

Lesson 32 – The Prophecies of Daniel

The prophecies in the Book of Daniel give the timetable of much of what is to come. Remember, Biblical prophecy is nothing more than history written in advance. Since God inhabits eternity (Isa. 57:15), writing about the future – with 100% accuracy – is easy for Him.

From our vantage point today, we see a twofold dimension to Daniel's prophecies:

1. Prophecies that were future to Daniel, but which have since been fulfilled. These were prophecies concerning nations, rulers and the First Coming of Christ.
2. Prophecies that have not been fulfilled yet. These have to do with the Great Tribulation Period, the Second Coming of Christ, the Millennium and judgment to come.

The events given in the life of Daniel took place from around 605 BC to around 535 BC. God used Daniel to write the Book of Daniel around 530 BC. This date for the authorship of Daniel was universally accepted until the rise of theological liberalism in the 19th Century.

Liberal theologians realized the accuracy with which Daniel spoke about historical events which were still in the future for Daniel. They realized that Daniel could not predict the future with such accuracy apart from divine revelation. Since they had already concluded that there was no such thing as divine revelation, they changed the date of authorship to around 160 BC. They said that the Book of Daniel was a forgery (they often use euphemisms instead of using the word *forgery*). They teach that the Book of Daniel was written by an unknown Jew who claimed to be Daniel, and that he was writing about history, but claiming to be writing about the future. The Book of Daniel is very important, because it provides a framework within which other prophetic events can be contextualized. The Book of Daniel is an important key to understanding the Book of Revelation. It is so important, in fact, that many Bible Colleges teach the two Books together.

At the time of writing, the people of Judah were in captivity in Babylon. They had forfeited the blessing of God – peace, safety, prosperity and their homeland – because of sin and disobedience to God. Although they were longing for the results of a right relationship with God, they were not ready to accept the cause of the results – getting their hearts right with God and living in obedience to Him. (This sounds like a commentary on our day, doesn't it?)

In this study, we only have time to look at some of the highlights of the prophecies in Daniel. Our intention is to give you a good overview and basic understanding of the events God has in store for Israel and the world. We will be looking at 3 prophetic portions of the Book:

1. Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its interpretation – Dan. 2:31-35
2. Daniel's vision of the 4 beasts – Dan. 7:4-12
3. The prophecy of the 70 Weeks – Dan. 9:24-27

Remember, in the Old Testament, God is dealing with His chosen nation, Israel, His theme, as in most of the Old Testament Prophetic Books has to deal with Israel, about God's Messiah for Israel (both first and second comings), and about other nations as they relate to Israel. Daniel is no exception. We will see the importance of this when we look at the 70 Weeks.

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1. Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its interpretation – Dan. 2:31-45

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a dream that disturbed him greatly.

- a. The dream
 - i. The Image
 1. The head was fine gold – 2:32
 2. The chest and arms were silver – 2:32
 3. The belly and thighs were bronze – 2:32
 4. The legs were iron, and the feet were iron mixed with clay – 2:33
 - ii. The Stone – 2:34-35
 1. The destruction of the image
 - a. A stone was cut out without hands – 2:34
 - b. It struck the image on its feet of iron and clay – 2:34
 - c. The materials of the image were pulverized
 - d. The wind carried them away completely
 2. The dominion of the Stone – 2:35
 - a. It became a great mountain
 - b. It filled the whole earth
- b. The interpretation of the dream – 2:36-45
 - i. The head of fine gold – 2:36-38
 1. Nebuchadnezzar, a king of kings – 2:36
 2. His position and authority were given to him by God – 2:37-38
 - ii. The chest and arms of silver – 2:39
 1. Silver is inferior to gold
 2. The kingdom that would arise would be inferior to Babylon – 2:39
 - iii. The belly and thighs of bronze – 2:39
 1. This kingdom would rule over all the earth (all the earth that was known to Nebuchadnezzar)
 - iv. The legs of iron and the feet of iron mixed with clay – 2:40-43
 1. The iron signifies that this kingdom would be strong and powerful, and that it would shatter everything in its path to world domination.
 2. The iron and clay of the feet show that it will be strong but divided, and that the divisions will be a cause of weakness.
 3. Parts of the Empire will fall apart, just as iron does not mix with clay – 2:43

2. Daniel's Vision of the 4 Beasts – Daniel 7:1-27

- a. The Vision – 7:2-14
 - i. Four winds were stirring up the Great Sea – 7:2
 - ii. The Four Beasts – 7:3-8
 1. Lion with Eagle's wings – 7:4
 - a. The wings were plucked off
 - b. The lion was made to stand up on 2 legs
 - c. A man's heart was given to it
 2. Bear – 7:5
 - a. Raise up on 1 side
 - b. Had 3 ribs in its mouth
 - c. They said to it, "Arise and devour much flesh."
 3. Leopard – 7:6

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- a. 4 wings on its back
- b. 4 heads
- c. Dominion was given to it
4. Dreadful, terrible beast, exceedingly strong – 7:7-8
 - a. Huge iron teeth
 - b. It was eating and destroying
 - c. It was different from all other beasts which had come before it
 - d. It had 10 horns
 - i. A little horn sprouted up among the other horns
 - ii. The little horn pulled 3 horns out by the roots
 - iii. The little horn had eyes like a man and a mouth speaking pompous words
- iii. The Judgment from the Ancient of Days – 7:9-12
 1. His appearance
 - a. Seated on a throne in a courtroom setting – 7:9-10
 - b. His garment was as white as snow
 - c. His hair was like pure wool
 - d. His throne was a fiery flame with fiery wheels
 - e. A fiery flame issued before Him
 2. The judgment – 7:10-12
 - a. The books were opened – 7:10
 - b. The beast was slain, its body was destroyed and given to the burning flame.
 - c. The rest of the beasts had their dominion taken away but their lives were prolonged
 3. The Son of Man – 7:13-14
 - a. He came on the clouds of Heaven – 7:13
 - b. He came to the Ancient of Days
 - c. They brought Him near the Ancient of Days
 - d. He was given dominion, glory and a kingdom – 7:14
 - e. His dominion was everlasting, and His kingdom shall never be destroyed – 7:14

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Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	Daniel's Vision	The Interpretation
<i>Daniel 2:31-45</i>	<i>Daniel 7:1-28</i>	
Head of fine gold	Lion with eagle's wings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wings were plucked off • The lion was made to stand up on 2 legs 	Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar
Chest and arms of silver	Bear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lying on its side • 3 ribs in its mouth • Commanded to "Arise and devour much flesh." 	Medo-Persia As silver is inferior to gold, this empire inferior to Babylon
Belly and thighs of bronze	Leopard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 wings • 4 heads • Dominion was given to it 	Greece <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexander the Great • Divided into 4 kingdoms after his death
Legs of iron Feet of iron mixed with clay	Dreadful and terrible beast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iron teeth • 10 horns • Small horn with eyes and mouth that uprooted 3 of the other horns 	The Roman Empire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely Powerful • Ruthless in conquest • Not strong enough to stand forever • Revived as 10 nations or divisions (10 horns) • Antichrist to come from it
The Stone cut out without hands	The Ancient of Days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judgment The Son of Man <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominion – His Kingdom will not end. 	The Lord Jesus Christ who will defeat His enemies and set up His kingdom on earth (the Millennium).

3. The 70 Week Prophecy– 9:24-27

- a. The word translated *weeks* simply means "a group of 7 (anything), just as the word *dozen* in English means "12 of anything." The context shows us this refers to 70 units of 7 years.
- b. The 70 weeks of years has to do with Israel and Jerusalem – 9:24
 - i. To finish the transgression, to make an end of sins
 - ii. To make reconciliation for iniquity
 - iii. To bring in everlasting righteousness
 - iv. To seal up vision and prophecy
 - v. To anoint Jesus over Israel
- c. The timeline – 9:25-27
 - i. The span of the 70 weeks
 1. The Beginning of the Weeks: The command to restore and build Jerusalem – see Neh. 2:1-8
 2. The first 7 weeks (49 years) – the rebuilding of Jerusalem – 9:25
 3. The End of the 69th Week:: The Triumphal Entry in 32 A.D.
 - a. Sir Robert Anderson, who was Chief Inspector of Scotland Yard in the late 19th Century, calculated the dates and wrote about them in *The Coming Prince*:

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- i. The command to rebuild Jerusalem was on March 14, 445 BC, using our calendar
 - ii. The Triumphal Entry (Palm Sunday) in 32 AD, was on the 173,880th day since the edict of Cyrus. *This was the exact last day of the first 69 weeks.* In order to calculate the date, he had to use the 360-day years that were used in the ancient Middle East.
 - iii. Messiah would be cut off *after* the 70th week. He was crucified a few days after Palm Sunday.
 - iv. This was the only time during the earthly ministry of Jesus that He presented Himself as political King.
- ii. After the 69th week – the Church Age
 1. There is a break in the events of the 70 Weeks
 2. The Old Testament revealed that it would occur. It did not reveal what it was. That is why Paul called it a “mystery..” – Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:26
 - iii. The 70th Week – Dan. 9:27
 1. This will start when God again turns His attention toward Israel – after the Rapture
 2. It will begin when the Antichrist makes a covenant with Israel. This is the beginning of the Tribulation Period. – Dan 9:27
 3. After 3 ½ years, (the middle of the 70th Week), Antichrist will break his covenant, and the most dangerous and wicked era of human history will begin, It will last for 3 ½ years.
 - iv. The Events of the 70th Week
 1. Described in Revelation 6-19
 2. God has to bring the Tribulation to an end after 7 years, or nobody would survive – Matt. 24:22
 3. What happens at the end of the 70th Week – The Great Tribulation
 - a. Armageddon – Rev. 19:1-11
 - b. The Second Coming of Christ to Earth
 - c. The Millennium – Dan. 2:44