

DANIEL NOTES

There are many, especially some Jews, who say that Daniel was not a prophet and that his writings were done after the fact. There is only one scripture we need to know that this isn't true. That one is Matthew 24:15 where the Lord Jesus himself has this to say; **When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)** The time of Daniel was about 607-534 BC-- that is before Christ NOT before the common era.

CHAPTER ONE

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.

Now, why did this happen? First, Jehoiakim was a follower of false gods. It seems ironic then that he was given into the hands of another who worshiped false gods. There is a deeper meaning as well. Look at 2 Kings 20:16-18 **And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the Lord. Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the Lord. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.** This was a prophecy, by Isaiah, over 100 years before it happened. When God makes a promise He keeps it though it may take a while. I might also say, this is the way we know the bible is true. It is the only book that accurately foretells the future. Before we leave these two verses notice that only part of the temple treasure was carried away. Some, including the Ark, was left.

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;

These four are children, and/or grandchildren, of the king of Judah.

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.

Why would the king choose Jewish children to raise up to serve in the palace? Two reasons; one, he could brag that he had a king's children serving him, and second, Jews excel. Even today look at the leaders in almost every field. Whether it is medicine, finance, music, literature or you name it, you are likely to find Jews in the top positions.

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 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.

Interesting to me is the fact that for the rest of the book Daniel is able to keep his Hebrew name while the others are always called by their Babylonian names.

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.

9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

Do notice that God had a hand in this from the very beginning.

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,

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

This is about separation. We church members would do well to think long and hard about this. The saying is that we are in the world but not of the world. A good example of this is the example of a Pentecostal or

Mennonite woman. It is immediately apparent that they are different from the world. It goes further though as speech and appearance play a big part. No going to places a Christian should not go. No telling, or listening to dirty jokes. Always ask a blessing at a restaurant, (I need to work on that). Give out a tract occasionally and I do not mean leaving one on the urinal in the men's bathroom, or leaving one in place of a tip for the waitress. If you leave one for the waitress make sure there is a large tip inside.

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.

Daniel and the others had been raised to know the Jewish dietary laws. They had good reason to know that the "king's meat" would have many items forbidden by God. It must have been very tempting for these slaves to eat of the very best the palace had to offer. Instead in order to follow God's commands they decided to live on vegetables.

14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

Notice that Daniel did not have a temper tantrum and refuse the king's meat. Instead, he asked in the nicest way possible and let God handle it. That is usually the wise choice. Which proverb says, "**a soft answer turneth away wrath?**" If Daniel had proceeded in the usual demanding human manner the head eunuch would have refused the request.

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.

Once again we see the hand of God in this. A diet of only vegetables and water would have been deficient in vitamin B. Modern folks who choose a vegetarian diet must take B supplement. A meal can be a means of testimony. Remember what has been said about praying in restaurants.

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.

God takes care of those who stay close to him. These four kept their separation and testimony in spite of the temptations offered them in the form of fancy food and drink.

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.

It says “ten times better in wisdom and understanding”. I am afraid that we are afraid of what people may think, we have lost our influence on the world. It paid Daniel to keep himself separate and it would pay us to do the same.

21 And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

This prophecy was fulfilled in every detail. Cyrus, the king of Persia was named hundreds of years before he was born.

DANIEL CHAPTER TWO

Most of the book of Daniel was written in Hebrew but chapters two through seven were written in Aramaic, the gentile language of that day. Many scholars believe that this begins the time of the Gentiles.

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.

Neb is one of the most fascinating characters in the Old Testament. He is an absolute dictator, a pagan and full of himself. In spite of that he is used by God in a tremendous way and, at the end of chapter four, we see a testimony better than most Christians today. As an interesting side note, Saddam Hussein called himself Nebuchadnezzar the second and was in the process of rebuilding Babylon when he was deposed.

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.

This might be a good place to mention the difference between the people mentioned here. Magicians practiced the rites and mysteries of fortune tellers. Astrologers made their predictions from signs in the heavens such as the stars and moon. Sorcerers claimed to commune with the dead. These groups are the so called “wise men “ of the east and, from this group, were the ones who visited the young Jesus.

3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

Either the king did not remember his dream, or more likely, he wanted to test these advisors which he had inherited from his father. Either way, his was a troubling dream and he wanted a good interpretation. Dreams are one of the ways God spoke to his people in the past and I believe He still uses that today in special cases. If you believe you have a dream from God be sure it does not go contrary to scripture. Be careful of that one and keep in mind that there are many evil spirits at work today.

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.

The bible is it's own interpreter. There is criticism made of the fact that part of the book of Daniel was written in Hebrew but chapters two through seven are written in Aramaic. Bible changers use this to claim that Daniel was written by two different men. Those men should pay more attention to verse four. Syriac(Aramaic) was the language in common use at that time and that is the language these demoniac Chaldeans used. Since they used it, Daniel used it to write about them.

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.

The job of the wise men was to keep the king happy so they told him what he wanted to hear. It almost goes without saying that they often lied to the king in order to please him. The king insisted they tell him both the dream and the interpretation so now they were in real trouble. The king may have forgotten the dream but would likely remember it if someone told it to him.

The king was asking them to do something impossible. The wise men knew that no one but the gods could know another man's dream. But though they could speak to their gods their gods could not answer.

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.

These guys are in deep trouble and they knew it. Keep in mind that the king intended to be thorough. He would not only kill the Chaldeans but also their families and reduce their houses to compost piles..

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.

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

Now the king was really angry,so he issued an order to kill all of the wise men ,including Daniel and his friends. Daniel did not even know of the order,or dream, at this time. They had been loyal to God and he had made them important people in the country. Now Nebuchadnezzar intended to kill them.

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

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:

Apparently Arioch went to Daniel first ,before killing anyone. This is obviously the hand of God at work because the normal thing would have been to kill the first ones he found which would have been those in the palace. You can be sure God sent him to Daniel first.

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.

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.

Daniel knew what to do when his life was in danger. He prayed and he asked his friends to pray. God answered his prayers by giving him a dream. In that dream God showed Daniel what was in the king's dream as well as the interpretation. This is no great thing with God but a great thing for Daniel. After all, God is the one who put Neb on the throne. Daniel's wisdom came from God and Daniel was always careful to give him the credit.

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.

So God told Daniel the king's dream and what it meant. Notice that these next verses are statements about God's greatness and glory. Daniel well knew where his help came from.

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.

Now Daniel is finally ready to go before the king.

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.

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;

I love this next verse.

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;

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.

With God's help Daniel was able to remind the king about the dream. In the dream the king had seen a large image in four parts. The head of the image was gold, the chest area brass, the belly and thighs of brass, the legs of iron and the feet a mixture of iron and clay. Notice that these

materials decrease in value as they go down. Also notice that they increase in strength until they get to the feet. Iron mixed with clay has no value and no strength. As the king watched a strange thing happened. A small stone appeared. It seemed as if someone had cut it from the mountainside but no human hand appeared. This small stone struck the image and broke it into small pieces which became like powder and blew away in the wind. Then the stone became larger until it became like a large mountain that filled the earth. This mountain is the final kingdom set up by the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

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.

Notice as we go down the image that the strength of the metals decreases and the value also decreases. In the same way the power of the Gentile kingdoms decreases from the complete dictatorship of Nebuchadnezzar to a split monarchy of the Medes and Persians, then further decreases to the Greek empire of Alexander. Then we have the Roman empire in two parts, the Eastern and Western divisions. Finally we have the feet and toes of mixed iron and clay. This is a mess and is the way the Gentile world stands today. We can be sure from this that we are in the last days.

32 This image's head was of fine gold, (Neb absolute dictatorship), **his breast and his arms of silver,** (Medes and Persians-divided military monarchy), **his belly and his thighs of brass,** (Greece-military general),

33 His legs of iron, (Rome- two divisions), **his feet part of iron and part of clay.** (finally us- a mess).

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.

We know that this stone is the Lord Jesus Christ but the time is still future.

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.

This signals the battle that ends the Gentile kingdoms and begins the reign of Jesus Christ on Earth. That would be the battle of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation.

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.

Bear in mind that Daniel is only given the kingdoms from Neb and forward. There have actually been eight Gentile kingdoms beginning with Nimrod. These first kingdoms are unimportant from this standpoint since there were also Jewish kingdoms. From Neb forward we have only Gentiles ruling the known world. That will continue until the Rapture of the Church which ends the "time of the Gentiles".

38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

This head of gold tells us that the world is under the total control of one man. That will not happen again until the Lord sets up His kingdom. Even the Antichrist does not have total control.

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.

After Nebuchadnezzar dies the countries of the Medes and Persians defeat the Babylonians. Babylonia was defeated without a battle. We will see that in chapter five. Later the army of Greece ruled the known world. After the death of Alexander the empire was divided into four parts, ruled by his generals.

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.

No kingdom was ever as strong militarily as ancient Rome. Modern Rome uses both politics and religion to govern.

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.

Since all of Daniel's prophecy concerning the first four kingdoms has come to pass we can be sure that the rest of the prophecy will come to pass just as he predicted it. There are two feet indicating there will be two great divisions of power. There are ten toes indicating ten nations, probably, but not necessarily, with five in each division. Now, permit me to run a rabbit for a minute. It is often said that the Antichrist will come from the revived Roman empire aka, the European Union. Let's not forget that there are two parts of the Roman Empire, the Western and Eastern. He may well come from the Eastern part.

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.

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.

We are iron with clay so we are being told that we will never be one people, nor one kingdom since the two can not mix. The closest we get is that godless mess, the United Nations. That said, we are now getting closer to a one world government. English is now the universal language and a one world currency is getting closer.

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 for ever.

Jesus was born during the time of the Roman kingdom. Very few knew of His birth but they will one day. He is that little stone cut out without hands. The Kingdom of Jesus will be infinitely stronger than the kingdoms that preceded it. It will never end.

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.

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.

That Daniel allowed this is odd since others, such as Peter and Paul, have forbidden men to worship them.

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 couldst reveal this secret.

Get the fact here that Neb is very close to making a commitment to God. He stops short at this point but something changes in him later. I'm thinking of that time God had him spend as a beast in the field.

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.

From here forward Daniel are second only to Nebuchadnezzar in the kingdom.

DANIEL CHAPTER THREE

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.

Notice here that only two dimensions are given. This would indicate a cylinder or possibly an obelisk. Using the standard cubit this would be 90 feet high and 9 feet across. This chapter is full of types beginning with Nebuchadnezzar who, here, is a type of the Antichrist.

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.

Dake lists the sheriffs as supreme magistrates. It is interesting to me that our modern sheriffs is the highest elected official in the county and has authority over even the FBI and other non elected officials.

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:

A sackbut, if you don't know, is an instrument very much like our modern trombone. Also notice that there are six instruments mentioned.

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, 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.

8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

For some unknown reason Daniel is not present. He very likely was away on business in other parts of the province. Also interesting is that Daniel's name change is mentioned 6 times in 12 chapters but he uses his own name 75 times in his book. This shows us that Daniel did not like his new name since it referred

to the heathen god Bel.

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 worshippingeth, 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.

These “wise men” who are against are the very ones who were saved by Daniel and his friends. Jealousy is their motive since the Jews had risen higher in the government than they had.

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

Nebuchadnezzar, like Jonah, had acted hastily and in anger and both regretted their actions.

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?

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.

Notice how carefully they answered the king. They were confident that God would deliver them but ,whether He did or not, they refused to worship another god.

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.

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.

The fact that the furnace was heated seven times hotter than usual only magnified God the more.

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.

This is a picture,or type,of the nation of Israel in the Tribulation.

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.

Since these garments were all made of either wool or linen,they would have burned quickly.

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.

So now they were in the furnace which was hot enough to have killed the men who threw them in and yet they are unhurt.

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.

The new “bibles” all translate this as “a son of the gods”. The problem with the bible changers is that they stopped reading too soon. In verse 28 notice that Neb realizes that it is an angel in the fire with the three Hebrews. The Angel of God, in the Old Testament, was always the Lord Jesus Christ. Also, angels were referred to as sons of God in the Old Testament. So, while Neb may not have known the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, he certainly knew that this angel came from the Most High God. This might be a good place to mention that the name “Most High God” is the Gentile name of God in the scriptures..

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.

This is the second time that Neb has been forced to realize that there is a true God and that Daniel and the three are in His favor. Neb still does not go so far as to commit to God but now at least recognizes Him. He also confesses five things here. That God sent his angel, that God delivers those who trust him, that God could force him (Neb) to change his word, that the Jews were willing to give up their lives to serve their God and, as he says in verse 29; **“there is no other God who can deliver after this sort”**.

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.

I picture all of these men in a long line passing by three Hebrews so they could examine them closely. This would have been a miracle like nothing they had seen before. Notice that the ropes that bound them had burned off but nothing else was even singed.

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.

A decree against any slander against God is a rare thing and one we could use today.

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

Now they are promoted to even higher positions than they had before.

DANIEL CHAPTER FOUR

This chapter is odd in that it contains the personal testimony of a heathen king. Be sure to notice that it is written in the first person. It seems that Nebuchadnezzar actually wrote this chapter. If you follow along here you will see the change in a man who began as a type of the Antichrist to a converted sinner who has come to know God . His final testimony is better than that of many Christians today. One final note; Nebuchadnezzar died about a year after the end of this chapter. Since he had been returned to good health, I see that as God taking him out before he had a chance to return to his old ways. At any rate, I will not be surprised to see Nebuchadnezzar in Heaven.

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.

Notice that “signs” appear in verses two and three. God showed signs to Neb, a Gentile, because he was dealing with Daniel, a Jew. Paul also used signs to some Gentiles in his work in the New Testament. There are always Jews present when “signs” are given.

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.

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.

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.

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;

Apparently there is a court of “watchers” or holy ones in Heaven. These watch over what goes on on the Earth. In Daniel we get a strong picture of the spirit world, both good and bad. Two evil princes are mentioned, the Prince of Persia (today's Iran), and the Prince of Grecia. These are strong demonic beings who can only be overcome by Michael, the Archangel. This leads me to believe that there are demonic “princes” in charge of all major cities. Think Washington, D.C.

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:

Neb was not troubled by the vision of the tree but by the “watchers” change of the pronoun to HIS. That one word changed everything for Nebuchadnezzar.

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.

Though Satan is said to be “the god of this world”, it is still the Lord Jesus Christ who gives him his limited power. It is God who sets up politicians in their places of power. We have Obama now and if we get Hilary next time it will be for the same two reasons. First, it is God's choice for His purposes and second it is what we deserve.

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.

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.

Daniel immediately knew the interpretation of the dream but was so troubled that he waited an hour before telling Neb the bad news. He even states that he wishes the dream could be applied to Neb's enemies.

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.

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;

This is another of the same thing we had in the second chapter. While it applies directly to Nebuchadnezzar, it also applies to the Gentile world. The Gentile world power will grow until we are finally cut down. Both Jew and Gentile will finally be restored. In the millennium both Jew and Gentile will have their places and both will worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

24 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

Notice here again, the Gentile expression, the Most High.

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.

The king could not doubt that the interpretation was true but to give him credit he took it well. Daniel did not miss this opportunity to advise the king to turn from his sinful ways. Human nature being what it is, I expect the king did try to mend his ways for a while, but as we see from verse 30 he slipped back into the old ways.

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.

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?

This is the same pride that caused Satan to fall. Even with this sin of pride God gave Neb a full year to change his ways. By the end of that year no doubt he thought that Daniel had been wrong or that God had forgotten.

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.

As soon as the words were spoken the sentence was executed. There was no more grace given.

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.

The “they” spoken of could either be the king's political colleagues or it may well have been evil spirits.

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:

At the end of seven years Neb lifted up his eyes to heaven A beast does not do that,they look downward. He looked up in prayer to God. I believe

God gave him just enough understanding, at this point, to do that and to acknowledge God's supremacy. When this was done his reason returned to him. Notice the praise that Neb gives to God in the last part of verse 34

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?

Can there be any doubt that this king who was once a type of the Antichrist has now become a changed man who acknowledges God and gives him the praise that is due him.

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.

As He had promised, God kept the kingdom secure. God would have kept the unconditional promise even if there had not been a change in Neb's character and life.

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.

This is the last we hear of Nebuchadnezzar. He lived for about another year and had great honors heaped on him. He died in 561 BC and was succeeded by his son, Evil Merodach. I wonder if God granted him just one more year so he would not have time to slip back into his evil ways. I fully expect to see Nebuchadnezzar in Heaven. His personal testimony is better than many Christians today.

DANIEL CHAPTER FIVE

1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

Belshazzar is actually the second ruler of the kingdom. He rules alongside his father who is apparently absent while this feast is going on. This hall where the feast was held has been excavated and is 60 x 170 feet in size

and was located beneath the city. This was a very crowded gathering with about 15 square feet per person.

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.

Belshazzar's sin was pride, and if stupidity is a sin we can include that one. He was probably more than a little drunk when he ordered the Temple vessels to be used to drink from.

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.

These were the sacred vessels which were taken from the temple when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem. Remember, from the last lesson, that not all the vessels were brought to Babylon. The Ark of the Covenant and some of the furnishings were not carried away at that time.

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.

Now this is a picture of a truly terrified man. Don't you know that Belshazzar sobered up in a hurry. The time of captivity was nearing its end and the 70 years had almost been fulfilled. It was time for Babylon to fall and for another power to rise that would send the Jews back to their homeland. I leave to your imagination the phrase "the joints of his loins were loosed".

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.

Over a thousand people had seen the handwriting with their own eyes. The so called wise men are brought in again ,and just as before, could do nothing. This is proof that the writing was supernatural since if it had been any known language someone would have recognized it.

9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.

The writing had three effects. It stopped the party,caused a silence to fall over the hall and it put the wise men on the spot. It changed the king's mood to one of fear and terror.

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:

The queen was probably Belshazzar's mother rather than his wife. You have to wonder why Belshazzar did not immediately think of Daniel. He must surely have grown up hearing about him.

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;

Just as Joseph interpreted Pharoah's dream and became second in the kingdom,and thus became a type of Christ,now Daniel interprets Belshazzar's dream and becomes third ruler in the kingdom. This now makes Daniel a type of the Holy Spirit since the Holy Spirit is the one who interprets the word of God.

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.

There are seven attributes listed in verses 12 and 14. These are; excellent spirit,knowledge,understanding,interpretation of dreams,showing of hard

sentences, dissolving of doubts, and light. These same are called the “seven spirits of God” in Rev 5:6

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.

These things he had heard are true of course.

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:

No surprise here. No one can explain, or understand, the things of God apart from the help of the Holy Spirit.

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.

Daniel would explain the words on the wall but not for the king's rewards. He knew that God wanted him to explain the words to Belshazzar. He also knew that the rewards would not last very long because king did not have long to live.

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:

Pride always goes before destruction. Keep in mind that most of the sins we have seen in the Book of Daniel had their roots in pride.

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.

This verse suggests that even though Nebuchadnezzar lived with the beasts he still had some human care. Now, I suggest that Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar had become friends over the years and the care probably came from Daniel. That's not scripture, just my thought.

22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;

The sins of Belshazzar are these. He did not humble himself in his heart. He did not remember the dealings of God with his grandfather. He exalted himself against God. He praised idols, He desecrated the temple vessels and finally, he refused to glorify God.

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:

Daniel did not miss this chance to witness. Knowing the way that God does things, Belshazzar, even at this point, could have repented.

24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.

25 And this is the writing that was written, Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin.

The word MENE means numbered and is repeated for emphasis. Today we would say, "your days are numbered".

26 This is the interpretation of the thing: Mene; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

Belshazzar is the last king of Babylon and is killed that very night.

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.

Notice here that Daniel's interpretation does not match the original but is inspired by the Holy Spirit and the prophecy comes to pass in less than twelve hours.

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.

Now Belshazzar seems to have come back to normal. This courage is probably from the alcohol. He obviously did not believe Daniel's interpretation would come to pass immediately.

30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

The city was divided into two equal parts by the river Euphrates. The rivers banks were walled and had large brass gates at each main avenue. The city had been in a state of siege for several but the occupants of the city felt secure behind their high walls. Herodotus lists the city as being 35 miles on each side and surrounded by a wall 87 feet thick and 35 stories high.

31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

The Medes and Persians took Babylon by diverting the river and walking in under the river gates. History says that it was three days before the occupants of the city even knew they had been conquered.

Isa 44:28 is one proof the bible is true. It is a prophecy made 175 years before it happened and came true to the letter. **That sayeth of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.**

DANIEL CHAPTER SIX

In this chapter we see the second Gentile world empire under the Medes and Persians. One thing to notice as we go forward is that Cyrus and Darius were related, probably cousins. There are some scholars that say they are the same person. Take your choice, it doesn't matter. Daniel must have been about 90 years old when he was placed in control by Darius.

1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

The law of the Medes and Persians did not allow for changes in the law when going from one administration to another. In this case the law was superior to the king. Throughout this chapter Daniel is a type of the Lord Jesus.

3 Then 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.

This gives the reason for Daniel's promotion over the others and this is also the reason for their jealousy.

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.

When even the persons enemies can find no fault then that person must be nearly perfect. Since they could find no fault in Daniel they decide to attack through his religion where they could also find nothing. Since they could find nothing with which to charge him they had to make up a new law which they knew he would disobey.

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.

These conspirators well knew that Daniel was deeply spiritual and would continue to worship his own God.

6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

There's an interesting tidbit in these two verses 6 and 7. We have five groups showing up to plot to kill Daniel. They are presidents, governors, princes, counselors and captains. Five groups and five is the biblical number of death.

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.

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.

These men knew that Daniel prayed three times a day and guessed rightly that he would continue to do so.

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.

This might be a good example for us to follow. While I have no idea in which direction Jerusalem is, certainly praying at least three times a day would be a good thing. I believe all Christians, myself included, are not spending nearly enough time in prayer and this is where our power comes from. Notice that there was no hesitation in Daniel. He knew that he would be in grave danger if he disobeyed the king's command, so what did he do? He did what he always did and worshiped God.

11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Verse eleven is a picture of Daniel doing what he had always done, worshiping God. He was not being rash in his behavior since his

religion and his God had been challenged. No new law could make Daniel abandon the God he had served for 90 years. He had seen miracles performed and certainly was familiar with the firey furnace story.

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.

Now we have a picture of a helpless king. In spite of his feelings for Daniel he had no choice but to follow through with the law. Notice the contempt that the conspirators had for Daniel. They use the phrase, "**that Daniel which is of the children of the captivity of Judah**". Redneck translation, "That old Jew who is nothing but a slave".

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.

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.

So the king worked all day to find a way to deliver Daniel. The conspirators held him to the law.

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.

This same God who allowed the three Hebrew children to be cast into the furnace now allowed the aged Daniel to be thrown to the lions. Both of these events occurred to present a miracle to show God's power over earthly things. There should be no doubt that God continues to do many miracles today but they are done behind the scenes so that we may continue to walk by faith.

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.

All this precaution served to show Darius and the lords that it was the hand of God that delivered Daniel.

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.

This showed just how much the king cared for Daniel. No doubt he realized that Daniel served a powerful God but probably had no hope of finding Daniel alive in the morning.

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

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

We see from this that the king's concern for Daniel was genuine, otherwise he would not have fasted and lost sleep over the matter.

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.

There is a beautiful spiritual lesson in Daniel's deliverance from the den of lions. The den is like the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea which was also covered by a stone and sealed with a signet. As Daniel was delivered from the lions, so was Jesus resurrected. The stone and the seal of a king could not hold either of them. As Daniel could not be thrown to the lions again since he had paid the penalty, so we are free from the law since Jesus paid our penalty. Daniel could never be tried again for his "crime" and neither can we.

23 Then was the king exceedingly 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.

These kings did not mess around. They killed the guilty party ,their wives,their children and the family dog. This is a picture of how the wicked involve their families and bring about their sorrow and death.

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.

King Darius made quite a testimony with that decree. Even with that testimony I do not see Darius as saved. Perhaps he was but the evidence isn't there like it was in the case of Nebuchadnezzar.

28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

We learn from Daniel six that most sin comes from pride and envy. Though we may go through a den of lions,the Lion of the Tribe of Judah goes with us.

DANIEL CHAPTER SEVEN

NOTE...As you study this chapter tie it in with the thirteenth chapter of Revelation where you find more on these strange beasts.

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.

The commentators are all over the place on these beasts. There are two main lines of thought I will mention them both in this first comment and then proceed with the Babylonian line. In one line of comments the first beast is said to represent Babylon and in the other it is said to represent Rome, with the fourth beast, of that line of thinking, representing the kingdom of the Antichrist. As the rest of the beast must follow the first, and in order, you can see where it can get confusing. So, let's go with the Babylonian line. They will be in this order and will match the great image of Nebuchadnezzar. In this line the first beast will be the head of gold, Babylon. The second beast will match the Medes and Persians, the third Greece and the fourth the two divisions of Rome. Confused yet?

Now for the other view. This has the first beast as the Medes and Persians, the second Greece, the third Rome and the fourth the kingdom of the Antichrist. This view is based on the fact that Babylon was history by the time Daniel had this vision, so it does not figure into the vision. What this means, in redneck, is that you can take your choice. It doesn't affect your salvation.

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.

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.

OK, let's take this first beast. This beast is said to be like a lion with eagle's wings. These figures adorned the walls of Nineva and Babylon so would have been familiar to Daniel. This beast compares to the head of gold of Nebuchadnezzar's image so represents Babylon. We see here a combination of the king of beasts and the king of birds so it represents an absolute monarchy. As Daniel watched the wings were plucked and this represents Nebuchadnezzar giving up his conquests and concentrating his attention on building and improving his kingdom. This beast is caused to walk upright and a man's heart is given it. No doubt this represents Neb regaining his sanity after his punishment as a beast. In other words, this is Neb recovery and return to sanity.

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.

The bear is the strongest beast after the lion (you might get some argument from the bear on that one). It is strong but awkward in its' movements and conquers by brute force and strength. This compares to the forces of Medo-Persia that conquered Babylon. The beast is told to devour much flesh. The Medes and Persians put 2,500,000 men in the field against Greece so you can see where this bunch would devour much flesh both in terms of actual food as well as loss of life caused by disease, exposure and death in battle. Remember that Medo-Persia is a dual empire with Persia being the stronger of the two. When the bear is said to rise up on one side this would be Persia. The three ribs would be the countries of Lydia, Egypt and Babylon which had formed an alliance against the Medes and Persians and were destroyed. This beast is inferior to the first in both wealth and power as well as in its form of government. Now, this brings up the question of forms of government. In our view a dictatorship is inferior to our form of government. But this isn't always the case. When the last shot is fired we will enter the millennium under a dictatorship. The difference is that this one will be a good one with the Lord Jesus in complete charge. We call this a theocracy since that sounds so much better.

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.

This third beast is said to be like a leopard with four heads and four wings. Why not eight wings? The leopard is small but swift and powerful. These characteristics make it the perfect picture of the fast moving armies of Alexander the Great. Within ten years Greece had conquered the Medes and Persians. Notice that these wings are the wings of a fowl and not the wings of an eagle like those of the first beast. The four heads represent the four kingdoms that the Greek empire was divided into by the four generals who assumed power after the death of Alexander. These would be Thrace, Macedonia, Egypt and Syria. This beast is fully described in Rev. 13:2. This beast is a mongrel mixture of lion, bear, and leopard. Does that sound like the US or the UN, or possibly both?

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.

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.

The fourth beast was like nothing seen before. It had iron teeth, nails of brass, and ten horns. No natural beast had iron teeth and brass claws. These iron teeth caused Daniel to associate this beast with the iron legs of Nebuchadnezzar's image. With perfect hindsight we can see Rome since Rome was both powerful and brutal. Iron, in the bible, is associated with great strength. Daniel was mystified by the little horn since he had not seen a little toe on Neb's image. He realized that this little horn represented a new revelation not seen on the image. We now know that this little horn is the Antichrist because we have further information from the book of the Revelation. Do keep in mind that this fourth beast represents Rome in its early stages as well as the Rome of today. Before Daniel could ask about the little horn he had another vision.

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.

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.

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

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.

This vision is a judgment scene and the “Ancient of Days” is not God the Father as you might expect from the name, but is the Lord Jesus Christ. How do we know that? We know that because we compare scripture with scripture and John 5:22 tells us that **the Father judgeth no man but has committed all judgment unto the Son.** The description of the Ancient of Days can be compared to the description of the Son in Rev.1:13-15 which says; **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 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.

Remember the last verse of the disciples prayer in Matthew chapter six. This is the answer to that prayer which ends with; **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever.** So, keep in mind that the kingdom does not come until the King returns. When that happens his kingdom will go on for eternity. These verses show that Christ will receive the kingdom at his second coming and that the kingdom will go on for eternity. I mentioned eternity twice for a reason. If you can get a lost person thinking about eternity then the battle is almost won.

15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

The question comes, why was Daniel grieved in his spirit? Several things come to mind. There were things he did not understand about the vision. Then, there were things he did understand, but did not like, such as his people going through the great tribulation. This verse is further proof, if you need it, that the body and spirit are separate.

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.

This could have been one of those heavenly “watchers” that we saw in the last chapter or it may have been the angel Gabriel who had been Daniel's helper at other times.

17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

Whoever this heavenly bystander is he now begins to explain the visions to Daniel. The four wild beast represent four kingdoms that will arise out of the earth. This identifies them with the metals of Nebuchadnezzar's image.

18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Church age believers are called saints, but these are not the saints this verse is speaking of. We know this because the church age saints are caught out before the "little horn" makes war with these saints. This group of saints are believing Jews from the Tribulation period. These are the elect" of Matthew 24:22,24 and 31. I will read those verses;**22 And except those days should be shortened there should be no flesh saved:but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.24 For there shall arise false Christs,and false prophets,and shall show great signs and wonders;insomuch that,if it were possible,they shall deceive the very elect. 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet,and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds,from one end of heaven to the other.** This is why I always say not to start a new Christian in the book of Matthew. Most of Matthew is end time and tribulation and will confuse a new Christian. Instead,start them in the book of John.

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;

Notice here that Daniel has added some things that he did not mention in his first description of the vision.

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.

We have been taught that the ten horns represent the ten members of the European Union. I am sure you can see a problem with that in that there are now more than ten members. Currently there are 28 members of the EU. Something has to change for this interpretation to be true. Now, let us

keep in mind that the Roman Empire/Roman Church has two “legs”, the European and Eastern Orthodox sides. There is no reason to consider only the European “leg”.

21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

This is speaking of the last half of the Tribulation. During the first half the Antichrist will be all sweetness and light with an answer to every problem. During the last half he kicks the Jews out of the Temple, desecrates the Temple and sets himself up as God. Offering either a pig or a human sacrifice would do it. Antiochus Epithanes offered a sow and set off riots and rebellion in Jerusalem..

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.

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.

This would be the old Roman empire. They conquered the known world in their time.

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.

At the time of the Antichrist's rise to power there will be ten major powers in the EU. The “little horn” or Antichrist will subdue three of these apparently by peaceful means. Can you see that this does not fit our current political situation? If, as we have supposed, that the ten kingdoms are the EU then 18 of these have to go. The bible says ten kings so it will be ten. Perhaps it is time to start considering that eastern “leg” and count the kingdoms there.

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.

This is the Antichrist in the last half of the Tribulation. Again, these are Tribulation saints. There are no church age saints here.

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

Like all other would be world conquerors the Antichrist does no better and never has the entire world under his control. He gets most of it but there are always pockets of resistance.

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.

There is no limitation to the coming kingdom of God. It is stated three times in this chapter that the saints will take over the kingdoms of this world after the Antichrist. It is also said three times in this chapter that the kingdom will never end. All kingdoms will eventually be under God as they were before the rebellion of Lucifer and ,later, Adam.

28 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.

This indicates that Daniel did not fully understand his visions. I'm not surprised considering the state of some of our commentators who have had thousands of years of extra light on the subject and they still do not seem to understand.

DANIEL CHAPTER EIGHT

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.

Now we go back two years to before Belshazzar was killed.

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.

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.

One horn was higher than the other and represented Persia, the stronger of the two countries. The Medes were the shorter horn.

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.

Nothing could stand before the combined armies of the Medes and Persians. They ruled the known world at that time.

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.

Now we see Greece coming to power. Remember that at the time of this vision Greece was just a sleepy little fishing village with practically no power. It is prophecies like this one that let us know the Bible is true. Men could not make these predictions and have them come true. That notable horn would be Alexander the Great and that business about not touching the ground would indicate the swiftness with which the armies, of Alexander, moved.

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.

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.

Here the great horn is broken. That would indicate the death of Alexander. Alexander was in his early thirties when he died from “intemperance”, (that would be alcoholism) and swamp fever. The four “notable” horns represent the four generals who took over Alexander's empire at his death.

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.

These areas are known today as Egypt, Greece, Turkey and Syria. This is important because God just told us here that the Antichrist would come from one of these countries. Turkey gets my vote as it is the seat of the eastern leg of the old Roman empire.

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.

Here we have a war in Heaven. In this verse, as well as in other places, the stars are angels. Just as a little tidbit, we do not know when the angels were created but we do know, from the book of Job, that they were created before the foundation of the world was laid.

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.

The daily sacrifices will resume during the Tribulation. It is said that the rabbis are even now making preparations to restart temple worship. There is nothing now standing in the way of rebuilding the temple. It has been said that the “Dome of the Rock, the Moslem mosque is where the temple must be rebuilt but that is not accurate. The mosque stands where the “outer court” of the temple originally stood. The area to the north, where the actual temple stood, is open to construction. All that said, the Antichrist will do away with sacrifices and defile the sanctuary.

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.

Notice that even though the Antichrist casts out the daily sacrifice and defiles the temple, God allows him to continue for a short while. This might be a good place to mention why God allows the sacrifices to be done away with. For the same reason we do not have ongoing sacrifices today, they are no longer needed. Jesus was the final sacrifice.

Now, I need to get this in somewhere. Just as the Godhead is a Trinity, Satan also has a trinity. They are the Dragon, Satan, the Beast, aka the Son of Perdition, aka the Antichrist and the False Prophet, (probably the Pope at that time). Things change at the mid point of the Tribulation. There is that war in Heaven mentioned in verse 10 and Satan is cast out along with his homies. He enters into the Antichrist who rises from the dead, and at that point, the “Great” Tribulation begins.

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.

This is the point where the Antichrist declares himself to be god and demands worship. When doing the math on that two thousand three hundred days, keep in mind that the Jewish calendar, at that time, was based on 30 day months. This is, of course, speaking of the end of the Tribulation.

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 Gabriel is an interesting character. He is the angel that appeared to both Mary, to announce the coming of Jesus and to Elizabeth to announce the coming of John the Baptist. This man's voice that Daniel heard could have been another angel, the Lord Jesus or even possibly an actual man. There are certainly men in Heaven at this time, Moses, Elijah and Enoch to name just three. My vote, in this instance, would be for the Lord Jesus.

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.

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.

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.

This is Alexander.

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.

These are the four generals who assumed leadership after Alexander's death. They were strong but not as powerful as Alexander had been.

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.

There are some who would make this “little horn” Antiochus Epithenes who profaned the temple. We know this isn't so since the next verse says he, the little horn, gets his power from someone else so here we have the Antichrist again. The phrase “understanding dark sentences” probably means that he is heavily into the occult. The Antichrist will be a very interesting person. He will have power from Satan and will be loved by most at first. It is only after he is killed, and resurrected, that he turns ugly.

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 Antichrist gets his power from Satan. He has one main purpose and that is to completely destroy the Jewish people and the Jewish nation.

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.

The key to total world domination is peace and control of global economics. The Antichrist will be able to control both.

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.

This is a way of saying that this prophecy will not come to pass for a very long time. Some of it has happened already but now, almost 2500 years later much is still to come to pass.

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.

Daniel had been fasting for many days. No doubt the sickness was caused by a combination of fasting and the absolute shock of what he had seen.

DANIEL CHAPTER NINE

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.

Of course you all know the book that Daniel was reading. It was the Old Testament scrolls. In particular he was reading from the book of Jeremiah. This is the same book of Jeremiah that we read today. In chapter 25 verses 11 and 12 Jeremiah has this to say; **11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.** Here is a definite prophecy made a long time before it happened, that after seventy years of captivity God would return Judah to their land.

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

Notice that in these verses Daniel is not praying for himself but for his nation. He includes himself in the sins and iniquity of Israel. He is serious for he is fasting and has dressed himself in sackcloth, the roughest kind of cloth and poured ashes all over himself. Notice that it is by prayer and supplication. Supplication is begging. Daniel has done everything he can to humble himself before God as he begs for his people.

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:

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.

Remember the reason for the captivity in the first place. In addition to their other sins, Israel had not kept the rule of sabbath rest for the land. Israel had been in the land for 490 years. They had not let the land rest for one year out of seven so they owed God exactly 70 years. So seventy years are spent in captivity.

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.

Here he is praying for Israel. The ten tribes had been carried away into Assyrian captivity 133 years before Judah was carried away. Now the Jews were scattered all over the known world.

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.

The Jews are really no different from any other bunch of sinners including us. They failed to recognize the prophets as such until later when their prophecies had come true.

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.

The term "all Israel" includes Judah. All of both parts of the nation had sinned. Daniel is probably the most perfect of the Old Testament saints but even he had sin in his life and needed confession to God. Aren't you glad the Holy Spirit put in the bad along with the good.

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.

God will always confirm his word and curse those who sin and bless those who obey. That was true then and is true today. The curse is that mentioned in verse 11.

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.

Even in times when the Israelites are under a curse they are still God's chosen people. He always brings them back into fellowship and restores them to their land. This will go on to the point where God will eventually set up his kingdom in Jerusalem.

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.

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 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.

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.

Gabriel always shows up to Jews and not to Gentiles, at least so far. From this we get that Gabriel is assigned to the Jewish people, at least some of them who are especially in God's favor. BTW, this is one of two places where angels are said to fly. This is where that foolishness about angels having wings comes from. You and I can fly. Angels always appear as a young man with completely human appearance.

22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

This time Daniel did not interpret a vision but gave a direct prophecy of events from Daniel's time until the end time. We can get a tiny glimpse of what our future holds in heaven. Gabriel had a job to do and so will we when we get there. One other tidbit before we move on. In scripture there are only four angels, mentioned by name. They are Michael, Gabriel, Lucifer and Apollyon. You find Apollyon in Rev.9:11

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.

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.

Each week represents a period of seven years. This is 490 years or seventy times seven. Seven weeks, or 49 years completed the restoration of Jerusalem. From the next verse, the threescore and two weeks, or 434 years added to the 49 years, gave the exact day that Jesus revealed Himself as the King of the Jews, on Palm Sunday. Do notice that these are 360 day years which was what was in use at that time.

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.

After the crucifixion God's time clock has stopped to allow for the Church age. It will start again at the Rapture.

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.

Notice the skip in time here. That semicolon is important as it means a full stop and a change. We jump from the crucifixion of Christ all the way up to rise of the Antichrist. We are in this period.

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.

If you are not familiar with the book of Revelation you might not recognize that business of the sacrifice in the middle of the week. That is the time when the Antichrist turns against the Jews and defiles the temple. He will offer either a pig or a human as the sacrifice. When the temple was defiled by Antiochus, he used a pig. Let's close this chapter with the purpose of the seventy weeks. The ultimate goal is to bring the nation of Israel to the Lord Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

DANIEL CHAPTER TEN

This chapter is the introduction to detailed prophecies about Israel's future. Chapter 11 is the main content, and chapter twelve presents some conclusions.

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.

This vision came two years after Daniel retired from government service, this based on Daniel 1:21. Daniel had not returned to Jerusalem in the first wave of returnees. The prophet had not immediately understood some previous visions but this one was clear to him.

2 In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.

His understanding of the future left him in mourning. It was not a pretty picture. Daniel was in mourning because of his vision of the destruction of the temple and the city of Jerusalem.

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.

There are two schools of thought on this fast. One is that it was a total fast and the other that it was a modified fast since Daniel was very old at this time. I believe it was a modified fast since that is what the bible seems to indicate. In other words, "I ate only plain and simple food, no seasoning, no meat and no wine. I neither bathed nor shaved until the three weeks were up".

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;

The Passover begins on the 14th of Nissan, (the first month). This fasting and vision was just after that feast. The Hiddekel is the Hebrew name for the river Tigris, so we know where Daniel was at this time.

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.

This appearance in verses five and six matches the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ as he appears in the Revelation. Do notice that his dress is full of symbolism. Linen for purity, gold for royalty, polished brass for power, and mighty sea also symbolizing power.

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.

Verse seven is proof that one person in a group can see a vision while the others do not. Though Daniel was in the company of others, they were not allowed to see the

vision but what they did experience scared them to death. They quickly left the scene and left Daniel alone. This is not the kind of friends you want. When the going gets rough they run.

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.

Daniel lost whatever vitality he may have had. He says, "I went weak in the knees and the blood drained from my face". Many of the Jews had already returned to Jerusalem and many more would soon follow. I doubt that Daniel bothered to share this bad news with many of his brethren. Many today report messages from Heaven, some even claim visits and returns from Heaven and Hell. You can lump these together and take them with a very large grain of salt.

10 And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.

Daniel's previous guide had been Gabriel and perhaps it was here as well. By now Daniel was off his face and on his knees.

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.

If I counted right there are over 20 appearances of heavenly beings in the book of Daniel. He was beloved in the heavenly realm. Such an honor. The speaker had made the trip from the realm of God to Daniel's location specifically to help him to understand the vision. It says Daniel was trembling. We might say, "shook up".

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.

Humbling here included fasting and prayer. This response was clearly in answer to Daniel's prayer.

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.

Angels have two main attributes. These are strength and wisdom. Michael seems

to be over the strong angels that enforce orders from God while Gabriel seems to be in charge of wise angels who deliver messages from God..

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 prince was in the spiritual realm and not on earth. He was withstanding the speaker we take to be Gabriel. We can also assume that this was an evil angel, one of Satan's lieutenants. The angel Michael was sent to assist Gabriel. Of course God heard Daniel when he first prayed but the response was withheld for three weeks because there was a struggle going on in the spiritual realm that mankind would not have been aware of.

The purpose of the vision is focused. It is not about the end of the world but rather about the latter days of an Israel still rejecting their Messiah.

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.

The heavenly messenger gave Daniel non verbal permission to speak. Daniel fully realized that he was not in equal company and he expresses it well, "I'm paralyzed, I can hardly breathe".

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.

18 Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,

The heavenly messenger has caused the panic reactions in Daniel but now moves to strengthen his man.

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.

The angel assures Daniel and revives him. Be sure to notice the salutation. Daniel is well known, and well loved, in Heaven.

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.

Daniel did understand why the messenger came. Now this angel, whom we take to be Gabriel, had to leave and go and return to the fight the evil “prince of Persia” and as soon as that struggle was finished another wicked angel prince would appear on behalf of Greece. We have no idea what this second struggle was about. The Dake study bible has the “Prince of Persia” later confined to the bottomless pit, to be freed later to help gather the armies to fight at Armageddon.

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.

The book of the future was about to be opened and the future angelic wars revealed. We also do not understand why Gabriel seems to have only one ally in these battles. God always has a reason for things but, in this case, he has not shared his reasons.

DANIEL CHAPTER ELEVEN

1 Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.

This is still Gabriel speaking.

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.

Notice that these are kings in Persia. It is easy to get these confused with the four generals who took over Alexander's army after he died but these guys are different. These are Persian kings. Of these four Persians it is said that one will stir up Greece. I am not even going to try to pronounce these names except for Xerxes. Xerxes was the Bill Gates of his day and he is the one who finally led the attack on Greece.

3 And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

Now we get back to Alexander the Great. He came to power quickly and conquered the known world. He died at age 33, history says from intemperance and jungle fever. Read alcoholism there.

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.

Now we get to the four generals who took succeeded Alexander. His sons, if he had any, did not inherit his kingdom. Instead it went to those four generals of his army.

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.

This king of the south is Ptolemy who took over control of Egypt. This Egyptian empire continued until about 30 BC when it was taken over by Rome.

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.

This daughter would have been Bernice. Some have tried to make her Cleopatra but this is a little early for Cleopatra. Forget all that complete nonsense you have seen in the movie Cleopatra. None of that is correct. The king of the north is Syria. An interesting historical note is that in order to get Bernice and her immense fortune, Antiochus had to divorce his wife Laodice and send away her children. Later we see some poetic justice. Antiochus recalled his former wife and her children, and she, fearing he would change his mind again, poisoned him and had Bernice killed in order to put her own son on the throne.

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:

That “branch of her roots” business would be Bernice's brother who led an army north to avenge the death of his sister. He won the battle and carried away much treasure.

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.

So now Ptolemy has conquered Syria and carried away much treasure along with

many captives.

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.

Now we are back to the Syrians which these sons were. The Syrians regained Syria and Antiochus the third was proclaimed king

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.

Even the strongest nations feel these attacks.

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.

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.

This would be Antiochus III. We are still on him for now.

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.

Verses 14-19 can be taken together since they are all about the conquests of Antiochus III, called Antiochus the Great in the history books.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

This would be one of his sons. Notice that he was poisoned. Someone objected to taxes going up.

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.

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.

This next king to come up was Antiochus Epithanese. He well deserved the title “vile person”.

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.

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.

These were traitors in his own household who betrayed the king of Egypt.

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.

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.

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.

Being angry at the defeat, he vented on the Jews at Jerusalem who kept the holy covenant.(not all did).Antiochus profaned the temple altar and soon the war to free the Jews ,from Syrian rule,was launched by the Macabees. An altar to Jupiter was set up on the temple altar. The Macabean revolt ended at Masada. By the way, the Masada story is well worth reading.

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.

Antiochus tried a repeat on Egypt but was surprised. A Roman (Kittim) fleet lay at anchor in the bay,and presently Antiochus was met by the Roman Popillus Laenas, who put into his hand a missive from the Roman Senate commanding him to leave the friends of the Roman people unmolested, and to be content with his own kingdom. Having read it, Antiochus remarked that he would call his advisors and consult with them as to what was to be done. Whereupon, Popillus drew a circle around him ,in the sand with his staff,and said,"Before you step out of that circle give me an answer as I may report to the Senate". The king backed down and said,"If it so please the Senate,we will depart".

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.

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.

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.

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.

In other words, God will allow this mess to continue until the Jews accept Jesus as their Messiah.

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.

Again, there is that hint (God of his fathers) that he is, at least, part Jewish which stands to reason as he would have to be in order to be accepted by the Jews. The Phrase "nor the desire of women" is taken by some to mean that he is homosexual but that is not what it says. It says "the desire of women" and not the desire for women. Both Dake and Larkin say that the desire of all Jewish women was to be the mother of the Messiah and the Antichrist has no regard for that desire. Since the Jews did not accept Jesus as their Messiah that desire is still there today. That view is about as good as the homosexual view. As for me, I have a different view. The Muslims, and some others, have no regard for their women. They are treated like cattle or possessions. In other words, what they want doesn't matter. They can't vote, they can't drive, they can't pick their own husbands etc. Their desires do not matter.

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.

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.

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.

We do not know for sure who this king of the south is but he will be one of the ten kings of the federation. We call this the European Union for lack of a better term. Be aware that we may not be exactly right as there seem to be some Arab countries in this federation. Also, there is that business about the Roman empire having split into two groups.

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.

The glorious land mentioned here is Palestine. After the Antichrist,(three commentators have him as a Syrian Jew),conquers Egypt,he then enters Jerusalem . It is at this time that he takes control of six other kingdoms of the revised Roman empire. Edom is mentioned along with Moab. Moab is modern day Jordan and Edom is that rock city to which the Jews flee during the second half of the tribulation. Note! We also know from this passage that the Antichrist will not have total control over all countries since at least two escape him here. If there are two there are probably others.

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

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.

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.

Third world war?? Probably

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.

This verse tells us where he will make his temple. That would be Jerusalem. Remember that until now his headquarters had been at Babylon. The last phrase of the verse speaks of his final defeat in the valley of Megiddo,the place we call Armageddon.

DANIEL CHAPTER TWELVE

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.

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.

This is the judgment where the Book of Life is opened. There will be both saved

and lost here. We sometimes lose sight of the fact that there are saved at this judgment since we Christians are already judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ. All must be judged somewhere. The saved that are judged here are those saved during the Tribulation or after the Rapture. This would include those who refused the mark of the Beast and were killed for it as well as those who are saved in that period. Now a word about Michael. In addition to being a Prince over Israel, he is somehow associated with the resurrection of the dead. He contended with Satan for the body of Moses, he had something to do with the resurrection mentioned in Dan. 12:1-2 and many believe it will be his voice we hear calling us out at the Rapture.

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.

This is a beautiful picture of the saved and especially of those who led others to Christ.

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.

Daniel, like John in the Revelation, is told to seal it up to the end time. Knowledge will be increased and that certainly applies to our own time. If you don't believe that just ask Google.

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?

There are three heavenly beings here. We have already settled the one in white linen. That would be Jesus. Gabriel is still probably there as well

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 Jewish nation will not be destroyed but will be scattered and lose their power. Then will this thing be finished.

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.

Daniel still did not understand so he asked the man a different question; “How will it all end”? The man did not tell him any more. He said that he would not explain any more until the time arrived. This means that we will not understand all about the time of the end ,but we do know enough.

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.

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.

We do not know exactly what the 1290 and 1335 days mean but they both indicate about three and a half years.

12 Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

This is where the Charismatics and some others get that business about “enduring to the end”. This is not addressed to Christians but to Jews in the Tribulation. You should always be aware to whom God is speaking. Also notice that this is a work You do find some works attached to salvation in the Tribulation period. Baptists hate that.

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.

Daniel is told that he will be long dead before these things come to pass but at the last he will be resurrected to stand with his people.(He would have been one of those brought up by the Lord Jesus). Keep in mind that Daniel did not go directly to Heaven at his death but to Paradise to await the Atonement.
