

THE BOOK OF DANIEL: Introduction & Chapter One

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

AUTHOR: Daniel

1. His name means “God is my judge” -see 7:1, 28; 8:2; 9:2; 10:1-2; 12:4
2. Ezekiel mentions him twice (14:14; 28:3)
3. Jesus mentioned him as the writer of this book (Matthew 24:15).

DATE: about 537 BC

THE PERIOD OF HIS PROPHECY: (1:1-6)

His period of prophesying was circa 605-530 BC, from King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to Kings Cyrus and Darius of the Medes and Persians.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

1. The kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms, the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah, in the days of Rehoboam as punishment on the house of David for ungodliness (1 Kings 11:9-13, 26-40).
2. The prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel) had predicted Judah’s going into captivity as just punishment from God for sin, and at the time of Daniel’s writing, Judah is in captivity in the nation of Babylon.
3. Daniel, along with others, had been taken into Babylonian captivity by King Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC.
4. As we’ll see in chapter 2, Daniel was given a place of prominence and responsibility in Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom, and was later made one of three presidents under Darius (6:1), living until the third year of Cyrus (536 BC).
5. Daniel was a contemporary of Ezekiel and Nehemiah, and of Joshua and Zerubbabel of the remnant.

TO WHOM WRITTEN: to the southern kingdom of Judah, during their Babylonian captivity.

REASONS FOR WRITING:

1. To fulfill God’s decrees in Psalm 89:1-4, 18-36 (cf. Luke 1:30 ff; Acts 2:22 ff.).
2. To demonstrate the sovereignty of God, that all nations are subject unto Him.
3. To show God has not cast off His people; He is their protector, defender, and liberator.
4. To describe the time of God’s kingdom under the Messiah, and show a contrast between God’s kingdom of the kingdoms of the world.

THEME: *God is in control! The sovereignty of God over the affairs of men!*

DANIEL Chapter One: God, the Protector of the Captives

NOTE:

1. Daniel chapter one lays the foundation for the rest of the book.
2. Remember that Nebuchadnezzar doesn't "capture" Jerusalem- God gives Judah over to him.
3. God will cause Daniel to be favored.

I. DANIEL'S CIRCUMSTANCES, vv. 1-7

A. Jerusalem had been besieged!, vv. 1-2

1. It took place in the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah in 605 BC.
2. Jehoiakim, along with the vessels of the house of God, had been given into Nebuchadnezzar's hand (see also 1 Kings 7:48-51; 2 Kings 24:13; Daniel 5:1-3).

B. Nebuchadnezzar had certain Israelites placed in his palace, vv. 3 – 7:

1. They were to be unblemished, well- favored, and knowledgeable to serve the king.
2. They would be given the king's meat and wine, and nourished for three years.
3. To make them more "Babylonian," their names were changed:
 - a. Daniel becomes BELTESHAZZAR
 - b. Hananiah becomes SHADRACH
 - c. Mishael becomes MESHACH
 - d. Azariah becomes ABEDNEGO

** NOTE: The endings on their Hebrew names, "el" and "iah", stood as abbreviations for the Hebrew name for God. Thus these four are given names to connect them with a Babylonian, heathen god.*

II. DANIEL'S COMMITMENT, vv. 8-16

A. Daniel purposes not to defile himself with the king's meat or wine.

1. He doesn't want to violate the Law of Moses, or eating that which had been offered to a pagan god (see Exodus 34:15).
2. He makes request of the prince of the eunuch; but the prince is afraid that if the Hebrews do not eat they will be malnourished.
3. Daniel asks for a ten day "test", wherein they will eat only vegetables and drink only water, and see if they look famished.
4. At the end of the ten days, the Hebrews looked healthier than any others!

B. What do we see here: GOD PROVIDES!

III. DANIEL'S RISE TO FAVOR, vv. 17-21

A. God gave these four Hebrews knowledge, skill in learning and wisdom.

1. Daniel also receives understanding in visions and dreams.
2. The king communed with them, finding them better in wisdom and understanding than all his magicians and astrologers.

B. Daniel continued unto the first year of king Cyrus (to see the official end of the captivity).

<p>DANIEL Chapter 2 <i>God, Revealer of the Future</i></p>
--

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

INTRODUCTION: Daniel chapter 2 is essential to understanding the remainder of the book. This is the beginning of the prophetic part of the book, and much of what comes later regarding the four kingdoms builds upon this chapter.

I. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM: The Great Image, vv. 1-12

- A. Nebuchadnezzar is troubled by a dream.
 - 1. He calls for the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers and Chaldeans to show his dream.
 - 2. They are commanded to tell the dream and its interpretation.
- B. Nebuchadnezzar threatens them to tell him his dream and its meaning.
 - 1. Nebuchadnezzar wants his wise men to tell him what the dream was, that he might know they can interpret it properly.
 - 2. But they tell him that such is impossible.
 - 3. The result: the king was furious, and issued a command that all wise men in Babylon be slain.

II. THE DREAM IS REVEALED TO DANIEL, vv. 13-23

- A. Daniel is included in those to be slain.
 - 1. Daniel consults Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, about the matter.
 - 2. Daniel asks to see the king, stating that he can make know the interpretation.
 - 3. God revealed the matter to Daniel in a night vision.
- B. What Daniel says concerning God:
 - 1. His name is blessed.
 - 2. He changes times and season (see Luke 21:28).
 - 3. He removes and sets up kings.
 - 4. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge and understanding.
 - 5. He reveals the deep and secret things, and knows that is in the darkness.

NOTE: *God ruled through earthly kings!* (see Daniel 2:21, 37, 44; 4:1-3, 17, 25, 34-35; 7:13-28; 1 *Chronicles* 28:5; 29:9-14; *Romans* 13:1ff; 1 *Peter* 2:13-17).

III. THE DREAM RECITED & INTERPRETED TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR, 24-45

- A. Daniel agrees to show Nebuchadnezzar the dream and its interpretation.

B. Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar that God can make this known!

1. "latter days" can refer to three things:
 - a. Simply "later" – see Genesis 49:1; Numbers 24:14
 - b. The phase of Jewish history from 586 BC to 70 AD -see Zechariah I :4; 7:7, 12; 8:9-11
 - c. The Christian era – see Acts 2:17; Hebrews 1:1-2

2. Daniel informs the King that it is not his personal wisdom that can make this known.

C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream:

1. He saw a GREAT IMAGE:
 - a. It was bright and terrible!
 - b. Its head was of fine gold.
 - c. Its breast and arms of silver.
 - d. Its belly and thighs of brass.
 - e. Its legs of iron, its feet part of iron and part of clay.
2. The iron, clay, brass, silver, and gold are broken to pieces by a stone, and this stone became a great mountain and filled all the earth.

D. THE INTERPRETATION:

1. FIRST KINGDOM: Nebuchadnezzar -God had given him a kingdom, power, strength and glory – he is the head of gold: BABYLON.
2. SECOND KINGDOM: another kingdom, inferior to Babylon: MEDO-PERSIA
3. THIRD KINGDOM: brass- it shall bear rule over all the earth: GREECE
4. FOURTH KINGDOM: strong as iron it shall break and bruise (power); but, iron and clay (partly strong and partly weak): ROME

E. GOD'S PROMISE: during the time of this fourth kingdom, God will "*set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.*"

1. God's kingdom would break in pieces and consume all these other kingdoms.
2. God's kingdom shall stand forever.
3. Compare Matthew 3:1-12; 4:17ff; Luke 2:1-7; 3:1-6

THE MESSAGE: *God would establish His rule, His kingdom, on earth once and/or all. See Matthew 6:10; Mark 9:1; Luke 9:27; Matthew 16:28, Luke 17:20-21; John 18:36*

IV. DANIEL'S PROMOTION, vv. 46-49

A. Nebuchadnezzar recognizes the power of the true God!

B. Daniel is made a great man politically: ruler over a whole province and chief of the governors.

DANIEL Chapter 3

God, Lord of Fire

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

INTRODUCTION: We have seen Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its interpretation. Through this, Nebuchadnezzar comes to realize there is a God in heaven who is over all. His recognition, however, is short-lived as we shall see in this chapter, and it must be brought to his attention again.

THE FIERY FURNACE: A LESSON IN FAITH

I. THE TEST OF FAITH, vv.1-12

A. Nebuchadnezzar makes an image of gold:

3. Its height is threescore (60) cubits (90 feet); its width six cubits (9 feet).
4. It is set up in the plains of Dura, a province of Babylon.
5. All important "dignitaries" are summoned to its dedication.

B. The commandment:

1. When the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut (a triangular instrument with four strings), psaltery (another triangular stringed instrument), dulcimer, and music sounds, all must fall down and worship the golden image!
2. Whoever will not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a fiery furnace the same hour.
3. Certain Chaldeans came to Nebuchadnezzar with accusation against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that they would not serve these gods nor worship the golden image.

II THE DEMONSTRATION OF FAITH, vv. 13-18

A. Nebuchadnezzar becomes enraged and inquires of the three Hebrews.

B. Their answer:

1. That their God is able to deliver them from the fiery furnace.
2. And even if He chooses not to deliver them, they still will not worship the image.

*Note their complete dependence upon God, come what may!
Compare Job 13: 15*

III. THE VINDICATION OF FAITH, vv .19-30

A. Nebuchadnezzar orders the furnace heated seven times hotter than normal.

1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are cast into the furnace, bound with their coats, trousers, hats, and other garments.
2. The fire is so intense that those leading the three die.

C. Nebuchadnezzar sees four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire.

1. The fourth is “like the Son of God” – literally, “a son of the gods” – compare verse 28
2. Nebuchadnezzar’s attitude is changed; he blesses the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and makes a decree that no one can speak against their God!
3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are promoted.

<p>DANIEL Chapter 4 “God, the Humbler of the Proud”</p>

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

INTRODUCTION: In chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream which Daniel must interpret. In chapter 3, we saw faith tested; demonstrated; and vindicated. Now in this chapter, Nebuchadnezzar has another dream about which Daniel must help.

I. NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S VISION, vv. 1-18

- A. Nebuchadnezzar’s view of God: he sees God as “high...great...mighty,” and recognizes God’s kingdom and dominion.
- B. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled him.
 - 1. He sent out a decree for the wise men of Babylon to make known to him the meaning.
 - 2. The magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers couldn’t do it, and Nebuchadnezzar calls upon Daniel.
- C. The dream:
 - 1. Nebuchadnezzar sees a very high tree which grew and was strong and could be seen from far away.
 - 2. Its leaves were fair and produced much fruit; many could eat of it.
 - 3. An angel came with a message: cut the tree down, cut off its branches, shake off its leaves, and scatter its fruit!
 - 4. The stump of the roots was to be left in the ground, and a band of iron and brass used to secure the roots.
- D. The purpose of the dream, verse 17: *to know the Most High rules in the kingdom of men!*

II. THE VISION INTERPRETED BY DANIEL, vv. 19-27

- A. Daniel’s reaction: he is troubled, wishing the dream applied to Nebuchadnezzar’s enemies.
- B. The interpretation:
 - 1. Nebuchadnezzar is the tree!
 - 2. His kingdom is large, strong, and reaches to the end of the earth.
 - 3. But he’ll be driven from men, dwell with the beasts of the field, and eat grass as oxen.
 - 4. He will learn the lesson that God rules!
 - 5. He will not completely lose his kingdom, but will regain it in time.

III. THE VISION FULFILLED BY GOD, vv. 28-37

- A. A year passes and Nebuchadnezzar admires his great empire.
 - 1. His is filled with PRIDE.
 - 2. But a voice from heaven tells him his kingdom is departed: JUDGMENT!

- B. Nebuchadnezzar is driven from men, and his dream is fulfilled.
 - 1. The tree is cut down; his glory is gone!
 - 2. NOTE: the king's illness has been suggested by scholars to have been BOANTHROPY, where one imagines himself an animal and acts accordingly. Though a rare disease, it has been observed in modern times.

- C. The result:
 - 1. At the end of the appointed time, Nebuchadnezzar's understanding returned to him, and he blesses the God of heaven.
 - 2. Nebuchadnezzar recognizes God's power:
 - a. God does His will in the army of heaven.
 - b. None can stay His hand or challenge His authority!
 - 3. Nebuchadnezzar's reason returns to him, as does the glory of his kingdom: the roots are left from which the tree grows again!

GOD IS THE HUMBLER OF THE PROUD!

See Deuteronomy 8:11-14, 17-20; Psalm 10:2-6; Proverbs 6:16-17; 16:18-19; 30:12-13; Mark 7:21-22; 2 Timothy 3:2-4; James 4:6-10; 1 John 2:16

DANIEL Chapter 5 “God, the Avenger of His Honor”

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ. Wednesday Bible Class

INTRODUCTION: *In the last chapter we saw Nebuchadnezzar represented as a high tree, glorious and powerful, and then cut down in humiliation. In chapter 5, we proceed to a descendant of Nebuchadnezzar’s who, himself, will be abased.*

BACKGROUND:

1. Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 BC and was succeeded by his son AMEL-MARDUK (same man as in Jeremiah 52:31).
2. This king was murdered by his brother-in-law NERGAL-SHAREZER, who then became king (see Jeremiah 39:3, 13).
3. He was succeeded by his son, LABASILL-MARDUK in 556 BC, but this son was assassinated the same year by a group that included Nabonidus.
4. NABONIDUS becomes king and shares power with his son, BELSHAZZAR, as co-regents.

NOTE: Belshazzar is referred to in this chapter as Nebuchadnezzar’s “son” – this may refer simply to “kingly predecessor.” Others have thought Belshazzar’s mother was the daughter of Nebuchadnezzar, making Belshazzar his grandson.

I. BELSHAZZAR’S GREAT FEAST, vv. 1-6

A. A great feast is held.

1. The vessels taken from the Temple in Jerusalem are called for, out of which to drink wine (*an insult to God!*).
2. The people praised the gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone (*idolatry!*).

B. At the same time, a hand appears, writing on the wall of the king’s palace: the king’s countenance changed, and he could hardly stand upright!

II. DANIEL’S GREAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF DOOM, vv. 7-29

A. Belshazzar’s reaction is to call in all the astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers to interpret this event (*here we go again! ...*), vv. 7-12.

1. The one who could interpret this matter would be rewarded.
2. But no one could be found to make this thing known.
3. The queen (Belshazzar’s mother) tells him about Daniel.

B. Daniel is brought before King Belshazzar, vv. 13-17

1. Daniel is offered the same reward (including being made the third ruler in the kingdom) if he could interpret this matter.
2. Daniel refuses any reward, but tells the king he will make known the interpretation.

C. Daniel relates what had happened with Nebuchadnezzar, vv. 18-21

D. Daniel explains what will happen to Belshazzar and why, vv. 22-29

1. Belshazzar had not humbled his heart, but lifted it up against the Lord of heaven.
2. Belshazzar had desecrated the vessels of the Lord's house.
3. Belshazzar was guilty of idolatry.
4. Here is the interpretation of the handwriting, "ME'NE, ME'NE, TE'KEL, UPHAR'SIN"
 - a. ME'NE: God had numbered Belshazzar's kingdom and finished it (*the end of his reign is at hand*)
 - b. TE'KE: Belshazzar has been weighed in the balances and found wanting (*he's "come up short" of what he ought to have been*).
 - c. PE'RES: Belshazzar's kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians (*and at the very time his feast had been going on, the Medes and Persians were outside the walls of Babylon*).
5. Daniel is rewarded by the king's command.

III. GOD'S DECISIVE JUDGMENT, vv. 30-31

A. In that night was Belshazzar slain.

B. Darius the Mede took the kingdom (on October 11th or 12th, 539 BC).

<p>DANIEL Chapter 6 <i>“God, the Lord of Wild Beasts”</i></p>

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

I. DANIEL’S POSITION AND THE PLOT AGAINST HIM, vv. 1-9

A. Darius the Mede restructures the government:

1. 20 Princes are placed over the kingdom, with three presidents over them.
2. Daniel, highly regarded by the king, becomes the first president in position.

B. Jealousy develops against Daniel, and a plot is conceived:

1. Being able to find no fault in Daniel, his adversaries convince the king to sign a decree against anyone who would make petition to their God.
2. The king, unaware of the motivation behind this plot, signs the order.

II. DANIEL’S PRAYER AND PROSECUTION, vv. 10-17

A. Daniel continued his practice of prayer in his home, in spite of the regulation against such.

B. Daniel is “found out,” and the matter is taken before the king:

1. The king is reminded of his decree, that anyone violating it was to be cast into the den of lions.
2. The king is disturbed at the prospect against Daniel, but is compelled to fulfill his obligation.
3. Daniel is cast into the lion’s den, and the mouth of the den is sealed with the king’s signet.

III. DANIEL’S PROTECTION, vv. 18-28

A. The king returns to his palace, unable to eat or sleep out of concern for Daniel.

1. Returning early the next morning, he cries out to see if Daniel has been delivered (compare verses 16, 18, and 20).
2. Daniel is SAFE! (see Hebrews 11:32-33 and 1 Samuel 17:32-37).

B. The king issues a command concerning Daniel’s enemies:

1. They are to be cast into the lion’s den, along with their families.
2. All men in the kingdom are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.

C. So Daniel prospers in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus.

Daniel Chapter 7
“God’s Kingdom Prevails”

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

DANIEL’S VISION OF THE FOUR BEASTS AND THE ANCIENT OF DAYS

I. HISTORICAL DATA, vv. 1-3

- A. The time frame: the first year of Belshazzar (553 BC).
 - 1. Note that we have gone backward in time.
 - 2. We have also entered an apocalyptic part of the book.

- B. Daniel has a vision at night, writes the dream, and gives the sum of it:
 - 1. **FOUR WINDS** of the heaven strove upon the great sea
(note that “winds” are often used to depict the action of God -see John 3:3-8; Isaiah 29:6; Exodus 10:13, 19; 14:21; 15:8; Revelation 7:1).

 - 2. **FOUR GREAT BEASTS CAME UP FROM THE SEA**
(we shall identify the beasts later; “sea” is a common figure for the nations in a restless or agitated state -see Isaiah 8:7-8; 17:12-13; 57:20; Revelation 17:1, 15).

II. THE VISION AND THE INTERPRETATION, vv. 4-28

- A. **FIRST BEAST**
 - 1. Like a lion with eagles wings which get plucked.
 - 2. It is lifted from the earth, stands upon its feet like a man, and is given a man’s heart.

- B. **SECOND BEAST**
 - 1. Like a bear which raises itself on one side, with three ribs in its mouth.
 - 2. It is told “Arise, devour much flesh.”

- C. **THIRD BEAST**
 - 1. Like a leopard.
 - 2. It had four wings upon its back, and four heads, and dominion is given it.

- D. **FOURTH BEAST**
 - 1. It is dreadful, terrible, and exceedingly strong, with great iron teeth with which it devoured and brake in pieces, and it trampled underfoot.
 - 2. It had ten horns, then another little horn:
 - a. This horn plucked up three of the first horns by the roots.
 - b. It had eyes like a man, and spoke “great” things with its mouth (braggingly!).

E. THE JUDGMENT OF THE FOURTH BEAST:

1. The ANCIENT OF DAYS comes with garments white as snow, with hair like pure wool, with a throne that was flaming fire, and wheels as burning fire (see Ezekiel 1).
2. A fiery stream comes forth (Judgment!) and the beast was slain.
3. The SON OF MAN came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days:
 - a. There was given him dominion, glory, and a kingdom.
 - b. His would be an everlasting kingdom which shall not be destroyed.

F. Daniel is troubled by all this, inquiring into the meaning, and is given the interpretation.

THE INTERPRETATION:

The FOUR BEASTS are FOUR KINGDOMS which shall arise:

- #1 = BABYLON
- #2 = MEDO-PERSIA
- #3 = GREECE
- #4 = ROME

The TEN HORNS of the FOURTH BEAST are TEN RULERS (verse 24; cf. 8:21):

1. Augustus
2. Tiberius
3. Caligula
4. Claudius
5. Nero

6. Galba
7. Otho
8. Vitellius

9. Vespasian
10. Titus

The LITTLE HORN is the next king:

11. Domitian
 - a. He shall subdue three kings, v. 24
 - b. He shall speak against God, v. 25

DOMITIAN:

- a. He is of the fourth beast (a Roman, vv. 7-8, 24), the eleventh king (vv.7-8, 24)
- b. He is a braggard (vv.8, 20), claiming deity and divine authority(v.25; cf. 2:21).
- c. He persecutes the saints (vv. 21-22, 25).
- d. He is also number eight (because he roots up three, Galba, Otho, and Vitellius; vv. 8,20-24 – see also Revelation 17).

NOTE:

1. The fourth beast, Rome, is the great persecutor of the early church (Revelation 13 and 17).
2. NERO (number 5) is responsible for the deaths of many Christians.
3. Then, the persecution dies down.
4. But, it is revived under Domitian.
5. He is thus the “little horn” of Daniel, the eleventh emperor of the fourth beast, and figures very prominently in Revelation.

DANIEL’S PROPHECY:

1. Daniel speaks of that which is yet future in his day, and is the same information as chapter 2, with greater detail.
2. Domitian, the little horn and 11th Emperor, after the establishment of God’s kingdom (Daniel 2:44-45), is described graphically as a persecutor in verse 21.
3. Is the “little horn” ever stopped? YES!
 - a. The Ancient of Days comes!, v. 22
 - b. His persecution if for “time and times and dividing of times” = $3\frac{1}{2}$ (an incomplete period of time – compare Revelation 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5)
4. This is the message of the book of Revelation, and Daniel sees it five hundred years early!
5. This fourth beast (Rome) being ruled by the “little horn” (Domitian) shall see the sovereignty of God!

SUFFERING.....SUSTENANCE!
PERSECUTION..... PROTECTION

The SAINTS ARE VICTORIOUS!

6. What shall happen to the “little horn”?
 - a. He shall be judged by God, vv .9-11, 22, 26-27
 - b. His kingdom, dominion, and power shall be take away
 - c. And God’s people will be victorious (compare verse 18 with Psalm 89).

<p>DANIEL Chapter 8 “Daniel’s Vision of the Ram, the Goat, and the Little Horn”</p>

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

I. DANIEL’S VISION, vv. 1-14

A. The time = the 3rd year of the reign of Belshazzar

B. The vision =

1. Daniel sees a RAM WITH TWO HORNS:
 - a. One of the horns is higher than the other, and the higher one comes up last.
 - b. The ram pushes westward, northward, and southward.
 - c. He becomes great (mighty, powerful, strong).
2. Daniel sees a GOAT coming from the west.
 - a. He has a notable horn between his eyes, and runs into the ram.
 - b. In anger the goat hits the ram and breaks his two horns.
 - c. The goat overpowers the ram, stamps him into the ground, and becomes great.
3. What happens to the he-goat:
 - a. He becomes very strong.
 - b. When this happens, the great horn is broken.
 - c. Out of this great horn comes four notable ones.
 - d. Out of them comes a little horn:
 - 1) It becomes great and magnifies itself.
 - 2) It takes away Jewish worship and casts down the sanctuary.
4. The little horn commits transgression:
 - a. The saints of God cry, “How long. ..?”
 - b. The answer comes back: 2,300 days!

II. THE INTERPRETATION OF DANIELS’ VISION, vv. 15-27

A. THE RAM, vv. 15-20

1. Daniel saw the vision and sought the meaning.
2. Gabriel is told to make the vision clear to Daniel (cf. 9:21; Luke 1:19,26).
3. Daniel is told the vision is for the time of the ended:
 - a. A time appointed by God; the completion of the vision (cf. Habakkuk 2:2-3).
 - b. “The last end of the indignation” = the outpouring of the wrath of God.
4. The ram = *MEDO-PERSIA*

B. THE GOAT, VV. 21-22

1. The goat = *GREECE*
2. The great horn = *ALEXANDER* the Great
 - a. His army swept through Asia Minor, Syrian, Egypt and Mesopotamia from 334 – 331 BC
 - b. Alexander conquered the world and died at the age of 33.
3. When the great horn is broken, four notable ones come forth (v.8) -when Alexander died, four general took over his kingdom:
 - a. Lysimachus – took Thrace and Asia Minor
 - b. Cassander – took Macedonia
 - c. Seleucus – took Syria
 - d. Ptolemy – took Egypt

C. THE LITTLE HORN, vv. 23-25

1. This even is in the latter time of the kingdom of the four above (v. 23), actually in the latter time of the Seleucid Kingdom.
2. Who is the “little horn”? *ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES*
 - a. His name means “God manifested” – He came to the throne in 175 BC, and was exceedingly devious and crafty (note again his description in vv. 9-12).
 - b. He plundered the Temple in Jerusalem, desecrating it to the extent of even offering pig’s flesh on the altar.
 - c. He horribly and cruelly persecuted the Jews and robbed the Temple; his actions .caused an insurrection of the Jews against his rule (the revolt of the Maccabees in 167-164 BC).
 - d. He shall have power 2,300 days (6 years, 140 days -his power falls short of completeness).
 - e. He shall be broken without hands (Divine intervention).

D. The effect on Daniel, vv. 26-27

1. He is to shut up the vision: it shall be for many days.
2. The vision was given in 550 BC and would not be competed until 164 BC (just short of 400 years).
4. The toll on Daniel: he fainted, and was sick for many days.
5. Then he arose and did the king’s business.

<p>DANIEL Chapter 9 <i>Daniel's Prophecy of Seventy Weeks: The Abomination of Desolation</i></p>

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

INTRODUCTION:

1. Remember the background: in 606, 597 and 586 BC the Babylonians attack Judah, destroy the Temple, and take the people into captivity – Daniel is writing in the midst of that captivity (580's- 570's BC).
2. The background of chapter 9:
Chapter 1: God is the protector of the captives
Chapter 2: God is the revealer of the future, foretelling four world kingdoms (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome)
Chapters 3-4: God is the humbler of the proud
Chapter 5: God is the avenger of His honor
Chapter 6: "God is triumphant"
Chapters 7-12: Future world kingdoms, their downfall, the people of God and the Son of man

I. THE SETTING, vv. 1-2

- A. The time = in the first year of DARIUS.
- B. Daniel observed the length of the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem = 70 years.
 1. Jeremiah prophesied scattering (see Jeremiah 25:11-12) because of SIN.
 2. Note: 606 to 536 BC equals 70 years.

II. DANIEL'S PRAYER, vv. 3-19

- A. Daniel acknowledges the sinfulness of the nation.
- B. Daniel pleads for God's mercy.

III. THE INTERVENTION OF GABRIEL, vv. 20-23

- A. Gabriel appears to Daniel in the midst of His speaking, praying, confessing, and supplication.
- B. Gabriel's purpose is to give Daniel skill and understanding:
 1. "the commandment came forth" (inhabitation of Israel, see Isaiah 44:24-28; 45:13).
 2. Daniel is to understand and consider the vision.

IV. THE PROPHECY, vv. 24-27

A. Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people (Jews) and upon thy holy city.

B. The purpose:

1. To finish the transgression
2. To make an end of sins
3. To make reconciliation for iniquity
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness
5. To seal up the vision and prophecy
6. To anoint the most Holy

C. From the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem (536 BC) until Messiah the Prince,

There shall be Seven weeks = **69 WEEKS**
Three score and two weeks (62)

D. After 62 weeks Messiah will be cut off!

E. After Messiah is cut off: the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.

F. The end will come with a flood (overwhelming) -DESOLATIONS are determined!

G. He (Messiah) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week, and in the midst of the week, He (Messiah) shall,

1. Put a stop to sacrifices and oblations (grain offerings).
2. Make desolate, for the overspreading of abomination (on the wings of abomination he shall make desolate the nation of Israel).
3. Complete destruction (desolation) will be poured out.

WHAT IS THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL THIS? Matthew 24:1 ff - *God's judgment on the nation of Israel for rejecting her Messiah!*

A. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE, Matthew 24:1-2

B. THE DISCIPLE'S QUESTION, Matthew 24:3

1. What things? Not one stone left standing upon another.
2. What coming? God coming in judgment against Israel in 70 AD (compare Matthew 23:37-39; Luke 11:45-52; 13:1-9; 19:41-44; 23:28-31; Acts 3:18-21; 6:10-14; 7:51-53; 13:40-41; 18:2; 21:28; Romans 2:28-29; 9:6-8, 19-24, 27-28; 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16; Hebrews 8:13; 10:25, 30, 37).
3. What world? Not "earth," but rather "age" – it is the end of the Jewish age (see Hebrews 8:13; 10:25,27)

C. What the sign is NOT (Matthew 24:4-14) and what the sign IS (Matthew 24:15-28)

D. Notice carefully Matthew 24:15- *the abomination of desolation spoken by Daniel!*

THE UNDERSTANDING:

1. Thy people = ISRAEL
2. The holy city = JERUSALEM
3. The people of the prince = ROMANS
4. The prince = TITUS
5. The abomination of desolation = destruction of Jerusalem
 - a. Matthew 24:15, *“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, ...”*
 - b. Mark 13:14, *“But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet... “*
 - c. Luke 21:20, *“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. “*
6. Finish transgressions and make end of sin: Hebrews 10:12; Ephesians 2:15
7. Make reconciliation for iniquity: Colossians 1:20; Hebrews 2:17
8. Bring in everlasting righteousness: Romans 3:21-31
9. Seal up the vision and prophecy: 1 Corinthians 13:8-12
10. Anoint the most Holy: Acts 4:26-27; Hebrews 1:8-9
11. Messiah cut off: Isaiah 53:8; Acts 8:32-33
12. Destruction of the city: Matthew 24:1-51; Mark 13:1-26; Luke 21:5-36
13. Confirm the covenant: Acts 10:34; Romans 9:30

<p>DANIEL Chapter 10 “<i>Jewish Destiny In The Latter Days</i>”</p>

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

INTRODUCTION:

As we begin chapters 10 through 12, bear in mind that we are seeing one vision: Chapter 10 introduces it and chapters 11 and 12 fill it out.

1. It deals with the Jews, 10:2, 14
2. It is for the “latter days” (future at the time of the vision), 10:14
3. It terminates at 70 AD (the “abomination of desolation”), 12:6- 7

Remember the scope of the book has consistently dealt with the four world kingdoms, Babylon through Rome. In these final chapters many events concerning these kingdoms are predicted -events during their reigns and between their reigns. There is much historical background needed for these chapters to make sense.

I. DANIEL’S VISION, vv. 1-9

A. The time frame = the third year of Cyrus (536 BC).

B. Daniel receives a vision:

1. It concerned what was true and long.
2. Daniel was in mourning for three weeks (he didn’t eat, drink, or anoint himself).

C. What Daniel sees:

1. A man clothed in linen whose loins were girded with fine gold.
2. His body was like beryl, his face like lightning, his eyes as lamps of fire, his feet as the color of polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

D. Those who are with Daniel flee.

E. This was an overwhelming vision, leaving Daniel weak, yet Daniel clearly hears the words of this man.

II. DANIEL’S INTERPRETER AND HIS COMMISSION, vv. 10-14

A. Daniel is strengthened.

1. Daniel is called “a man greatly beloved,” and is told to understand the words of the vision.
2. Daniel’s prayer has been heard!

B. “The prince of the kingdom of Persia.”

1. This seems to be a reference to a supernatural creature who is trying to direct the human rulers of Persia contrary to God’s will.
2. This “prince” is engaged in warfare with Daniel’s angel and also Michael, 10:13-14, 20
3. Compare Matthew 18:10; Ephesians 6:10-18; Hebrews 1:4 ff.
4. On Michael, see Jude 9 and Revelation 12:7

C. The vision:

1. It concerns what shall befall thy people (the Jews) in the latter days.
2. This is the latter days of the Jewish commonwealth, the abomination of desolation (see chapter 9, and also Zechariah 1:4; 7:7; 8:9-11).

III. DANIEL’S RESPONSE, vv. 15-17

A. Daniel sets his face toward the ground and remains silent.

B. His lips are touched (compare Isaiah 6).

IV. DANIEL’S ENCOURAGEMENT, vv. 18-21

A. Daniel is strengthened!

B. The message of the angel is for Daniel to not fear, to be strong!

C. The angels must return to fight the “prince” of Persia: the message is coming!

DANIEL Chapter 11
“*Jewish Destiny In The Latter Days*” - *continued*

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

We shall see in this chapter the vision that was introduced in chapter 10. Bear in mind the one vision of chapters 10-12.

1. It deals with the Jews - 10:2, 14
2. It is for the “latter days” (that is, it is yet future at the time of the vision) -10:14
3. It terminates at 70 A. D. - 12:6, 7 (the abomination of desolation)
4. Several nations are dealt with (world ruling powers and then the nation of Israel).

Remember the scope of the book: Four World Empires, from Babylon to Rome. Concerning these kingdoms, events in their reigns and between their reigns, is this prophecy about. There is MUCH historical information in this section. Let us approach it verse by verse:

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

Prophecies Concerning the Nations, 11:2-45

Persia, 11:2

² And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up ^a 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.

Medo-Persia

a) *Three Kings after Cyrus:*

1. *Cambyses*
2. *Darius I Hystaspis*
3. *Xerxes (cf Esther 1:3-4)*

Greece, 11:3-4

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

a) *Alexander III of Macedonia*

⁴ And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the ^a four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.

a) *Not to King But to:*

1. *Lysimachus*
2. *Antipater*
3. *Selucus I Nicator*
4. *Ptolemy I Soter*

Egypt & Syria, 11:5-20

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

a) *King= Ptolemy I Soter*

b) *Prince (General)= Seleucus I*

⁶ And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the ^aking's daughter of the south shall come to the ^bking of the north to make an agreement: but ^cshe 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.

a) Daughter= Berenice

b) King= Antiochus II Theos

Note: Seleucids were Syrians North= Syria

Ptolemy's were Egyptians South = Egypt

c) King Antiochus II, Berenice, and child poisoned by Antiochus' ex-wife, Laodice.

⁷ But out of a ^abranch of her roots shall *one* stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the ^bking of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail:

⁸ And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, *and* with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue *more* years than the king of the north.

a) her brother- Ptolemy III Eurgetes

b) Seleucus II Callinicas, son of Laodice

vv. 9-13:

A description of the seesaw struggles between the Seleucids & the Ptolemies between 223 - 200 BC

⁹ So the ^aking of the south shall come into ^bhis kingdom, and shall return into his own land.

a) Ptolemy III attacked by Seleucus II

b) king of the north

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

a) Seleucus III

Antiochus II } Syrians

Seleucus IV

b) Antiochus III- Syrian

¹¹ And the ^aking 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.

a) Ptolemy IV (Egyptian King) fighting against him Antiochus (Syrians)

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 ^aking 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.

a) Antiochus III

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.

vv. 15-20: Antiochus III (the Great)
Antiochus III defeated the Egyptian army in Sidon (vv. 15-16)

¹⁵ So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most ^afenced cities; and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand.

a) Sidon

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.

Antiochus III came to terms with Ptolemy V and gave him his daughter in marriage
(v. 17)

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 ^adaughter of women, corrupting her: but she shall not stand *on his side*, neither be for him.

a) Cleopatra (Egyptian)

He annexed the coastlands of Asia Minor and unsuccessfully tried to invade Greece.
(v.18)

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.

He was defeated by the Romans at Magnesia in 190 BC, was forced to pay tribute
(v. 19) and soon died.

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

a) crippling taxes cause him to lose all property west and north of Taurus Mtns.

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

a) His son, Seleucus I, who heavily taxed the people of Israel.

Antiochus Epiphanes, 11:21-35

²¹ And in his estate shall stand up a ^avile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by ^aflatteries.

a) Antiochus IV Epiphanes 175-164 BC (Syrian)
He came to the throne by intrigue.

* **Compare Daniel 8**

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.

Successful in war

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.

Shrewd

²⁵ And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the ^aking 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.

a) Ptolemy VI

²⁶ Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain.

²⁷ And both 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.

Antiochus made several expeditions into Egypt (vv. 24-27)

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

a) Persecution of Israel

²⁹ At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the ^asouth; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.

a) 168 BC- Attack against Egypt

³⁰ For the ships of ^aChittim 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.

a) Cyprus

Antiochus is humiliated. He shall exercise his rage on the temple & the people of God while making use of apostates from the holy covenant.

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.

He will send men & officers who shall profane Jerusalem & the temple- placing pigs flesh on the altar. REVOLTING to a JEW!

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.

Switch in contexts!

vv.36-45: Still King of the North

1. *But can't be Antiochus.*
2. *Can't be Herod.*
3. *Not "anti-Christ"*
4. *Thus- my conclusion: **ROME***

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 ^atill the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

*a) The pouring out of God's wrath
see Luke 21:24*

³⁷ Neither shall he regard the ^aGod of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

a) Power hungry

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 ^aking 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.

a) Cleopatra, the last of the Ptolemy line, with the help of Mark Anthony, begins the push against Rome; Rome then declares war against all Egypt. With the battle of Actium in 31 BC the Ptolemy line and kingdom collapses. Anthony and Cleopatra commit suicide.

⁴¹ He shall enter also into the ^aglorious 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.

a) Palestine

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 ^athe 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.

a) Germans & Gauls??

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.

Great power in the land of Israel (Rome)

DANIEL Chapter 12 “*God Is In Control*”

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

INTRODUCTION: Recall the vision we have seen: political turmoil as the Grecian kingdom falls, awaiting the rise of Rome (during which kingdom, Christ’s kingdom shall come!). Then we saw Rome arise, and we shall see the development of that point in this chapter, particularly as it relates to what will happen with Israel.

I. “AT THAT TIME,” vv. 1-3

A. The “time” under consideration is that of chapter 11:

1. Rome rises and establishes her authority over Judah.
2. Michael stands up, overseeing the people of God.
3. There shall be a time of trouble (Matthew 24:21).
4. Those who are delivered are those whose names are in the book (see Malachi 3:16; Isaiah 4:3; Luke 10:20).

B. Many sleeping in the dust of the earth shall awake.

1. I do NOT understand this to be the final resurrection of the physically dead (keep in mind the time frame is “at that time,” i.e., the time of the king of the north, the Roman rulers, exercising great power in Israel).
2. Rather, this is figurative language, often employed by the prophets (compare Ezekiel 37:12-13).
3. This is pointing to the coming of the Messiah in first century Judah:
 - a. For those who accept Him, His coming meant LIFE (spiritually).
 - b. For those who reject Him, His coming meant DEATH (spiritually).
 - c. Compare also Isaiah 26: 11-21 and Revelation 20:4 ff.

C. Those who are wise, and accept the Messiah, will shine.

II. DANIEL IS TO SHUT UP THE WORDS AND SEAL THE BOOK, vv. 4-9

A. The vision is for a long time away from the time Daniel receives it.

1. It is for the “time of the end” (end of the Jewish nation).
2. The book is to be kept intact until its fulfillment.

B. Two men appear on either sides of the bank of the river:

1. One asks the other, “How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?”
2. The other answers:
 - a. It shall be for a time, times, and an half ($3\frac{1}{2}$).
 - b. That which will be accomplished is the scattering of the power of the holy people (destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD).

C. Daniel doesn’t understand, but he is told that the words are closed and sealed “till the time of the end.”

NOTE: *Remember the picture: Rome rises, overpowers Israel, and destroys the city of Jerusalem in 70 AD – FINISHED!*

III. A MESSAGE OF CONSOLATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS, vv. 10-13

A. There is here a message of consolation and a warning:

1. The righteous shall be purified, made white, and tried.
2. The wicked shall continue in wickedness and shall not understand.

B. The taking away of the daily sacrifice and the abomination that makes desolate are one event (see Daniel 9:26-27 with Matthew 24).

C. From that point onward there shall be 1,290 days

Compare Revelation 13:5 where the Beast’s authority is described.
Blessed is the one who waits and comes to the 1,335 days.

D. Daniel would die long before the vision was fulfilled, but he can take comfort in knowing it will come to pass.

NOTE: *Daniel closes on a note that is found all through the book: **GOD IS IN CONTROL!***