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."*

Instantly the King went mad. He began to act like a wild animal. He didn't know he was even human, much less a King. He didn't know his own name and he tore his clothes and began to live like a beast. They had no choice but to drive him out to the fields, where for seven years he ate plants and grass like a grazing animal. He even stayed out in the rain. His hair grew shaggy and matted and his nails like bird's claws. What a change from the rich robed and well-groomed King to this thing, growling in the field.

**Daniel 4:33-37** *"33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws. 34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: 35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? 36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. 37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase."*

Now just imagine this picture; seven years later, here is the King-beast out in the field munching grass and all of a sudden his mind comes back to normal. He remembers everything that happened before and he looks at his body, his shaggy, matted hair and bird-claw hands. He is all dirty and scratched up from bushes. Now the truth comes home to him very clear; God is the one who is in charge of kingdoms and Kings.

Here is the greatest miracle about this whole happening. When Nebuchadnezzar comes in from the field, gets cleaned up and dressed again, he goes back to his throne and nobody has any problem with that. They accept him back as King again and he reigns for the rest of his life and his son after him. This is amazing, because in those days a King had many enemies and people would plot to overthrow them and take their throne. But had God said in the dream that the stump would be bound with brass and iron and his kingdom would be returned to him once he knew who was God and who really rules in the affairs of men. And so it was, just as God had said it would be.

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At the end of this time his reason was restored to him, and looking up in humility to the God of heaven, he recognized the divine hand in his chastisement. The transformation had come. The mighty monarch had become the humble child of God, obedient to His will. The despot had been changed into the wise, compassionate ruler. Because these words honoring God and showing he had learned his lesson, are the last recorded from Nebuchadnezzar, we will meet him in heaven if we too are faithful. In Daniel's life, the desire to glorify God was the most powerful of all motives. He realized that when standing in the presence of men of influence, a failure to acknowledge God as the source of his wisdom would have made him an unfaithful steward. And his constant recognition of the God of heaven before Kings, princes, and statesmen, detracted not one iota from his influence. King Nebuchadnezzar, before whom Daniel so often honored the name of God, was finally thoroughly converted, and learned to "praise and extol and honor the King of heaven".

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## Daniel - Chapter 5

### Belshazzar's Feast

*Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."*

The wonderful lessons that God had taught to Nebuchadnezzar resulted in his spending the rest of his days worshipping the true God and being a good and merciful King to his people. He died about August-September 562 B.C., and was succeeded by his son Evil-Merodach, who reigned only two years. Neriglissar, his son-in-law, four years; Laborosoarchod, Neriglissar's son, nine months, which, being less than one year, is not counted in the canon of Ptolemy; and lastly, Nabonadius, who became king in 555 B.C. and shared the royal power with his son, Belshazzar. Nabonadius was away at war and the haughty young King Belshazzar was left to manage the great city of Babylon. But although Belshazzar knew all about the happenings in the life of Nebuchadnezzar, his grandfather, it made no impression on his pride. Defiantly he returned to the worship of idols and all the pagan festivals. Under his foolish rule, mighty Babylon, built at so great an effort by his fathers, was soon to fall.

*Daniel 5:1 "Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand."*

It may be that Belshazzar, growing up when the kingdom was already conquered, surrounded by luxury, did not have to learn to work hard or to control himself. Maybe he was a spoilt child. Whatever the reason, he ended up being known as one of the most foolish Kings in history. In this story we again see the 'Watcher and the Holy One' that Nebuchadnezzar trembled before in his dream. But for him there had been a second chance. Belshazzar would have no second chance. Why? Because he knew better. God expects us to learn the lessons of the Bible to learn from history and even what our parents and grandparents have learned in their experiences. When Nebuchadnezzar was King he did not know any better than to be just like all the heathen Kings, and God gave him lesson after lesson until he got the point.

Belshazzar knew Nebuchadnezzar and no doubt he even told Belshazzar as a child, his stories about the true God and what He had taught him. Belshazzar knew about the Watcher and Holy One, but he refused to obey God and just wanted to live for parties and fun. It's important to learn the lessons God makes available to us in our childhood and youth. There is not always a second chance!

*Isaiah 45:1 "Thus saith the Lord 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 before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;"*

Here is an amazing fact of the Bible that shows us that God is real. The prophet Isaiah wrote this prediction over a hundred years before Cyrus was born and told just how the city of Babylon would be captured. There are some interesting things about the great city. It had been made in such a way that it could not be captured; at least it looked that way to man. The great walls were so thick that two chariots could race side by side on the top. They could never be knocked down. They had huge storehouses full of carefully preserved food, enough for many years. The Euphrates River flowed through the city to provide water and had special gates so that no one could sneak in through the river. These are the 'two leaved gates' that the Lord describes in the prophecy. Now Cyrus and his general were very clever. They pretended to lay siege to the city and they had soldiers camp where

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they could be seen from the walls of Babylon. These soldiers lounged around and didn't seem very serious about anything. This made the young and foolish King, Belshazzar very bold. History tells us they even threw food out over the walls to show the soldiers they were not at all worried. Oh how silly man can be! Babylon was like the 'unsinkable' Titanic that is out there off Newfoundland, on the bottom of the ocean.

*Proverbs 29:1 "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."*

*Daniel 5:2-4 "2 Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. 3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. 4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone."*

Here we continue to see this foolish young King heading for destruction. An army is camped outside the walls determined to conquer the city and the King is so arrogant that he decides to throw a huge party. He invites a thousand important people and all the pretty ladies. He is so sure that he is safe that he just wants to 'celebrate'. Wine flows like water—rich food is heaped on the tables. Nothing is lacking in the music and entertainment; nothing except truth and godliness that is. Then if all this were not enough wickedness, Belshazzar, drunk with wine, decides to show off even more.

He decides to prove once and for all that his grandfather's 'True God' is nothing. Maybe some of the older nobles had reminded him that Nebuchadnezzar's dream showed that Babylon would fall, we don't know, but here's what he did: With reason dethroned through shameless intoxication, and with lower impulses and passions now in the ascendancy, the King himself took the lead in the riotous orgy. As the feast progressed, he "commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem; that the King, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein." The King would prove that nothing was too sacred for his hands to handle. The sacred vessels from the temple of God are brought and alcohol poured into them and they drank out of them, laughing and joking about the 'True God' of the Jews. In the next verse we are given the thought that he may even have brought out the sacred golden candlestick from the temple and displayed it in the banquet hall.

*Daniel 5:5-9 "5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. 6 Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another. 7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom. 8 Then came in all the king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof. 9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished."*

Little did Belshazzar think that there was a heavenly Witness to his idolatrous revelry; that a divine Watcher, unrecognized, looked upon the scene of profanation, heard the sacrilegious mirth, beheld the idolatry. But soon the uninvited Guest made His presence felt. When the revelry was at its height a bloodless hand came forth and traced upon the walls of the palace characters that gleamed like



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fire—words which, though unknown to the vast throng, were a portent of doom to the now conscience-stricken King and his guests. Hushed was the boisterous mirth, while men and women, seized with nameless terror, watched the hand slowly tracing the mysterious characters. Where but a few moments before had been hilarity and blasphemous witticism now were pallid faces and cries of fear. When God makes men fear, they cannot hide the intensity of their terror. Belshazzar was the most terrified of them all. He it was who above all others had been responsible for the rebellion against God which that night had reached its height in the Babylonian realm. In the presence of the unseen Watcher, the representative of Him whose power had been challenged and whose name had been blasphemed, the King was now paralyzed with fear as in vain he tried to read the burning letters.

But here was a secret he could not fathom, a power he could neither understand nor gainsay. In despair he turned to the wise men of his realm for help. His wild cry rang out in the assembly, calling upon the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers to read the writing. Quickly the word goes through the palace until someone tells the Queen mother. She comes and tells the terrified King, who doesn't look so smart now, that he had better send for Daniel who could read the writing for him.

***Daniel 5:10-12** "10 Now the queen by reason of the words of the king and his lords came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed: 11 There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers; 12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation."*

Now there is an interesting fact about these words written on the wall. The King could read them because they were in his language but he could not at all understand why they were there and what they meant. But that night Belshazzar's kingdom was finished. He had transgressed and passed the point of no return. His kingdom would be torn from him.

***Daniel 5:13-15** "13 Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry? 14 I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee. 15 And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing:"*

Now Daniel had not been Belshazzar's right hand man as he had been for Nebuchadnezzar. The foolish young King so determined to do things his own way had no desire to have godly people around him. But now he sends word for Daniel to come right away. People may seem to be bold and sure of themselves but it doesn't take much to change all of that.

***Daniel 5:16-17** "16 And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom. 17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation."*



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Daniel wasn't impressed by the promises of rich rewards. He told the wicked King to keep them for himself. But he would read the writing and tell him what it meant. Thus Daniel, representing the living God, was brought before this foolish ruler to declare his doom. It is interesting that for many years no one knew why Belshazzar only said he would make Daniel 'third ruler' in the kingdom. Then when they found clay tablets and seals with the names of Nabonidus and Belshazzar on them, they learned that Belshazzar was second ruler as his father was still also King.

Before Daniel reads the writing he tells Belshazzar just what he should have remembered, lessons from his grandfather. He reminds him all about the things that happened to his grandfather. He tells him that he should have known better than to do what he had done.

***Daniel 5:18-24** "18 O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour: 19 And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down. 20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: 21 And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will. 22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; 23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: 24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written."*

## Daniel Rebukes Belshazzar

Daniel first disclaimed the idea of being influenced by such motives as governed the soothsayers and astrologers. He said, "Let thy rewards be to another." He wished it distinctly understood that he did not enter upon the work of interpreting this matter on account of the offer of gifts and rewards. He then reminded Belshazzar of the experience of his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar, as set forth in the preceding chapter. He told Belshazzar that though he knew all this, yet he had not humbled his heart, but instead had lifted up himself against the God of heaven. He had even carried his impiety so far as to profane God's sacred vessels, praising the senseless gods of men's invention, and refusing to glorify God in whose hand his breath was. For this reason, Daniel told him, the hand had been sent forth from God whom he had daringly and insultingly challenged. He then proceeded to explain the writing.

***Daniel 5:25-29** "25 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. 26 This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. 27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. 28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. 29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom."*

Under the circumstances, it seemed kind of useless to make Daniel third ruler in a kingdom whose doom he had just announced. But I think God had a reason for this. Because Daniel was then made a ruler the new King would get to meet him, where if this had not happened he may not. God takes care

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of His children who are faithful to Him. For every person on earth there comes a time when they are 'weighed in the balances.' May we not be found 'wanting' (not right with God) but 'right with God'. In [Daniel 7:4](#); in the first year of Belshazzar's reign; Babylon was shown to Daniel as a mighty winged Lion, meaning speed, nobility and power—but the prophecy said its wings would be plucked, and it would be made to stand on its feet like a man and a man's heart given to it. And so it came to pass.

***Daniel 5:30-31 "30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. 31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old."***

While the enemy soldiers were camping outside of Babylon where they could be seen from the city, most of them were working on a bigger project where they could not be seen from the city. They were digging a channel to turn the great river out of its bed. They finished this while Belshazzar had his big party. Then the army marched towards the city through the riverbed.

The way Babylon was constructed, there was no way to get in through the riverbed. An army would simply march through and out the other side and still not enter into the city itself — unless the special 'two leaved gates' were left open. This is just what God had predicted and just what happened. Maybe it was because a lot of the wine that was supposed to be for the King's party ended up being drunk by the guards and watchmen, we don't know, but the gates were left unlocked and the enemy soldiers swarmed into the city from the now shallow riverbed. Just a short time after Daniel pronounced the sentence of God on the wicked and foolish King; the soldiers entered the banquet hall and killed Belshazzar.

You may plan for merely selfish good, you may gather together treasure, you may build mansions great and high, as did the builders of ancient Babylon; but you cannot build walls so high or gates so strong as to shut out the messengers of doom. Belshazzar the King "feasted in his palace," and "praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone." But the hand of One invisible wrote upon his walls the words of doom, and the tread of hostile armies was heard at his palace gates.

"In that night was Belshazzar the King of the Chaldeans slain", and an alien monarch sat upon the throne. To live for self is to perish. Covetousness, the desire of benefit for self's sake cuts the soul off from life, it enables the spirit of Satan to get in and to draw to self. It is the spirit of Christ to give, to sacrifice self for the good of others. God made Nebuchadnezzar to become a beast for a while, but Belshazzar ignored the lesson and made a beast out of himself.

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

## Daniel - Chapter 6

### Daniel in the Lion's Den

It had been a long time since the boy Daniel was brought to Babylon as a slave by Prince Nebuchadnezzar. He had served long and faithfully and was now well up in years. Having just been made a chief ruler in the kingdom just before Belshazzar's death had brought him to the attention of the conquering ruler Darius, placed over the city by Cyrus. Darius took a liking to Daniel and felt he could trust him. He too was an older man, being 62 when Babylon fell and he valued the experience and godly wisdom of the faithful Hebrew captive. Quickly Daniel found himself once again as first ruler next to the King.

*Daniel 6:1-3 "1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; 2And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. 3Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm."*

He set up 120 princes and over them was to be three presidents. Daniel was the chief of the three. Daniel was the one they all had to answer to.

*Daniel 6:4 "Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him."*

So now we see Daniel again in a position where heathen rulers were forced to have a worshipper of the True God as head over them. Satan didn't like it, the heathen rulers didn't like it, but they were stuck with it, but Darius was very pleased with his new friend, Daniel. The heathen rulers then got a nasty idea. They decided to watch him very closely and surely they would be able to catch him making a mistake or being dishonest. They watched him in everything he did. They wanted to catch him in something that they could use to get him fired or better yet, executed. But they could not find anything to report that was bad about Daniel.

*Daniel 6:5 "Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God."*

Daniel's position was not an enviable one. He stood at the head of a dishonest, prevaricating, godless cabinet, whose members watched him with keen, jealous eyes, to find some flaw in his conduct. They kept spies on his track, to see if they could find something against him, Satan suggested to these men a plan whereby they might get rid of Daniel. Use his religion as a means of condemning him; now you would think that they would have been ashamed to try to harm this dear old man who did his work so well and faithfully; but they were jealous and determined to get rid of him. They realized that the only way they could trap him would have to be "concerning the law of his God". The keen eyes of jealousy were fixed upon Daniel day after day; their watching's were sharpened by hatred; yet not a word or act of his life could they make appear wrong. The more blameless the conduct of Daniel, the greater was the hatred excited against him by his enemies. They were filled with madness, because they could find nothing in his moral character or in the discharge of his duties upon which to base a complaint against him.

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**Daniel 6:6-7** *"6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever. 7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions."*

So they got their heads together and they started to flatter king Darius. They told him what a great king he was and what he could do to make himself even greater. "Why don't you make a law that says for 30 days nobody can ask anything from any man or even any god except you; and if they do, they will be thrown into the lion's den." Now they could have said, "That no one should ask anything of the God of the Hebrews", but that would have shown the King what their plan really was.

**Daniel 6:8-9** *"8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. 9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree."*

That was really silly, don't you think? But they had flattered him so much and made him feel so proud of himself that he just fell for it. Quickly they put the 'law' before him and he signed it and sealed it. He never dreamed it was just a plot to get rid Daniel.

**Daniel 6:10** *"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."*

Daniel was a man of prayer. Three times a day he knelt before the Lord; and Satan told his enemies that they could use this to destroy him. Daniel knew about the decree, he knew it was designed for one reason only—to get him. Now Daniel could have just prayed secretly for a month. He could have just prayed in his head in the bathroom or something. But he would not dishonor his God like that. He knew also that no man has any right to tell another man how he is to worship his God to even pretend to go along with it would deny and insult God. So he opened his windows just like always towards Jerusalem and he prayed, not once, not twice but three times a day, just like always, and where they could watch the whole thing were those wicked, jealous rulers. Daniel knew it; but he committed himself to the Lord and went about his business anyway. He was no different in this time of danger than when all was well with him. Just like his three friends had years before, he trusted God and left the problem in His hands. That law seemed silly, but it was meant to destroy God's faithful one; the Sunday Law that will be forced upon the nations in the last days will seem silly also; but it is Satan's plan to get rid of God's true children who keep His 10 Commandments, who worship the one God and who keep the true Sabbath day that Satan so hates.

**Daniel 6:11-13** *"11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. 12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. 13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day."*

As soon as they said it, the king saw his mistake. King Darius realized that all along it had been just a plot to get rid of Daniel. He knew they were jealous of him and now they had their weapon to use against Daniel and he, foolishly, had given it to them.

## Unlocking the Book of Daniel

**Daniel 6:14** *"Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him."*

Now there was a very interesting law that the Medo-Persian Empire had made for themselves; they had passed a law that no law that they made could be changed. In other words they felt they could never make any mistakes. They thought they were infallible—like God Himself! So the King couldn't just pass another law and not put Daniel in with the lions. Those rulers would have made big trouble for him if he did that. There is another power today that claims to be infallible. Do you know who it is? It is the Pope of Rome. He thinks he is 'like God' also. But was Darius really infallible? Hadn't he just made a terrible mistake? Yes indeed! And so will the popes of Rome find out someday that they have made a terrible mistake by persecuting God's faithful people.

**Daniel 6:15-16** *"15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed. 16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee."*

King Darius gave the order and went with Daniel to the lions' den. In those days Kings liked to have caged lions and throwing people to them was a good way to get rid of people they didn't like and help to feed the hungry lions at the same time. But the king had learned something about Daniel and his God, and he assured him that his God would protect him.

**Daniel 6:17** *"And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel."*

Daniel was thrown into the lion's den and a stone was brought and placed on the mouth of the den and the king sealed it with his own seal. It seems King Darius was not as worried about the lions as he was about the wicked rulers coming and stealing Daniel out of the den and perhaps killing him or taking him away; and everybody would think he was eaten up. So he made sure the den could not be opened without breaking that seal.

**Daniel 6:18-19** *"18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him. 19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions."*

The King then went back to his palace and spent a sad, miserable night. He felt very ashamed of himself that he had allowed the rulers to trick him like they did. He kept thinking about his dear old friend out there in the den of lions. He would not eat or listen to music and just counted the hours till morning.

**Daniel 6:20** *"And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?"*

The first rays of dawn saw the worried King hurrying out to the lions' den. He called out to his old friend and was overjoyed to hear the polite reply of the faithful servant of God.

**Daniel 6:21-22** *"21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. 22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt."*

Quickly the King ordered the stone to be removed and Daniel is taken up out of the den. He was examined carefully and there was no hurt on him. Not even a scratch or a bite. Here, then, stood

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

Daniel, preserved by a power higher than any power of earth. His cause was vindicated, his innocence declared. "No manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God." Faith did it. A miracle had been wrought.

**Daniel 6:23-24** *"23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God. 24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den."*

Now Darius ordered the wicked rulers who had tricked him to be brought with their whole families and thrown into the lions' den. The lions were hungry enough when not restrained by divine intervention, and these men were torn to pieces before they reached the bottom of the den. Thus was Daniel doubly vindicated, and the words of Solomon were strikingly fulfilled:

**Proverbs 11:8** *"The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead."*

Those big cats just crunched them up like crackers. So their evil plan came back onto their own selves. The king then sent around a decree telling the story of the great God of heaven:

**Daniel 6:25-28** *"25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. 26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. 27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. 28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian."*

Because of this, the message of the true God went around the world once again turning people to worship the God of heaven, the Creator of heaven and earth. Those who have moral courage to stand in opposition to the vices and errors of their fellow men will receive hatred, insult, and abusive falsehood, they may be thrust down from their high position, because they would not be bought or sold, because they could not be induced by bribes or threats to stain their hands with iniquity. Everything on earth may seem to conspire against them; but God has set His seal upon His own work, they may be regarded by their fellow men as weak, unmanly, unfit to hold office; but how differently does the Most High regard them, those who despise them are the really ignorant. While the storms of calumny and reviling may pursue the man of integrity through life, and beat upon his grave, God has the "well done" prepared for his people. Folly and iniquity will at best yield only a life of unrest and discontent and at its close a thorny dying pillow.



# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

## Daniel - Chapter 7

### Awesome Beasts of Prophecy

*2 Peter 1:19 "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed:"*

*Daniel 7:1 "In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters."*

In the books of Daniel and Revelation, the same history is told over and over again, with each different view adding information to the total picture. When all these pieces are put together by a careful student under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we see a detailed picture of history and the future, especially the final events. This kind of knowledge is not available to the casual Bible reader, or to the critics and sceptics, no matter how educated or clever they think themselves to be. Remember how the so-called 'wise-men' and magicians of Daniel's day could not interpret the messages from God? It is the same today. A child, who loves God and honestly wants to obey Him and learn the Truth, will understand what the great men of the world cannot know. It's part of the Mystery of the Holy Bible.

*Daniel 7:2-3 "2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another."*

Belshazzar had come to the throne of Babylon, and as we saw before, he didn't want godly people like Daniel around his court. What Daniel's job was at this time we are not told, however, one night God gave Daniel a dream and in the dream he saw a raging sea, tossed by the four winds, and out of that sea came four strange beasts, one at a time following each other.

The books of Daniel and Revelation are really part of the same prophecy and they both help us to understand what the prophecies mean. There is an important rule in prophecy you must learn if you don't want to get mixed up. We must always find the meanings of the prophecies in the Bible itself. If we just read something and then I say, "I think it means this", and you say, "I think it means that", we will be confused. This is what most people do when they read prophecy and it gets to be a mess. The Bible is always to be its own interpreter.

In prophecy the waters or 'great sea' means people and nations on earth:

*Revelation 17:15 "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."*

The 'four winds' mean war, trouble and strife:

*Revelation 7:1 "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree."*

Beasts represent kingdoms or nations:

*Daniel 7:23 "Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth."*

When we see the beasts come up out of the water and the winds blow, we know they came to power by war and battle. To Daniel was given a vision of fierce beasts, representing the powers of the earth.

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But the symbol of the Messiah's kingdom is a lamb. While earthly kingdoms rule by physical power (force), Christ is to banish every manmade weapon, every instrument of coercion (force). His kingdom is to be established to uplift and ennoble fallen humanity. Forcing people to worship or obey God, even in something that in itself is right, is not what God wants. He only wants people to serve Him because they want to and choose to.

***Daniel 7:4 "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it."***

The winged lion showed power and speed. It represented Babylon and was even used as a symbol by Nebuchadnezzar. Archaeologists have seen stones from Babylon with lions and even winged lions on them. Under Nebuchadnezzar the kingdom was swift and powerful but later it became weak and foolish under Belshazzar. This is what the wings being plucked and the lion standing up with only a timid man's heart showed. Luxury, indulgence, and soft living changed the mighty lion into a weak sissy.

Babylon is a symbol of the world at large. When its doom was made certain, its Kings and officers seemed to be as men insane, and their own course hastened its destiny. When the doom of a nation is fixed, it seems that all the energy, wisdom, and discretion of its former time of prosperity, deserts its men of position, and they hasten the evil they would avert.

Outside enemies are not the greatest peril to an individual or a nation, the overthrow of a nation results under the providence of God, from some unwise or evil course of its own. But the people who fear God, who are loyal to his laws, who carry out the principles of righteousness in their lives, have a sure defence; God will be the refuge of those who trust in him.

***Daniel 7:5 "And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh."***

Next Daniel saw a bear, which was higher on one side than the other. This was Medo-Persia and it was a combination of two powers and the one power, Persia, was stronger. This was shown by it being 'raised up on one side'. The character of this power is well represented by a bear. The Medes and Persians were cruel and greedy, robbers and spoilers of the people. It had three ribs in its mouth, which symbolised the three areas that Medo-Persia conquered to come to rule the world; Babylon, Lydia and Egypt, which were especially ground down and oppressed by this power. It was a cruel and vicious nation and killed many people. That's why the verse says "Arise and devour much flesh". However, the Medo-Persian kingdom would also be visited by the wrath of God because in it His Law was trampled underfoot. The fear of God possessed no power among the people, wickedness, blasphemy, and corruption were the prevailing influences in this kingdom; and the kingdoms that followed were even more base and corrupt. They deteriorated because they cast off God. Forgetting him, they sank lower and lower in the scale.

***Daniel 7:6 "After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it."***

Wings in Bible prophecy = speed, and this represented the kingdom of Greece under Alexander the Great. It conquered the world so fast that the leopard beast is shown with four wings. A leopard is a fast animal without wings but with four wings God showed its rise to power would be very fast. The four heads represented the four generals of Alexander the Great, which took over the kingdom

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

following Alexander's death just after he had conquered the entire world. These were: Cassander, who had Greece and its area; Lysimachus, who had Asia-minor; Ptolemy, who had Egypt; and Seleucus, who had Syria and Babylon.

It is important to know how Alexander died, as there is a lesson there for all. He could conquer nations but he could not control his appetite, passions and pride. He worshipped the gods Hercules and Bacchus (god of wine) and tried to imitate what they were said to have done. He claimed to be a god himself and when one of his generals died, he told people to worship him as a god.

He delighted in drinking and parties and when drunk could fly into a rage and kill even his friends. He did many cruel and bloodthirsty acts, once burning an entire city on the suggestion of a wicked woman. He encouraged such excessive drinking among his followers that on one occasion twenty of them together died as the result of the party. At length, having sat through one long drinking spree, he was immediately invited to another, when after drinking to each of the twenty guests present, he twice drank full (says history incredible as it may seem), the Herculean cup containing six of our quarts. He thereupon fell down, seized with a violent fever, of which he died eleven days later, in May or June of 323 B.C. He was only thirty two years old. Compare Alexander the Great with the prophet Daniel who decided not to eat the King's rich food or drink his wine.

***Daniel 7:7** "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns."*

Now came up out of the angry sea a beast so terrible that no real animal could represent it. Different from the other beasts, it was very strong and devoured and broke nations to pieces. The iron teeth remind us of the iron of the legs and feet of the great image of chapter 2. You see there are four series of prophecies in Daniel. Each one tells the same story, but each one gives additional detail to the story and in Revelation the story continues.

In Daniel chapter 2, the image showed four world kingdoms. Babylon; head of gold; winged lion. Medo-Pesia; arms of silver; bear. Greece: Thighs of brass; winged leopard. And the Iron Legs; Rome; the terrible beast.

These great iron teeth speak of cruelty and strength. As the animal tore to pieces and devoured its prey with these grotesque fangs, so Rome devoured nations and peoples in its conquests. It "stamped the residue". Where Rome did not destroy or subjugate a people, it often employed them as slaves or sold them into slavery.

In the intensity of its power to destroy, Rome surpassed the kingdoms that had previously ruled the world. Rome was different (diverse) because it was a Republic, the other 'Beasts' had Kings but Rome had elected 'dictators' which were supposed to obey certain laws and answer to the people of the nation; much like USA presidents are supposed to do. But later the Caesars didn't do this and became very much like what the Pope would later be: not Kings, but rather gods. They combined Church and State and God has forbidden this. Many Christians were martyred as they refused to worship the Caesars. God can tell us so much in the prophecies in just a few words.

***Daniel 7:8** "I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."*

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Now this Roman terrible beast had ten horns on his head and Daniel looked closely at these horns. All of a sudden he saw another little horn come up and it plucked up three horns. Horns in Bible prophecy are Kings, powers, or kingdoms (See verse 24). "Another little horn". Though small at the beginning, this little horn is described later as "more stout than his fellows," literally, "greater than its companions." It will be seen that this was the continuation of the Roman power through the Roman Church. Rome has two parts; first there was Pagan Rome and then the Papacy grew up and ruled in the same city. The Papacy was shown by the strange 'little horn' with eyes and a mouth. The little horn plucked up three other horns and then started to rule the earth. Daniel was worried about this 'little horn' because it persecuted God's people for 1260 years. As Daniel was watching this strange 'Little Horn', he is shown a complete change of view: suddenly the vision shifted to a judgment scene.

***Daniel 7:9 "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire."***

Now we see a wonderful scene. It is a judgment scene. It seems that God wants very much to tell us that even though this terrible beast power was going to make things hard for God's people, God knew all about it and He would judge fairly. Here Daniel saw God coming in and sitting on a judgment throne. The words 'thrones were cast down', means that seating places were placed in the room. In the east they often sat on big cushions, you would 'throw down' a big cushion for someone to sit on. We see more of this judgment scene in verses 10 & 11:

***Daniel 7:10-11 "10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. 11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame."***

The Bible shows us God in His high and holy place, not in a state of inactivity, not in silence and solitude, but surrounded by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of holy intelligences, all waiting to do His will. Through channels which we cannot discern He is in active communication with every part of His dominion. But it is in this speck of a world, in the souls that He gave His only begotten Son to save, that His interest and the interest of all heaven is centered, God is bending from His throne to hear the cry of the oppressed. So Jesus let Daniel know that the beast would not always get away with his cruel work against God's people, he would be judged and executed. Over and over in the Bible Jesus tells His people that He is in charge and will win at last.

***Daniel 7:12 "As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time."***

Now in this verse we see that it says although their kingdoms ended their 'lives were prolonged'. This is interesting as when we study the fourth Beast and especially the little horn kingdom, and some of the beasts in Revelation, we can see characteristics from all the other kingdoms in this Roman Papal kingdom.

Babylon had what was called the 'mysteries' or the 'mystery religion'. This came from the time of Nimrod and his wicked wife, Semeramis, but the ideas of this secret religion of the priests came down through the ages. When the Jews were in captivity in Babylon some of them learned this 'mystery religion' and they brought it into their own religion and called it the 'Kabala'. It was ideas of rituals, symbols, magic numbers and special words and was really just a bunch of Satan's lies. Many organizations today use this same 'secret' symbolism. Masonry, witchcraft, some Jewish societies, Eastern religions, Wicca, Satanists, and much is found in Catholicism.

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The methods of the priests, the mass, the confessional, the worship of saints, and a lot of other things, trace back to the worship of Nimrod, his wife Semeramis, and her illegitimate son Tammuz, (that's where the cross symbol came from); it was the sign of Tammuz, the sun god.

Jesus died on the symbol of the counterfeit religion— sun worship. Medo-Persia claimed that when it made a law, no one could change it, that meant they believed they could make no mistakes; they were infallible, they were also a very cruel and persecuting power. The Papacy who also claims to be infallible, is a persecuting power and has shown itself to be very cruel, (think of the Inquisition). When a man claims he is infallible, he is really claiming to be God—remember how the King of Medo-Persia tried to force people to pray only to him? Even today you cannot talk to the Pope without first bowing to him and kissing his ring. Greece developed forms of philosophy and religion that still plague us very much today. Our whole worldly system of education is based on Greek philosophy and this makes it hard for people to understand the real truth of the Bible.

Remember Paul said the Greeks thought the truth about Jesus was 'foolishness':

**1 Corinthians 1:23** *"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;"*

They exalted men's ideas and traditions above God's Word, much of the religion and ways of Pagan Roman Sun Worship came right into the papacy; so much so that Daniel 7 doesn't even use a new beast to show Papal Rome, but just a horn on the same terrible beast. We have wickedness from all these kingdoms with us today. We need to study God's word and not be deceived.

**Daniel 7:13-14** *"13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."*

The coming of Christ here described is not his second coming to the earth. He comes to the Ancient of days (God the Father) in Heaven to receive dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, which will be given him at the close of his work as a mediator. It is this coming, and not his second advent to the earth, that was foretold in prophecy to take place at the termination of the 2300 days, in 1844. Attended by heavenly angels, our great High Priest enters the holy of holies, and there appears in the presence of God to engage in the last acts of his ministration on behalf of man,—to perform the work of investigative judgment, and to make an atonement for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits.

**Daniel 7:15-18** *"15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. 16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. 17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever."*

Daniel was sad and grieved when he saw the things this 'Little Horn' would do against God's true people, so he asked one of the heavenly beings he saw standing nearby during the vision to explain it to him.

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**Daniel 7:19-20** *"19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; 20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows."*

It is interesting that the Roman government had ten parts and then later as Rome began to fall it split up into ten nations. It was after this dividing up that the strange little horn came up. Daniel saw that this little horn had eyes like a man; that is, it typifies a spiritual power, but, it was of a worldly and carnal nature. It also had a mouth speaking great things; we see this as the church claims infallibility and other rights that belong only to God. This same mouth also passes laws and legislates and its look would be more stout than its fellows, showing that he would claim authority over all, even the Kings of other nations (the other horns).

Before the strange 'Little Horn' could totally rule the world there were three nations that had to be destroyed. Three of the nations of the former Pagan Roman Empire had what is known as Arian religious beliefs; incompatible with the dogmas of the emerging Papacy. There is some historical evidence that at least some of these people in these three nations were true primitive Christians who kept the seventh-day Sabbath and did not believe in a trinity. Rome decided they had to be gotten rid of before they could totally dominate the consciences of the people.

These were the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths. It happened in the years 508 AD - 538 AD. The Holy Spirit represents worldly kingdoms under the symbol of fierce beasts of prey; but Christ is "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" ([John 1:29](#)).

In His plan of government there is no employment of brute force to compel the conscience. The "Mystery of Godliness" is the Creator God coming all the way down to die as a man to rescue fallen man. The "Mystery of Iniquity" is a created being trying to take the place of the Creator God.

**Daniel 7:21-22** *"21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom."*

So we see here that the beast power prevailed against Gods people until Christ comes to redeem them.

**Revelation 20:4** *"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."*

Here Gods people have been redeemed and sit on thrones and Jesus and the redeemed saints sat upon them; and the saints reigned as Kings and priests unto God. Christ, in union with His people, judged the wicked dead, comparing their acts with the Word of God, and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body.

**Daniel 7:23-24** *"23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. 24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings."*



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Again we see that word, "diverse": Rome was diverse (different), and this little horn power that takes over as Papal Rome is also diverse. There are many ways this is so, it is a religious power ruling by coercing the political powers to do her bidding. Another interesting point is that although the former pagan Kings often claimed the power and titles of the pagan gods, this power was claiming to act in place of the true God of Heaven.

***Daniel 7:25 "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."***

"a time and times and the dividing of time". In verse 25 we see for the first time a time prophecy that shows how long Papal Rome would rule the world. This same number is found in seven different places in the Bible but they all add up to 1260 days. In Bible prophecy a 'day' represents one literal year (a Biblical year contains 360 days), so the 1260 days spoken of is 1260 years...

A 'Time' = a year (360 days)

'Times' = 2 years (720 days)

'Dividing of time' (or half a time) = half a year (180 days)

Added together these equal 1260 prophetic 'days' or 1260 literal years: 538 AD - 1798 AD.

The chronology of the flood certainly seems to verify this; It is also evidenced by [Deuteronomy 34:8](#) and [21:13](#), and [Numbers 20:29](#) where mourning for the dead is ordered for a "full Month" and is carried on for thirty days. There are also many ancient writings from India, Persia, Babylonia, Assyria etc, whose writings describe the year as having 360 days, 12 thirty-day months. Their writings go on to say that in the seventh century B.C. 5+ additional days were added.

The last of the three horns were 'plucked up' around the time of the Emperor Justinian in 538 AD, he issued the famous decree giving the power and authority to the Papal Bishop of Rome (giving "him his power, and his seat, and great authority") and when you add 1260 years to that, you come to 1798.

***Revelation 13:2 "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."***

It is interesting that the title 'Pontifex Maximus' was held by the Emperors of Rome which was taken from the High Priests of Sun Worship ("High Priest" of the sun god Zeus/Apollo - Greek incarnations of Nimrod/Tammuz) this was when the Caesars began to declare they were the 'sun-god' on earth. It meant "Great Bridge Builder" and declared the owner had power over the souls as well as the bodies of his worshippers. Only through them, like a bridge, could a soul pass to heaven.

When Justinian came to the throne, he did not feel comfortable to take on himself such a presumptuous title and refused it. Whereupon the Bishop of Rome quickly snapped it up. So we have the 'Pontiff' of Rome sitting in the seat of the Caesars. What happened in 1798? It was then that Berthier one of Napoleon's Generals was sent to Rome where he took the Pope captive and imprisoned him and Rome lost its power to rule the Nations.

The Church of Rome continued as a religion but lost her power to rule over the governments. During the years Rome ruled the world it did had indeed worn out the saints of the Most High by persecuting and killing millions of true followers of Jesus. God knows what is happening and He will care for His people. Even though many dear Christians died, Jesus was close to each one of them to give them

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strength and help them through their ordeal. If we are faithful to the end, we will see these dear ones in heaven and hear their stories. No one will be sorry to have died for Jesus and His truth!

**Daniel 7:26** *"But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end."*

Whenever this terrible persecuting power is spoken of in the Bible prophecies God is always quick to assure us that it will be judged and come to its end!

For God's faithful ones either of the past or future—this is a precious assurance. We can see five points that help us to know for sure what this 'Little Horn' power of the Roman beast really is.

1. It will speak 'Great Words' and Blasphemies against God.
2. It will 'wear out' God's people; persecute them.
3. It will think it can change God's laws that have to do with time.
4. It will arise after the Roman Empire is broken up into ten nations; it will arise among the nations of Europe and three nations will be destroyed as this power rises.
5. It will rule for 1260 day/years: 538 AD-1798 AD.

There is no other power on earth that can fit this description except the Roman Papacy. God wants us to be sure in what we believe so He gives a lot of evidence. Jesus assures us more than once in this chapter that this beast with the bold horn will come to its end in the judgment. Here are some of the sins of this power:

1. **Blasphemy** - The Catholic Priests claim to be able to forgive sins. They do this every day in the confessional, which is a little room where the people go to confess their sins to the Priests, who claim they can forgive them. The popes claim to be the vicars of Christ, which means they claim to take His place on earth. This is blasphemy against God.

In the Greek text, 'Ante' means to take the place of, or be a vicar of. So 'Ante-Christ' or Antichrist, means to claim to take the place of, or be the Vicar of Christ. It does not mean, as commonly supposed, to be against Christ. The Pope also claims to be God and have all the rights of God. The Catholic Encyclopaedia, vol. 6 p.48, describes the pope as "not a mere man, but as it were God and the vicar of God."

Pope Leo XIII in one of his encyclical letters wrote:

*"We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty".*

Pope Innocent III wrote:

*"The pope is not simply a man but rather God on earth".*

He also wrote:

*"The pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ but he is Jesus Christ Himself hidden under the veil of flesh".*

2. **Persecution** - The Western Watchman, a Roman Catholic periodical (December 24, 1908) stated:

*"The church has persecuted, only a tyro in history will deny that...Protestants were persecuted in France and Spain with the full approval of the church authorities. There was the persecution of the Huguenots, the Spanish Inquisition".*

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Dr. J. Dowling, in the "History of Romanism", states:

*"From the birth of Popery in 606, to the present time, it is estimated by careful and credible historians, that more than fifty millions of the human family have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by popish persecutors, an average of more than forty thousand murders for every year of the existence of Popery". Dr. J. Dowling, History of Romanism, pages 541-542*

**3. Claim to change God's times and laws** - Catholic literature consistently moves from the first of the Ten Commandments to the third, which is counted as number two. The Second Commandment, forbidding idolatry, is not found in the Roman Catholic catechism. (It is in the Catholic Bible) For many years, the consistent teaching of the Roman Catholic Church was that Sabbath was changed to Sunday by the action of the Catholic Church. e.g. Geiermann: Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, 1946 ed. Page 50:

*"The church substituted Sunday for Saturday by the plenitude of that divine power which Jesus Christ bestowed upon her...The Third [really the fourth but they leave out #2] Commandment commands us to sanctify Sunday as the Lord's Day".*

The Roman Church claims that changing God's Law and putting the Sunday in place of the seventh day Sabbath, is the 'Mark of her power'.

BIBLE COMMANDMENTS		CATHOLIC COMMANDMENTS	
1	Thou shalt have no other gods before me	1	Thou shalt have no other gods before me
2	Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image		Deleted - idolatry prevalent within the Catholic Church
3	Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain	2	Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain
4	Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy	3	Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy (The Catholic Church has changed this day from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset to Sunday and has changed this to 3rd Commandment)
5	Honour thy father and thy mother	4	Honour thy father and thy mother
6	Thou shalt not kill	5	Thou shalt not kill
7	Thou shalt not commit adultery	6	Thou shalt not commit adultery
8	Thou shalt not steal	7	Thou shalt not steal
9	Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour	8	Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour
10	Thou shalt not covet	9	Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife (The 10th Commandment is split into two to get back to the 10 Commandments)
		10	Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods

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*Daniel 7:27-28 "27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart."*

In Daniel chapter 2 and the Great Image we learned about the Rock that was cut out without hands and this Rock would destroy all the kingdoms and rule forever? Here we see the same thing, Jesus is telling us that His kingdom will be set up after the time of the judgment and will never fall.

The 'saints' will be given the kingdom of Jesus to be their kingdom and they will never more have to worry about terrible beast kingdoms which persecute and kill for serving Jesus. On earth the saints may have been poor and despised, they were often killed or thrown into dungeons without even a trial. They saw their beloved Bibles torn up and burned and their children killed or made slaves. It was so unfair but God has not forgotten even one of His dear children. The wicked ones who killed them often thought that nobody knew what they did in those dark dungeons, but angels were there, the 'watchers and the holy ones' were there, and it is all written down.

God's children will be honored and those who persecuted them will have to answer for their deeds unless they repented while they lived. God's side of this Great Controversy will win even if Satan's hosts and the entire world tries to stop it. We must make sure we are on Jesus' side as his obedient child in this war which is soon to end.

## Daniel - Chapter 8

### The Ram & the He-Goat

*Daniel 8:1-2 "1 In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first. 2 And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai."*

Two years have elapsed since Daniel's previous vision. Daniel was now an old man. He had been in captivity a total of about fifty-five years; and as he was probably around sixteen or eighteen years of age when brought to Babylon, he would now be well over seventy. His vision about the four beasts in chapter 7 came to him while he was in bed, but this vision occurred while he was awake and in the palace.

*Daniel 8:3-4 "3 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last. 4 I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great."*

It was the third year of Belshazzar and Babylon had not yet fallen, but so soon was Babylon going to fall that it isn't mentioned in this vision it was becoming history rather than prophecy. Daniel sees a great ram with one of its horns higher than the other one. It is pushing with its horns west, north and south and nothing could stand before it. These are the directions that Medo-Persia army took in that very order.

The ram here is Medo Persia, as we look back in chapter 7 we see that the bear raised up on one side also depicted Medo Persia; this ram had 2 horns and one was higher than the other. This was to show that the Persian part of the empire was stronger than the Medes their partners, just like the bear was raised up on one side.

A mighty destroyer the Medo-Persian ram charged "westward, northward and southward" (the three ribs of the bear - Egypt, Lydia and Babylon).

*Daniel 8:5-7 "5 And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. 6 And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. 7 And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand."*

There was the ram who had conquered everything standing there so proud. Then all at once came a he-goat with one big horn between his eyes, he went so fast he didn't touch the ground. (Remember the leopard with the four wings?) He ran right into the ram and knocked him down. He broke off his horns and stamped on him and the ram could do no more.

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Now this he-goat represented the Greeks and the one big horn represented Alexander the Great the leader who swiftly conquered the world. It is interesting that the Greeks did use a goat as one of their symbols just like Babylon had use a winged lion. It seems Alexander the Great may have been aware of the prophecy of Daniel. A Ram and one-horned goat united, symbolizing the Persian and Macedonian kingdoms, and perhaps carved for Alexander the Great, was found on a signet gem now in the Florentine collection.

***Daniel 8:8 "Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven."***

Now we see that rough goat standing so powerful and proud, but something happens—while he is strong, the big horn is broken off and four horns come up instead. Now we would not expect this to happen when the goat is so strong, but, Alexander the Great died just after he had conquered the world. His four Generals divided the empire between them as he had no adult son to rule after him, and his descendants were later murdered so they could not claim the throne.

The four horns like the four heads on the leopard, represented the four generals of Alexander the Great, which took over the kingdom following Alexander's death just after he had conquered the entire world. These were: Cassander, who had Greece and its area; Lysimachus, who had Asia-minor; Ptolemy, who had Egypt; and Seleucus, who had Syria and Babylon. At first there were many more generals fighting over the throne; but it boiled down to four. Much later, in the time of their descendants, there were only two left. Doesn't it make you feel safe to know that God knows all that will happen before it does? And He never makes a mistake.

***Daniel 8:9 "And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land."***

Now one thing that many people who read prophecy don't know, (and it makes a lot of difference to how we know what God is telling us in these prophecies) is that in some languages they have what is called 'gender'. This means that words are considered either feminine or masculine/male or female.

The English language does not have this like some languages have. In English if I say 'his' you know I mean a male, or 'hers' a female. But if I say tree or house, you do not think of them as male or female — but in French, Greek and Hebrew they do have gender, and we know by how the sentences are written if the word is masculine or feminine.

This was written in Hebrew and so knowing the gender helps us to understand the meaning. In verse 8 it talks about the four horns and these are masculine, and it talks about four winds and these are feminine. Now in verse 9 it says 'out of one of them' and people think it means out of one of the horns, but it doesn't, because in the sentence 'them' is feminine. It means out of one of the winds. And it means out of one of the four winds or the four directions in the world. The more we learn about Bible Prophecies, the more wonderful they are. What we see here is Pagan Rome and how it conquered the world and also attacks God's People.

***Daniel 8:10 "And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them."***

Now in this verse "it" changes to feminine, Papal Rome persecuting God's people. Remember the terrible fourth beast in Daniel 7? How it stamped with its feet? Now this is Papal Rome who here is seen stamping on God's people and His truth. It is interesting that here, as in other places in the Bible, the power behind the human power is also referred to; the one who cast down some of the host of



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heaven, (stars - meaning angels), was Satan, and he was the spirit behind the persecuting power of both Pagan and Papal Rome.

***Daniel 8:11 "Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down."***

Now this verse is masculine again and shows Pagan Rome. Remember that Rome was ruling the Jews when Jesus was born. The Roman powers through Herod tried to kill Jesus even as a baby!

It was by Pagan Rome's authority that Jesus, our Prince and Prince of the Heavenly Hosts of angels, was crucified. So we know this is Pagan Rome. Now in the next few verses we have the gender thing again. Pagan Rome is masculine and another power that follows it is feminine, this is Papal Rome. The verse goes on: "and by him (masculine) the daily {sacrifice} was taken away, and the place of his (masculine) sanctuary was cast down." We therefore believe that the "sanctuary" of [Daniel 8:11-14](#) must involve both the earthly and the heavenly sanctuaries. And similarly, the daily regular, or "continual", services of both sanctuaries were involved. In like manner, the "transgression of desolation" surely represents the activities of both pagan and papal Rome that render such daily services inoperative or ineffective.

It should read: "and through pagan Rome, paganism was lifted up and exalted and the place of his sanctuary was cast down" ([Daniel 8:11](#)). If you have the word 'sacrifice' in your bible (it is put in italics in the King James translation), this means the word is not in the original Hebrew. The translators added it because they thought it should be there, but it does not belong there. The word translated 'daily' or 'continual' here means Paganism which had been a continual desolating power. Pagan Rome had a sanctuary in Rome, the pantheon, where they kept all their heathen gods. Every time Pagan Rome would conquer a country they would bring back its idol gods and add them to the Pantheon, where they could go and worship them all. They thought all these gods would certainly give them great power. The last part of this verse is referring to Pagan Rome that the 'place of its sanctuary', the city of Rome would be 'cast down' when it came to its end of 360 year rule (31 BC-330 AD) and when the city of Rome was no longer the capitol of the Roman Empire, which was moved to Constantinople. This opened the way for the Papal power to become stronger.

***Daniel 8:12 "And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered."***

This is a very interesting verse that we should take special notice of. It is telling in a remarkable way the history of how Papal Rome was able to become the world ruling power at the beginning of the 1260 day/years that it ruled. It says a 'host' was given him (the Papacy)—what was the 'host' that allowed this strange little-horn power to get control of the world? "By reason of transgression" — what is this 'transgression' here? It is using the power of the STATE to enforce religious decrees. It is the UNION of CHURCH and STATE. Whenever and wherever it occurs, it is a terrible force for evil and God has forbidden it—but it is the secret of the power of the Papal See. Up until this time, the nations of Europe were pagans, and had not been sympathetic to Roman Catholicism, but prophecy states that "arms shall stand on his part." In fulfillment of this, Clovis, King of France, came to the military aid of the Papacy, and France became the first Catholic nation. Clovis dedicated his sword and his throne to the Papacy in A.D. 508, and soon the other six European Kings did likewise. Then began the war against the three horns—the Goths, Vandals, and Heruli, these were non trinitarian tribes, they did not go along with the worship of a trinity and so in 538 the last of them were driven from Rome and soon eliminated and the Papal horn was ruling the world.

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**Daniel 8:13-14** *"13 Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? 14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."*

Now Daniel hears two heavenly beings talking about these cruel powers who were going to tramp on God's truth and His people and they ask "How long is this going to go on? How long will evil tramp on the good?" Then the answer comes — "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed".

Remember when Jesus was on earth how He went into the temple and drove out the wicked ones who were disobeying God? Well this verse tells of a time that God had set from way back, and when that time would come, He would begin a special work that would lead to the end of all cruel and wicked powers. We learn that this time prophecy of 2300 days was to start when the law was given to allow the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem (see [Daniel 9:25](#)). This happened in 457 BC. We know that in certain time prophecies a 'day' means a real year of time. So 2,300 days mean 2,300 years. When we figure out from 457 BC and add 2300 years it takes us to 1844. This was when Jesus went from the Holy Place in heaven to the Most Holy place and a special work started called the 'cleansing of the sanctuary'. This is called the "Investigative Judgment".

Now what do all these big words mean to you and me? It means that God had set a time when He would begin to look at the lives of all those who had claimed to be His people from the beginning of the earth. By looking at the records of their lives, He could find out if they really loved Him and were His children or not. Then all those that had really given their hearts to God and believed on Him and obeyed Him would have their names put in the Book of Life to be taken to heaven when Jesus comes back again. The cruel little-horn power also represented by the leopard-like beast of Revelation 13, claimed, and still claims to be God's church! but in this judgment this power is being judged along with all who ever claimed to belong to the God of Heaven.

Those who claimed to belong to God but did not let Jesus change their selfish hearts and remove their sins, would have their names taken out of the Book of Life and they will not be able to go home when Jesus comes back; instead they will be destroyed. All those cruel powers that claimed to be doing work for Jesus while they were really killing and hurting God's dear people would not be in the Book of Life unless they, like Paul, had repented and stopped doing this. It is good to know that God will only let the cruel and wicked things go on for a short while; soon Jesus will put an end to what hurts His dear children and take us home.

**Daniel 8:15-18** *"15 And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision. 17 So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision. 18 Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright."*

Daniel wanted to understand what all the things he was seeing in the vision meant and so he asked. In verse 16 he says, "And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision." Jesus was the one who asked the angel Gabriel to explain to Daniel what the vision meant. Notice how Daniel was affected by the presence of these holy beings — Daniel was one of the few people in the Bible that there is no record made of his ever being

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

unfaithful to the Lord; and yet even he falls helpless to the ground when Jesus speaks and the angel comes near. What do you think will happen to the wicked when Jesus returns in all His glory? Now Daniel knew that God had told the prophet Jeremiah that the Jewish people would be kept in Babylon as slaves for 70 years and then they would be allowed to return to Jerusalem. Daniel knew that soon those years would end and had been praying about it.

***Daniel 8:19*** "And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be."

The 'last end of the indignation' is referring to the end of the world when the 7 Last Plagues are poured out on those who refuse everything God has tried to do to save them.

***Daniel 8:20-22*** "20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. 22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power."

As you know, Alexander died right after conquering the world, and so the kingdoms following were 'not in his power'.

***Daniel 8:23-24*** "23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. 24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people."

Notice here this 'Mystery King' destroys and conquers but 'not by his own power' — the papacy always gets the power of state and Kings and governments to do its dirty work. Thus it persecutes God's people.

***Daniel 8:25*** "And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand."

'Craft' or as we might say 'craftiness' shall prosper—under this Religio-Political combination, lying, hypocrisy, sneakiness and dishonest and unjust practices are the rule of the day! No human effort will stop the march of this King of fierce countenance. Only God will bring him down, and none shall help him. Praise the Lord! This verse slips back in gender and shows us Pagan Rome again that it used peace treaties to extend its power and it stood up against the Prince of Princes—Jesus. But also the Papal power also did this in the person of His people as well. He shall be broken 'without hand' — remember in our study of Daniel 2 how the stone that struck the image on the feet and destroyed it? Well this shows that God himself will finally bring all these cruel, despotic powers to an end.

***Daniel 8:26-27*** "26 And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days. 27 And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it."

Now as the angel explains to him about long periods of time, (many days - verse 26) Daniel is shocked and afraid that maybe the Jews would not be returning home after all. It bothered him so much that the dear old man fainted. Also he was horrified at what he had saw about the terrible little-horn power and what it would do to the dear children of God. God was really telling Daniel things that he was to

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write down so His people that live on earth today, in the last days of time, would be able to know what God was doing.

We are living in the final scenes of the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan. The Judgment of those who died claiming to belong to God is going on in heaven now and soon the great test will come to the living to allow them to choose whose side they are on. The prophecies are to warn but also to encourage Jesus' dear people today. Daniel's messages were written for you and me and they tell us that God is in charge and if we give our hearts to Him, and choose Jesus to be our own dear Savior and Lord, then we can know that we will be loved and cared for by Jesus and our dear Heavenly Father, and someday go home to heaven when Jesus comes again. That time is soon — we must be ready.

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

## Daniel - Chapter 9

### Daniel's Prayer

*Daniel 9:1-2 "1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; 2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem."*

Daniel was not only a man of prayer; he was also a man who studied very carefully the scriptures, the books of Moses and the writings of the prophets before him and during his time. "A copy of the letters sent by Jeremiah to the Hebrew captives in Babylon, and of the letters sent by the false prophets to these captives and to the authorities of Jerusalem, together with a story of the controversy between the true and the false, is found in the twenty-seventh to the twenty-ninth chapters of Jeremiah. "It was immediately after this interchange of letters between Jeremiah and the elders of the Israelites in captivity, that the prophet was instructed to write in a book all that had been revealed to him regarding the restoration of Israel. This is recorded in the thirtieth and the thirty-first chapters of Jeremiah. These, with the prophecies of the twenty-fifth chapter, are the letters and the records that Daniel the prophet, during "the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede" prayerfully studied, three-score years and more after they were written.

*Daniel 9:3 "3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:"*

When he learned from the writings of the prophet Jeremiah that Israel was to be in captivity for 70 years and the promise that they would then come back to the land and be a nation again, he did not just think, "Ok, fine, that's nice. I'll just wait until it happens". No! He set himself to pray, to plead with God that indeed the promises would be fulfilled. He claimed the promises. Daniel was familiar with the circumstances connected with Jeremiah's testimonies given very soon after the beginning of the Babylonian captivity. He well knew that the promise of the return was sure; and yet, a short time before, "in the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar" the angel of the Lord had instructed him in vision, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed". Daniel "sought for the meaning" of the vision. He could not understand the relation sustained by the seventy years' captivity to the twenty-three hundred years that were to elapse before the cleansing of God's sanctuary. Gabriel gave a partial interpretation; and when he declared that the vision "shall be for many days", Daniel fainted.

*Daniel 9:4-5 "4 And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; 5 We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments."*

Now here is a very interesting thing; Daniel is one of the few people in the Bible that we have no record of any sin that he committed, and even his enemies had not been able to get anything bad they could charge him with. He was called 'greatly beloved' by an angel, and yet he is here seen repenting in sackcloth and ashes and confessing his sins and the sins of Israel as if he were as guilty of them as the worst law-breaker among them. Truly godly people are ever humble of heart and never boast of their great goodness or sinlessness.

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

**Daniel 9:6** *"Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land."*

Daniel well knew that it was because Israel had turned from her obedience to the Laws of God and followed the ways of the heathen that God had allowed her to be conquered and taken into captivity. He clearly states that this was what the sins of Israel had brought upon her. God had sent many prophets with warning messages, but they had been ignored and persecuted. Reproof is never popular in any age.

**Daniel 9:7** *"O LORD, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee."*

Daniel does not proclaim his own fidelity before the Lord. Instead of claiming to be pure and holy, this honoured prophet humbly identifies himself with the really sinful of Israel. The wisdom which God had imparted to him was as far superior to the wisdom of the great men of the world as the light of the sun shining in the heavens at noonday is brighter than the feeblest star. Yet ponder the prayer from the lips of this man so highly favored of Heaven. With deep humiliation, with tears and rending of heart, he pleads for himself and for his people. He lays his soul open before God, confessing his own unworthiness and acknowledging the Lord's greatness and majesty.

**Daniel 9:8-11** *"8 O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. 9 To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him; 10 Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. 11 Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him."*

In Deuteronomy 28 Moses, just before he died, warned Israel clearly that if they obeyed God and walked in His ways, they would be blessed—but if they did not and went the ways of the heathen, they would be cursed. If they continued in disobedience there would come upon them terrible punishment and yet they had gone into idolatry and all sorts of wickedness.

**Daniel 9:12-14** *"12 And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem. 13 As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth. 14 Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice."*

Now Daniel declares that the very words written in the Books of Moses had verily been fulfilled and justly so.

**Daniel 9:15-19** *"15 And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly. 16 O LORD, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us. 17 Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine"*



## Unlocking the Book of Daniel

*upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake. 18 O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies. 19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name."*

False sanctification carries with it a boastful, self-righteous spirit which is foreign to the religion of the Bible. Meekness and humility are the fruits of the Spirit. The prophet Daniel was an example of true sanctification. His long life was filled up with noble service for his Master. He was a man "greatly beloved" of Heaven, and was granted such honors as have rarely been vouchsafed to mortals. Yet his purity of character and unwavering fidelity were equaled only by his humility and contrition. Instead of claiming to be pure and holy, this honored prophet identified himself with the really sinful of Israel, as he pleaded before God in behalf of his people:

***Daniel 9:20-21*** "20 And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; 21 Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation."

As Daniel's prayer is going forth, the angel Gabriel comes sweeping down from the heavenly courts to tell him that his petitions are heard and answered. This mighty angel has been commissioned to give him skill and understanding—to open before him the mysteries of future ages. Thus, while earnestly seeking to know and understand the truth, Daniel was brought into communion with Heaven's delegated messenger. Heaven is no further away today than it was for Daniel.

***Daniel 9:22-23*** "22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. 23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision."

Have not we as great need to call upon God as had Daniel? The God who heard Daniel's prayer will hear ours when we come to Him in contrition. Our necessities are as urgent, our difficulties are as great, and we need to have the same intensity of purpose, and in faith roll our burden upon the great burden-bearer. There is as much need if not more for hearts to be as deeply moved in our time as in the time when Daniel prayed.

The amazing time prophecy we are about to study is a very long and significant time prophecy in the Bible. Given more than 500 years before the death of Christ, it accurately pinpoints the time of His sacrifice. And is the only place in the Old Testament that speaks of a coming "Messiah" by that term, it ranks at the top of all Messianic prophecies. Yet this prophecy, found in the eighth and ninth chapters of the book of Daniel, moves beyond the earthly ministry of Christ to provide a panorama of His present work for us in the courts of heaven.

You will remember that the prophecy of Daniel 8 begins with a ram and a goat. After discussing the goat's horns, the vision then turns to the activities of the little horn, which magnifies itself to defy heaven, casting truth to the ground and trampling upon the sanctuary and the host. When Daniel had heard about the horrible things that the little horn on the terrible beast were going to do to God's people (Daniel 7), he was sick for a while. Now he has been shown the same power from another angle — after having been shown the vision of the ram being overcome by the he-goat. Again a horn arising from one of the four winds in the end of this vision catches his attention and we see it is the same power.

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**Daniel 8:13-14** "13 Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? 14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

Daniel needed to understand this vision and Jesus commissions Gabriel, the highest angel who appears to now occupy the place from which Lucifer fell when he became Satan.

**Daniel 8:15-16** "15 And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision."

The angel began to explain the vision. He told Daniel that the ram represented Medo-Persia; the goat and its horns represented Greece. He enlarged a little on the activities of the little horn, but said nothing more about the time factor involved.

**Daniel 8:27** "Afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it."

Now after Daniel had been fasting and praying for further understanding, Gabriel returns and tells him more about the amazing time-prophecy.

**Daniel 9:24** "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."

Seventy weeks is 490 days. Subtract that from the total 2,300 days, and 1,810 days of the prophecy are left. In the Bible God has a special way of showing special time-prophecies. He uses a day to equal a year of real time.

**Ezekiel 4:6** "And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year."

**Each day for a year** - We also find this in Numbers:

**Numbers 14:34** "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise."

Applying this rule, 2,300 prophetic days is actually 2,300 literal years, the first 490 of which pertained to the Jews. The time period would begin when the command went forth to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.

**Daniel 9:25** "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times."

In fulfilling God's command, three kings of Persia would need to make decrees regarding the rebuilding of Jerusalem.

**Ezra 6:14** "And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia."

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The final decree, that of Artaxerxes, is recorded in Ezra 7, and went into effect in the autumn of 457 B.C. 457 BC + 2300 years = 1844 AD The Messiah was to appear after seven weeks and sixty-two weeks.

**Daniel 9:26** *"And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."*

Sixty-nine weeks are 483 prophetic days. From the autumn of 457 B.C., 483 years takes us to the autumn of A.D. 27. According to the prophecy, that is when the Messiah would appear. "Messiah" is the Hebrew word for "anointed one". The Bible tells us that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power".

**Acts 10:38** *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."*

That anointing took place at His baptism.

**John 1:32** *"And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him."*

Jesus was baptized in the autumn of A.D. 27, the precise time foretold in Daniel's prophecy. After Jesus was baptized, God sent a special anointing of His Holy Spirit, this was the Messiah, which means Anointed One.

**John 1:41** *"He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ."*

Over 300 Prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus life and ministry! As Jesus began His public ministry, He showed His awareness of His prophetic dateline from the Daniel Prophecy.

**Mark 1:15** *"And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."*

Paul said that Jesus came right on schedule.

**Galatians 4:4** *"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."*

In the 'middle of the week' Jesus' death on the cross as the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world, brought to fulfillment the sanctuary sin offerings and the Passover Lamb, and thus brought them forever to an end. Although unbelieving priests continued to offer sacrifices for a while, these ceremonies no longer had meaning.

**Daniel 9:27** *"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."*

That "week" would be the last seven years of the "70-week" portion of the prophecy. It extended from the autumn of A.D. 27 to the autumn of A.D. 34. In the spring of A.D. 31, exactly half way through that seven-year period, Jesus brought to an end the whole system of sacrifices and oblations by offering Himself as the Lamb of God, to whom the whole sacrificial system had pointed. On the 14th day of the 1st month at 3 PM; Jesus our Passover was slain for us—this was an exact fulfillment! Also as we see in Verse 26; it is telling us that because of the rejection of 'Messiah' the Prince, the city and temple

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

would be destroyed. This finally occurred in AD 70, but no Christians perished in that siege because they believed the warning Jesus had given, recorded in Matthew 24. Thus they fled from the city, when they saw the signal Jesus told them to watch for, before the final siege happened.

An event also happened in the temple in Jerusalem when Jesus died at the exact time for the sacrifice of the Passover Lamb which signified that its ritual services would never again have any meaning.

**Matthew 27:51** *"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;"*

**Daniel 9:24** *"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."*

The "seventy-week" portion of the 2,300 years ended in A.D. 34. In that year Israel's probationary time ceased, and they sealed their rejection of Christ by stoning Stephen. With the Jews were no longer God's chosen people, the gospel began to be proclaimed to the Gentiles, and the Christian church inherited all the privileges promised to the descendants of Abraham.

**Galatians 3:29** *"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*

The temple and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed by Roman armies in A.D. 70.

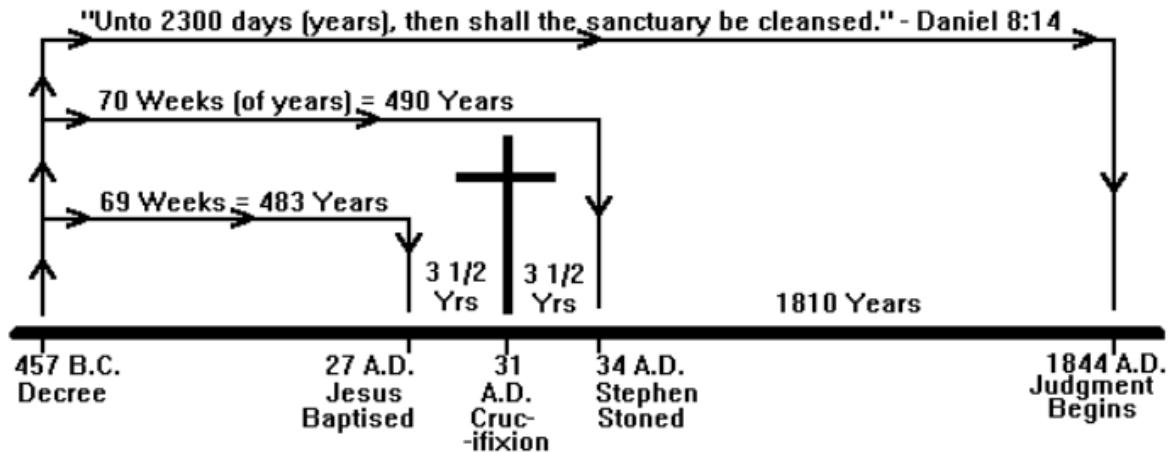
**Daniel 9:26-27** *"26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."*

**Mark 13:14** *"But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand), then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:"*

But the vision of the 2300 days still left 1810 more days/years, ending in 1844.

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## THE 2300 DAY PROPHECY



### Key To Interpreting Biblical Time Prophecies:-

"...I have appointed a day for a year..." (Ezekiel 4:6. See also Numbers 14:34)

In other words, each day in biblical time prophecy represents a literal year.

For example: 1 prophetic day = 1 literal year

1 prophetic week = 7 prophetic days = 7 literal years

10 prophetic weeks = 10 x 7 prophetic days = 70 literal years

70 prophetic weeks = 70 x 7 prophetic days = 490 literal years

*Daniel 8:17* "So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision."

From the autumn of A.D. 34, 1,810 years of the prophecy remained. Add 1,810 to 34 and it brings us to the autumn of the year 1844, which the prophecy refers to as "the time of the end", that is, the end of the time prophecy. At the end of the "2300-day" period the Sanctuary was to be 'cleansed':

*Daniel 8:24* "And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people."

The angel told Daniel this vision was not for his day.

*Daniel 8:26* "And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days."

The part of Daniel's book dealing with these extended time prophecies, was 'sealed; that is it would not be fully understood until towards the time these prophecies were due to end. 'Time of the End' here meant the end of the time prophecies.

*Daniel 12:4* "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

'Running to and fro' in the Hebrew meant searching here and there in the scriptures for the purpose of understanding their meaning, and the promise is that 'knowledge would be increased'.

In the early 1800s all over the world people began to turn to the book of Daniel and many began to bring out the secrets of the 'sealed book' and preach or write on these mysteries. Let us look now at the Gospel in the Old Testament and the end-time cleansing work of Christ. At no time in the world's

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history has anyone ever earned salvation by his own works, or by rituals and ceremonies. No one ever bought their salvation with the blood of animals, or gifts and money.

In both Old and New Testaments, people were saved by the Grace of God and Faith in the merits of Jesus. The offering of the sacrifice was to show faith in the coming Redeemer. The following texts make it clear that people who lived before the cross were saved on the same terms as were people in New Testament times.

**Romans 1:16** *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

**Acts 4:12** *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

**Galatians 1:8** *"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."*

The Old Testament itself teaches salvation through Christ. The "scriptures" spoken of in the following texts are the Old Testament. These texts make it clear that the Old Testament scriptures teach the same gospel of salvation through Christ that we find in the New Testament.

**1 Corinthians 15:3** *"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;"*

**2 Timothy 3:15** *"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."*

**Luke 24:25-27** *"25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."*

The Bible presents one gospel from Genesis to Revelation, one plan of salvation for humanity. The Bible calls it "the everlasting gospel".

**Revelation 14:6** *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,"*

It is also called the "everlasting covenant".

**Psalms 105:10** *"And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant:"*

**Hebrews 13:20** *"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"*



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## Daniel - Chapter 10

### Gabriel Comes to Help

*Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."*

*Daniel 10:1-3 "1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision. 2 In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. 3 I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled."*

Again we find Daniel fasting and praying to understand the vision that had been given to him. Notice that fasting in the Bible does not always mean going totally without eating; in this case Daniel ate very plain food, nothing fancy. He prayed earnestly for help. He was still worried that the Jews might not get to return to Jerusalem as the prophecy in Jeremiah had said. He knew God was true, and His word never fails but he also knew that many of the Jews were still in rebellion against God and were not obeying Him.

*Daniel 10:4-6 "4 And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel; 5 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: 6 His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude."*

In Revelation chapter 1 we read the description of what Jesus looked like when He came to see John; when you read this you will know who it was that Daniel saw.

*Revelation 1:13-16 "13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength."*

It was Jesus, who evidently came with the angel Gabriel to Daniel. This description is similar to that given by John when Christ revealed Himself to John on the Isle of Patmos. No less a personage than the Son of God appeared to Daniel. Our Lord now comes with another heavenly messenger to teach Daniel what would take place in the latter days.

*Daniel 10:7 "And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves."*

Now Daniel was down by the river 'Hiddekel' (the Tigris) and he had people with him. They did not see what Daniel saw, but they knew something was happening. They were afraid and quickly ran away to hide! Unless a person truly belongs to God, he will be terrified when heavenly beings draw near. Notice what happened to Daniel:

## Unlocking the Book of Daniel

**Daniel 10:8-9** *"8 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. 9 Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground."*

There he was on his face on the ground helpless. He was then given strength and the angel helped him up. But even then he 'stood trembling.' If you meet people who boast that they know God and yet they are proud and like to brag about how holy they are; you can know for sure that they don't really know God; they have never really come close to Him because anybody who really talks with God, will be quiet and very humble.

**Daniel 10:10-13** *"10 And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. 11 And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. 12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."*

Now we see a very important thing here — Gabriel tells Daniel how his prayers had been heard right from the first day. Gabriel also tells him that he had been working with Cyrus to get him to fulfill the prophecy and allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem. Gabriel tells Daniel that the prince of Persia has withstood him 21 days. By this we see that heavenly agencies have to contend with hindrances before the purpose of God is fulfilled in its time. The devil frequently appears working in the shadow of earthly monarchs such as the king of Babylon, the king of Tyre, and the Roman power.

**Isaiah 14:4** *"That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!"*

**Ezekiel 28:2** *"Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:"*

**Revelation 12:4** *"And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."*

And remember that Jesus calls Satan "the prince of this world":

**John 12:31** *"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out."*

The king of Persia was controlled by the highest of all evil angels. He refused, as did Pharaoh, to obey the word of the Lord. Gabriel declared; He withstood me twenty-one days by his representations against the Jews. But Michael came to his help, Gabriel then remained with the king of Persia, holding the powers in check, giving right counsel against evil counsel. It is God's purpose to carry forward His work in correct lines, in ways that will advance His glory, but Satan is ever trying to counterwork God's purpose. Only by humbling ourselves before God can God's servants advance His work. Never are we to depend on our own efforts or on outward display for success.

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

Many unseen battles go on that humans have no idea of. But then it says Michael came to help Gabriel and the battle was won. Who is Michael? It is Jesus. The true meaning for "Michael", means "He who is like the Most High". This title was coveted by Lucifer.

*Isaiah 14:14 "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."*

But it rightly belongs to Jesus.

You will find in the Bible that when Michael is named it is involving something to do with the battle between Christ and Satan. Gabriel told Daniel that he is going to stay with Cyrus, fighting to have him follow the will of God and when he would leave — then the Medo Persian kingdom would fall to Greece. Always remember that no matter how dark and scary things in this world may be God is in charge and He will only allow Satan to go so far and no further. If we are surrendered to Jesus, we are safe under His wings.

*Daniel 10:14 "Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days."*

This was the reason Gabriel was there, to talk to Daniel, to help him to understand. God wants us to understand what He has shown to us in the Bible Prophecies. He will help us if we pray and ask Him to teach us. Here are some more facts about Gabriel:

The words of the angel, "I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God":

*Luke 1:19 "And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings."*

This shows that he holds a position of high honor in the heavenly courts. When he came with a message to Daniel, he said, "There is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael (Christ) your Prince" ([Daniel 10:21](#)).

Of Gabriel the Saviour speaks in Revelation, saying that "He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John."

*Revelation 1:1 "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:"*

And to John the angel declared:

*Revelation 22:9 "Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."*

What a wonderful thought, that the angel who stands next in honor to the Son of God is the one chosen to open the purposes of God to sinful men. Don't ever think that you are not important to Jesus; He would send every angel out of heaven to come and help you rather than have one of His true children overcome by Satan!

*Daniel 10:15-17 "15 And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. 16 And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. 17 For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me."*

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Then Daniel became dumb and fell on his face again. The angel touched him so he could speak and tried to comfort him telling him, "O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent." Then the angel changed and appeared as a man and finally Daniel could stand after being strengthened again.

**Daniel 10:18-20** *"18 Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, 19 And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me. 20 Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come."*

Again notice the "Prince of Persia" fighting against the evil that Satan would have us do. All through the history of this world and still today, God's angels work with the earth's rulers to guide and bring about events according to His will.

**Daniel 10:21** *"But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince."*

**Amos 3:7** *"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."*

While...

**Deuteronomy 29:29** *"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."*

God has given these things to us, and His blessing will attend the reverent, prayerful study of the prophetic scriptures.

There seems to be a lot of people running around these days that are quick to tell you that there is no sense for you to try and study and learn the Bible prophecies and truths, because only the important people with many years in worldly schools can tell you what they mean. This is a lie, and it is the same lie that allowed the Roman Papacy to control the people for so long. They didn't let the people read the Bible for themselves but told them only the important people—the church leaders could understand it. We must not be fooled by this, if we can read, we can start to learn the Bible and prophecies for ourselves. We must pray and ask God to send His Holy Spirit to teach us, and He will.

God wants us know, and we must not let anyone take that away from us. Now here is another thought: If one angel from heaven caused the Roman guard to fall as dead men, how can those who are unprepared and unholy bear the sight and live of seeing Jesus coming in the glory of His Father with ten thousand time ten thousands of angels accompanying Him; they will not be able to, they will cry for rocks and mountains to fall on them, and hide them from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. Remember how the people who were with Daniel when the vision came were terrified and ran to hide themselves?

They were probably not believers in God. In order to be able to bear the presence of heavenly beings, we must totally belong to God. But even Daniel was overcome by the presence of the heavenly beings, but the good news is that God strengthened him. If Daniel would have been living a sinful life he would have died when the heavenly beings came to him, but he belonged fully to Jesus. There are people, even church leaders today who are telling people; "Don't worry about the sins in your life, Jesus understands, you can do whatever you like, just ask Jesus to forgive you and you will still go to heaven". This is a lie and those who tell it are working for Satan whether they realise it or not!

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

As you read the Bible and get to know God's truths, you will learn that any sin that is not forsaken (that means you haven't chosen to give it up and stopped doing it in the strength of Jesus) is not forgiven. To be ready to meet Jesus there must be no sins left that we have not asked Jesus to forgive and allowed Him to remove from our lives. Jesus only FORGIVES those sins we are willing for Him to REMOVE from our lives.

What if you feel you are not willing to give up a sin, but you want to? Don't despair — just ask Jesus to make you willing; tell Him "I am willing to be made willing". Then things you think you can never give up will be easy to throw away in the power of Jesus. Remember that it is Jesus' own Victory that is given to us, we can't do it ourselves, but Jesus won't do it without our choosing and asking. Each one of us can have this victory.

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

## Daniel - Chapter 11

### Gabriel Comes to Help

We now enter upon a prophecy of future events, clothed not in figures and symbols, as in the visions of chapters 2, 7 and 8, but given mostly in plain language. Many of the signal events of the world's history, from the days of Daniel to the end of the world, are brought to view in this chapter.

***Daniel 11:1 "Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him."***

At the end of chapter 10 we find Gabriel talking with Daniel. Here in the first verse of chapter 11 we have the continuation of that conversation between Daniel and Gabriel. There is no break between these chapters, it simply continues on. So we are still at the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Let us see what else Gabriel had to tell Daniel.

Even in the first year of Darius, when the Medes and Persians overtook Babylon, Gabriel was there by Darius' side to confirm/help/establish him and strengthen him. This truly shows that God is ultimately in control of world events. As the writing on the wall sealed the probation of Babylon and God's protection withdrew from them, He in turn strengthened Darius the Mede to overrun Babylon as seen in chapter 5.

***Daniel 11:2 "And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia."***

Gabriel now proceeds to give Daniel the understanding of what he was diligently seeking for. What Gabriel is going to show Daniel is the truth, for in chapter 10 it tells us that Gabriel and Michael have the truth.

**Yet three kings in Persia** - This does not include Cyrus as we find there shall stand up yet three Kings. The word yet in Hebrew means besides, still, henceforth. So we see that there was to come another three Kings after Cyrus. These were Cambyses the son of Cyrus (530-522 B.C.), False Smerdis an impostor who impersonated the real Smerdis to obtain the throne, the real Smerdis had been caused to be killed by his brother Cambyses, (522 B.C.), Darius Hystaspes or Darius 1 who married a daughter of Cyrus (522-486 B.C.).

**Fourth shall be far richer** - This was Xerxes, or the Ahasuerus of Queen Esther, the son of Darius Hystaspes. Xerxes was far richer than all before him...

***Esther 1:3-4 "3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: 4 When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days."***

**Strength through his riches...against the realm of Grecia** - Because of his wealth, Xerxes was able to stir up an immense army against the warlike Greeks.

According to Herodotus, who lived at that age, his army amassed to 5,283,220 from the East alone, but not content with this, he enlisted the Carthaginians of the West which added another 300,000 men. In total he had raised over five and three quarter million men to go against the Greeks. He



# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

defeated the Greeks at Thermopylae, lost the battle of Salamis in 480 B.C. After this he lost at Platea in 479 B.C. The war ended in 467 B.C.

We now skip over nine minor rulers as Xerxes was the last Persian King to invade Grecia.

*Daniel 11:3-4 "3 And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. 4 And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those."*

**A mighty king** - Alexander the Great is easily placed in the prophecy here as you will see from chapters 2, 7, and 8, also, from the facts stated as we continue on.

**Great dominion** - Alexander finally defeated the Persians at the battle of Arbela in 331 B.C. He continued his campaign all the way to the borders of India and south through to Egypt. His dominion was far greater than that of the Persian empire.

**When he shall stand up** - When he is at his peak, the height of his power.

**Kingdom broken, divided toward four winds:**

*"When Alexander was at the height of his power, a fever killed Hephaestion at Ekbatana, this was a young man dear to him. On returning to Babylon a vast funeral was erected costing over ten million dollars. To drink to intoxication at a funeral was required as a token of respectful sympathy toward the deceased. Alexander spent two nights in unmeasured indulgence, which so aggravated the germs of fever in his system that he continually grew worse and in a few days died. He was asked to who the kingdom would go, his reply was to the strongest." **The Eleventh of Daniel by Justus Grant Lamson pgs 35, 36 1909***

*"Alexander was said to have drunk equal to the twenty one quests and then twice drank full the Herculean cup containing over one gallon." **Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, page 56***

Alexander died in 323 B.C. Immediately 36 generals scrambled for power and by 314 B.C. Seleucus, Ptolemy, Lysimachus, and Cassander formed a league against Antigonos who had the largest influence in the remains of Alexander's realm. The contest ebbed and flowed. Seleucus gained Babylon in 312 B.C. and established a long line of Kings. Lysimachus and Ptolemy assumed the title of Kings in 305 B.C. and Cassander about the same year, so that three years later this league of four planned a campaign against Antigonos which brought on the battle of Ipsus 301 B.C. and definitely established the four division of Alexander's former kingdom into north, south, east, and west, or the four winds. These four directions are according to Palestine, Daniel's homeland.

**Not to his posterity** - Alexander's relatives were slain so that there was no interference to the ruling of any part of the kingdom. None of the kingdom went to Alexander's family.

**Nor according to his dominion** - No one person was to rule with the dominion that Alexander had. This remarkably came true as prophesied.

**Plucked up** - Cassander took the west, Lysimachus took the north, Seleucus took the east, and Ptolemy took the south.

**Others besides those** - Others besides Alexander's posterity/family.

*Daniel 11:5 "And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion."*

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**King of the south** - Ptolemy Soter, who had Egypt, Palestine and part of Syria in the south, is the King of the south at this point of the prophecy. He was to be strong. He ruled from 323 B.C. to 285 B.C.

**One of his princes** - One of the mighty kings/Alexander's princes.

**Strong above him, have dominion, great dominion** - Lysimachus took over Cassander's territory and then Lysimachus lost all of it to Seleucus Nicator who now has three quarters of Alexander's kingdom, leaving Ptolemy in the south with a quarter, Seleucus in the north, Ptolemy in the south.

*Daniel 11:6 "And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times."*

**They shall join themselves** - Ptolemy Philadelphus 285 - 247 B.C., the second King of the south, and Antiochus Theos 261 - 246 B.C., the third King of the north, were to join themselves together. How?

**King's daughter of the south** - Ptolemy Philadelphus' daughter was Berenice.

**Come to...make an agreement** - Berenice was to come to Antiochus Theos and become his wife, to try and join the kingdoms in this way. For the son to be born to this pair was to rule the kingdom. So Antiochus divorced Laodice his wife and married Berenice.

**She shall not retain the power of the arm** - Berenice was not to retain any power that Antiochus had, as we will see in a moment.

**Neither shall he stand** - Antiochus was not to stand either. This was true about the two of them. Berenice's father died in 247 B.C., (Ptolemy Philadelphus') and when word carried to Antiochus he immediately threw Berenice out and took back his ex-wife Laodice, with her two sons Seleucus Callinicus, and Antiochus Hierax. Laodice then had Antiochus Theos poisoned, 246 B.C., and had Seleucus Callinicus pronounced as King in his stead.

**Nor his arm** - Antiochus' son that he had with Berenice was not to retain the strength.

**She shall be given up, they that brought her** - Berenice was put to death by the orders of Laodice and also all of Berenice's Egyptian attendants that she had with her.

**He that begat her** - Marginal reading says whom she brought forth. The son that Berenice had to Antiochus was also murdered at the same time. This completely cleared the path for Laodice's son, Seleucus Callinicus, to rule.

**He that strengthened her** - Ptolemy Philadelphus (her father) was the one strengthening Berenice, for whilst ever he was alive Berenice was in safety.

*Daniel 11:7-9 "7 But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail: 8 And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north. 9 So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land."*

**Branch of her roots** - Her roots refers to Berenice's roots, which is her father Ptolemy Philadelphus.

**One stand up in his estate** - One was to stand up in Ptolemy's estate/office. This was his son, Berenice's brother, Ptolemy Euergetes. Euergetes means benefactor. He now is seated on the throne.

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

**Come with an army** - Euergetes, with his army, was marching to the aid of his sister but was too late.

**Enter into fortress of king of north and prevail** - Euergetes and his army continued to march northward, and with many of the cities opening their gates to him, because of their hatred toward Seleucus Callinicus, the King of the north, he was soon in possession of a large portion of land. Euergetes gained Seleucia, the capital of Syria, and a large part of Asia Minor and would have continued to gain more if it were not for a call to come back to Egypt because of trouble there.

A large portion of verse 8 simply deals with the booty that Euergetes collected whilst on his conquest. This conquest was in the year 246 B.C.

**Continue more years than king of north** - Euergetes reigned from 247 B.C. to 222 B.C., whereas Seleucus Callinicus reigned from 246 B.C. to 227 B.C.

Verse 9 reaffirms that Euergetes, King of the south, would come into Seleucus Callinicus', King of the north's territory and then return to his own.

***Daniel 11:10** "But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress."*

**His sons** - The King of the north's (Seleucus Callinicus) sons, Seleucus Ceraunus and Antiochus Magnus.

**Shall be stirred up** - These two sons, Seleucus being the older, were stirred up because of the land that had been taken from them.

**Assemble a multitude of great forces** - They gathered an army together to avenge what had happened.

**One shall certainly come** - Seleucus Ceraunus was a weak leader destitute of money and unable to keep his army in obedience to him. He only reigned for 3 years and was then poisoned by two of his generals. This left Antiochus Magnus to be proclaimed as King, and it was he who came to avenge.

**Overflow and pass through** - Antiochus took charge of the army and retook Seleucia, also recovering Syria. Some places were taken by force and others by treaty.

**Stirred up** - Talking of the ongoing revenge as Antiochus overcame in battle Nicholas the Egyptian general and had thoughts of invading Egypt itself. This revenge peaks in verse 11.

***Daniel 11:11** "And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand."*

**King of the south** - Euergetes had passed off the scene by now and Ptolemy Philopater had taken the throne of the south in Egypt.

**Moved with choler** - Philopater was moved with choler because Antiochus Magnus was getting too close.

**Come forth and fight with him...king of north** - Philopater, south, went out to meet Antiochus, north, at the battle of Raphia near Gaza in 217 B.C.

**He shall set forth a great multitude** - He is referring to the King of the north, which is Antiochus. The great multitude that Antiochus set forth consisted of the following; 62,000 foot, 6000 horse and 102 elephants.

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

**But the multitude...given into his hand** - Philopater met Antiochus with a larger army. Even though he had less elephants, (only 73 elephants) his total army with foot and horse amounted to a greater amount than his opponent. Philopater defeated Antiochus by slaying 10,000 foot, 3000 horse, and taking captive over 4000 prisoners. Philopater suffered the loss of only 700 horse and 1400 infantry. So the multitude was given into the hand of the King of the south, Philopater.

*Daniel 11:12 "And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it."*

**When he hath taken away the multitude** - After this fight previously mentioned when Philopater has defeated Antiochus.

**Heart shall be lifted up** – Philopater’s heart was lifted up by his success.

**He shall cast down many ten thousands** - On his way back home, Philopater stopped at Jerusalem to sacrifice to the God of Israel. He also tried to enter within the temple itself, but was struck with terror and confusion of mind and had to be carried from the place as if he were half dead. He left Jerusalem filled with great wrath against the whole nation of the Jews because of what had happened. Philopater sought revenge upon the Jews many times but was unsuccessful, until in 213 B.C. there was an insurrection of the Egyptians of which he made occasion to gain revenge upon the Jews, slaying 40,000 of them at Alexandria.

**But...not be strengthened by it** - This did nothing in gaining more power or strength, for it turned many of his own nation against him.

*Daniel 11:13-15 "13 For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches. 14 And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall. 15 So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand."*

**King of north...return...greater multitude than the former** - Antiochus Magnus was to return with a greater army than before.

**After certain years with a great army** - After fourteen years peace between Philopater and Antiochus dissolved. Philopater died in 204 B.C. from intemperance and debauchery leaving his son Ptolemy Epiphanes to take the throne at the age of 4 or 5 years.

Seeing this, Antiochus thought it an excellent opportunity to enlarge his kingdom by coming upon Egypt and upon such a young King. He raised an immense army "greater than the former" (for he had collected many forces and acquired great riches in his eastern expedition) and set out against Egypt, expecting to have an easy victory over the infant King. However, Antiochus was not the only one who rose up against the infant Ptolemy, Agathocles his prime minister having possession of the King's person, and conducting the affairs of the kingdom in his stead was so dissolute and proud in the exercise of his power that the provinces which before were subject to Egypt rebelled; Egypt itself was disturbed by seditions and the Alexandrians, rising up against Agathocles, caused him, his sister, his mother, and their associates to be put to death.

**With much riches** - Antiochus had successful campaigns against the eastern parts of Iran and India, he also managed to snuff out rebellion in other parts of his kingdom. Through this he had acquired much wealth and military support.

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

**Many stand up against the king of the south** - Stand up against Ptolemy Epiphanes. During this time of Antiochus wanting to invade Egypt, he made a league with King Philip of Macedonia. The two of them agreed to divide the Egyptian empire by taking what was the closest and most convenient parts to them. Philip was to take Caria, Libya, Cyrenaica, and Egypt with Antiochus taking all the rest. Antiochus entered into Coele-Syria and Palestine and was soon the conqueror.

At the same time that this was going on, the provinces of Egypt were rebelling against Agathocles the prime minister of Egypt who was conducting the affairs of the kingdom for the young King. The power that he could exercise was going to his head, with Egypt itself being disturbed by seditions. The Alexandrians rose up and caused him, his sister, mother, and their associates to be put to death.

**Robbers of thy people** – Now we see Pagan Rome coming into the prophecy. Rome is going to become the King of the North and it will remain the King of the North until it comes to its end, until it falls when Jesus comes the second time.

The word robbers ("*periyts*" in Hebrew) means destroyers. Rome is here introduced for the first time into chapter 11 as the "robbers of thy people". A look at the history of Rome shows why the term "robbers" fits so well, not only as destroyers but because the Italian peninsula at that time in history was known to be where a band of robbers and thieves hid out. They would strike out from their base in Italy and, not only steal gold and booty, but they were famous for stealing wives and women. They were known throughout that area as thieves and robbers. They came mainly from Greek heritage; Italy was basically a place for them to hide out. So when we see the term "robbers" applied to them its very fitting, "The robbers of thy people".

Gabriel is now introducing to Daniel who would be the ones to finally destroy his people, the Jews. From chapter 9 of Daniel we can see that the destroyers of the Jews were indeed Rome.

**Shall exalt themselves** - Rome sent Scopas to lead the Egyptian forces to Palestine in 202 B.C. He took back Coele-Syria and Palestine and brought all of Judea into subjection to the authority of Egypt. This was done because Rome had accepted the guardianship of Epiphanes the young King of Egypt. So here we see Rome coming into the picture. Verse 14 says there would many stand up against the King of the south at this time. Not only did this happen immediately after the King died and left his kingdom to his children, but there was there a struggle in Egypt itself to try to take control.

**Establish the vision** - With Rome coming onto the scene at this time, it establishes or demonstrates the truth of previous visions showing that Rome was going to be a world player.

**But they shall fall** - Scopas was finally defeated.

**King of north shall come** - This is a carry on from the previous verse. Antiochus Magnus was to come back at Scopas.

**Take most fenced cities** - Antiochus was quick to make steps in recovering Palestine and Coele-Syria from the hands of the Egyptians. He took back the lost territory including Sidon, which was, in situation and defenses, one of the strongest cities of those times. We shall see how he did this now.

**Arms of south not withstand** - Ptolemy Epiphanes could not withstand him.

**Neither his chosen people** - Scopas was sent to meet Antiochus near the sources of the Jordan. Scopas was defeated and chased to Sidon where a siege was laid against it by Antiochus. Three of the ablest generals of Egypt went to aid against the siege, but without success. With famine and an opponent Scopas could not cope with, he had to surrender on the dishonorable terms of life only. Scopas and his 10,000 men were let go stripped and naked.

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**Neither...any strength to withstand** - No person could withstand the assault of Antiochus Magnus.

*Daniel 11:16 "But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed."*

**But he** - Even though Scopas, who came against the north on behalf of the south, could not stand against Antiochus Magnus, King of the north, we see that Rome will come back with power under the rulership of Pompey. Now we will see Rome start to show its power.

**Cometh against him** - Rome, under Pompey, was to come against the King of the north, who at that time was Antiochus Asiaticus 69 B.C.

**According to his own will** - This was true about Rome with Pompey at its head. Pompey conquered Syria and took it out of the hands of Asiaticus, the King of the north, in 65 B.C. making it a province of Rome.

This verse here is saying that as the King of the North, Assyria decides to make its move on Egypt, even though the Romans had said, "leave Egypt alone", Rome goes into battle against them and Pompey goes through Assyria and levels it. We need to look closely at who is the King of the North and who is the King of the South.

**None shall stand before him** - None could stand in the way of Pompey.

Here in the first part of this verse, when Rome overcomes Assyria, Rome becomes the King of the North. (The rule is the power that controls the geographical area) Egypt is the King of the South, and the power that controls the geographical area of Babylon is the King of the North. Babylon was the center of the Assyrian kingdom.

When Rome in verse 16 came in the Assyrians could not stand against them and Rome took control of that area—by the rule established here in Daniel 11, Rome became the King of the North. They swept through Assyria and they followed on and took the "Glorious Land" of Israel as well. This is talking about the Roman army taking control of the country of Israel.

**He shall stand in the glorious land** - In 161 B.C. the Jews made an alliance with the Romans. But in 63 B.C. two competitors, Hyrcanus and Aristobulus, were struggling for the crown of Judea. Pompey came up against Jerusalem, with Aristobulus' people wanting to close the city up, and Hyrcanus' wanting to open it to Pompey. The latter of the two being in the majority, opened the city up to Pompey. At this point the people of Aristobulus went to the temple on the mount, ready to defend it. Pompey finally broke through the wall of the temple and took, by force, the temple site. Thus Jerusalem became a province of Rome in 63 B.C.

Pompey comes back to Jerusalem to deal with these people that were resisting his power. At the end of three months, the breach was made in the walls sufficient for an assault. In the terrible slaughter that ensued 12,000 were slain. It was an affecting sight, observes the historian, to see the priest engaged at the time in the Divine service with calm hand and steady purpose pursue their accustomed work apparently unconscious of the wild tumult until their own blood was mingled with that of the sacrifices they were offering.

After putting an end to the war, Pompey demolished the walls of Jerusalem, transferred several cities from the jurisdiction of Judea to that of Syria and imposed tribute on the Jews. For the first time, Jerusalem was by conquest placed in the hands of Rome. That power which was to hold the Glorious Land in its iron grasp until it had utterly consumed it. The point that has a bearing on the final verses in this chapter is when Rome conquered the "Glorious Land" in verse 16. They weren't overthrowing



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the religion of the Jews, or destroying the temple, they were taking control of the country of Israel, the Glorious Land. We have to remember this if we are going to correctly divide the Word of God when we get to the end verses.

**By his hand shall be consumed** - Never again did Judea or Jerusalem have its independence. The iron hand of Rome held it until they destroyed it by the hand of Titus in 70 A.D. Previous to this, Rome had conquered Macedon and Thrace. Now with the overthrow of Syria and Judea the northern part of Alexander's kingdom was now ruled by Rome, and Rome now becomes the King of the north.

*Daniel 11:17 "He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do: and he shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him."*

**He** - That is, Rome lead by Julius Caesar.

**Set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom** - The word within this verse means "against" in Hebrew. So we would read this verse as such, set his face to enter against the strength of his whole kingdom. Julius Caesar set his face to enter the whole of Alexander's kingdom and take it. At this time, the only portion left of Alexander's kingdom unconquered by Rome was Egypt.

Rome had already taken the kingdom of the North when Assyria fell, and then it had taken the kingdom of the Glorious Land (Jerusalem) and now it decides it's going to take the King of the South, and when it does that, it will have taken the whole kingdom of Alexander the Great. 3 Areas Conquered In Bible as we can see from [Daniel 8:9](#).

*Daniel 8:9 "And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land."*

This "Little Horn" has been correctly understood for years as Pagan Rome; "which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land". Rome had to overcome three geographical obstacles, to become the fourth kingdom of Bible prophecy.

Daniel 11 is simply building upon that truth. Verse 16, it takes Assyria, to the east of Rome, and then it takes the Glorious Land or the Pleasant Land in chapter 8. Its next point of attack is the King of the South which in verse 17 is describing when Julius Caesar goes into Egypt.

**Upright ones with him** - Ptolemy the 12th and his sister Cleopatra were to rule co-jointly in Egypt, until there was a dispute between them. Julius Caesar came down with 800 horses, and 3200 foot soldiers to settle the quarrel. The war started to rage with Achilles trying to drive Caesar out of Alexandria with 20,000 men. Caesar was able to repel this attack, but the Egyptians then tried to destroy Caesar's fleet. In turn Caesar set their fleet to the flames, and some of those vessels came to close to the quay and set alight several buildings. One of these was the famous Alexandrian library containing nearly 400,000 volumes, this was destroyed by flames.

The attack became worse, and Caesar realized he had an insufficient amount of men. Caesar sent for help in the neighboring countries. A large fleet came from Asia Minor, also Mithridates set out for Egypt with a large army raised from Syria and Cilicia. Antipater, the Idumean, joined him with 3000 Jews, or the upright ones. The Jews held the passes into Egypt, and permitted no interruption. Without this, Caesar would have failed. For the arrival of this army decided the contest.

Ptolemy, attempting to escape, drowned in the river Nile. Alexandria and all of Egypt submitted to the victor. Rome had now entered into and absorbed the whole of the original kingdom of Alexander by

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47 B.C. Cleopatra remained ruler until 30 B.C. and it was at that time that Egypt was made a province of Rome.

Pompey had been placed in the protectorship of the children, Cleopatra and Ptolemy, and when Ptolemy had Pompey killed, then Julius Caesar continued his pursuit that he had begun after Pompey, right into Egypt. He then takes the position that since Pompey is removed from the protectorate, he's now the protectorate and he tries to settle some of the dissent in Egypt about whether Ptolemy or Cleopatra is going to rule the kingdom: "and he shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him".

**The daughter of women, corrupting her** - Caesar gained Cleopatra and had one son with her. It is said that his passion for her was the reason behind the campaign of the Egyptian war. Historians differ in this affair. Some say Cleopatra was Julius Caesar's mistress, others that he married her. Some claim the royalty in Egypt was passed down through the female side of the family, so the reason that Julius Caesar, and later Mark Anthony married Cleopatra, was because it made them the King of Egypt and that's what they wanted.

With this understanding, that the blood line passed down through the female side in Egypt, then this verse is clear that says, "and he shall give him the daughter of women (Cleopatra), corrupting her:"

**Not stand on his side, neither be for him** - Cleopatra afterward joined herself to Antony, the enemy of Augustus Caesar, and exerted her whole power against Rome.

The most important theme through these verses is that Rome has come to control the world at this point.

The Bible wants to be very clear about this sequence of leadership in Rome; Julius Caesar, then Caesar Augustus then Tiberius Caesar, this sequence of Caesars, so clearly identified in these verses, is what places Rome as the only possible entity that could fulfil this prophecy. Remember that this vision is about Rome, so there is some very clear history shown here. We see here Julius Caesar coming into Egypt, finding all kinds of problems that he has to resolve. After he fought some of the battles there and seemed to have brought it under control, he turns to the islands. Verse 18 describes his march through the Mediterranean where he very quickly brought those islands and sea-coasts under the authority of Rome.

***Daniel 11:18** "After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him."*

**After this...turn his face unto the isles** - After this, Julius conquered all the remaining coast lands, Spain, North Africa, and Pharnaces King of Cimmerian Bosphorus.

**But a prince** - This prince was a man by the name of Brutus.

**Reproach** - We are jumping ahead in the verse a little to look at this word reproach so as to give better understanding to the previous parts of the verse. Rome was a republic, but after all the conquests of Julius Caesar the title of King was offered to him. This would be a big reproach to the republic, to now become a monarchy.

**For his own behalf** - Brutus showed friendship to Caesar and his desire to be King. Caesar desired in his heart to be King but knocked the offer back twice because of the disagreement of the populace.

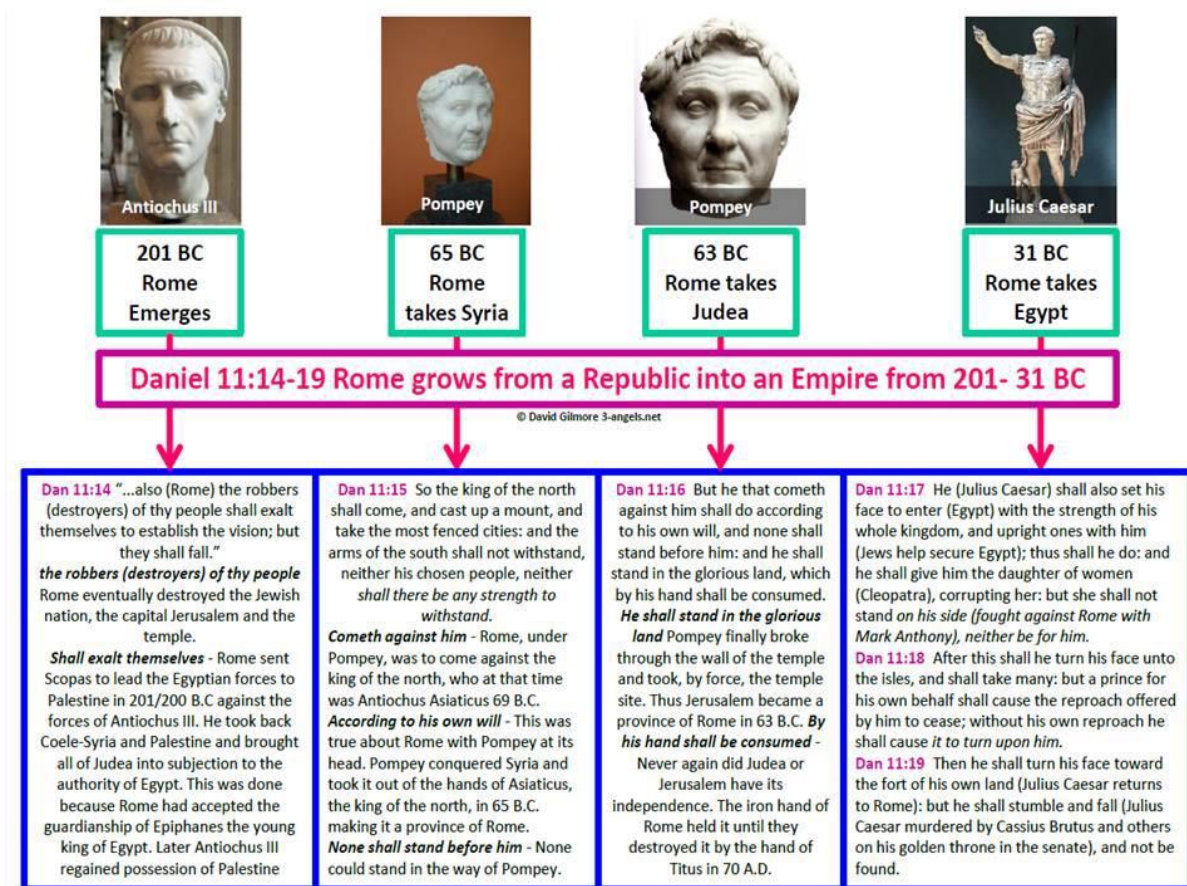
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**Shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease** - Brutus was the one who was going to cause the kingship offered to Julius to cease. So Brutus was the one behind the whole affair. Without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him - Brutus had no desire to be King and caused the whole idea to fall back onto Julius Caesar. This comes to light in the next verse.

**Daniel 11:19** "Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found."

**He shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land** - Julius turned his face back to Rome after his conquests.

**But he shall stumble and fall, and not be found** – He returns to Rome a hero, and back at Rome, he finally accepted the offer of kingship. Julius came into the Senate and sat upon his golden throne to receive his title. It was now that he was assassinated at the foot of the statue of Pompey by Cassius, Brutus and others. He was pierced 23 times with a dagger, causing him to stumble and fall as the Bible states. He could not be found as he was dead. This took place in 44 B.C.



**Daniel 11:20** "Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle."

**Stand up in his estate** - Augustus Caesar was the successor of his uncle Julius Caesar.

**Raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom** - Augustus Caesar is clearly this raiser of taxes. He called for the taxation that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem ([Luke 2:1-3](#)). This is one of the most easily recognizable events in the Bible. These verses here in Daniel 11 more than anything else are saying that this history can't be mistaken, therefore the kingdom under discussion in these verses, is Rome.

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We need to understand this to understand the Bible correctly. This is the Pagan Roman Empire. The Augustan age, where Rome was at peace, justice maintained, luxury curbed, discipline established, and learning encouraged. It was known as the golden age of Roman history.

**Few days he shall be destroyed** - Eighteen years after the raising of taxes Augustus died. This seemed only a few days to the prophet, who was looking down centuries of the world's history.

**Neither in anger, nor in battle** - Augustus died peacefully in his bed, at Nola, where he had gone to seek repose and health. In August 19, 14 A.D. at the ninth hour of the day he died. 35 days before his 75th year of age. There is some implication that his fourth wife, Livia, poisoned him to have her son, Tiberius, rule in his stead.

***Daniel 11:21** "And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries."*

**In his estate shall stand up a vile person** - In the estate of Augustus, there was one who would stand up being a vile person. This rightly fits Tiberius Caesar. He was a vile, wicked, cruel, and licentious person. He was only intoxicated once in his life which was a state of continual intoxication.

**They shall not give the honour of the kingdom** - The people of Rome did not respect Tiberius nor give him any honour.

**Come in peaceably...obtain the kingdom by flatteries** - Livia entreated Augustus to set Tiberius as his successor, but was unsuccessful the first time. The reason why is that the rulership was to go to Agrippa, a very virtuous and much respected Roman. Also Augustus said that Tiberius was too vile a person to wear the purple of Rome. But Agrippa died, forcing Augustus to choose again. Livia once again entreated Augustus. By now Augustus was weakened with age and ill health and consented.

***Daniel 11:22** "And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant."*

Tiberius went on to lead 7 successful military campaigns in Germany and in the east on the frontiers of Armenia and Parthia. But the overflower was to be overflown himself. Leaving his favorite island, Tiberius stopped at a country house near the promontory of Micenum. It was here on the 16th of March 37 A.D. he sunk into a lethargy in which he appeared dead. Caligula was preparing an escort to take possession of the empire, when his sudden revival threw them into consternation. Marco, the praetorian prefect, caused him to be suffocated with pillows at this time. Tiberius died being 78 years of age.

**Also the prince of the covenant** - This can only refer to Messiah the Prince who was going to confirm the covenant with many for one week ([Daniel 9:25-27](#)). So Jesus Christ was to be broken during the reign of Tiberius Caesar. According to [Luke 3:1-3](#) Tiberius was reigning when John the Baptist was preaching, which he started in 26 A.D. Jesus was baptized in 27 A.D. and crucified in 31 A.D. So Jesus was crucified in the 17-18th year of Tiberius' reign, before Tiberius died in 37 A.D.

This confirms the 70 week prophecy of Daniel 9.

***Daniel 11:23-24** "23 And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people. 24 He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time."*

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

**League made with him** - We now flash back to the starting place of the league made with the Jews in 161 B.C. It places us back in the history of the previous verses.

**He shall work deceitfully** - Rome worked deceitfully as they never kept the league, conquering the Jews in 63 B.C. These characteristics of Rome earlier in the book of Daniel, are that this fourth kingdom would be different. One of the differences is that Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece conquered through their military might. Rome conquered through its military might as well, but Rome also conquered through "politics". They formed "leagues" and it starts here in verse 23 with the league they formed with the Jews. They made agreements with countries to be their protector, like they did in Egypt earlier, to protect the young King of Egypt. They formed a league with Greece to protect Greece from the Macedonians and the Assyrians. They took control of countries through politics and military might.

**Shall become strong with a small people** - Rome was only small at this stage when the league was made, but it was to rise to power even though it was small. This was one of the "differences" of this fourth kingdom, it becomes "strong with a small people" (they originated the concept of the "protection racket").

**He shall enter peaceably...fattest places...fathers have not done** - Rome entered upon some of the land by alliances or request, as we have already seen that Ptolemy asked Rome to be guardian of Egypt. All other nations gained their power by conquest alone. This was not so with Rome. They entered upon the best of lands, securing them without war. They began as a small people, but if you're going to conquer a country by signing a peace treaty with it, which ultimately brings that country under your control, you don't need a large army; you just need a diplomatic core.

This is one of the characteristics of the fourth kingdom as it carries on in its second phase. In verse 24 it carries on this description; "He shall enter peaceably upon the fattest places of the province". For example, when it took control of Greece it was through peaceable measures and "he would do what his fathers had not done or his father's fathers". This is saying that Alexander the Great, the Medes and the Persians, Babylon, being the fathers, the grandfathers and the great grandfathers, never conquered this way through politics, they conquered only through warfare. Among them the prey, and spoil, and riches - Rome protected all their provinces from their enemies and showed kindness and leniency toward them. All gained the advantage under the Roman rule.

**He shall scatter among them the prey and the spoil and riches** - This was one of the characteristics of Rome; when they conquered a place, the booty was divided between the soldiers of the army, also some of the countries that agreed to form treaties with them, were also at first given some of the riches. Later on they came under the slavery-type dominance of Rome. Rome's technique was to share the wealth, and as they took the wealth the Roman power rose to conquer the world. 31 BC - 330 AD Rome rules from Rome.

**Forecast his devices against the strongholds, even for a time** - A time in Bible prophecy is equal to a year which is 360 days (see the story of Noah). Also a day in prophecy equals 1 year ([Numbers 14:34](#), [Ezekiel 4:6](#)). So this being a prophetic time it is 360 years. This time period would have to start when Rome was complete ruler over all kingdoms. This was in 31 B.C.

If you add 360 years to this date, you come to the year 330 A.D. where the time prophecy comes to a conclusion. It was in this year that Rome ceased to be the city from where all ruling was done and the base of the kingdom. It was at this time that Emperor Constantine moved the seat to Byzantium, later called Constantinople, in the west. In the beginning of the Roman Empire, they were going to forecast



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their devices from the city of Rome for 360 years and when the 360 years was up, this stronghold of Rome was no longer going to be a stronghold.

*Daniel 11:25-27 "25 And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him. 26 Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain. 27 And both of these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed."*

**He shall stir up his power...against king of south** - Verse 25 describes the final conquest of Egypt, which includes the battle of Actium in 31 BC. Octavian [Augustus Caesar], Mark Antony, and Lepidua formed the Triumvirate to avenge the death of Julius Caesar. Lepidus was finally pushed out of the triumvirate leaving Mark Antony and Octavian.

Ultimately, Mark Anthony goes to Egypt and fell victim to the arts and charms of Cleopatra in such a way that it appears he can't control himself. He started to bestow upon her province after province to please her. Octavian thus had no trouble declaring war upon Egypt and Cleopatra, even though the war was really against Antony as neither of them was satisfied with only half the kingdom.

**King of south shall be stirred up...very great and mighty army** - The King of the South at this time, isn't one of the line of Ptolemy, its Mark Anthony. Antony assembled a fleet of 500 ships with 200,000 foot and 12,000 horsemen, at Samos.

**But he shall not stand** - Octavian assembled only half the amount of ships with 80,000 foot. Unlike Antony, all of Octavian's troops were hand chosen and only experienced seamen were picked.

As soon as the season permitted, both armies were put in motion on both sea and land. The battle was fought Sept 2, B.C. 31, at the mouth of the gulf of Ambracia, near the city of Actium. Cleopatra became frightened by the din of battle and fled when there was no danger, taking sixty ships with her. Antony, out of his infatuation for her, went after her.

**They that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him** - First Cleopatra deserted him with sixty ships. Then his army, being disgusted at his infatuation for her, went over to Octavian's side who was more than happy to take them. Also when Antony came to Lybia, he found that the forces that were left there under Scarpus had declared to Octavian/Caesar. Antony committed suicide by stabbing himself.

**His army shall overflow** - Antony's army went over to Octavian.

**Many shall fall down slain** - Before evening closed the whole of Antony's fleet was destroyed, and most of the men and all of the treasure on board perished.

In verse 27 we see the final outcome of the conflict. Both Octavian and Antony were formally in alliance. Yet whilst professing friendship to each other, they were both striving for universal dominion. Their conversation to each other was lies spoken at one table, for they were hypocrites in professing friendship of one another. All councils did not prosper. Octavian eventually came out the victor, with Antony killing himself and also Cleopatra. But Rome's end was still to be at the time appointed.

*Daniel 11:28 "Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land."*



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**Return into his land with great riches** – After this battle of Actium Caesar - Octavian/Augustus, with great success over Egypt, takes its riches with him back to Rome. After conquering the King of the South, he then returns to Rome and is established as the King of the earth, the fourth kingdom of Bible prophecy, in the year 31 BC.

**Against the holy covenant and he shall do exploits** – The holy Covenant - God's promise of abundance and blessing to His people. There are two "returnings" in this verse. The first "returning" is when he returns from conquering the King of the South, and is established as the King of the earth, the fourth kingdom of Bible prophecy in the year 31 BC. Then it says, "his heart shall be against the holy covenant and he shall do exploits and return to his own land"; and this "returning" is from the next conquest, the military campaign of Rome going down into Israel and ultimately destroying Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70. This is why his heart is against the holy covenant. After he conquers Egypt and becomes the King of the world, his next military campaign ends up in Israel and his heart is against the holy covenant in the sense that he's going to destroy the temple in Jerusalem and the people that once had been God's people.

Under Vespasian, in 66 A.D., the Romans invaded Judea, and took the cities of Galilee, Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, where Christ had been rejected. They destroyed the inhabitants, and left nothing but ruin and desolation. Disorders at Rome caused the temporary withdrawal of the Roman armies, as foretold by Christ in [Matthew 24:15](#) and [Luke 21:20](#). The only reason why the righteous could flee was because Vespasian was called back to Rome. On his returning to Rome, he was made emperor and his son Titus took up the work of subjugating Jerusalem.

Titus came upon Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and in five months had destroyed it and the temple. 110,000 Jews perished, and 97,000 were taken captive. The city was later levelled by Tarentius Rufus with the foundations of the temple being ploughed up also. The duration of the entire war was 7 years, and 1,462,000 persons are said to have perished over this period. The survivors were banished, sold, and dispersed into all parts of the world. The Jews cry of His blood be on us and upon our children was definitely fulfilled.

Rome did do exploits upon the promised land/Palestine/Judea and Jerusalem, or Canaan as it was formally known as, and then returned to its own land.

***Daniel 11:29 "At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter."***

**At the time appointed** - The time appointed, is the end of the time prophecy of 360 years which ended in 330 A.D. when the capitol of the Roman Empire was moved from the city of Rome to Constantinople by Constantine, which was the end of the supremacy of Rome.

The 360 years of prophetic time had come to its close and from that point on the ability of Rome to control the world at will through its military might and its political prowess ceased. So in verse 29, it says at the time appointed time, or in 330 A.D. when he (Constantine) moved the capitol, then all the problems begin for Rome.

**He shall return** - The "he" here is Constantine.

**Come toward the south** - Constantine came toward Licinius.

**But it shall not be as the former, or as the latter** – Will not be like the "former or latter" means when Rome attempts to defend itself and maintain its authority from Constantinople. The capitol of the kingdom has changed; he won't have the ability to be successful in his military campaigns from that

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point on. It won't be as the former; it won't be like when he went into Egypt and dealt with Mark Anthony and had such great success, nor will it be as the latter; when he went into Judea and destroyed the temple in A.D. 70 and wiped out Israel. He had success then, but from 330 A.D. his military success wasn't going to be the same as the former or the latter. Now it was an in house war between Constantine in the West and Licinius in the East, as the Roman empire was divide into east and west.

Licinius lost two battles and a truce was established lasting from 314 A.D. to 323 A.D., when war again broke out. Licinius was defeated and finally executed, 324 A.D. This left Constantine at the head of the Roman world. Byzantium (later called Constantinople), as it fell into Constantine's hands, he decided to make it his capital instead of Rome. So he moved the seat of power from Rome to Byzantium in 330 A.D.

Rome ceased to be and was no longer the place where he 'forecast his devices against the strongholds' (verse 24). The Roman Empire was weakened by this move and now starts to disintegrate.

With these East and West divisions the western empire comes under attack from barbarians out of the north. The islands of the Mediterranean that Rome had formerly controlled now become launching points for some of the powers designed by God to bring Rome down and contribute to the environment that needed to be developed for Rome to turn into the ten horns and the three horns to be removed as in Daniel 7.

**Daniel 11:30** *"For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant."*

**Ships of Chittim shall come against him** - The Vandals, from northern Africa, under Genseric, raged against the Roman empire with their naval forces. The Vandals repeatedly visited the coasts of Spain, Liguria, Tuscany, Campania, Lucania, Bruttium, Apulia, Calabria, Venetia, Dalmatia, Epirus, Greece, and Sicily. Italy itself was not spared from Genseric as well. Genseric's career was from 428 A.D. to 468 A.D. Their continued military success was weakening Rome.

**He shall be grieved and return** - There were desperate efforts made to dispossess Genseric of the sovereignty of the seas, the first by Marjorian, the second by Leo, both of which proved to be utter failures; and Rome was obliged to submit to the humiliation of seeing its provinces ravaged, and its "eternal city" pillaged by the enemy.

**Indignation against the holy covenant** - Rome was to rise up and have indignation against the holy covenant, or the true Gospel or those who hold fast the true profession of faith. But how did they do this? This process began under Constantine when he converted to the Christian faith and Christianity no longer was persecuted within the empire. Here we see Constantine and his "indignation against the holy covenant" as he introduces the first Sunday laws. We are told that when the United States passes a national Sunday law, national apostasy will be followed by national ruin. After Constantine issues his Sunday laws the Roman Empire begins to crumble. In former years when Rome warred against their enemies they found victory — but no longer.

**Intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant** – The Bishops of Rome, who had forsaken the true Gospel by the dedication of Chapels to angels, saints, and martyrs. Superstitious ceremonies were woven into everyday life. Wakes and banquets for the dead were celebrated; the relics of the saints were collected and adored, and they pushed aside the council of Christ by uniting church and state.

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The Emperors of Rome now began to unite with the Bishops of Rome. This move of uniting the church with the state was done to increase the stability and power of the state:

*"Thus the state within the state was abolished; the strongest political force then existent, to wit, the church, was made the cornerstone of the state. Both parties, the emperor and bishops, were equally well pleased." [Historians History of the World, pages 639, 640, 642](#)*

Rome proceeded until in order to exterminate the heresy of Arianism (the Arians did not believe in the pagan trinity) held by the three powers that overran the "Eternal City" namely the Heruli, Goths and Vandals, Emperor Justinian decreed in 533 A.D. a decree, that the Bishop of Rome was the head of the entire Church and the corrector of heresies. This aspect of church and state however, was not made up of the true and pure followers of Bible truth. This amalgamation of church and state was the product of years of compromise that had slowly begun to permeate more and more of the professed Christian world. Scattered amongst the provinces were faithful believers who refused to bow the knee to the newly established Bishop of Rome as head over the church of God.

**Now we will see Papal Rome's rise to power – from here on the King of the North is the Papacy**

***Daniel 11:31 "And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate."***

**Arms shall stand on his part** - Arms/force/power was to stand on the part of those who have forsaken the covenant, the bishops or Church of Rome. In 496 A.D. Clovis, King of the Franks converts to Catholicism, recognizing the Bishop of Rome as head over all the church, corrector of heretics and vicar of God on earth. He even acknowledges the blasphemous title "vicar of God on earth" (Vicarius Filii Dei) of the Pope, which brings about the little horn's desire to "speak great words against the most high" as [Daniel 7:25](#) depicts. Thus Clovis places his armies at the disposal of the Pope to defend the faith, expand her borders and correct the heresies currently so popular in the Western Empire. The nations of Europe soon followed his example, except for three, The Huruli, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths, which were finally defeated and wiped out. Notice that when Pagan Rome rose to world dominion, it had to conquer three areas; when Papal Rome rose, it had to conquer three nations. This will be significant towards the end of this study.

**Pollute the sanctuary of strength** - strength = the Heavenly Sanctuary. Pollute also means to "profane" (See Strong's [#H2490](#)). Rome itself was converted to the Catholic faith, converting to Roman Catholicism while claiming it to be Christian boldly profaned the message of the Gospel to the core of many unsuspecting hearts. It mixed vile Paganism with the truth of Christ's Word and trampled His truth underfoot.

**Take away the daily** - Between 496 and 508 A.D., Clovis used his military forces to convert idolaters to Romanism, through alliances, capitulations, and conquests, the Arborici, the Roman garrisons in the West, Brittany, the Burgundians, and the Visigoths, were brought into subjection. They gave up their pagan attachments, but only to perpetuate its abomination in another form called Christianity. All images, statues and rituals of Paganism were then sanctioned as "Christian" icons. The Christianity of the Catholic Church was and still is only baptized paganism.

The last vestiges of paganism were removed for the Church, by Clovis, by 508 A.D.

**Shall place the abomination that maketh desolate** - The political Pope began to stand supreme from inside the church placing the Roman Pope as the head of the church as well as the State, he was declared a "god on earth" thereby making the faith of all that agreed desolate. The title "god on earth" was a stance formally held by Roman Emperors. Thus although the pagan religion of the empire had

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now given way to the Christian religion, there was a difference in theology that prevented the Pope from assuming the title so recently bestowed upon him by Emperor Justinian.

The Vandals, Ostrogoths and Heruli, all avowed Arians (did not believe in a trinity), refused to acknowledge the Bishop of Rome as head over the churches and opposed the Catholic Emperor. Justinian sent his army with General Belisarius to take care of the opposition. After defeating the Vandals, and the Heruli only the Ostrogoths remained. The Goths retreated and allowed Belisarius to enter Rome unopposed. They then in a better season laid siege to the city: which they held for over a year. However, the siege that included the entire nation in its attempt was a bitter failure and that remnant of Goths that remained abandoned the city to Belisarius and disappeared from history. Thus by the year 538 A.D. there remained no opposition to the Pope of Rome to take the seat of the Empire to himself. Hence the prophetic statement that the little horn would "subdue three Kings" in [Daniel 7:24](#) was fulfilled. The Pope now stood unopposed as "god on earth."

We see, in this verse, a clear link to [Daniel 8:11-13](#), dealing with the transition between Pagan Rome and Papal Rome.

***Daniel 11:32** "And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."*

**Such as do wickedly against the covenant** - Those who forsake the truth of God and follow the papal apostasy.

**He** - This is now a reference to the Papacy as the King of the North, Pagan Rome has given way to Papal Rome.

**Corrupt by flatteries** - Those who followed the Papacy, in forsaking the truth of the gospel, were often led on in their zeal by the bestowment of wealth, position and honors.

**But** - in contrast to the above mentioned ones, we now see an alternate group.

**The people that do know their God** - Obviously in contrast to the Papal sympathizers, these are the faithful who are true to the covenant.

**Shall be strong and do exploits** - This is describing the 1260 years of Papal rule from 538 AD to 1798. Here we are shown the ""church in the wilderness"—the true believers who had to flee to the mountains in those days. It says here that they "know their God". What a wonderful tribute to those faithful ones! This verse tells us how those faithful during the dark ages of Papal tyranny, kept the pure religion alive and performed marvelous acts of self sacrifice and religious heroism in behalf of their faith. These included such groups as the Waldenses, Albigenses and Huguenots.

It also tells of the many ways that wicked men, under Satan's control, took the lives of those dear faithful believers. [Daniel 7:25](#) says, "they (the faithful) would be given into his hands" for these years. Have you ever wondered why God allowed this cruel power to do all this in the name of religion? Well, God has a purpose — He has allowed Satan to show what his kind of government is like. All the angels that remained in heaven and the other worlds that did not sin can see just what Satan's rule brings. He can't fool them anymore. But why is Satan still fooling people on earth? Maybe it's because it is taking a longer time for people on earth to learn the lessons because most of them still choose to believe Satan's lies and enjoy his so-called pleasures. God's true people will know that Satan is a liar and a murderer. I hope it can be said of each one of us that "we know our God".

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*Daniel 11:33-35 "33 And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. 34 Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. 35 And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed."*

**They that understand shall instruct many** - The faithful witness of the self-sacrificing ones that we have just read about, missionaries that kept the light of truth alive during the ages of persecution and Papal control.

**Fall by the sword, flame, captivity and spoil many days** - Persecution was kindled in horrendous amounts to stop the spread of the true gospel and the exposure of the falsity of the professed church that sat in the city of Rome. Whether it be by death of the sword, burnt at the stake, imprisonment, or by the confiscation of goods, the Papacy would and did use all in an attempt to rule out so called heresy. The many days are a reference to the much repeated 1260 years of Papal Supremacy over Europe.

**They shall be holpen with a little help** - The Protestant Reformation brought a shortening of the days of persecution in many areas. It provided relief from the absolute control heretofore swayed by the Papal armies.

**But many shall cleave to them with flatteries** - Even in the reformed churches, the flattery of trusting in the state to defend the faith rather than in the God of heaven, was tried again with great success. Thus the battles started to be between Protestant governments and Catholic Governments. To escape from this continued apostasy those who believed in the Biblical principle of separation of church and state fled to the United States of America, the stronghold of religious liberty for all. There true Protestantism was to be nurtured.

**Shall fall, to try them and to purge and to make them white** - Many faithful men and women were martyred to purify the church from those who had joined it for the wrong reasons. A cursory study of church history reveals that only during times of persecution was the church actually pure. At all other times it was and is full of apostasy and corruption.

**Even to the time of the end** - The time of the end, would begin when the time of this persecution would cease. In 1798 the Pope was taken prisoner by Berthier of the French army, and to all intents and purposes the power that had fuelled the inquisition and the persecution of heretics was stopped. Although such persecution has existed and still does exist today in many places, the scope and control of such persecution is extremely limited in contrast to its jurisdiction under the Dark Ages. Thus we are now given the exact date of the beginning of the time of the end, 1798 A.D.

*Daniel 11:36 "And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. 37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all."*

**The king** - The king introduced here cannot be the same power which was last noticed, namely the Papal power, for the specifications will not hold good if applied to that power. Take the declaration in the next verse: "Nor regard any god." A person that does not regard any god is an atheist. So this king or nation would take upon itself the profession of atheism. So we can see this cannot now be speaking of the Papacy, as the Papal Church of Rome cannot be regarded as having 'no regard for any god', as

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it has always professed faith in God and Jesus Christ, albeit a false God and a false Christ and worship a trinity. Also remember, we came to an end of Papal rule around 1798 when it was inflicted with a deadly wound. Although it appeared that this power (the Papacy) had come to an end, we will see it re-emerge in Revelation 13 to continue the work that prophecy has said it would do.

So, has a nation has ever taken such an 'atheist' position? Yes, France! This 'king' [nation] alone of all nations can match the criteria; and this was during the great French Revolution - the "reign of terror" - 1793 to 1798. Both the nature of the Revolution, its rejection of God and the Bible, and the date, compel us to apply verses 36 and 37 to the French nation at that time. France's complete and total shunning of its Christian heritage proves that it was indeed the Willful King that regarded not the God of his fathers.

*"This prophecy has received a most exact and striking fulfillment in the history of France. During the Revolution, in 1793, the world for the first time heard an assembly of men born and educated in civilization and assuming the right to govern one of the finest of the European nations, uplift their united voice to deny the most solemn truth which man's soul receives and renounce unanimously the belief and worship of a Deity." Sir Walter Scott, Life of Napoleon, vol. 1, ch. 17*

*"France is the only nation in the world concerning which the authentic record survives, that as a nation she lifted her hand in open rebellion against the Author of the universe. Plenty of blasphemers, plenty of infidels, there have been, and still continue to be, in England, Germany, Spain, and elsewhere; but France stands apart in the world's history as the single state which, by the decree of her Legislative Assembly, pronounced that there was no God, and of which the entire population of the capital, and a vast majority elsewhere, women as well as men, danced and sang with joy in accepting the announcement." Blackwood's Magazine, November, 1870*

But there are other more striking specifications still fulfilled in this power.

***Daniel 11:37 "Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all."***

**Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers nor desire of women** - The word for woman and wife are in the original the same. Bishop Newton observes that this passage would be more properly rendered "the desire of wives". This would seem to indicate that this government at the same time it declared that God did not exist, would trample underfoot the law which God had given to regulate the marriage institution. And we find that the historian has unconsciously perhaps, and if so, all the more significantly, coupled together the atheism and licentiousness of this government in the same order in which they are presented in the prophecy. He says:

*"Intimately connected with these laws affecting religion, was that which reduced the union of marriage the most sacred engagement which human beings can form, and the permanence of which leads most strongly to the consolidation of society to the state of a mere civil contract of a transitory character, which any two persons might engage in, and cast loose at pleasure when their taste was changed or their appetite gratified. If fiends had set themselves at work to discover a mode of most effectually destroying whatever is venerable, graceful, or permanent, in domestic life, and obtaining at the same time an assurance that the mischief which it was their object to create should be perpetuated from one generation to another, they could not have invented a more effectual plan than the degradation of marriage into a state of mere occasional cohabitation or licensed concubinage. Sophie Arnould, an actress famous for the witty things she said, described the republican marriage as the sacrament of adultery. These anti-religious and antisocial regulations did not answer the purpose of the frantic and inconsiderate zealots, by whom they had been urged forward." Scott's Napoleon, vol. i, p. 173*



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*"In August 26, 1792, an open profession of atheism was made by the National Convention ; and corresponding societies and atheistical clubs were everywhere fearlessly held in the French nation. Massacres and the reign of terror became the most horrid." **Smith's Key to Revelation, p. 323***

*"Herbert, Chaumette, and their associates, appeared at the bar and declared that God did not exist." **Alison, vol. i, p. 150***

At this juncture, all religious worship was prohibited, except that of liberty and the country. The gold and silver plate of the churches was seized upon and desecrated. The churches were closed. The bells were broken and cast into cannon. The Bible was publicly burned. The sacramental vessels were paraded through the streets on an ass, in token of contempt. The Sabbath was abolished, and death was declared, in conspicuous letters posted over their burial places, to be an eternal sleep. You can read much on this in the History of the French Revolution.

**Daniel 11:38** *"But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things."*

**A god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour** - We have already been told that this 'king' (nation) would 'not regard any god', but then would introduce new worship and a strange god whom their fathers knew not. By the introduction of the "worship of Reason", the nation of France fulfils this. This new worship introduced by France was ultimately a worship of self, disregarding any other god. But because it is still the worship of self and reason, which atheism is, then it can also be regarded as a 'strange god'.

The attempt to make France a godless nation produced such anarchy that the rulers feared the power would pass entirely out of their hands, and therefore perceived that, as a political necessity, some kind of worship must be introduced and they did not intend to introduce any movement which would increase devotion or develop any true spiritual character among the people, but only such as would keep themselves in power, and give them control of the national forces. A few extracts from history will show this. Liberty and country were at first the objects of adoration. Liberty, equality, virtue, and morality, the very opposite of anything they possessed in fact or exhibited in practice were words which they set forth as describing the deity of the nation. In 1794 the worship of the Goddess of Reason was introduced, and is thus described by the historian:

*"One of the ceremonies of this insane time stands unrivaled for absurdity combined with impiety. The doors of the Convention were thrown open to a band of musicians, preceded by whom, the members of the municipal body entered in solemn procession, singing a hymn in praise of Liberty and escorting as the object of their future worship a veiled female whom they termed the Goddess of Reason. Being brought within the bar, she was unveiled with great form, and placed on the right hand of the president, she was generally recognized as a dancing girl of the opera, with whose charms most of the persons present were acquainted from her appearance on the stage, while the experience of individuals was further extended. To this person, as the fittest representative of that reason whom they worshipped, the National Convention of France rendered public homage. This impious and ridiculous mummerly had a certain fashion; and the installation of the Goddess of Reason was renewed and imitated throughout the nation, in such places where the inhabitants desired to show themselves equal to all the heights of the Revolution." **Scott's Life of Napoleon***

Truly, this was a strange god, whom the fathers of that generation knew not. No such deity had ever before been set up as an object of adoration.



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*Daniel 11:39 "Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain."*

**Shall divide the land for gain** – How was this fulfilled? As history confirms, it was literally fulfilled in the confiscation of the estates of the nobility by the revolutionists, and in the selling out of these estates in small lots, to a multitude of Frenchmen. The result was to place more than seven hundred million pounds sterling in the depleted French treasury. See Alison, vol. 4, p. 151.

The adherents of this strange religion occupied the fortified places, the strongholds of the nation, as expressed in this verse. But that which serves to identify the application of this prophecy to France, perhaps as clearly as any other particular, is the statement made in the last clause of the verse, namely, that they should "divide the land for gain". Previous to the revolution, the landed property of France was owned by a few landlords in immense estates. These estates were required by the law to remain undivided so that no heirs or creditors could partition them.

But revolution knows no law, and in the anarchy that now reigned as noted also in the eleventh chapter of Revelation, the titles of the nobility were abolished and their lands disposed of in small parcels for the benefit of the public exchequer. The government was in need of funds, and these large landed estates were confiscated and sold at auction in parcels to suit the purchasers. The historian thus records this unique transaction:

*"The confiscation of two-thirds of the landed property of the kingdom, which arose from the decrees of the Convention against the emigrants, clergy, and persons convicted at the Revolutionary Tribunals, ... placed funds worth above 700,000,000 sterling at the disposal of the government." Alison, vol. iv, p. 151*

*Daniel 11:40 "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over."*

**At the time of the end** – Which was 1798 as noted earlier. After a long interval, the king of the south and the king of the north appear again on the stage of action.

**King of the South - King of the North** – We have met with nothing to indicate that we are to look to any different localities for these powers from those which, shortly after the death of Alexander, constituted respectively the southern and northern divisions of his empire. The king of the south was at that time Egypt, and the king of the north was Syria, including Thrace and Asia Minor.

Egypt is still, by common agreement, the king of the south, while the territory which at first constituted the king of the north, has been for the past few hundred years wholly included within the dominions of the Sultan of Turkey, kingdoms north of Jerusalem, which in 1798 was the Ottoman Empire.

Modern day preachers will often introduce France as the king of the south, pushing at the Papacy in 1798, bringing an end to Papal rule, which sounds good, but the problem with this view is that you are moving away from the literal interpretation of the rest of the chapter, and therefore removing the important context of Daniel 11. As we have seen, Daniel 11 is clearly a literal account of history with no symbols; however, to apply the Papacy as the king of the north, you have to employ much symbolism, which goes against the whole structure of Daniel chapter 11. If we are to interpret scripture with scripture, then the king of the south spoken of earlier in Daniel 11 is Egypt (Verses 5-15). And the king of the north is that kingdom which occupies the territory of Syria, north of Jerusalem, which in 1798 was the Ottoman Empire, Turkey.

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France is not called the king of the south in verses 36-39 but we have seen clearly that this was indeed the atheistic nation which completely rejected God and the Bible. The Scriptures merely call France a king.

**Push at him** – Who is the 'him'? This is the atheistical king of verses 36-39, France. We have just read this in the previous verses. So Egypt (king of the south) would simply push at France, and the Ottoman Empire - Turkey (king of the north) would also come against France like a whirlwind. This would happen at the time of the end, around 1798.

**Come against him like a whirlwind** – This application of the prophecy calls for a conflict to spring up between Egypt and France, and Turkey and France in 1798 which is the year we have seen to be the commencement of the time of the end, and if history testifies that such a triangular war did break out in that year, it will be conclusive proof of the correctness of the application.

History testifies that these events did occur in that very year. After fancied Egyptian provocations against France ("push at him"), Napoleon entered upon his Egyptian campaign in the spring of 1798 and was making an easy conquest of the country, when Turkey, through jealousy of the French and through opposition to their designs in Egypt fostered by English diplomats declared war against France on the 2nd of September of that year. England and Russia were in alliance with Turkey in this struggle and their navies furnished the "many ships" of the prophecy while their aid added to the "whirlwind" onset of the Turks.

**He shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over** – This indicates that one of the parties engaged in this conflict would emerge from it in great triumph. The prophecy does not tell by name which one it is, but, as in other similar cases simply uses the pronoun leaving the student to learn the answer by the events themselves. We have therefore only to ascertain which one did triumph and then we know which one is meant by the pronoun "he".

The victorious party in this struggle was the Turks. The French, under Napoleon, found the Turkish forces strongly entrenched at Acre in Palestine on the Mediterranean while swarms of Mussulmans (Muslims) gathered in the mountains of Samaria ready to swoop down upon the French when they should besiege Acre.

After sixty days spent in fruitless efforts to dislodge them Napoleon was obliged to sound the note of retreat and lead his forces back to Egypt. Additional reverses soon compelled the French to retire to their own country leaving Egypt in possession of the Turks. In light of these facts it is impossible to apply the latter part of verse 40 to any nation but the Turks.

Egypt twice prostrated, by the French first, then by the Turks certainly did not "overflow and pass over." The French ignominiously retraced their steps to their own land and did not fulfil this specification. But the Turks, victorious over the French and lords of Egypt certainly did. The Turks thus came to take the leading position in the occurrences of those times.

The remaining verses now drop the prophecies of the French and transfer the burden of its testimony to the victorious Turk, tracing their (Turkish/Islamic) history from this point on to the very end.

***Daniel 11:41 "He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon."***

These verses relate to the advantages and prestige gained by the Turkish Empire.

**Many countries shall be overthrown - Glorious Land** – Abandoning a campaign in which one third of the army had fallen victims to war and the plague, the French retired from d'Acre, and after a fatiguing

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march of twenty-six days re-entered Cairo in Egypt. They thus abandoned all the conquests they had made in Judea, and the "glorious land", Palestine, with all its provinces, here called "countries," and fell back again under the oppressive rule of the Turk.

**Edom, and Moab and Ammon** – Edom, Moab, and Ammon, lying outside the limits of Palestine south and east of the Dead Sea and Jordan were out of the line of the March of the Turks from Syria to Egypt, and so escaped the ravages of that campaign.

*Daniel 11:42 "He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape."*

**Shall stretch forth his hand upon the countries** – Here, we are still talking about the Turkish Empire.

**Egypt shall not escape** – On the retreat of the French to Egypt, a Turkish fleet landed 18,000 men at Aboukir. Napoleon immediately attacked the place completely routing the Turks and re-establishing his authority in Egypt. But at this point, severe reverses to the French arms in Europe called Napoleon home to look after the interests of his own country. The command of the troops in Egypt was left with Gen. Kleber, who, after a period of untiring activity for the benefit of the army, was murdered by a Turk in Cairo and the command was left with Abdallah Menou. With an army which could not be recruited, every loss was serious.

In the meantime, the English government, as the ally of the Turks, had resolved to wrest Egypt from the French. Thus on March 13, 1800, an English fleet disembarked a body of troops at Aboukir. The French gave battle the next day, but were forced to retire.

*Daniel 11:43 "But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps."*

**Power over treasures of gold and silver and precious things of Egypt** - History gives the following facts:

When the French were driven out of Egypt, and the Turks took possession, the Sultan permitted the Egyptians to reorganize their government as it was before the French invasion. He asked of the Egyptians neither soldiers, guns, nor fortifications, but left them to manage their own affairs independently, with the important exception of putting the nation under tribute to himself. In the articles of agreement between the Sultan and the Pasha of Egypt, it was stipulated that the Egyptians should pay annually to the Turkish government a certain amount of gold and silver, and six hundred thousand measures of corn, and four hundred thousand of barley.

**The Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps** – This refers to the unconquered Arab nations who have sought the friendship of the Turkish power, many of whom remain tributary to this same power.

*Daniel 11:44 "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many."*

**Tidings out of the east and out of the north** - This was fulfilled in the Crimean war of 1853-56, which originated from the threatening attitude of Persia on the east of Turkey and Russia on the north. Dr. Clarke, closing his commentary on the Old Testament in 1825, foreshadowed this movement when, commenting on this verse, he said:

*"It may mean that the Persians on the east, and the Russians on the north, will at some time greatly embarrass the Ottoman government." Adam Clarke's Bible Commentary*

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Twenty-eight years elapsed, and the Crimean war sustained the application of Dr. Clarke and fulfilled the prophecy.

Tidings from these powers troubled him (Turkey). Their attitude and movements incited the Sultan to anger and revenge. Russia being the more aggressive party was the object of attack. Turkey declared war on her powerful northern neighbor in 1853. The world looked on in amazement to see a government which had long been called "the Sick Man of the East," a government whose army was dispirited and demoralized, whose treasuries were empty, whose rulers were vile and imbecile and whose subjects were rebellious and threatening secession, rush with such impetuosity into the conflict. The prophecy said that they (the Turks) should go forth with great fury and when they thus went forth, the profane vernacular of an American writer described them as fighting "like devils." England and France it is true soon came to the help of Turkey, but she went forth in the manner described and as is reported, gained victory after victory before receiving the assistance of these powers.

***Daniel 11:45 "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas (in) (and) the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."***

We have now traced the prophecy of the 11th of Daniel down step by step and have thus far found events to fulfil all its predictions. It has all been wrought out into history except this last verse.

No power has yet performed the acts here described. But it is to be fulfilled; and its fulfilment must be accomplished by that power which has been continuously the subject of the prophecy from the 40th verse, down to this 45th verse. If the application to which we have given the preference in passing over these verses is correct, we must look to Turkey to make the move here indicated.

**He shall plant the tabernacles** – The 'tabernacles of his palace' means the seat of government belonging to the Turkish kingdom. And where does this last verse say the seat of government of the Turkish (Islamic) power will be moved to? "Between the seas, in the glorious holy mountain" an expression which Bishop Newton says:

*"Between the seas in the glorious holy mountain, must denote, as we have shown, some part of the Holy Land." Bishop Newton*

And mark also, how applicable the language to that power is: "He shall come to his end, and none shall help him." This plainly implies that this power has previously received help. And what are the facts?

We see that in the war against France in 1798-1801, in the war between Turkey and Egypt in 1838-1840, in the Crimean war which was in 1853-6 and also in the late Russo-Turkish war, Turkey received the assistance of other powers without which she would probably have failed to maintain her position. And it is a notorious fact that since the fall of the Ottoman supremacy in 1840 that empire has existed only through the sufferance of the great powers of Europe. Without their pledged support, she would not be long able to maintain even a nominal existence, and when that is withdrawn, she must come to the ground.

So the prophecy says the king comes to his end and none help him, and he comes to his end, as we may naturally infer, because none help him; because the support previously rendered is withdrawn.

Have we any indications that this part of the prophecy is soon to be fulfilled? As we raise this inquiry, we look not to dim and distant ages in the past whose events so long ago transferred to the pages of history and now only interest the few, but to the present living moving world. Are the nations which

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are now on the stage of action, with their disciplined armies and their multiplied weapons of war making any movement looking to this end?

Indeed they are. Destruction is coming to the nation of Israel from Turkey and Islam. This move of Turkey and Islam upon Israel specifically Jerusalem, will be their last move, and when they make this final move she will be on her own and the result will be that Turkey will then come to their end and none will help them. Other nations have helped Turkey in past wars, but, this will be the end of the Turkish Islamic kingdom. Thus the prophecy points to a movement on the part of Turkey going into Jerusalem, which lies at the very center of the Eastern Question.

**He shall come to his end:**

*"There the Turk shall encamp with all his power, yet 'he shall come to his end, and none shall help him'." **Newton on the Prophecies, p. 318***

If so, it can be none other than Jerusalem. We must therefore look for the Turks to move their seat of government to Jerusalem.

Time will soon determine this matter, it may be but a few months or years but when this takes place what follows are events of the most momentous interest to all the inhabitants of this world, as the next chapter immediately shows.

The movement on the part of Turkey and Islam is the signal for the standing up of Michael and the end of probation for mankind ([Daniel 12:1](#)). It marks the order of events. Yes, the Papacy is the antichrist and will, through America, cause the world to receive its mark. Revelation 13 picks up from where [Daniel 11:35](#) left off and continues as regards to the prophecy of the Papacy.

But when Turkey and Islam move into Jerusalem to take control, we will know that the next event will be the close of probation, and the end of this world as we know it is at the door! This is the purpose of Daniel 11.

Daniel 12 verses 1-2 should be on the end of Daniel 11:

***Daniel 12:1** "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."*

At this point, when Michael/Jesus stands, it is to bring to an end all sin and wickedness on the earth. The judgment is finished and the judge is to make His triumphant appearance in the clouds of Heaven.

***Revelation 22:11** "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."*

***Daniel 12:2** "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."*

Which resurrection will you take part in?

# Unlocking the Book of Daniel

## Daniel - Chapter 12

### Michael Stands Up

Daniel chapters 10, 11 and 12 are really one. Chapter 12 just continues the angel's words explaining to Daniel the meaning of the visions he had seen earlier. People get mixed up in their understanding when they don't realise this fact.

*Daniel 11:45 "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."*

We want to take a close look at this final verse of chapter 11 and see the picture-story God has placed there for us. After the time of the cross, the prophecies have a spiritual meaning, and apply world-wide rather than to the LITERAL nation of Israel. So we see the King of the North taking a stand here. The words 'plant the tabernacles of his palace', in the Hebrew can mean that he will pitch his war tents. He is going to take a stand; and where is he standing?

Now people get all confused when they keep looking to the literal land of Israel for something to fulfil these words — but it has a spiritual and a world-wide meaning. The King of the North is spiritual Babylon — who is that? It is Rome and all the churches and world powers who join with her. Who are the 'seas'? Seas represent people, nations and so on.

*Revelation 17:15 "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."*

What does the 'Holy Mountain' mean? It means the true people of God. The ones that really have the truth and obediently live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. You see truth as it is in Jesus, is like a Mighty Mountain. You may not like it and you may try to get rid of it. You may ignore it or fight against it in every way, but it just stands there like a mighty mountain. You will only wear yourself out and smash yourself to pieces if you keep attacking it. There is an interesting text in Luke.

*Luke 20:18 "Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."*

Who is that Rock? It is Jesus and His Word. Jesus identifies Himself with His Word, so much so that he calls Himself 'the Word'. So what does it mean to 'fall and be broken'? It means that we come to Jesus through His Word, and when we really get a glimpse of Him we see our own wretchedness. We repent fully, we die to self and this is falling on the Rock and being broken. But Jesus lifts us up and gives us a new life in Him. We are born again with Christ living in us His obedient, victorious life. But the verse says that some don't fall on the Rock and on these the Rock will fall—grinding them to powder. These are the ones who reject and refuse every effort God makes to get them to surrender and co-operate with Him in their salvation.

The King of the North in this prophecy has done this, and here he stands defying the Holy Mountain, the Rock — and it is about to fall on him. None shall help him; no-one can help him.

He has chosen his own wicked ways until even God Himself has no more that can be tried. Finally the Rock falls. In verse 44, it talks about 'tidings' that make this power angry. This is a message that comes from the people of God to the nations of the earth. It warns against what this power is trying to do, and tells people to come out of her. And it also tells that Jesus is about to return. Hebrew scholars say



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the verse should read 'between the seas and the glorious holy mountain'. So here sits this wicked power between the nations of earth and God's holy people trying to stop the message of God's Holy Truth from reaching earth's millions. But he comes to his end. Glorious promise! In the 1260 year prophecy, God's people were 'given into his (Rome's) hand'. In the final time of trouble they will not be; instead the power comes to its end as it tries again to wipe out God's children.

***Daniel 12:1** "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."*

**Michael stands up** - Who is Michael? We know it is our mighty Saviour, Jesus. This is the name always used when He wars against Satan. He stands up for His people. There is another place where we see Jesus stand up; it is when Stephen was stoned (Acts 7) he saw Jesus standing by the Father's throne. He wasn't taking this sitting down! In AD 34, probation ended for the Jews as a nation (they can still be saved as individuals, of course).

When He stands up this time probation will close for the world! Everyone will have decided on the issues and will either belong totally to God, keeping all His Commandments, or be in total rebellion against Him following tradition and man's authority.

***Matthew 15:9** "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."*

Do you want to be among that number who shall have their names written in the book, who shall be delivered? Do you want the overcomer's reward? The masterly temptations of Satan will overpower many who now profess to believe the truth. Their unworthy course of action, their denial of Christ, will make it necessary for God to blot their names from the book of life. But may it not be so with us. In the time of trouble just before the coming of Christ, the righteous will be preserved through the ministration of heavenly angels; but there will be no security for the transgressor of God's law. Angels cannot then protect those who are disregarding one of God's Commandments. Jesus will be with His dear children who trust in Him and Satan cannot overcome them. Why is this coming Time of Trouble more terrible than any that has gone before? There have been many times of trouble and terrible happenings and persecution, what makes this so dreadful?

Always before God's Grace — the mercy of God was still mixed with everything that came in history, because Jesus was still ministering His blood in behalf of sinful mankind. We don't know how much we owe to this merciful Grace — without it life would long ago have been extinguished from this planet by the insane destruction caused by Satan and his nasty demons and the people who have his character. In [Revelation 7:1](#) this mercy is pictured as four mighty angels holding back the winds of destruction. After Jesus leaves the sanctuary in heaven and no longer intercedes for sinners, there will be a time when there is no more grace available to the lost. Satan will have complete control over them. This is when probation has ended for this world (see Revelation 22).

***Daniel 12:2-3** "2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."*

Just before the actual coming of Jesus in the clouds of heaven, there will be a special resurrection, those who have been the worst persecutors of God's children through the ages will be raised to watch in horror as Jesus returns, not now as a humble man, but as King of Kings. Remember Jesus warned the high priest about this in Matthew 26:

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**Matthew 26:64** *"Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."*

Imagine how terrible will be this sight to those wicked ones. But think how wonderful it will be for God's dear children as they see Him coming and know that now they are forever free from those who want to force them to disobey their dear heavenly Father. Those wicked people will die three times, the earthly death, then, when they see Him come they will die of fright, and finally in the lake of fire they will die forever.

**Daniel 12:4** *"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."*

The angel told Daniel that his book was not going to be understood until the end of those great time prophecies in the book. Then 'knowledge would be increased'. This knowledge doesn't just mean worldly knowledge, it means understanding the book of Daniel. The Syrian Peshitta has this verse:

**Daniel 12:4** *"But you, O Daniel, seal these words and be silent, and seal this book even to the time of the end; many shall want to know the end, and knowledge shall be increased."*

As the time prophecies were nearing their end, God's Holy Spirit drew people's attention to them, and helped them to understand what they meant. 'Running to and fro' does not just mean people traveling around, jetting here and there, it means to study the scriptures, 'running here and there' in the Bible and putting texts together to understand the great final message of the Book.

Time prophecies end: As the 1260 year prophecy and the 2300 year prophecy neared their end, people all over the world began to study the book of Daniel and learn the wonderful truths out of it. The prophecy was perfectly fulfilled. The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation as well as the other prophets in the Bible have special meaning for us now in the end times. God wants us to study and understand His messages to us.

**Daniel 12:5-6** *"5 Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. 6 And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?"*

No less a person than the Son of God appeared to Daniel. This description is similar to that given by John when Christ was revealed to him upon the Isle of Patmos. Our Lord now comes with another heavenly messenger to teach Daniel what would take place in the latter days. This knowledge was given to Daniel and recorded by Inspiration for us upon whom the ends of the world are come.

**Daniel 12:7** *"And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."*

The 'Man in linen' is Jesus our High Priest, the heavenly beings asked him how long the wicked powers would persecute God's true people. He answers with another prophecy of the 1260 years, which ended in 1798. You see, this power that is seeking now to get control of the whole world again, has already been rejected by God. They have had their time and did wickedly. It will seem like it is going to succeed again, but just when it takes control in the world and seeks to blot out God's people, it will quickly come to its end. The 'beast power' may roar and pass his laws to force God's people to break God's Commandments — but they won't do it — Jesus will give them power to stand for Him.

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***Daniel 12:8-10*** "8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? 9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."

The wicked have chosen Satan as their leader. Under his control, the wonderful faculties of the mind are used to construct agencies of destruction. God has given the human mind great power, power to show that the Creator has endowed man with ability to do a great work against the enemy of all righteousness, power to show what victories may be gained in the conflict against evil. But when those to whom God has entrusted capabilities give themselves into the hands of the enemy, they become a power to destroy. When men do not make God first and last and best in everything, when they do not give themselves to Him for the carrying out of His purposes, Satan comes in, and uses in his service the minds that, given to God, could achieve great good. Under his direction, they do an evil work with great and masterly power.

***Daniel 12:11-13*** "11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12 Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. 13 But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."

Here we see 2 more time prophecies — the first is 1290 day/years: It is from the time when the 'daily' is taken away - this 'daily' or 'continual' desolating power is paganism (the word 'sacrifice' doesn't belong there and is not in the Hebrew text, it was added by the translators). The 'abomination of desolation' power that would begin then to be set up is Papal Rome. It meant when Pagan Rome lost its power and Papal Rome began to be set up, the prophecy was to begin. This happened in 508 AD. 1290 years from that point comes again to 1798. Clovis, king of the Franks, dedicated his sword and his throne to the Papacy in A.D. 508, and then began the war against the three horns - the Goths, Vandals, and Heruli.

In 538 AD the last of them fell and the Papal horn was ruling the world. Then we see 1335 years, they start at the same place, 508 AD, and it comes to 1843. Jesus says there is a blessing on that year. What happened in 1843? Well the message of the time prophecies of Daniel were preached with great power. It was called the 'Midnight Cry' message.

Daniel 'stands in his lot'; this means that at those times, and in our day also, the prophecies of the book of Daniel would be understood and do a great work in the earth. This happened in 1843. BUT it is also happening today. The final message to the world will have its great power from the time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. Daniel and Revelation actually form one book given by Jesus. He gave the first part to Daniel and the second part to John on Patmos. May God bless you as you learn about the wonderful scenes in the Revelation.