

# Bible Study Notes on the Book of Daniel

Ed Knorr's study notes—partly based on Dr. Robert Lindsted's<sup>1</sup> work, the Zondervan NIV Study Bible (copyright 2002), and various other sources.

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## Background of the Book of Daniel

- The books of the Bible were originally written in three languages:
  - Only the book of Daniel has some Aramaic in it; the rest of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew.
  - All of the New Testament was written in Greek.
  - Daniel Chapters 2-7 are in Aramaic
  - Daniel Chapters 1 & 8-12 are in Hebrew
  - Later translations, of which there are thousands, were written in Latin, English, Spanish, etc., but the autographs were written in Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek
- Daniel was completed about 530 BC (probably written starting around 587 BC)
- About 1/3 of the Bible was prophetic at the time of writing
- Jeremiah & Ezekiel were contemporaries of Daniel
- Critics claim that Daniel must have been written *after* many of the prophesied events took place (after Alexander the Great, the building of the Roman empire, after Antiochus Epiphanies, etc.), since it is so accurate in predictions
  - Key prophecies:
    - the 4 empires of chapters 2 & 7 are Babylon, Media/Persia, Greece, and Rome
    - The “70 weeks of Daniel”—the first 69 “weeks” (i.e., blocks of 7-year periods) led up to the triumphal entry (and subsequent rejection) of Jesus Christ; the last “week” is still in the future
    - Eschatological prophecies at the time of the end (Daniel 12)
  - Jesus called Daniel a prophet in Matthew 24:15—this should settle the argument about whether or not Daniel was written after the fact
  - The Septuagint (i.e., the pre-Christian Greek translation of the Old Testament) already translated old/obsolete language structures in grammar, etc., in Daniel, in the 2nd century BC
    - A comparison with writings from ancient Hebrew and Aramaic suggest that Daniel was written hundreds of years prior to the Septuagint.

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<sup>1</sup> Lindsted, Rob. “Daniel: A Study in Principles & Prophecy”, Audiocassette Series, Wichita, Kansas: Bible Truth, Inc., circa 1989.

- Dead Sea Scrolls (3rd century BC to about 70 AD?)
- Isaiah mentions King Cyrus by name 200 years ahead of time (Isaiah 45:1,13)
- If you wanted to “prove” to someone that the Bible was real, and the God is real, you could turn to the book of Daniel. How could anyone predict the future, and especially in such great detail?
- Daniel and his 3 friends were uprooted from Israel, as teenagers, and taken to Babylon, to be schooled in the language, customs, etc. of the Babylonians. King Nebuchadnezzar took some of the best or most promising young men for service in Babylon. Daniel and his friends were possibly eunuchs: Isaiah 39:6-7.
- Deportations:
  - 606 BC: God allowed Nebuchadnezzar to take the first group as captives. He also took along some vessels of gold and silver from Solomon’s temple, for worship.
  - 598 BC: The prophet Ezekiel is taken captive, and about 10,000 others.
  - 587 BC: The Babylonian army breaks through the walls of Jerusalem on the 17th day of Tammuz, followed 3 weeks later by the destruction of Solomon’s temple on the 9th day of Av (which is the same anniversary date as would be in 70 AD when the 2nd temple (Herod’s temple) is destroyed by the Roman army).
- God warned the people to repent many times before the Babylonian army invaded; but, they wouldn’t listen.
- Israel became even more evil than the people around them, yet they should have been an example, or picture of God, ... kind of like we as Christians should be. See books such as *The Body* by Chuck Colson, *What’s so Amazing about Grace?* by Philip Yancey. People sometimes complain that Christians are hypocritical, but grace is found in so few places in society, and the Church is about the only place that, at least, *some* grace is found.

## Chapter 1: Daniel and His 3 Friends Go to Babylon

- Babylonians liked to uproot people from their own homeland. Later, however, the Jewish people became comfortable there (only about 50,000 returned with Nehemiah/Ezra later on).
- Names of the 4: (approximate translations)
  - Daniel = “God is my Judge” → Belteshazzar “the treasures of Baal”
  - Hananiah = “God is gracious” → Shadrach = “illuminated by the sun god”
  - Mishael = “Who is the Lord?” → Meshach = “Who is Venus?”
  - Azariah = “The Lord is my help and my strength” → Abednego = “the servant of the fire god”
- Daniel and his friends refused to live it up, as the Babylonians did.
  - Good example for youth
- Daniel has wisdom. Solomon asked for that, too, many years before Daniel.
  - What’s the difference between wisdom and knowledge?

- e.g., swimming instructors and lifeguards differentiate among: judgment, knowledge, skills, and fitness
- Gifts from God:
  - We should be thankful for attributes like good education, health, athletics, musical ability, appearance, wealth, entrepreneurial ability, relationships, people skills, families, the privilege to be part of society in the age we live in.
    - We will be held accountable for the resources we've been given, and what we did with those resources, how we treated others, how we served God, etc.
    - Acts 17:26
- Win favour with your co-workers, neighbours, friends, etc. for the glory of God, and to provide a good testimony.
  - Be kind, work hard, treat people and customers with respect, have a servant attitude (like Christ), don't go shopping on company time, don't call in sick when not, don't steal time or objects from your employer (or vice-versa!)
- Faithfulness does not necessarily produce rewards at the present time.
  - Instead, you may be temporarily "rewarded" with opposition (e.g., Joseph).
  - See the book called *The Applause of Heaven* by Max Lucado, recommended by Dr. Tom Iwama
  - Colossians 3:23-24
  - 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Dreams or visions?
  - Persecuted church?
  - How does God speak to you?
  - How does God speak to us, today?
  - Note: Today, we have access to a lot of information that many Christians in the generations before us never had.
    - The Internet and other online resources, Bibles of all kinds and translations, Bible-study material, the ability to communicate with other Christians, the ability to use wireless technology and encryption to access Bible materials behind closed doors (e.g., persecuted areas of the world)

## Chapter 2: King Nebuchadnezzar and His Dream of a Giant Statue

- King Nebuchadnezzar could not sleep
  - The dream was telling him something
    - Does God use dreams and visions today?
  - What other famous *dreams* are mentioned in the Bible?
    - Jacob (Genesis 28), Joseph (Genesis 37), Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker (Genesis 40), Pharaoh (Genesis 41), Gideon's warrior (Judges 7), Solomon (1 Kings 3), Nebuchadnezzar again (Daniel

- 4), Daniel (Daniel 7), Joseph in the New Testament (twice in Matthew 2), Pilate's wife (Matthew 27)
- Who else, in the Bible, "could not sleep"?
    - King Xerxes (Esther 6), King Darius (Daniel 6)
  - Enchanters, sorcerers, astrologers rely on the occult. Nebuchadnezzar may have used their services in the past, and been met with pretty wishy-washy advice.
    - Avoid horoscopes, psychic hot line, tarot cards, Ouija boards, Pokémon, trolls, etc. Occult practices meant the death penalty in Old Testament times.
  - Daniel & his friends pray for a solution from God, to help interpret the King's dream, lest they all die.
    - Do we pray at the first sign of trouble? Pray immediately, even for small things---it's a good habit to get into (e.g., car stalled).
    - Don't just "request" things in prayer. There are four kinds of prayers: intercession, thankfulness, praise/worship, and petition (requests).
  - The dream's interpretation concerned the future world powers between then (about 580 BC) to the Messiah (Jesus Christ) to His Second Coming.
    - An enormous statue (these empires are explained further in Daniel 7):
      - Head of **gold**: represents the Babylonian empire (~608-539 BC)
        - King Nebuchadnezzar is that head of gold; he ruled from about 605-562 BC, then Nabonidus and Belshazzar.
      - Arms and chest of **silver**: represents the Medo-Persian empire (~539-330 BC)
        - Cyrus (539-530 BC), then Cambyses, Darius the Great, Xerxes (Ahasuerus), Artaxerxes I, and Darius II
      - Belly and thighs of **bronze**: represents the Grecian empire (~330-168 BC)
        - It reached its zenith under Alexander the Great.
      - Legs of **iron**: represents the Roman empire (~168 BC to ~476 AD)
        - Rome ruled that part of the world at the time of Christ.
        - Note that this empire was never conquered; it simply fell apart. Today, there is evidence to suggest a revived Roman Empire is forming (i.e., the European Community).
      - Feet and toes, partly of **iron**, partly of **clay**:
        - 10 toes: Iron and clay don't mix well; so, this union will not be strong or united.
        - In the days of these (future) kings, God will set up an everlasting kingdom of his own (i.e., under the leadership of Christ) that will destroy the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and Christ's kingdom will never be destroyed. It is an eternal kingdom.
    - Nebuchadnezzar to Daniel: "Surely your God is the God of gods..." (Daniel 2:47)
    - Will remnants of all of the above empires be present at Christ's return?
      - Babylon is modern-day Iraq (at least), Medo-Persia is Iran/Iraq, Greece, Rome

### Chapter 3: The Image of Gold and the Fiery Furnace

- Nebuchadnezzar set up a statue 90 feet high and 9 feet wide. It was covered in gold.
  - Everyone had to worship the image of gold, under penalty of death.
    - Shades of Revelation (and the image of the beast (Antichrist))
  - Daniel's friends refuse to worship the image of gold. They took a stand.
    - Daniel 3: 17-18: "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. **But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods** or worship the image of gold you have set up."
      - Does this apply to you?
      - God is still looking for people with these character qualities.
    - They were thrown into the fire (shades of the Tribulation in the book of Revelation).
      - Fire = testing and purification; eliminates dross
      - "Refiner's Fire", "I will refine them like silver and test them like gold..." (Zechariah 13:8-9)
    - The flames were real, but they were not burned up, harmed, or even had the smell of smoke on them.
    - Even though only 3 people were thrown into the fire, 4 people were spotted inside the flames. Was the 4<sup>th</sup> person the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ?

### Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Tree; Nebuchadnezzar's Testimony

- This Chapter describes an enormous tree with beautiful leaves, abundant fruit, food for all, and shelter for the beasts of the field and the birds of the air.
- Daniel 4: 14-15: "Cut down the tree", says an angel, "But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground..."
- Daniel interprets the dream.
  - The tree refers to King Nebuchadnezzar: "you, O king, are that tree! ..." (Daniel 4:22)
  - Nebuchadnezzar would shortly suffer from a rare mental illness called boanthropy.
- Nebuchadnezzar, 12 months later, said: "Is not this the great Babylon **I have built** as the royal residence, **by my mighty power** and for the glory of **my majesty**?" (Daniel 4:28-30)
  - Matthew 23:12: "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted"
  - Are there any lessons for us?

- Pride, selfishness, and “me, me, me” from earliest childhood
  - Pride is what brought Satan down (Isaiah 14:9-14).
  - Consider Jesus’ servant-like attitude (Matthew 20:36; John 13:5-14; Philippians 2:3-5)
- Shades of Revelation
- Nebuchadnezzar goes insane and lives with the animals for 7 years; history records this.
  - He ate grass, and acted as cattle do.
  - He subsequently acknowledged the Most High and His sovereignty over the nations
  - He praised, glorified, and honoured God; then, Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom was restored.
  - Nebuchadnezzar’s testimony forms part of the Bible.

## Chapter 5: The Writing on the Wall

- This happened to Babylonian King Belshazzar around 539 BC. (Nebuchadnezzar died around 562 BC, so this is about 25 years after Nebuchadnezzar’s vision of the great tree, followed by his illness, followed by his testimony.)
  - Belshazzar showed contempt for the God of the universe by taking the temple goblets (that Nebuchadnezzar has plundered earlier from Solomon’s Temple) and drinking wine from those goblets, while praising the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone
  - An armless hand wrote, on the wall: Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin (probably minus the vowels, since it was in Aramaic.) Daniel 5:25
    - This terrified the king.
  - The King still relies on wise men and enchanters for explanations.
  - Daniel’s services are requested again.
    - By now, Daniel is about 80 years of age.
    - Daniel says, “You may keep you gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else.”
      - Whose rewards are *we* seeking? (John 12:42-43, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15) Do we want praise from others? Or, praise from God? (Note: Dr. Tom Iwama’s recommendation of Max Lucado’s book “The Applause of Heaven”)
      - Do your daily work, as working for the Lord, not for men (Colossians 3:23-24)
  - The king was “weighed on the scales and found wanting”. The Medes and the Persians take over Babylon, that very night.
    - Cyrus the ruler: This is history recorded about 200 years in advance (see Isaiah 44:28-45:4, where God mentions Cyrus by name).
      - Josephus wrote that when Cyrus entered Babylon, Daniel presented him with a scroll from Isaiah

indicating that he (Cyrus) was called by name by the prophet Isaiah, who died about 150 years before Cyrus was born.

- The fall of the Babylonian kingdom
  - Compare to the fall of the regimes of Saddam Hussein, Muammar Gaddafi, etc.
    - Accountability of leaders
    - hopelessness → rejoicing → welcoming of liberators
    - Compare: Christ will liberate mankind (Isaiah 61:1-3) and planet Earth (Romans 8:22)
    - hopelessness → rejoicing → welcoming of Christ (Isaiah 35:10 & 51:11)
  - There is great oppression in many places in the world.
    - The persecuted Church:
      - Brother Andrew and Open Doors: the Iron Curtain and the Muslim Curtain
      - Gospel for Asia
- Comments about Babylon:
  - Great city: 15 miles x 15 miles
  - Surrounded by a 350-foot tall wall, 87 feet wide; they could race 6 chariots abroad on the wall; 250 towers on the main wall
  - Euphrates River flowed through part of the palace grounds; drawbridges protected Babylon from outsiders.
  - The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

## Chapter 6: The Lions' Den

Verses to note:

- vv. 1-3: Daniel's work and integrity set him apart from many of the others. He was one of 3 administrators over the kingdom of the Medes and Persians.
- vv. 4-9: Others are jealous of Daniel, and conspire against him.
- v. 10: Daniel continues to pray despite the order not to.
- vv. 11-17: King Darius' decree (formulated against his will) is official and Daniel is thrown into the lions' den. Daniel was about 85 years old at the time.
- vv. 18-20: Like Nebuchadnezzar, the king could not sleep, and hopes that Daniel is still alive.
- vv. 21-24: The accusers and their wives and children are thrown into the lions' den instead.
- vv. 25-28: King Darius writes kind and appropriate words about "the God of Daniel".

The records of the Babylonians, Medes, and Persians place the name "Daniel" in their historical writings.

Recall that the Medes & Persians are the silver part (i.e., chest & arms) of the statue about which Nebuchadnezzar dreamed.

Daniel prayed, openly. Without prayer, there is little power; therefore, make prayer a central part of your life.

Is your life filled with integrity and are you working to the best of your ability in your job? Will others be able to “accuse” you? Note verse 4: “They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.”

## Chapter 7: Daniel’s Dream of the 4 Beasts

- Chronologically (in terms of time), Daniel 7 comes before Daniel 5 & 6. Daniel provides more details in chapter 8.
- This dream happened during the 1st year of Belshazzar king of Babylon.
- Daniel was probably in his 60s or 70s (recall he was about 85 when thrown into the lions’ den).
- The *final* Gentile power will be a 10-nation power, and additional king would be added (Antichrist), but 3 of the previous 10 would be removed.
- Daniel 7 introduces the Antichrist, and judgment.

**Beast #1:** Babylon—like a lion, wings of an eagle, wings torn off, beast stood up and a heart was given it like a man (e.g., Nebuchadnezzar, after he spent 7 years among the animals)

**Beast #2:** Medo-Persian—like a bear, raised up on one side (Persians dominated), 3 ribs in mouth (3 kingdoms tried to stop Medo-Persia: an alliance of Babylon, Egypt, Lydia)

**Beast #3:** Greece—like a leopard (i.e., swift—Alexander the Great, in less than 10 years, conquered the world when he was in his 20s. There was “nothing left” for him to conquer.) 4 wings on back, 4 heads (when Alexander the Great died, 4 generals took over, and the kingdom was divided into 4 parts)

- Daniel 8:21-22 describes the Grecian empire.

**Beast #4:** Rome—Terrifying, powerful, large iron teeth, crushed & devoured its victims

- 10 horns (symbol of strength)
- later, another horn appeared: “little horn”
- 3 horns uprooted (now 8, but later a reference is made to 10)
- picture of a future, revived Roman Empire
  - more on this later

The judgment of the nations (Matthew 25) is NOT the same as the judgment seat of Christ



- This latter is reserved for believers, and the judgment is with respect to the rewards of the believers (e.g., 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10)

<b>Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Statue</b>	<b>Daniel 7: Daniel's Vision</b>	<b>Daniel 8</b>	<b>Identification</b>
Head of Gold	Lion		Babylon Daniel 2:37-38
Chest and Arms of Silver	Bear	Ram	Medo-Persia Daniel 8:20
Belly & Thighs of Bronze	Leopard	Goat	Greece Daniel 8:21-22
Legs of Iron (Feet of Clay and Iron, mixed)	Terrifying and Frightening Beast		Rome

## Chapter 8: Daniel's Second Vision

- Chapters 1 and 8-12 were written in Hebrew; Chapters 2-7 were written in Aramiac
- Chronologically (in terms of time), Daniel 7 & 8 come before Daniel 5 & 6
  - Daniel is about 60-70 years old at this time
  - Daniel was in Susa (modern-day Iran) when he had this series of visions (Chapter 8, occurring 2 years after the visions in Chapter 7))
- A horn symbolizes “strength”, and is used frequently in Scripture.
- Ram with the 2 horns = Medo-Persian empire, the longer horn (2nd horn) was the dominant one (i.e., the Persian empire)
  - Note that this vision was given about 14 years ahead of its occurrence.
- Goat from the west = Greece
  - The ram was Greece's official symbol (c.f., U.S. = eagle, England = lion)
  - Alexander the Great; at the height of his power; the horn was broken off (AtG died at a young age, about 33)
  - 4 horns grew up in place of the first horn (4 generals of AtG); out of one of them came another horn which started small but grew in power to the South and East, and in Israel.
    - This horn sets itself up as the “Prince of the host” (God). It ended the daily sacrifice. “Truth was thrown to the ground.”
      - The little horn was Antiochus IV Epiphanes, an antichrist *type* who desecrates the altar and attempted to destroy the Jews (a foreshadowing of the Antichrist's future “abomination of desolation” in the middle of the 70th week of Daniel (i.e., at the middle of the Tribulation).
      - “Epiphanes” means “God manifest” or “little God”.

- The Maccabean army led by Judas Maccabeus rebelled against the Syrian army (led by Antiochus Epiphanes), captured the Temple Mount, and cleansed/re-dedicated the sanctuary.
- According to Jewish tradition: Miraculously, one day's supply of oil lasted for 8 days. (This event and the one in the preceding paragraph are celebrated as the Jewish feast of Hanukkah, occurring near Christmas time.)
- 2300 evenings and mornings ... corresponds to 168 BC to 165 BC
  - There were 2 daily sacrifices (1 on the Sabbath).
  - The time represents the time span when Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the altar (he sacrificed a pig/hog on the altar) to the time of its rededication by Judas Maccabeus.
- vv. 15-26 The angel Gabriel gave the explanation of Daniel's vision. This makes it very clear that God inspired Daniel, and that the prophecies in Daniel were fulfilled hundreds of years *after* they were written:
  - Two-horned ram = the kings of Media and Greece
  - Shaggy goat = king of Greece
  - Goat's large horn = first king of Greece
  - 4 horns = 4 kingdoms that emerged from the first king
  - Stern-faced king (Antiochus IV Epiphanes) tried to destroy the holy people. He caused deceit to prosper.
    - A "master of intrigue" who became "very strong, but not by his own power" ... "he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yes he will be destroyed, but not by human power."
- Ephesians 6:12: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, and against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."
  - Some of author Frank Peretti's fiction books are on "spiritual forces of evil" (e.g., "This Present Darkness").
- 2 Thessalonians 2:4: "He [Antichrist] will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."
  - This was written by Paul in the New Testament; so, it is still a *future* prophecy.

## Chapter 9: Daniel's Prayer & the 70 'Weeks'

- A "week" in Hebrew can be a period or block of "7 years". Thus, 70 weeks = 70 blocks of 7-years, or 490 years in all. We base the year on a 360-day year, as per other Old Testament references.

- Chronologically (in terms of time), the chapters in Daniel are ordered: 1-4,7,8,5,9,6,10-12
- Chapter 9 was written around 539-538 BC.
- Daniel is in prayer, reflecting on the 70 years mentioned by Jeremiah. Those 70 years apparently started in 606 BC, and were coming to an end. Daniel was looking forward to the end of the 70 years.

**Jeremiah 25:11-14:** This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever. I will bring upon that land all the things I have spoken against it, all that are written in this book and prophesied by Jeremiah against all the nations. They themselves will be enslaved by many nations and great kings; I will repay them according to their deeds and the work of their hands."

- Daniel's prayer focuses on God's attributes and confesses Israel's shortcomings: "we have not listened to your servants the prophets", "we have not obeyed"
  - Israel's attributes: shameful, unfaithful, rebellious
  - God's attributes: covenant-keeping, merciful, forgiving

### ***The 70 'Sevens' or 70 'Weeks': One of the Most Important Prophecies in the Bible***

- Each "seven" or "week" is a 7-year period of time; thus, 70 'weeks' = 490 years

**Daniel 9:24:** "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

- Of the 6 events mentioned in the above verse, 3 have been fulfilled at Christ's first coming, and 3 are still unfulfilled (i.e., they will be fulfilled in the future).

**Daniel 9:25:** "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One [Jesus Christ], the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' [i.e., 69 \* 7 years = 483 years]. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

- King Artaxerxes issued the decree to rebuild the walls and the streets of Jerusalem. According to Sir Robert Andersen's careful calculations, and according to our calendar, this decree was issued on March 14, 445 BC.
- 7 'weeks' + 62 'weeks' = 69 'weeks' (the first 7 'weeks' may refer to the complete restoration of Jerusalem, and the next 62 'weeks' may refer to the time from that point on until the coming of the Messiah)
  - A prophetic year in Scripture is 360 days long (e.g., Genesis and Esther).
  - 69 'weeks' \* 7 years/'week' \* 360 days/year = 173,880 days

- Using our current 365.24 days per year figure, and taking leap years into account, this amounts to 476.0705 of our current years:
  - This calculation, beginning at March 14, 445 BC, brings us to Palm Sunday, April 6, 32 AD, which is believed to be the time that Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem, riding on a donkey (when He first allowed Himself to be publicly declared as the Messiah).
  - Note: There is some debate about whether or not the events should be shifted 2 years earlier (but still maintain the 483 year time span). Some authors dispute 32 AD as the year of Christ's death, and 445 BC as the year of King Artaxerxes' decree. In particular, they believe Christ died in 30 AD.

**Daniel 9:26:** After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One [Messiah] will be cut off [literally: executed] and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come [Roman ruler Titus] will destroy the city and the sanctuary [in 70 AD]. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

- “The Anointed One” means: “Messiah” in Hebrew, and “Christ” in Greek.
- Jesus was angry with the people of his day who didn't recognize the time of his coming. According to Daniel's writings from Babylon, they should have been able to calculate the day when the Messiah was to appear. The wise men (Magi) came from the East (part of the old Babylonian kingdom) to look for the King of the Jews. No one in Israel seemed to anticipate the Messiah's coming. Why didn't the people know? Or, did they not care? Upon encountering the Magi, Herod was upset and wanted to know where the King of the Jews was to be born.

Luke 19:41-44: As he [Jesus] approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known **on this day** what would bring you peace--but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, **because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.**"

- “The people of the ruler who will come” refers to the Romans. They destroyed Jerusalem and the Second Temple in 70 AD. Upon burning down the Temple, they left not “one stone on another” because they pried apart the rocks to get at the melted gold between the rocks (because the Temple was burned down).

**Matthew 24:1-2:** Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

**Daniel 9:27:** He [Antichrist] will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' [7 years] In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination [image of some sort] that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

- This verse focuses on the 70th 'week' of Daniel. Some people believe that this was fulfilled during Christ's earthly reign, when he instituted a new covenant, effectively putting "an end" to the Old Testament sacrifices (which continued until 70 AD).
- Others believe that the "He" in the first part of verse 27 is the Antichrist. He will confirm a 7-year treaty/covenant with Israel and many nations. The Temple will be rebuilt around/by this time. Halfway through this 7-year Tribulation period, the Antichrist will stop the animal sacrifice in the rebuilt Temple, set up an image of himself in the Temple, and cause the world to worship him as God (see also: Matthew 24:15 and 2 Thessalonians 2:4). This event is the "abomination of desolation", which occurs at the midpoint of the Tribulation (i.e., at the 42-month mark, exactly 3½ years into this 70th 'week').

## Chapter 10: Heavenly Beings

Recall:

- Chapters 1 and 8-12 were written in Hebrew; Chapters 2-7 were in Aramaic
- Chronologically (in terms of time), the chapters are: 1-4,7,8,5,9,6,10-12
- Chapter 10 was written around 537 BC ("in the 3rd year of Cyrus")
  - Daniel mourned for 3 weeks, and is now standing on the bank of the Tigris River

About 6 years earlier, in Daniel 8:27, Daniel fainted and was sick for several days. The vision (for the distant future) was beyond his understanding.

- Chapter 10: (1) Two people are involved, besides Daniel. Is Christ one of them? Michael, an archangel, is another. (2) This vision is appointed for the latter years (we'll read about it in Chapters 11 & 12). When do the latter years begin?
- Daniel 10:1,14 (vision for the future)
- Daniel 11:35,40 (at an "appointed time", "at the time of the end")
- Daniel 12:4,9,13 ("close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end", "at the end of the days you [Daniel] will rise to receive your allotted inheritance")

Is Daniel 10:5-9 a vision of Christ? Quite likely because:

- Daniel "bows down". "Bows down" is Hebrew for worship. Recall that we shouldn't worship anyone other than Christ (God). We should not worship angels (e.g., John in Revelation: Revelation 22:8-9 "[fell down to worship at the feet of

the angel] “Don’t do it”; compare to Isaiah 6:5 “I am a man of unclean lips”, and Revelation 1:17 “I fell at his [Jesus’] feet”)

- Revelation 1:13-16 has a description of Christ; compare it with the description in Daniel.
- Daniel’s friends when thrown into the blazing furnace, in Daniel 3:24-26: Christ likely was the fourth man in the fire. “... the fourth man [in the fire] is like the Son of God”.

Other highlights to note: The spirit world; a spiritual battle:

Ephesians 6:12: For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

2 Kings 6:15-17: When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- Note the persistent prayer (Daniel prayed for 3 weeks). This is a lesson for us.
- Time is sometimes needed to answer prayer, and show people results, even if its effect started taking place right away: “the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me 21 days”.

## Chapter 11: Mede/Persian, Greek, & Roman History

[The source of most of these notes is from Rob Lindsted’s teachings on the Book of Daniel.]

Scene: Daniel, about 90 years of age, near the end of his life.

**Daniel 11:2-4:** “Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will appear in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece. Then a mighty king will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases. After he has appeared, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others.”

The 4 kings were likely: Ahazarius, Artaxerxes, Darius, and Xerxes (who was so rich that it encouraged Alexander the Great to conquer them). The “mighty king” was Alexander the Great, of Greece. He died in his early 30s. His son Hercules died before he did, and

son Alexander (who didn't want to rule), was also killed. AtG's kingdom was divided into 4 parts: verses 5-21 give the story of the 4 generals who got possession of AtG's kingdom. *Note that all of this was prophesied hundreds of years in advance.*

By the way, the **King of the South** always refers to Egypt, and the **King of the North** always refers to Syria.

Verses 6+: The daughter of the King of the South (Ptolemy II Philadelphus) was Bernice. The son of the King of the North married this daughter. The fathers die; war breaks out. Bernice rules in place of her father, but there is confusion. The brother of Bernice takes over, seizes 40,000 talents of silver from the Northern kingdom. Later, the sons of the King of the North engage in war.

Verses 15+: Antiochus the Great (North) decided to annex Israel. This is hundreds of years later. The daughter, Cleopatra I, was given in marriage to the King of the South (Ptolemy V Epiphanes) around 194 BC. Egypt calls for help from Rome after the King of the North attacks. Weak Egypt brings in Rome. Antiochus risked 300 ships, but was defeated soundly. The Romans taxed Antiochus 2550 talents plus 1000 talents per year.

The King of the North's people poisoned him because they were so angry. His son taxed the Syrians further.

Verses 21+: Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Epiphanes likes spoils and spreads them around. Epiphanes is the youngest son of Antiochus the Great. History confirms the spoils.

Two brothers in Egypt are at odds against one another. They go against Epiphanes. Epiphanes thumps Israel as Epiphanes passes through to Egypt. Israel hears he's been defeated and celebrates as Epiphanes returns back through Israel. "His heart shall be against the holy covenant."

Egypt asks Rome for more help. Rome passes through Israel, thumps Israel, and they stand eye to eye with Epiphanes. Roman ruler confines Epiphanes to a circle at threat of war. Therefore, Epiphanes retreats and returns through Israel where he took out his frustrations.

History says Antiochus Epiphanes brought a pig into the temple, slaughtered it on the altar (which he dedicated to the pagan god Zeus Olympius), and caused the daily sacrifices to God to cease (the Israelites refused to enter the temple). This took place in 168 BC. Thus, verses 21-35 speak of Antiochus Epiphanes. Note: All of this was told 300-400 years in advance!

The Jewish Feast of Hanukkah (around Christmas) celebrates the Jewish tradition that one day's supply of oil miraculously lasted for 8 days (for the lamps in the Temple), but also this celebrates the rebellion of the armies of Judas Maccabeus against the Syrian army, whereby the Maccabeans captured the Temple Mount and cleansed the sanctuary, in 165 BC, about 3.5 years after the desecration by Antiochus Epiphanes.

Jesus Christ (circa 32 AD):

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

Matthew 24:21-22: "For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened."

Thus, the abomination that causes desolation appears to have a future fulfillment.

"While every detail up to this point in Daniel can be confirmed through history", says Rob Lindsted, verses 36-45 in Daniel 11 **go beyond** just Antiochus Epiphanes. In particular, there is a high likelihood of future fulfillment under Antichrist.

Verses 21-35 are also a picture of the Antichrist. Of all the treaties the Antichrist makes, note that, like Epiphanes, he keeps persecuting the Jews. The Antichrist will do something to stop the sacrifice.

Verses 36-45 contain a gap. Antichrist will fight against the King of the North and the King of the South. Ezekiel 38-39 talk about an alignment of nations (largely Muslim nations, it seems). Egypt and Syria will not be enemies of Israel in the whole tribulation (so, will they align themselves with Israel?). So far, nothing in history corresponds to the alignment described. The King of the North and the King of the South never fought against Antiochus Epiphanes. Furthermore, Daniel 10:14 says, "the latter days".

Daniel 11:36: "The king will do as he pleases. **He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods.** He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place."

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul writes:

2 Thessalonians 2:4: "**He [Antichrist] will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.**"

Daniel 11:39: "He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price."

Joel 3:2: "I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land."



Zechariah 12:3: "On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves."

Zechariah 12:6: "On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume right and left all the surrounding peoples, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place."

Zechariah 12:9: "On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem."

Verses 37+: He will prosper for a time. The King of the South and the King of the North will push against him.

Verse 43: He will have power over treasures of gold, silver, and precious things of Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia.

Verse 44: Tidings out of the East: Traditionally, land east of the Euphrates River; some authors are thinking "China", but that need not be the case. Tidings out of the North: possibly Russia.

Remember, 2500-2600 years ago, these future events were prophesied.

## **Chapter 12: The Tribulation**

Scene: Daniel, near the end of his life. This is the last chapter of the book of Daniel.

Daniel 9:27: "He [Antichrist] will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' [7 years.] In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Jeremiah 30:7: "How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it."

Daniel 12:1: "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered."

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

Matthew 24:21-22: "For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened."

Revelation 12:1-6: "A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days."

Revelation 11:2-3: "But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

Revelation 13:4-5: "Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months."

Revelation 13:16-18 [NIV]: "He [the False Prophet] also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast [Antichrist] or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666."

- Revelation 13:16 [KJV]: "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:"

Daniel 12:4-7: But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge." Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?" The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time. [3½ years.] When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

Daniel 12:11-12: "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days."

Isaiah 63:1-4: Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah [Southern Jordan], with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. **For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come.**"

Isaiah 35:10: "and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away."

Some closing thoughts/comments:

1. 7 year tribulation = "time of Jacob's trouble" = "Daniel's 70th week"
2. 7 years = 3½ years + 3½ years
3. 3½ years = 1260 days (using a 360 day/year prophetic calendar)
4. 3½ year mark = midpoint of the Tribulation
5. The midpoint is often thought of as the time that the Antichrist sets up an image of himself in the rebuilt temple, declaring himself to be God.
6. 1260 days (3½ years) beyond this, the battle of Armageddon takes place (or finishes?)
7. In Daniel 12:11-12, what is the purpose of the "1290 days" or "1335 days" past the midpoint of the tribulation? In other words, this leaves 30 or 75 days to be accounted for. Some conjectures:
  - a. Binding of Satan? (recall that Antichrist and the False Prophet are the first to be thrown into the Lake of Fire ... as for the rest of the unbelievers and evildoers, their judgment is still future)
  - b. The regathering of the Gentile nations?
  - c. The building of the Millennial temple?
  - d. The cleanup because of the great devastation?
  - e. Christ travels from the site of Armageddon to rescue those hidden in Bosrah (Jordan)—perhaps Petra? And then, Christ returns to Jerusalem with the "ransomed of the Lord ..."
  - f. The judgment of the nations?
  - g. Some other reason(s)?