

The Book of Daniel

- I. Introduction to the Book
- II. Comment and Commentary on the Book.

Part One: The Life Ministry of Daniel (and friends) in Babylon, 1:1-6:28

Part Two: The Visions and Prophecies of Daniel in Exile, 7:1-12:3

Four visions or revelations are in this section: Two in the first and third year of Belshazzar (chapters. 7, 9) and two to Medo-Persian monarchs (unless Darius and Cyrus are the same person, chapter 8 and 10-12).

Introduction

- A. Daniel's Vision of four Successive Kingdoms, 7:1-28
- B. Daniel's Vision of the Fourth Kingdom, 8:1-27
- C. Gabriel's Revelation of the "Weeks," 9:1-27
- D. Daniel's Final Vision: The Third Empire, 10:1-12:13

The division of the long discourse is three-fold: The preparation for the final vision (10:1-11:1), the content of the vision (11:2-12:3), and final instructions to Daniel (12:4-13).

- 1. The context, 10:1-3
- 2. The vision of a heavenly messenger, vv. 4-9
- 3. The deliverance of the messenger's message, vv. 10-14
- 4. The discourse between Daniel and the messenger, 10:15-11:1
- 5. The troubling revelation disclosed, 11:2-12:3

III. Final instructions to Daniel, 12:4-13

- A. The conclusion of the matter for Daniel, v. 4

Daniel is specifically instructed to seek no further understanding of events in the future, though what can be known of these events will be revealed later and by others (Matthew, John, Paul). A sealed text in ancient times meant that it was not to be opened or modified in any way.

- B. The angel's question, vv. 5-7

- 1. The question stated, vv. 5-6

- a. The situation, v. 5

An angelic dialogue is envisioned by Daniel.

- b. The inquiry, v. 6

One angel asks, "How long will it be until the end of these wonders?" The "wonders" likely refer to the events just described (vv. 36-45). The angel was most likely Gabriel ("dressed in linen," 10:5). The other angel may have been Michael, the only two mentioned in the book.

- 2. The questioned answered, v. 7

The answer is found in Daniel's 70th week (seven years, "time, times, and ½ time), the latter half of the Great Tribulation (9:26-27).

- C. Daniel's subsequent inquiry, vv. 8-12

- 1. The question stated, v. 8

Daniel then asked Gabriel, "What will be the outcome of these events?"

2. The question's partial answer, vv. 9-12
 - a. The time: the end of times, v. 9
We simply do not know when the "last Day" will come.
 - b. Two outcomes, v. 10
The outcome for the righteous will be wonderful, though not for the wicked. Only then will we understand; for some it will be too late to rectify their folly.
 - c. The key event, vv. 11-12
The length of time between the "abomination of desolation" will be 1290 days (v. 11), from the middle of the Great Tribulation to its end will be 3½ years. Antiochus' worship of Zeus and pig-sacrifice is a shadow, and the anti-Christ later demands, both are designated as "abomination" that causes desolation.
 - d. The end, v. 12
Forty-five days after the destruction of the anti-Christ, the "blessed will be those who wait" for that day." The meaning of the lapse of time is unexplained.
- D. The instruction and promise to Daniel, v. 13
What a promise, "As for you go...you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age." When it comes to the future there is a limit to what God wants us to know.

Thoughts:

1. It is crucial not to confuse what is another anticipatory shadow with the fulfillment of time, not infrequently the error of some conservative Bible-believing pastors and teachers. We have been living in the fourth kingdom, the Roman Empire, the iron of Nebuchadnezzar's statue, the final expression of geo-political tyranny for over twenty centuries. The stone cut from heaven will crush the statue of nations and God will triumph after the last Antiochus IV appears, the "Man of Sin," the Antichrist.
2. While we have been instructed to be people of hope and certainty in our futures, we must be careful not to give the impression that we are living in the "last of the last days." We certainly may be, but will not know until after the last day, when we realized that another shadow was the last one.
3. Our hope, called the "Blessed Hope" in the New Testament is in the person of Christ Himself. "Blessed Hope" for us is in the conviction that the Christ we love, now despised, will be vindicated and all His promises to His creation will be everlastingly a reality. The abuse of Christ will end. That is the "Blessed Hope" for us.

The Book of Daniel A Summary

By chapters:

(The message of 1-6 is that God will preserve and cause His people to flourish even in bleak times of their captivity [and ours]).

1. The faith and elevation of the four exiles.
2. The statue-dream of Nebuchadnezzar (four kingdoms; its destruction from heaven).
3. The three and their preservation in the furnace.
4. The Tree-dream of Nebuchadnezzar and his insanity.
5. The handwriting and Belshazzar's demise.
6. The preservation of Daniel in the den.

- * (The message of 7-12 is that God's people will be restored, all of God's promises will eventuate, but not as soon as Daniel [and all of us] desire, want, long for, pray ["Thy Kingdom come"]).
7. Daniel's vision of four animals, the four kingdoms and the last's demise.
 8. Daniel's vision of the second and third kingdoms.
 9. The Seventy-weeks disclosure and the demise of the fourth kingdom.
 - 10:1-12:3 The third kingdom: its divisions, struggles, the Maccabean Revolt, the emergence of the fourth kingdom, and the fourth kingdom's end.
 - 12:4-13 Daniel's comfort in promises of God.