

DANIEL THE BOOK

DANIEL THE BOOK

THE TWELVE CHAPTERS OF DANIEL
DISCUSSED AND ANALYZED FOR THE LAST
DAYS

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PREFACE: YOU CAN TRULY UNDERSTAND THE PROPHECIES IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

The Old Testament Book of Daniel is... unique among the prophetic books of the Bible. It is, in and of itself, a sign of the end of the age and the soon return of Jesus Christ.

In just twelve short chapters Daniel foretells the history of the world; prophecies of the exact career of the Antichrist; tells us the precise beginning, middle and end of the Tribulation; tears off the disguise of the Antichrist spirit; convinces the believer that God has everything under control; and proves to the faithful student of prophecy that no ruler, government or empire has, or ever will have, the slightest bit of power without the allowance of God.

Besides having one of the most perfect prayers of

repentance nestled in its midst, Daniel has, perhaps, the single greatest, most encompassing, prophecy in all The Holy Scriptures. In just four verses this dramatic prophecy reveals the exact time of the Jewish captivity and the rebuilding of the second Temple, tells the time of the first coming of Christ, his death, the subsequent destruction of the temple, alludes to the age of grace and salvation, pinpoints the coming and tenure of the Antichrist, speaks of the desolation which will follow in the dictator's wake, heralds the ultimate salvation of all God's saints, and finally, promises the glorious victory of Christ's kingdom.

Besides all this... it is a powerful weapon given by God to His end-times believer. In its first half it sets clear examples for the fundamentals of end-times faith, extolling the merits of the types of faith which each individual believer ought to exhibit in his or her life. The Bible tells us "to set our affections on things above". These six chapters educate us in critical matters of faith that believers ought to be walking in during the course of their daily lives, especially in these last hours before Christ's return: Chapter by chapter they are:

1. Spiritual Diet i.e. – placing oneself on a proper spiritual regimen and intake.
2. Believing in God's plan of Redemption

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instead of the World's plan.

3. Stopping idolatry in one's life, at all costs.
4. Having pride and vanity of this world judged and eradicated in our heart.
5. Being weighed in the balances; submitted to the idea of a progressive life of ongoing judgment that frees us from this world so we may be free to walk in the Spirit.
6. Being tested in faith, even by suffering with Christ; that we may be found able to stand in times of trouble, drawing ever nearer to Christ and trusting wholly in God's protection.

The Book Is a Sign of the End

Let Nostradamus, or any of the other notorious charlatans, try to claim specific prophetic accuracy such as the Bible can boast.

How then does that make the Book of Daniel a sign of the end times in and of itself? Because God told Daniel that the meaning of the book would be sealed up until the end when travel and knowledge would be increased.

Dan. 12:4, 8-10

"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...

And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?

And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

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."

The meaning of the book of Daniel... with all of its mind-boggling prophecies about Alexander the Great and the history of Western Civilization, from Roman times through Islam, on past the British Empire, and to the U.S.A., could not have begun to be understood until the days following World War II, some could not have been comprehended until the twenty-first century.

Daniel was told that only the wise would understand the words of his prophecies and that it would only happen at the time of the end when "many would run to and fro" (vast travel) and knowledge would be increased. Certainly travel and knowledge have increased a thousandfold in the past century, two thousandfold in the last decade, three thousandfold in the last few years. People are

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leaving this very moment on trips halfway round the world that will take a mere matter of hours. Cell phones, faxes and computers will be used to speed the operation along. Satellite dishes are used to send pictures and conversations across a thousand miles in a nanosecond. Words like radio, microwave, airplane, television, automobile, computer, telephone and virtual-reality have been invented in a century's time just to keep up with fast pace of innovations in travel and knowledge. History has dubbed eras with names like the Age of Reason and the Industrial Revolution, the twentieth century can easily be called the age of Travel and Knowledge. Is It Not Time? – You fully comprehend and understand the Book of Daniel.

INTRODUCTION TO: THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL



The great image of the king
of Babylon's dream
depicting the four historical
empires of prophecy:
Babylon, Persia, Greece and
Rome.

The struggle
between man and
machine, light and
dark, evil versus
good, now rages. It is
coming to a head.
Daniel shows this
clearly. It hardly
merits mentioning;
the Sci-Fi novels and
movies of Jules
Verne, H. G. Wells,
Isaac Asimov,
George Orwell, or
the list of apocryphal
celluloid
pronouncements
from Hollywood of

evil and gloom, Hal the Computer, or this or that kind of strangeness from Hell – the future disasters and destruction of the world, have all been written about, filmed and sung about with rising intensity, over the last century and a half. The list of best selling apocalyptic shows and books might reach to the stars. The money made could fill the Grand Canyon with paper and gold. The confusion caused – incalculable. The story sells like ice cream and candy does to five-year-olds and is as nutritious to the soul as much as fat and cane sugar is for suckers who gorge themselves on pulp fiction and Hollywood tripe.

It is a shame that the Book of Daniel has been bastardized so. Its true value and godly purpose goes largely overlooked; its true points ignored, its profound warnings diluted, woefully misunderstood.

But a concerted spiritual effort to understand and keep the words of Daniel will not only contribute to making us stronger more faithful stewards of the *Good News*, it will also provide us with a specially forged shield of protection that may be employed against the ever-increasing onslaught of the spirit of this fantastically silly and stupid world.

Daniel's visions and prophecies can be put to use by the spirit in these last hours to deal a devastating

blow to antichrist powers and principalities that contend directly with the Holy Spirit for the control of that great spiritual battleground – the mind of Man. The battle includes the fight to influence our spiritual knowledge and awareness. When clearly understood and received by divine faith, when Daniel is believed through and through so that the saint can walk according to its lessons and its reality, not wavering with doubt, the saint will have reaped the benefit which God intends to bestow on the enlightened person through the array of Daniel's end-times prophecies.

The Bible says the word of God is the sword of the spirit. The book of Daniel and its prophetic content can become not only a shield, but a sword when honed to a razor-thin edge, can become a sword of the spirit which can divide asunder our soul from our spirit giving us insight into prophecy, and in particular, God's true declarations about the 'last days'. Daniel's words, it can be said, fashion that Sword of the Spirit bright and hard as diamond. It is able to slice away the most beautiful and impressive Antichrist promises and arguments, so as to expose the amazing hidden truth – which is, it is an ugly, beastly spirit which lies beneath the enticing golden glow of devilishly angelic light, viper-like, weird and very deadly. Poisoning the whole earth with its

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glistening, beguiling subtlety of lies and promises of fairness and good.

DANIEL IS PACKED WITH KNOWLEDGE;
TRAVELING BRISKLY THROUGH HISTORY

To best understand The Book of Daniel we must briefly vault ahead to the very last chapter. It is there we discover God sent an angel to Daniel telling him that the words of his prophecies would not be fully understood for nearly 2500 hundred years. Not until the last hours of history, when travel and knowledge (implying communication and technology also) would be greatly increased.

The Book of Daniel was supernaturally kept on the shelf to enhance the understanding of end-times believers who would desperately need the wisdom it would provide in the last days. Those would be days when deception and seducing spirits were to become worse and worse, including among and within the various denominations and forms of the churches.

An angel informs Daniel that the meaning of the prophecies would be “sealed up” until the last days, when its meaning and impact would be uncovered by revelations from His Spirit so that all interested people could understand the truth and thereby

adhere to their warnings and message. Daniel was told;

“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 [travel far and wide], and knowledge shall be increased. ...

“And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?

And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

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.” Dan.12:4, 8-10

Today, the seal on the Book of Daniel has been broken. The book lies open to our understanding, ready to be read by any inquiring soul. Who can deny that travel and knowledge are increased in this day and age – even beyond the wildest imaginings of the greatest Orwellian or Apocryphal visionaries.

Quickly, the world was transformed into a global village, first by railroads, telegraphs, and steamboats; then by radio waves, televisions, jets, credit cards, computers, satellites, cell phones, the World Wide Web and tablets. People hop from continent to

continent like fleas jump from dog to dog. The information superhighway goes a million megabytes a nano-second feeding people more information in one day than the world was fed in a thousand years. Don't let anyone tell you Daniel's prophecies about the Antichrist and the end-times just preceding the return of Christ are not spectacular proof of the remarkable vision given to us 2500 years ago which pertain to this very moment in which we now live.

It is fitting that Daniel would only be understood when travel and knowledge was to be increased in the end-times because the world has become a provincial global village. Daniel is jam-packed with spiritual knowledge traveling the course of western civilization before it occurred:

- Daniel foretells the political history of the antichrist nations and their spirit of world domination.
- It profiles the character and career of the final Antichrist.
- Precisely Identifies the beginning, middle, and end of the final days, known as the 'Tribulation'.
- Tears off the benevolent disguise of the antichrist spirit and sees through the veneer of humanistic government

exposing the underbelly of its horrific 'Beastly' character.

- Yet it is able to comfort the knowledgeable who believe its prophecies with firm reassurance that God has everything under control and that those who believe will be saved.
- And it further ministers that no ruler, government or empire was ever anointed as savior of the world or given the power except by God's allowance in order to further his plan for the exposure of mankind's impotence and to direct our eyes to the hope in the return of the Savior.

DANIEL HAS PERHAPS THE GREATEST PROPHECY IN THE BIBLE

Besides having one of the most perfect prayers of repentance nestled in its midst, Daniel has the single greatest, most encompassing prophecy in all the Holy Scriptures. In just four dramatic verses (9:24-27) God divulges an amazing litany of end-times truths: Telling us:

- The time of Jewish captivity.
- The exact time of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem and the rebuilding of

Nehemiah's second Temple.

- Six hundred years in advance we are told of the exact day of Jesus being heralded as the Messiah in Jerusalem and the day of his crucifixion.
- Tells of the subsequent destruction of Herod's temple in 70 AD.
- Alludes to the age of grace and salvation that would follow.
- Pinpoints what would be the exact beginning of the end-times Tribulation and what event would trigger its beginning.
- Speaks of the length and tenure of 'the' Antichrist.
- Tells of the desolation which will follow in Antichrist's wake.
- Heralds the ultimate salvation of God's saints.
- Promises six glorious results from His plan of redemption.
 - ◦ To finish the transgression.
 - ◦ To make an end of sins.
 - ◦ To make reconciliation for iniquity.
 - ◦ To bring in everlasting righteousness.

- ◦ To seal up the vision and the prophecy.
- ◦ And to anoint the Most Holy (Jesus).

The prime purpose of Daniel's words is to arrest and eradicate wickedness in the true believer while exposing the evolution of the Antichrist conspiracy from primordial times up to the very moment of Christ's bodily return to earth. This body of prophecies help to expose wickedness and evil for what it really is, especially as it is embodied and expressed in the spirit of the ongoing universal antichrist movement throughout history. An inclusive study of Daniel serves to alert believers to the craven nature of these antichrist conspiracies and actions. The reader is cautioned to stand aloof from the corrupting influence of antichrist opposition to Christ and God.

Daniel also aids in delivering us from worldly hopes which are acquired through the natural ties and vapid hopes in this world's political and religious schemes as well as its gross religious gospels that regularly prove to be pregnant with oppression rather than true freedom and liberty.

THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL TEAR OFF THE

MASK OF THE ANTICHRIST...

shedding the manipulative images of an insincere benevolence. Behind the mask is a cruel face; a hideous being, a spirit which our spirits are naturally intimidated by because we are subject to every insecurity and fear that the antichrist spirit has to use in its arsenal for manipulating man. When the antichrist is exposed we can finally see not only how futile our lives and worries are, but how fundamentally incorrect and counterproductive to true love they actually are.

By Daniel's scriptures we can observe the true ruthlessness of the Beast-Spirit. We can detect our ignorant complicity to the politics and humanism of the Beast, which is always in opposition to Christ's true love. We see the picture clearly – the 'Beast' snarls, oppresses, devours, like a *“lion roaming the streets seeking to devour whomsoever it may.”*

Daniel is given visions, dreams, words, prayers, and prophecies by which God relays to us His opinions and feelings – relates His truth – reveals His heart – tells us of true love.

The Book on Daniel's career and the prophecies it foretold sheds light on these matters one by one. One after another God shows us perspectives of the empires and the spirit of antichrist man. The Persian

Empire, Roman Empire, Alexander The Great, Napoleon, The British Empire, the competitors of antichrist, The Mohammedans, Muslims, Ottoman Turks, Islam, the United States of America (called The Raiser of Taxes) unfold before us by way of distinct spiritual images tailored for the last days which were to be understood only in these final days.

The parade of Antichrist leaders which are held in awe by mankind, along with the succession of empires they headed, are forecast in the prophecies of Daniel and shown to be nothing but blurbs, measurable fulfillments, mere sequential epochs in the Most High's overall plan of redemption. The great empires and leaders are on exhibit in their niche, nothing more than momentary flashes of satanic revolutions, outbursts of antichrist history strewn along the path of God's prophetically lit thoroughfare of the history of Man, leading to what is loosely called eternity.

The twelve chapters of Daniel (inspired completely by the Holy Spirit) are infallible witnesses, immutable, perfect, words of God, which reveal an ever frustrated antichrist spirit, leading all the way up to its demise and the total victory of Christ over the ideals of fallen Mankind. What cannot be discovered by sight, handled or touched,

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neither tasted nor discerned by any human faculty, is revealed for our spiritual purview by the Holy Spirit's words brought to life in the supernatural experiences of God's humble servant Daniel in the book titled under his name.

If God had not painted the pictures and said in concise words what He teaches in the second half of Daniel, we would not be able to believe it, so unbelievable it all is to the human mind. Things held dear and sacred to us are toppled by the revelations presented. It is vital to us because it delivers us from the scores of natural presumptions we acquire during the course of life's experience in this unfaithful world in which we live.

Daniel is a book that is devoted to Christ's return, it is imperative that anyone believing in Jesus embrace this ultimate promise. Daniel is given to the end-times saints as a secret-weapon, that by its knowledge, understanding and wise following the defeat of the clever lies of humanism can be slain in our heart – that Christ's love and truth can live there instead.

Daniel is a tool for God's deliverance. It is a portion of the 'children's bread'. Receiving and believing the words of the prophetic book of Daniel is one of God's end-time cures, an inoculation against the poison of the vanity of this passing

world. It is said, “*He who is the friend of the world is the enemy of God.*” James 4:4. Daniel is an antidote against the subtle seduction and the craftiness of those antichrist angels of light who with more and more frequency are being unleashed on the world to swarm mankind and keep it in the clutches of the faith of this passing world. These forces of antichrist and the world are storming even the Church and using lukewarm Christianity, ecumenism and man’s blasphemous ideas of love to try to lure away even those who are on to its scam. Christ is coming back soon! The flurry of fulfilled prophecies going on at the start of the 21st Century are an assurance of this inevitable truth.

The earth has been deluged by apocryphal things, everything from earthquakes and famines to world wars, we are now a global village precipitated by the rise of knowledge, machines, travel and technology. Man has ranged far and wide. There is no limit to what we can achieve or do – except for this. We cannot get past our fear, we can not love as God told us to love and expects us to love. Then we are to be given the greatest gift of all – eternal life. How can God let hate sit with love in a place of full and perfect love? It cannot be.



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The Book of Daniel can be divided into two equal parts...

both deal with the significance of last days truths, one deals with the individual's freedom and spiritual needs in the end-times, while the second half is devoted to the chronicling and expose of the antichrist and its historical course of empire leading up to the end.

The first half... apprises the individual believer of the predicaments and spiritual needs of the faithful in the last days by detailing the situations and confrontations in which Daniel and other believers of God found themselves embroiled. The two parts, of individual needs, vis a vis antichrist pressures; and the awareness of the universal antichrist spirit and empire, amount to a resume for end-times understanding and the virtues which believers would have to hone and live, so they may gain victory over things within themselves, acquired by life in an Antichrist world; as well as, those government demands placed upon the individual by worldly powers imposing the antichrist spirit.

THE FIRST SIX CHAPTERS DEPICT THE TYPE
OF FAITH NEEDED IN THE END-TIMES

- **Chapter One:** reveals the necessities of daily spiritual life that would have to be

acquired and lived during the last days of the rise of the antichrist spirit in the world.

- **Chapter Two:** chronicles and depicts the condition of the Antichrist Empire through history of the world up to the end.
- **Chapter Three:** warns believers about the intimidation and influence of Antichrist promotion of idolatry and godlessness that would take place under antichrist government.
- **Chapter Four:** proves that no king or leader rules except by God's consent. That man should never place their faith in any government. That God raises up the 'basest' of men to rule.
- **Chapter Five:** establishes the ultimate judgment of all who oppose God's will and live vainly as if life's pleasures on this earth can go on unimpeded forever, that man has nothing to fear from God's coming judgment of unrighteousness and sin which man perpetrates upon one another.
- **Chapter Six:** teaches us that God's people will be put in hopeless situations, but he

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will save them out of all their distresses –
if they are faithful to acknowledge God in
all their ways.

The first half of The Book of Daniel, therefore, concerns the personal struggle with the antichrist spirit for the end-times believer, chapter one setting the groundwork of required faith for the entire book, but especially the next five chapters which focus on the spiritual courage and qualities of faith that would be required in the heart of Christians, particularly in the last days before the return of Christ.

The second half... of six chapters are about the battle between Christ's Kingdom and the Kingdom of Antichrist which amounts to the most fundamental of all conflicts of Man vs the World Spirit. Though it is not readily apparent when seen through the eyes of this world, the second half of Daniel shows how both the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan's Antichrist are in open competition for the souls of Mankind.

We are transported by the Prophetic Word into the spiritual realm where the prophecies and allegorical examples take us soaring above carnal matters to show the spiritual truth about the great

empires of history and the wicked misconceptions of Man's most revered ideas about government.

Here we find there is no government or righteousness devised by Man which can lead us into treating one another the way we should. There is no ideology, form of government, earthly religion or rule of law which can bring righteousness into being. Faith in political man must be dashed on the rocks of vain hopes and lifted into the airy submission of a higher, otherwise impossible realm, that of God's sublime power and His all-comprehending purposes of omnipotent knowledge.

THE 2ND SET OF SIX CHAPTERS DEPICT THE
ANTICHRIST EMPIRE & CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER IT

- **Chapter Seven:** reveals the necessities of daily spiritual life that would have to be acquired and lived during the last days of the rise of the antichrist spirit in the world.
- **Chapter Eight:** chronicles and depicts the condition of the Antichrist Empire through history of the world up to the end.
- **Chapter Nine:** warns believers about the intimidation and influence of Antichrist

promotion of idolatry and godlessness that would take place under antichrist government.

- **Chapter Ten:** proves that no king or leader rules except by God's consent. That man should never place their faith in any government. That God raises up the 'basest' of men to rule.
- **Chapter Eleven:** establishes the ultimate judgment of all who oppose God's will and live vainly as if life's pleasures on this earth can go on unimpeded forever, that man has nothing to fear from God's coming judgment of unrighteousness and sin which man perpetrates upon one another.
- **Chapter Twelve:** teaches us that God's people will be put in hopeless situations, but he will save them out of all their distresses – if they are faithful to acknowledge God in all their ways.

PART I

TYPE OF
END-TIMES
FAITH NEEDED

DANIEL - CHAPTER ONE

Basics of The End-Times Spiritual Diet in These Extraordinary Times

Starting from the very opening, the Book of Daniel establishes the great prophet of the end-times as the prototype example of an end-times saint. His long and amazing ministry as the prophet representing the transitional judgments from the defiant Antichrist world into the glorious realm of a new world of Jesus Christ's reign of truth, love, and righteousness spanned seven decades, which included two of the four classic Antichrist empires, a host of kings and potentates while lasting the entire seventy years of the Jews' Babylonian captivity and on into the early years of the Persian Empire. The book consists of twelve chapters of which the first six are instruction through Daniel's personal experience of what kind of faith would be demanded of the individual believer in order to have

victory over the Antichrist world by way of walking in the light of Christ's prophetic utterances of truth laid out in the prophetic passages of Scriptures, both in the Old and the New Testament.

As a young lad Daniel's life seemed anything but blessed. It looked as though God had forsaken not only his nation and him but his entire race. Jerusalem had been conquered by Babylon. Daniel and his people had been overrun and slaughtered by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Daniel's king had been carried away to Babylon in chains blind, in utter disgrace. Of the million Jews, only 4,600 had survived to be taken into captivity in Babylon. The Temple, the symbol of Jewish pride and strength, had been ransacked and utterly destroyed; the ruthless Babylonians taking the golden temple treasures of the legendary Solomon with them back to their city, placing them in the house of their pagan gods Chemosh and Nimrud.

The Babylonian armies had defiled and destroyed the sacred things which Daniel and his people held dear. Jeremiah 52 During the years of the siege, the Jews had been forced to boil and eat their children, many of their men committed suicide, their daughters were violated, their sons butchered before the eyes of their mothers and fathers. It had all come to pass under the prophecies of God. God had

warned Israel that judgment was coming and they had ignored his warnings. It is against this troubling backdrop that Daniel was taken into captivity where many of the prophecies and experiences would be recorded. Despite these gloomy beginnings, out of the hopeless ruins, God began to bless Daniel and raise him up for his prophetic mission as the historian and chronicler of that most adversarial battle between Christ and Antichrist. Daniel was also to be a living representative of prophecy replete with visions, dreams, visitations from angels, and miracles, so he could become an example of the type of faith needed in the end-times spiritual character.

DANIEL PUT HIMSELF ON A SPIRITUAL DIET

Daniel's life as an end-times prototype began when he arrived in Babylon as a group of young captives. Daniel was a young boy which the king had detected held real promise as a scribe. He was identified as a promising young scholar and according to custom was taken into the king's house and groomed to be a government official. But the first thing he did, even as a young lad, was to risk not only his career but his very life. He asked to be allowed to forego the king's imposed diet to keep his godly diet instead.

The Antichrist's unholy diet included un-kosher food that would have not only endangered his health but would have spiritually defiled him in his own eyes. He petitioned the king's chef to let him live on a simple 'godly' diet and the king permitted the request.

Now, this kosher request is not just a matter of materialism for it is an expression of the spiritual nutrition that is necessary for leading a spiritual life. It was done by God in Daniel to inspire would-be end-times saints to realize to live its symbolism in our time; these extraordinary times as the world transitions from the Antichrist reign of power into a new age when Christ will reign on Earth for one thousand years. This Daniel diet is nothing short of symbolic of the diet of spiritual significance rather than any carnal act for dietary needs. This request of Daniel was symbolic of living on a temperate and *full spiritual diet*, (see below) sustenance which would nourish the soul and the spirit so that person can be fit for the kind of faith necessary to negotiate the intensely difficult days in which we live today.

God had revealed through the prophet Jeremiah that the Jews should go quietly to their captivity into a pagan world with as little fuss as possible. Jeremiah promised, however, that if they would be obedient and do what God commanded, all those who went

to Babylon into captivity would find the “*peace of the city*” (meaning peace in Babylon, that huge city-state of great majesty and glory.) As unlikely as this sounded it turned out to be true. All those who went to Babylon instead of resisting survived and even flourished. Synagogues were built and established and much of the Jewish Talmud was written.

CAPTIVE IN WORLD BUT FREE IN SPIRIT

Daniel himself was to flourish and become a highly respected man among the Babylonians because he conceded to his captivity – and, for that matter, to God’s will in everything he did. As we shall see, Daniel never bowed to an idol, never conceded to intimidation, or blasphemies demanded by the state government, but he simply “*rendered unto Caesar what was Caesar’s and to God what was God’s*”. He stood by the truth, never denying God’s name, no matter what the demands of his government or king.

The end-times saint can begin his identification with Daniel by realizing he too, is living a life in “captivity”, or perhaps better still as strangers in a strange land. We are wanderers in an unbelieving world, hemmed in on all sides by evil works and unbelief. “*In the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters,*

proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." 2 Tim. 3:1-4 There is only one way out of this kind of captivity – we must look up, we must *live by faith and not by sight*. The captive must wait for deliverance. The end-times saint is living, as Abraham did, in a "*strange country*" looking for another city, a heavenly home promised to us by Jesus. He said, "*I go to prepare a place for you,*" The end-time saint must look up for his deliverance, must look to the heavens from whence his help comes, look up! for his redemption draws near.

THOUGH CAPTIVES WE CAN BE GREATLY BLESSED AND SPIRITUALLY FREE

End-Times saints are isolated and unable to fit in with this present evil world about us. Remember, Jesus warned them that if the world hated him, it will also hate His servants. John 15, 18, 19 "*To this present world we are as the smell of death*" 2 Cor. 2:16 "*All those who live godly lives in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution*". 2 Tim. 3:12 The number of heathens and Babylonians (in heart) will grow larger and increase

faster than the number of believers will. The love of many will wax cold. That time is already started. The number of those who are judged on earth during the Tribulation will be very, very high. So be it. *“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”* Matt. 7:14 While we are captives, and I speak of the faithful church here, surrounded by pagans (unbelievers) and Babylonians (false brethren) and encircled by selfishness and an ever-increasing godless world, we, like Daniel, will be blessed with all understanding and wisdom.

Later in Daniel, it says *“that the wicked shall not understand, but the wise shall understand.”* Just as Nebuchadnezzar’s legions invaded the Temple and stole part of its treasure, so the spirit of the world has infiltrated the sanctuary of the Church and stolen parts of her treasure by causing her to compromise the gospel and seek worldly and political influence. Yet, God will bless those who wait for their deliverance from heaven; just as He blessed Daniel who waited for deliverance from captivity for his people. See if you agree, Daniel was a prototype end-times saint and left us with a good example of how the end-times saint and the gospel should meld together as one.

Daniel, and at least three other Jews, were

separated from the general populace and made to wait on the king to see if they would be fit for his service. As end-times saints must do, Daniel had to first wait for the king's calling to come. Again – he had to *wait* for the king. Notice that the scripture says that he was of the children of Israel, of the king's seed (like Christians spiritually are) in whom was no blemish (the church is also to be without *"spot or wrinkle, or any such thing: and that it should be holy and without blemish"*. Eph. 5:27 It says Daniel was well-favored, skillful in knowledge and wisdom, understanding in sciences and had ability to stand in the king's palace. Christians can tap into the treasure storehouse of Christ in which is hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge Col. 2:3 and are welcome to stand boldly in the Holy of Holies. Heb. 10:19-25 These things are available as never before for the end-times saint. Though surrounded and held "captive" by unbelief, the end-times saint can be wise as Daniel, clean and without blemish, and because of the righteousness of Christ they are welcome in God's throne room in heaven, the King of king's palace.

Daniel and his three Jewish brethren, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were in the care of the master of the eunuchs signifying for us that there is no male or female in Christ. The four servant's names all

gave glory to God as our true identity and testimony in Christ also will. In order, their four names mean: God is my judge, Jehovah was favored, who is like God, and helped by Jehovah. Their names were changed by their captives to Belteshazzar, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego after pagan gods signifying that we too, like it or not, are labeled by the world and placed in charge of worldly powers.

Their godly names meant that they were not subject to the dictates of the world, but God was the judge of how they should believe and act. That they favored God and not the ideas and concepts of worldly behavior and belief, that God was number one above all glories and enshrinements of God was their benefactor and helper in all things and not the world's frail and temporal promises of benefit and salvation. All in all, God was their leader and hope; and what the world offered was not to be relied upon or believed.

It did not take long for the first backlash of worldly belief to begin. Almost immediately Satan tried to impose his ways on Daniel and the others by trying to make them eat unclean things that would defile them as Jews and make them unclean in their hearts before God. *"Happy is he that does not condemn himself in that thing which he allows."* Rom. 14:22 But Daniel boldly and wisely requested to eat only *kosher*

food and his request for a clean spiritual diet was graciously granted. The four young men remained undefiled before God even while they remained in the service of the pagan kings of Babylon and Persia. It was symbolic of the *spiritual* diet that the end-times believer ought to partake of in daily life.

Just as we need a balanced diet to keep our bodies healthy, even more do we need a balanced Christian life to keep our spirit in good health. Many Christians and Christian groups become quite unhealthy by putting all their focus on only one or a few of the wonderful facets of God's spiritual diet. He longs to have us partake of the entire banquet. If we seek and exercise the gifts of the Spirit – especially wisdom, understanding, and discernment, then hopefully we will bear the fruits of the Spirit. These are found in the Word of God, the Bible. Places like Proverbs and Job are dishes laid before our mouths to digest in our spirit and soul. They are meals of pure food to strengthen our character and heighten our perception of good and truth in regards to our fellow man.

Once again, Daniel stands as an example for end-times saints, and it is that one should remain undefiled and spotless from the world even though we live in the midst of it. The fruit of this rock-solid foundation upon which Daniel was established

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by God was that when it was time for him and his three companions to stand before the king they were found ten times healthier than all the so-called spiritual wise men of Babylon. This then is a picture of the end-times saint standing before the King of kings in the Holy throne room, waiting on the Lord, temperate and balanced by good spiritual nutrition.

THE SUM OF THE LESSON OF THE FIRST CHAPTER OF DANIEL IS THIS...

As Daniel's world was in ruins, so ours is crumbling in wickedness and unrighteousness of all kinds, but we know God is with us. As Daniel and his friends, the end-times person will wait for the Lord. Though we are also captives in an unbelieving world we are blessed with understanding and knowledge that God has everything under control. As Daniel's name signifies, we can rest assured that "God is my judge" and we need not be judged with the judgment of the world which is coming. Because of what Jesus has done for us we stand, without blemish, before the King, welcome in the hub of the universe, the Holy of Holies. If we pay heed to our diet, (Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God) then we shall be healthy and "prepared unto every good

work,”. As in the book of Daniel, there is no male or female, only complete equality in Christ and we will be undefiled before The Father.

This is the foundation for the book of Daniel which is laid in chapter one, It draws a picture of the end-times saint for us of which Daniel is the 2,500-year-old prototype. As Enoch and Elijah are archetypes of the rapture, David is the archetype of those who have a heart for God, so the great prophet Daniel is the prototype end-times saint. Hopefully, those waiting for the King of kings can clearly identify with their brother in Christ, Daniel.



CONSIDER THE NECESSITY OF A BALANCED SPIRITUAL DIET

by Eloise Gardenier

The prophet Daniel in chapter one of the Book of his name showed us the importance of being on a good diet. It was not just a personal exercise of faith, however. It was symbolic of the spiritual diet that the end-times believer ought to partake of in his daily life. Just as we need a balanced diet to keep our bodies healthy, even more so do we need a balanced Christian life to keep our spirit in good health. Many

Christians and Christian groups become quite unhealthy by putting all their focus on only one or a few of the wonderful facets of God's spiritual diet. He longs to have us partake of the entire banquet.

In our contact with many Christians, we have seen those that after coming to salvation, all too quickly forget their "first love"- Jesus, by getting caught up in works. Certain other segments of the Church rip themselves off by believing erroneous teachings that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is not for today. Yes, there are those that put too much emphasis on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and in the process abuse the gifts. Some also – by denying the power of the Holy Ghost end up with a Trinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Bible and believe that just learning the Holy Bible cover-to-cover will solve all their problems. Others think that praise and worship is all we need, while still others hold that fellowship is more important than anything else. There are those who give too much time to deliverance. And there are those who seem to think that works alone will help them buy their way into heaven.

WHO IS RIGHT? WHO HAS THE ANSWERS?

God, our Father, wants us to partake of a full and

balanced heavenly menu which includes all His Spiritual food. But, now that we have touched on the unbalanced diet, let us move quickly on to the balanced diet which God has set on the table before us.

Of course, when we enter the banquet hall we must be properly dressed, starting with our “helmet of Salvation”. That comes only by yielding our will to Jesus, repenting, and being born again. Salvation makes it possible for us to have our “loins girt about with truth”, so we may embark on a life of true “righteousness” wearing God’s “breastplate”. We must take up our shield and begin to learn what true faith is in order to “quench all the fiery darts of the wicked”. We must carry the “sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.” Then we will have our “feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”

DRINKING IN THE HOLY GHOST

Though our Christian life – our salvation – has begun and we are familiar with the proper garb, our life in Christ is far from being complete. Acts Chapter 2 shows us that there is more to come, if we are to partake of the entire buffet. *“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with*

other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4
This gathering in the “upper room” was not one of unbelievers, they had received salvation. This was that promise of the Father which Jesus had spoken of when He said; *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. And ye shall be witnesses unto me ...” Acts 1:8.*

The power of the Holy Ghost equips us with the ability to act not under our own human power, but the power of God. God has made known to us, through the scriptures, that this power, this nourishment is available to all of us and we believe, necessary for a victorious Christian walk and ministry. It is up to us to seek and receive this supplement to our diet. One might liken the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and the many gifts of the Spirit (our tools) to being strengthening vitamins for our spirits, as physical vitamins are to strengthen our bodies. The bible also tells us to not be filled with wine but rather be filled with the Spirit. Why drink in ‘spirits’ when we can ‘drink’ in the Holy Spirit and be made at peace and happy with his comforting presence? It is by the Spirit that we have access to the Father and the gifts of the Spirit which grow the fruits of God in us. This is why we are told in the Bible: *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.” Eph. 5:18*

PARTAKING OF THE GIFTS

Of course, we know the gifts of the Spirit can be and have been greatly abused through the history of the church, influencing many believers to be suspicious and fearful of them. In Acts 5:32 we read this though; *“And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him.”* In Matthew 7 we are told to ask, seek, and knock, and the next few verses go on to give examples. *“If a son ask his father for a fish will he give him a serpent? etc ... but how much more shall your Father in heaven give good things to them that ask.”*

When it comes to the Holy Ghost and His gifts, they do not always accompany the moment of salvation when one is born-again, although they can. In most cases I know about, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit has been a “second blessing”. By the Word, we are informed of the existence of this wonderful dish on our spiritual diet. By the Word, we are also encouraged that God gives the Holy Ghost to those who are obedient. I believe the obedience here is in seeking the fullness of the Holy Ghost as He has urged us to do. Trust me, I am 67 and I have experienced life with and without the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and it is a valuable

addition to one's spiritual health and the source of many blessings including the gifts of the Spirit.

These gifts are: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healings, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. Once we are equipped with the necessary prescriptions we can go on to lead a well BALANCED CHRISTIAN LIFE.

DINING ON PRAYER & PRAISE

Prayer – our personal communication with the Lord – is essential in maintaining a two-way relationship. The listening part is sometimes the hardest part to learn. Keep practicing it; it will get better and better. Keep track of answered prayer for your own encouragement. Seek the Lord in your 'prayer closet' as well as in group prayer. There are different kinds of prayer; intercessory prayer, petitions for needs, and prayers of thanksgiving, to mention but a few.

Praise – is something most of us are unacquainted with when we come to the Lord. Try it, you'll like it! Praise Him with gatherings of any size when you can, but praise Him by yourself. Sing along with music, in your room, in your car... to and from work. Sometimes just praising Him without music is

extraordinarily good. Just thanking Him out loud for all He has done for you is a source of deliverance and freedom.

EATING THE WORD

His Word is nutrition. The more we know the Word, the more we understand God, His nature, the history of mankind, and its relationship with Him. The Word in the Bible teaches us man's nature and God's plan to save him. God's Word is a whole banquet, a source of meat from heaven, that we can partake of for all eternity let alone a lifetime. The Word shows us God's plan of the ages from creation to eternity. We learn that the Jews are God's chosen people and one day we will all be together in His love. The Word instructs us through the gospels and epistles and tells us how to live a pleasing Christian life for the Master, Jesus.

FEASTING ON THE CHILDREN'S BREAD – DELIVERANCE

Eat of the delights of deliverance also. All of us, after we are saved, need to seek deliverance from our past. The spirit world is VERY real. Some may not want to believe it, but we are all influenced by spirits that have a claim on us due to our inheritance and our

former behavior. We have seen personal examples of the inheritance factor in children who are very much like their father or mother though they never knew them. Others of us, as the Holy Spirit has shown us truths about ourselves, knew exactly from which relative we had gotten a particular spirit. The spirits of alcohol, drugs, violence, adultery, fear, anger, rebellion, sexual perversion, depression, loneliness, and insecurity are like their leader, "*the devil walketh about seeking whom they may devour*". 1 Pet 5:8 They don't want to leave their habitation and they may not go quietly. But there is good news for the suffering soul. If one wants to be free one can be. "*Jesus came to set the captives free!*" Seek that freedom! Sometimes it is dramatic, other times very quiet, personal, and private. This writer personally has received deliverance simply in a dream. Go for it! Eat of the fruits of humility. You will be glad you did.

BREAKING BREAD WITH FRIENDS – FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship – "*Forsaking not the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*" Hebrews 10:25 What day? you may ask. "*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught*

up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." I Thess. 4:17&18
It is important for us to assemble together to have fellowship with those of "like faith" with "*those who seek God out of a pure heart.*"

According to Hebrews 10:25, God is most pleased and we are helped, edified, and blessed more when we come together in the spirit of exhorting, comforting and encouraging one another. "*And so much the more as you see the day approaching ... for the kingdom of God is nigh at hand*".

Therefore it is not where we gather or how we have church when we gather for fellowship, but that we gather in the spirit of love, comforting one another, sharing our fruits, and hoping and praying for unity of the Spirit. This is the body of which we should eat of by participation. Not a little wafer or some loaf of actual bread. Not some thimble of grape juice or gulp of supposed holy wine, but drinking the spiritual 'blood' of Jesus by drinking of fellowship in promise of loving one another. This is blessed dietary reality. Any fellowship should have a table of fruit laid out for its people, so they may feast upon spiritual delicacies and true nutrition for the soul. This is the summation of Daniel's urgent request to his captor the King of Babylon, that he

might be able to eat only that good spiritual food that would keep his soul in communion with God.

If we seek and exercise the gifts of the Spirit – especially wisdom, understanding and discernment, then hopefully the fruits of the Holy Spirit will be born by us. After having partaken of the wonderful banquet table which God desires to set before us, we can go forth into the fields of harvest, made healthy by the spiritual feast that has been laid out for our enjoyment and our strength. We can then go forth to truly perform the works of God which he has prepared for us to do. Our spirits can then become healthy, vibrant, and alive.

Don't allow yourself to be in a land of famine when a land of plenty is waiting for you! Don't be emaciated when you can be a filled, strong, and healthy servant able to reap some real and good relationships. The world is fraught with bogus and cynical relationships, it takes wisdom and a balanced diet to have a healthy and lively existence with true friendship and love being enjoyed by the soul and heart. All of this requires that one is feasting on Jesus, drinking his blood, and eating of the bread of life by the means enumerated above. He has set before us a banquet table full of all the good spiritual food; eat of it and be strong in Christ, so you can work under any and all conditions.

TERRY MYERS SMITH

“Work! –

For the night is not coming!

But It is already upon us.”

DANIEL -

CHAPTER TWO

Kingdom of God Only is Eternal

The chapter of Daniel we undertake to study here concerns the Antichrist government, its apparent glory, its temporal nature, and ultimate judgment into oblivion. We are invited to believe in the eternal rather than the temporal, urged to cast off our faith in man's government, in favor of living faith for the eternal pure government of the kingdom of God, which is to come. The faith which we are led to acquire is the faith on exhibit by Daniel, one of miraculous deliverance from the hands of unreasonable men and the government of this world at the hand of the providence of God. Daniel serves us as the archetype end-times believer and the kind of faith for the miraculous protection of God which would be required in the last days just before the return of Christ. The temporal nature of the Antichrist kingdoms and the faith needed for

deliverance from its deceptive and unreasonable hands are the prime revelations of chapter two of the book of Daniel.

King Nebuchadnezzar was frightened by a dream from God because it showed the vanity of man's great works 'under the sun' and the futility by its fading existence, no matter how brilliant or glorious the work may seem at the time. Nebuchadnezzar had built a great empire and a majestic city with 'wonders of the world', then God showed how fleeting it all was, in the same fashion that he had shown Solomon the vanity of all of man's laborious endeavors. He was angry, depressed and agitated in spirit. I guess we can all identify with him, who wouldn't be depressed? The Bible tells us that a day is as a thousand years with the Lord and a thousand years as one day. We can gain great wisdom from this passage of scripture if we will regard it and take it seriously. God's perspective on time is entirely different than ours. We sit on the inside of time like figurines in a glass bubble looking out; God is everywhere -inside and out – everywhere, even on the outside of time peering in, seeing all that is, and all that has been, knowing what will be because he has been there, was there, is there. Time is merely a blueprint used by the omnipotent architect, a spade in the gardener's hand, a group of files on the

desktop of eternity. Time is very small compared to infinity. Infinity has no end or beginning and is ever-expanding, not confined by time or space, where the Holy Ghost presides overall, where The Son is, full of love and light, which is infinitely powerful, in eternity both before and after the now, love and light are the actual, true, real, solid, definable dimensions themselves, of which someday we shall become, not only aware but an integral part of ourselves. (See the last two chapters of The Book of Revelation).

THE ANTICHRIST KINGDOM WILL BE RETURNED TO DUST

Logically, every empire and government on earth, no matter how marvelous and eternal they may seem – as the Roman Empire or the United States of America – is destined to a prescribed end. Their story was written and filed long ago before the dimension of time ever started to tick. No empire or government is on par with God and the infinite government of his power. They are a very small pea in the vast eternal. The only eternal is that of God and there shall never be a government of man to co-exist with God's just and true reign of righteousness because man cannot produce a righteous government to compare with the righteous ways of

the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. It is a ridiculous thing to even think so for one tick of the clock or one moment in time. The chapter of Daniel now under review declares that the earthly man-governments of glory, though glorious in our eyes, are very small; the temporal nature of man's oppressive and frightened rule of man and the ultimate, total victory of the kingdom of truth to be administered by Love itself – this is in the infinite and is the one big thing in eternity that is taking place on this earth. The work of redemption of man and bringing him into the kingdom of God, this is the huge thing being done on this planet. The one thing that will be carried from this earth into eternity, when even the earth, after a thousand-year rule of Christ on earth, is swallowed up by time, rolled up like a Hollywood stage set, and time shall be no more. *“The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord”* are the words spoken by *“great voices in heaven”* in chapter eleven of the *Book of Revelation*. Heaven's outburst of joy comes right after the seventh angel has blown his trumpet to initiate the final 'Woe', which is the *great and terrible day of the Lord.* *“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before*

God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God. Saying, we give thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.” Rev. 11.15-17

God’s seizure of earth’s government at Jesus’ Second Coming is one of the major events in the history of the world and mankind. Chapter two of Daniel gives the end-times saint an uncluttered, simple statement about the promise God has given his saints for the reign of His perfect government on earth and into eternity. It details the evolution of world empires and prophecies of the climactic and electrifying moment described above when the ever-growing kingdom of Christ will be established for those of mankind who have entered safely into Love’s eternity.

QUICK SCAN OF WORLD HISTORY IN A KING’S DREAM

The King of Babylon’s prophetic dream and its divine interpretation given to the prophet Daniel is intended to be an anchor for our belief so we can know that the full victory of the kingdom of God will come, but not until man’s government has been given a full chance and proven to fall short of real

truth and righteousness. This requires a full and complete historical evolution and process, a history that can be studied and reviewed by surveying the course of what is commonly referred to as *Western Civilization*. God wants to inform the end-times saint that victory over the influence of the world and its governing power will not come without personal struggles of faith and hard-won spiritual battles while overcoming persecutions, exploitation, and spiritual oppressions of “**The Beast**” [see Daniel Ch 8] (the ‘Beast’ being the collective spirit and power of the empires of the *West* until they finally evolve into the fullness of the ‘Beastly’ Empire of the Antichrist at the end; as revealed in the course of Daniel’s history.) But even while living in the midst of the Beast, God was faithful to deliver Daniel out of all his troubles and trials so that he could minister faith and pray for the people of God.

DANIEL AND THE WISE MEN ESCAPE CERTAIN DEATH

Typical of man and his government, the king of Babylon made an incredibly unreasonable request of his advisors and ministers that included a death threat upon them if they could not solve the king’s problem. Daniel was included in the number of

‘wise men’ who were to undertake the impossible task and once again Daniel found himself in a predicament from which only faith in God could deliver him. The situation was utterly hopeless from a human standpoint. The all-powerful Nebuchadnezzar was extremely agitated by a troublesome dream which he suspected had been given him by the ‘Most High God’. Afraid that his magicians, astrologers, and Magi priests would deceive him with a purely concocted interpretation of the dream he concocted an unreasonable scheme to ensure the integrity of the interpreter and the validity of the interpretation. He refused to tell his dream to any of the court ‘wise men’ or counselors, demanding instead that the dream be told first, and then he could be sure that the interpretation was a valid one. Naturally, no one could come up with the dream. As the wise men of Babylon said, *“It is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can show it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”* Dan 2:11 The king, being all-powerful, but not always reasonable, became infuriated. Summarily, he decreed that all wise men in the kingdom should be put to death. Panic gripped them. The only way to stay judgment would be if someone could tell him his dream and give the interpretation.

The number of the doomed included Daniel and his fellow Jewish courtiers, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego, and the rest. It was a hopeless position. There must have been a lot of wise guys booking passage on the first caravan out of town. But in hopeless situations, where there is nothing a man can do, in weakness when all hope is gone, God can do great things to deliver us. This, it would seem, is the sort of faith God would like to grow in his servants and saints in these fading days just before Christ's appearing in the clouds. Daniel is a prototype for us, a true spiritual archetype, standing in for us to show us how to react when we have life-threatening situations pressed down upon us. Often situations come down upon us without cause or rational explanation or in fairness, situations in which we are pressed, in turn, by the grace of God to ask for, and believe for, His miraculous deliverance. He will give his end-times saints understanding and knowledge about the wisdom of the ages and the boldness to tell it to those to whom they are sent. Telling the mysteries of the ages and such things as prophetic truths may even be a matter of life and death, if not for those saints themselves, for others who will be saved by the telling of it. As was the case in all the lives of the courtiers which were saved through Daniel's asking God for the dream and the

interpretation, and his subsequent boldness to tell it all to the king (though its interpretation was not flattering or hopeful to the king and could have easily incurred his wrath). Daniel was forced into a great act of faith by circumstances created by the hand of Providence. The prophet, in the role of prototype end-time saint, asked for a little time, but he had to believe that his God would, and could, do the impossible. He and his friends prayed together that God would reveal the secret of the dream to him. Of course, God heard the prayer of his faithful servant and answered it revealing Nebuchadnezzar's dream word for word, picture by picture, to Daniel in a "night vision". Daniel thanked God saying, "(God) *changeth the times and seasons: he removeth kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: he revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him*" Dan 2:21-22

The lesson for the end-time saint is that we, like Daniel, can be privy to the secret things of God by faith 1 Cor. 2:10, and that we should believe that no government or leader rules, including communist, atheist, fascist, or any other unless God allows it. That God can do all things, even change the way things operate. All timing is in His control. In short, the end-time saint can bank on the truth that there

is nothing that is out of God's total dominion or power. The way God chose to have Nebuchadnezzar withhold his dream, and then have Daniel come up with it and its meaning, was done to prove to us that nothing is hid from Him, including the future or intentions of man. This, when understood and believed, should create a change in the way we approach our relationship with society and politics and the faith we hold in them for bringing salvation to the world. Should it not?

THE DREAM OF THE WORLD'S EMPIRES

The dream was given to Nebuchadnezzar because he had wondered what the future held for his kingdom and the kingdoms which were to follow on this earth. It was a simple dream beginning with the picture of a colossal and glorious statue. Daniel, by God's mercy, was given precisely the same dream. The great statue had a head of gold, body of silver, legs of brass, and feet made of a mixture of iron and clay. In the dream, a stone "made without hands" descended from the heaven and crashed down on the feet of the statue breaking them into pieces causing the image to crash to the ground where it immediately dissolved to dust and was blown into oblivion by the wind. The stone which had hit the

image then suddenly grew until it became a mountain and covered the entire earth. Daniel then told the king the interpretation.

“This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

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.

And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 forever.

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.” (verses 36-45)

In telling its meaning, Daniel says “*the interpretation thereof is sure*“. History and time have proven Daniel to be 100% correct. And its fulfillment is one of the means by which our faith can be bolstered to know that God’s kingdom, known as the **Millennium** [read Daniel Ch 7] is certainly coming.

THE KINGDOMS OF WORLD-SPIRIT

BABYLON: HEAD OF GOLD



Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, the kingdom that God used to judge Israel, was the first great world power of God's quintessential history and the one in power at the time of the prophetic dream. This kingdom was called the 'hammer of the whole earth' by God and its rule was harsh and oppressive. It had an extensive system of law, religion, and economy that held political sway and military authority over the entire Mediterranean from Tyre and Jerusalem,

Egypt to Carthage and Spain. Babylon desired to rule over the souls of men as well. It tried to force its subjects into idolatry and wherever the spirit of empire was to go thereafter Babylon remained an integral part by way of its influential spirit and the precedents it set for the empire.



Persia lay just around the corner. Symbolized by a bear the Persians would take the Babylonian possessions and make it a cohesive empire. They set up systems of governors and provinces which could be ruled from a central location. They were renowned for their ruthlessness. Thus: the picture of a bear with ribs in its mouth devouring much flesh.

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PERSIA: ARMS OF SILVER

Persia followed on the heels of Babylon when it took over the reins of empire in 538 B.C. The transition from Babylon to the second empire came to pass during Daniel's lifetime and must have given him even greater encouragement that the prophetic dream was true. The city of Babylon was magnificent. As the capital of the empire, the city of Babylon had walls 15 miles square, 350 feet high and 87 feet thick. It had room on top of the walls for six chariots to ride side-by-side. To Daniel or any contemporary, it must have been unthinkable that Babylon could ever be conquered. The abrupt end and judgment by Persia's conquest of "*the head of gold*" is told later in Daniel. The Media-Persian army entered the impregnable city of Babylon by damming up the Euphrates River which ran through the center of it and entered through an open aqueduct gate and began a two hundred year imperial rule of the West. Naturally, the Babylonians had made no provision for attacks inside their city fortress. The army went through the city unimpeded, killing the defenseless people along with Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, King Belshazzar. Persia's most significant addition to the Empire was its government organization (as arms of silver)

reaching out into every province and locale with a strict bureaucratic control over its subjects. In this essential way Persia fulfilled its prophetic role in the evolution of World-Spirit Empire.

Greece



In 340 B.C. Alexander the Great took a band of Greeks over the Hellespont into Asia Minor and within three short years had taken over the Persian Empire. By 332 B.C. Alexander the Great had taken over the known world. Thus: the picture of a leopard with wings. With lightning speed, he had subdued the world. But upon his death at Babylon in 332 B.C. the kingdom was divided to the four winds. His generals made four separate kingdoms portrayed in the symbol of the four-headed leopard.

GREECE: BELLY OF BRASS

It took 200 years before the next part of the prophecy would be fulfilled and it took Alexander the Great (more is told about him later in Daniel)

of Greece to conquer the Persians in 332 B.C.. With 40,000 cavalry and infantry Alexander made one of the most improbable advances in history conquering the hundreds of thousands strong Persian forces and extending the Greek world into India and Egypt and fulfilling in dramatic form the prophecy of Daniel concerning the Greeks. The Babylonians had brought idolatry into the soul of the empire, the Persians had brought strict bureaucratic controls, and Greece now brought the spirit of humanism and leadership by a single Antichrist figure, Alexander the Great.

Alexander's vision was of one-world, a so-called 'brotherhood of man', a spiritual revival of the Tower of Babel, where men had gathered together to oppose God and forge their own destiny apart from their Creator. It could be said that Babylon had given the kingdoms of this world soul, Persia had given them body, and now Greece had given them the spirit of antichrist. Its leader was certainly the forerunner of the Antichrist who looms ominously on the horizon as we enter the 21st Century.

Rome



Rome vaulted to world dominance during the last two centuries before Christ. It marched the antichrist spirit throughout the world and lived up to the prophecy of stamping the world under its feet. No nation or land could withstand the force of its will.

ROME: LEGS OF IRON

Rome is the fourth, and most celebrated, of those kingdoms of the West designated by God as the conglomeration of kingdoms which would form the construction of the World-Spirit, called Beast. Together, formed by Rome's induction, into one Empire they stand in direct opposition to the coming 'stone', that *Rock of God*. Daniel was shown this Empire as representing the Empire's evolution into a mighty and powerfully dominant force on earth. Starting in 168 B.C. Rome gradually engulfed the world and by the time of Christ held an iron

grip over the nations of the *West*, having turned the Mediterranean Sea into a '*Roman Pond*'.

Rome is important the same way an answer to a mathematical problem or equation is all-important: it is the summation of the spirit and soul of all the preceding kingdoms and holds its aspirations and life's blood within its own makeup. It represents Satan's army of spirits and their principalities and dominions presiding over the nations of mankind. Rome incorporated the antichrist characteristics of Babylon, Persia, and Greece and honed them to a razor-sharp precision with iron-clad power. Rome is the symbol of the legs of the Empire because it was used to 'walk' the spirit of empire into every hemisphere and onto every continent of this earth where they embedded them into the political life of all nations with a *Western* heritage. The fact prophesied by Daniel, that Rome's feet are of clay, partly strong and partly weak, and always weakened by division, history has proven. Whenever the empire has grown too big so that it might try to unite the entire world before God's timing, it has fallen prey to infighting or been beleaguered from outside forces, as with the Muslims and Turks.

Prophecy affords us the advantage of the 20/20 vision of hindsight. It allows us to see clearly into the truth without doubt or reservation, without the

obstruction of man's confusion and limited, myopic vision. Even a scant look at history lets us see clearly how incredible and accurate the king's dream was and how perfect Daniel's interpretation. The historical reality of these kingdoms, that they were seen by the king of Babylon in a dream 2,500 years ago, interpreted and recorded by a man of God, are intended to give the end-times saints faith that no matter what things look like, God knows all. His kingdom will win out, just as He has promised. We should have courage to put our faith on the winning side and forsake hope or faith in the affairs of the governments of this world no matter how enticing the temptation to rely on man's righteous sounding government may be.

AND THE KINGDOM SHALL NOT BE LEFT TO OTHER PEOPLE

"... and the kingdom shall not be left to other people" are just a few words from chapter two that easily can be overlooked. Sandwiched in the middle of a single verse they are nevertheless words with great implications for the end-times believer. Though their meaning might seem obvious at first, they are wonderful reassurance for the end-time saints, as well as a tip-off. And God knows, we need to be

reassured and educated from heaven in these last days.

KINGDOM NOT LEFT BEHIND

It is said, you can't take it with you, but in Christ, you not only can take it with you, if you are wise you will be doing everything you can to store up treasures in heaven. Of all people the Christian is most blessed, but only if that Christian hopes and dwells in the spirit in heavenly places pinning their hopes on the life to come and not in this transient world in which we are only pilgrims and sojourners. As the apostle Paul puts it, *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable"*. 1 Cor 15:19 We who know Christ know this instinctively. But many of us can miss this blessed way of life if we don't acquire faith in it and one of the primary ways to acquire faith for it is by the Word of God, the prophetic Word to be specific. People in the world, even great men such as the genius Nebuchadnezzar who ruled the world, work their whole lives building and creating kingdoms of their own and in the end, they must leave it behind for they can carry nothing with them. We the pilgrims, who are called to work and labor for Christ, can work in a kingdom which we shall not have to leave to other people. We can

work for eternal treasure. The preaching, teaching, good works, distribution of God's love, etc. in any way, is work that is going toward lasting and eternal things. That is what Jesus meant when he said, "*Store up treasure in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth not corrupt.*" Matt 6:20

Daniel saw in the dream a stone (Jesus) come down from heaven and strike the image in its feet (Rome) and the image was shattered into dust and blew away. Daniel saw the stone turn into a giant mountain that filled the whole earth. The interpretation was this: "*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 forever.*" Dan 2:44

As we labor in the kingdom of God we should know that we are working for the winner and for eternal things. We are working for things that will last. The prophecy in chapter two of Daniel tells us that we *can* take it with us because we shall not leave the kingdom to other people, but we must have our hopes in the world to come and not in the deceptive world of men's politics and their vain promises of justice and utopia.

SPIRITUAL HISTORY ON BABYLON

Nimrod Original Antichrist (circa 2300 BC)

False religion, and therefore Mystery Babylon's foundations, were laid as early as the Garden of Eden and the expulsion that took place there and the subsequent Satanic conspiracy of the fallen angels of the Antediluvian Era which nearly provoked God into destroying the entire human race. From passages in Genesis six, we understand that some of the fallen angels had left their first estate in heaven and had taken on the likeness of human flesh so they could cohabit with the daughters of men and create a dominant race of half-man, half-god supermen who would rule on earth as "gods". As studies in comparative religion show, a belief in false religion was embedded in the hearts of Man and established worldwide. This worship of various gods and their connection with fertility rites and the worship of the elements of heaven and earth, like the sun, moon, water, and fire, spread and became more than just a way of life in the Antediluvian world. It became the way of worship for all mankind. In the 16 centuries from Adam's creation to the Flood, polytheism completely supplanted the simple recognition and worship of God.

This abhorrent religion was at the heart of the general evil and corruption into which the Antediluvian world had sunk. The “gods” that were born out of these unholy unions, along with their mothers and their “heavenly” fathers, competed for power with the other “trinities” of their same nature. Thus Genesis says that God looked on the situation and declared that, “The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.” These giants were tyrants, or Nephilim (bullies), as the Hebrew word implies about them. They are the real and living versions of what the mythological religions of Rome and Greece would enshrine and deify in the era just before Christ’s first coming. They were embellished by fable and became Zeus, Apollo, Minerva, and the rest of the menagerie masquerading spirits who had left their estate in heaven and mingled with us humans. Pagan religions of all cultures and civilizations adopted the same legends and myths from those former days and put their own colloquial spin on them. The kingdoms and cities of these half-breed monsters were what God, in large part, was washing away by the Flood.

But the stories were not so easily washed away as the monsters and violence had been. The legends that grew into overblown fables about these “gods”

and their exploits were not lost to posterity. They would be carried into the new world of the post-Flood Era by, of all people, Noah's own son, Ham, and his sinister son, Cush and, it would be the son of Cush who would use the anthology of these former pseudo-gods as a basis for his own religion. Nimrod would greatly refine the blasphemous hoax of pagan religion and enshrine himself as lead deity and savior in a false trinity. He would attach to it a system of mystery rites and filthy carnal sacraments that would serve as the religious actions and conduct for "Mystery Babylon". Like a chameleon, this system could be adaptable to the vain imaginings of man and the particulars of any culture so as to suit the customs, climate or agricultural needs of any peoples anywhere. Noah's great-grandson, and the originator of this antichrist religion, of course, is the first of the Antichrist types found in Scripture, the infamous Nimrod.

NIMROD: HUSBAND & HEAD OVER THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS

Fables and legends abound about this ignoble figure, called in the Hebrew tongue, Nimrod, and known universally (though by different names and identities) throughout the many and varied religions of the ancient world. An in-depth consideration of

the information in the Bible shows that more than any other single person or thing, with the exception of Satan himself, this man was responsible for the religious system called Mystery Babylon. This system was cast by his legendary life and his open rebellion against God and was further developed by his wife, Semiramis, and her priests after his death. It was received by their adoring followers and, at points during history through the mediums of conquest, immigration, trade and slavery, found its way into the heart of the religion of every society of peoples on earth.

Upon the dispersion of the people by God at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) the religion of Nimrod was weakened, but by no means was it dissolved. Many of its devotees took it to their new place of abode after they were scattered from the city of Babel. Nimrod was still the object of worship (though he became known by different names because the language of the people had been diversified). The legend, the mystery rites, and the religious worship remained essentially the same. Everywhere Nimrod's fellow rebels went they took the religion of Nimrod with them and with it the power to rule over men's hearts and establish the thrones of kings. Monarchs took the throne because they were descendants of the gods, Nimrod had set

the precedent. The age-old right of the oriental potentate to sit upon a throne, the ruling authority of the deified Pharaoh, even the authority of the modern monarch of Europe has depended upon the consent of the ruling class of mystery priests, bishops, or a Pope (Papa). They alone had the heavenly mandate to confirm and anoint kings. As Nimrod's religion had established very early, they ruled by divine right because they had the blue blood of the gods running through their veins. Thus Mystery Babylon was born and her power solidified and protracted throughout the earth. The Book of Revelation puts it directly, Mystery Babylon is she who "*reigns over the kings of the earth*" Rev. 17:18.

DANIEL -

CHAPTER THREE

End-Times Servants Must Go Through The Fire

“In the last days perilous times shall come ...”

That’s what the Scriptures tell us. Daniel chapter three and the story of the three Jewish men who refused to commit idolatry is an enduring witness to encourage all end-times saints. The above New Testament scripture goes on to say...” *for men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy ...”* 2 Tim. 3:2

Here are rewards promised for those who stand firm in the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ and do not deny His name. In the letter to believers in Philadelphia, Christ promises this: *“I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”* Rev. 3:8 The day

is coming when these dark times will pass and the daystar shall appear and we who have suffered for the Gospel will be completely vindicated. Daniel's story of Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego is about the kind of faith required of "Today's Philadelphians". [See bottom of the page for discussion]

THOSE OF THE PHILLY FAITH WILL STAND FIRM.

World politics and religion does not see it this way. To the Babylonian people, King Nebuchadnezzar's decree that all men should worship the huge golden image which he had set up in the plains just outside the magnificent capital city did not seem to be an unreasonable demand. A veritable grab-bag of gods was available as objects of worship for all subjects of the kingdom. There were gods of the sun and moon, gods of the birds and animals, gods for fertility and – well, gods for just about anything a man could think of, and then some. Worshipping an image that the king had designed should not be anything out of the ordinary or very difficult. The thing most uncommon about the whole affair was not even the image's size and presence, but the general decree that anyone who did not fall down and worship it upon command would be summarily executed.

THE EXPERIENCE OF THESE THREE MEN
PARALLELS THE END-TIMES
EXPERIENCE

In his wisdom, Nebuchadnezzar started by singling out the leaders and governors of the empire and making them worship the image first. If the leaders bowed down to it then the king could be sure they would make their underlings do likewise. The king, the Bible says, had called the “princes, governors, captains, judges, treasurers, counselors, sheriffs and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image” which he had set up. The government must show approval and support of all religious and political measures taken in any antichrist formation. In the end-times Satan’s strategy and the plan of the Antichrist is exactly the same. Convert the leaders and the people will be forced to follow. As Jesus said, *“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees.”* Matt. 6:16/ Mark 8:15/ Luke 12:1

In other words, do not follow blindly the example and teachings of your leaders. Make sure they are not corrupting your faith and leading you into idolatry, sin, or a false notion of who and what brings true salvation. For example, the image of gold set up in the vast plains, made accessible to all, was more than likely a facsimile all in gold (as the head

which represented Babylon was gold) of the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had seen previously in his providential dream.

One thing is certain. Daniel's revelatory knowledge and interpretation was a sign for Nebuchadnezzar to begin worshipping God without reservation. It was impossible for him to miss the fact that Daniel's God was the all-mighty God. He had openly admitted this when he noted, your God is a "*God of gods and a Lord of kings*". Yet he missed the point entirely because he worshipped Daniel instead of God. We are informed of this preposterous truth in chapter two verse 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.*"

As if testifying to this belligerent stubbornness of the antichrist spirit, Nebuchadnezzar became more adamant about idol worship than ever before. God had told him in a dream that his and subsequent empires were transient and sure to be destroyed in the end by the kingdom of the true God, but he persisted anyway. The idol was only an extension of self and all his accomplishments. His idolatry was, like all idolatries, centered around and about, self. He even extended his idolatry to further crimes when he determined to murder anyone who refused

to concede to his demand, and again further compounded the insult by setting the whole national idolatry in motion to the tune of music, for it was by the music of royal orchestras that persons throughout all the provinces of the empire were to prostrate themselves and worship toward the golden image. This all portends the Antichrist necessity for the worship of the world. Worship or die, as with the Mark of the Beast and Image of the Beast.

WHO GETS BURNED ANYWAY?

Satan moved Nebuchadnezzar to decree that those who did not worship the image of gold would be burned to death. But Christians know the opposite is in fact true. If you are an idolater you will suffer the second death which is to be thrown into the lake of fire where there is only eternal suffering and flames (Rev. 21:8). But if you are true to Jesus' name you will not burn or die, you will drink freely from the waters of eternal life. Satan's intent here was to drive home a spiritual lesson for an entire people. Commit idolatry and live. Refuse idolatry and die. God's Word to the end-times saint is still the same as it was back in Babylon 2,500 years ago. Worship God and Him only and you will live forever.

DO NOT EXPECT THAT SATAN WILL BE FAIR

There is nothing fair or honest about Satan. He is a bully, a liar, a deceiver, and a betrayer. He betrayed his Maker and his God. He will betray all creation. The three men he had condemned to such a terrible death were men who had been honored and promoted in the kingdom by Nebuchadnezzar. The king had given them power, riches, and authority because he knew they were connected to the God of Daniel, the same God who had shown him the meaning of the troubling dream of world history. (See Ch. 2 of this study) Satan will try to jerk end-times saints around whenever possible. He will try to shower honors and flatteries on us and then make us look like fools or strip us of our dignity. End-times saints will not be treated fairly, just as these three men were rudely treated. Respect and accolades once bestowed, will be quickly forgotten as soon as we are forced to challenge the Devil's blasphemous lies. But, just as the three Jews prevailed, end-time saints will also prevail by holding onto and not denying the name of Jesus.

WE SHOULD NOT BE TRICKED

Do not be fooled into thinking that what or who we worship is just a matter of preference. God has

declared He is a jealous God. Our worship is fundamentally important. Why else would God have made it one of the Ten Commandments, that we worship only Him? Why else would Satan have made such a big deal out of it by trying to get everybody to forsake God and worship an image? Satan wants to rip-off God by getting us to worship the creation rather than the Creator. Rom. 1 & 2 Only Jesus Christ is due our worship and no other; not Mary, not saints, not Mohammed, not Confucius, not our ancestors and not the works of our own hands. We should not allow ourselves to worship a Jesus of our own making, a pitfall of Christian theology and religiosity. We may form our own ideas about God, mold him into something we desire him to be and not the God he actually is. When this is done, even by the most pious of religions or reasonable evangelical doctrines it amounts to an idolatry of ignorance, but idolatry none the less. We must guard ourselves and worship God for who and what He is – *The great I Am, that I Am*. For God is who he is regardless of who or what we would like to think he is. God cannot deny himself. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. There is more to what is meant when the Book of 1 John closes, “*Little children keep yourselves from idols*” than not worshipping figurines or statues. Don’t

worship or ascribe powers of God to anything, regardless of what you call it, even if you call it Jesus or things of Christ, unless you want to suffer the judgment of idolaters. Serve only the true God. This is why it is imperative that we know Him, to know who He really is. We must worship the True Triune God -only.

WHETHER WE LIVE OR DIE: WE ARE THE LORD'S

For their determination to keep themselves from idols the three heroes were condemned. They told the king that they would not try to fast-talk their way out of it. To quote exactly, they said, "*we are not careful to answer thee on this matter.*" They went on, "*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. 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.*" Dan 3:16-18 End-times saints will know in their hour of testing that whether they live or die they are the Lord's and that their worship is due Him only. (Romans 14:7-9)

SYMBOLICALLY THEY WERE FULLY
CLOTHED



Three Men in the Fire

The three men were finally dragged away and bound in their cloths to be thrown into the furnace. The three 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.*” Dan 3:21 They did not suffer the humiliation of being naked. They were taken, fully bound in their garments. An odd thing to do to men you are about to roast. But the spiritual symbolism is apparent. We are given a picture book lesson to be aware of our spiritual garments. What have you clothed your spiritual countenance in, brothers and sisters? These men were clothed from head to foot. They had a hat (of salvation); hosen (to cover their legs and feet for the preparation of the gospel of peace); coats (of praise) and other garments

(fine white linen which is the righteousness of the saints and the rest of the armor of God).

Anyone connected to the people of faith, who are without faith and not wearing the right garments, will perish in the fire just as those unfortunate men were incinerated who had thrown Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego into the fire. End-time saints will be manhandled by men who seem mighty, but because they don't have the right covering they will be the ones burned instead of the saint. Remember what actually happened, those who threw them into the fire were burned instead of the saints. Saints may even have apparent friends around them who, because they do not have faith and protection, will desert them when they feel the heat. Don't despair though. If these people are not clothed properly, bound in the garments of Christ as the three Jews, they might perish if they stick around. Through the faith and trial of these three men, God was greatly glorified. They had been accused, ridiculed, condemned, betrayed, and cast into a burning fire. But because of that Nebuchadnezzar saw Jesus. That's right. *"Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and*

Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.” Dan. 3:26 Nebuchadnezzar approached but did not die because he was looking upon Jesus, the Son of God. Even though he saw Jesus, however, that does not mean he wised-up and decided to worship and reverence the Lord, The Most High, God only. We shall see in the next chapter the ongoing stubbornness of powerful men and the devastating judgment that fell on Nebuchadnezzar.

Because these saints had yielded their bodies for God’s use, as Romans 12 suggests as “*our reasonable service*“, God was glorified and a whole empire saw God’s love and power in action through a mysterious Savior. “*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.*” Dan. 3:28 Their refusal to bow down in idolatry, their loyalty to God only, had changed the word of the king of this world and made it of no effect. If we will maintain our faith, the word of the world and the antichrist will have no power over us in the end. In the end, the three heroes of faith were vindicated. Their insistence that worshipping God could not be compromised became evident for all to see. For the end-times saint,

this is the equivalent of the promise made to the Philadelphia Church in Revelation: “Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.” Rev. 3:9 Remember how the Book of I John ends: “Little children keep yourselves from idols.” Keep your faith pure and your worship of God exclusive. You will be vindicated in the end. It is a promise.

Meshach – meaning: (Ram); The animal which is symbolic of the sacrifice for redemption by way of dying to sin.

Shadrach – meaning: (Circuit of the Sun); Running throughout the course of a redeemed person’s life.

Abednego – meaning: (God of Wisdom); The wisdom needed for living. The composite of names given to the three men in the fire add up to the following statement on salvation: The ultimate of godly wisdom is in the sum of the course of a person’s life in finding eternal life won by God’s redemption process of sacrificing the flesh in the fires of dying to sin.

Discussion

THE PHILADELPHIANS

STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

Paul’s words to the Corinthians will be understood by those of the Philadelphia faith. “Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in

DANIEL THE BOOK

persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Cor: 12:9-10 KJV

This church will not be found on any street corner, or at a bible college, it will not have a membership roll – at least not one written on this earth. This church is invisible and weak in worldly terms, a church persecuted from within the church itself and a church with no social influence. She is a church in constant peril of temptation, but in a wonderful and complete way, she is the strongest and greatest, because she is immersed in God's Word and ways. This church has had "membership" down through the church age (as the other six), but particularly now, with revival of all things for the end time, this church is coming into its fullness.

STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND

To hear the calling of this church demands a love for the life of faith. To respond to the call one must be delivered from fear of the unknown. The kind of faith required in this pew-less church is so foreign to the faith of man, and so much God's kind of faith, that it passes all knowledge of this world. The life of the Philadelphian is not only unattainable for man by means of the flesh but entirely incomprehensible and can only be experienced by complete trust in

God's power and love. The aspiring Philadelphian learns that he must let God lead him blindfolded along never before trodden paths. As pioneers without knowledge of where to go or what to do, they must trust the Holy Ghost as their unfailing scout and protector. So is the nature of the faith God requires here. It is Abraham going to a strange land, Moses confronting the Pharaoh, David meeting Goliath on the battlefield, and John the Baptist preaching repentance in the wilderness. Hereby the light of the candlestick of Philadelphia a simple believer living a nondescript life can be producing the pearls of faith that please God wholly. Abiding in this place of brotherly love a person of "unimportance", doing no traditionally accepted churchy good works can be exalting God in the highest and preparing for Christ a testimony of love that will live into eternity forever. The person in this assembly of faith will have a single eye fixed on Jesus, the hope of a new world to come, and the promises of eternity with God. Here is what the letter to Philadelphia reveals.

CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR

The church of Philadelphia is a special church because she has the promise of the open door. The

door of faith is continually open here; literally, the sky's the limit. Here faith gives one the boldness to enter the heavenly throne room of God to make requests in the name of Jesus. The door of prophecy is open; and the pathway home is clearly marked. At the end of the path is that "Big" open door, that door that will open at a twinkling of an eye to gather the faithful sojourners into the mansions Jesus has prepared for them. The open door has endless applications to the Philadelphian; its all-around significance is mercy with a capital 'M': the ultimate expression of open-door mercy will be the Rapture.

HER PASTOR IS HOLY AND TRUE

Jesus pastors this church with the title "*he that is holy, he that is true*" Rev 3:7. Accordingly, Christ will feed his flock here with truth and holiness. To have fellowship in the spirit of Philadelphia one must accept Christ as the Way, the Truth, and the Life – not just the Way and the Life. The one whom Christ has sent must be listened to daily. One will not be permitted to say outwardly, "Yes, God's ways are not man's ways", and then callously live as if God should fit into the prefab mold man has built for Him. The pursuit of money, power, and worldly glory will give off a spiritual stench, as rotting flesh. In this church

the walls are not of wood, or stucco, or brick; its light is not filtered by stained glass windows. The walls here are of the truth of God's Word, the windows are the clarity of the guidance of the Holy Ghost. Words from a forked tongue or a self-righteous hypocrite make a deafening noise when they echo off these walls. Workers of such things, we can have faith; will be driven out by the Spirit.

DANIEL – CHAPTER FOUR

*Repent or Else Fall Headlong Into
Tribulation*

WHO’S GOT THE POWER?

THE MOST HIGH...

THE MOST HIGH...

THE MOST HIGH...

THE MOST HIGH...

COUNT ‘EM. – FOUR!

Four times in the fourth chapter of Daniel God is referred to as “*The Most High*“. The occurrences which follow are power-packed, jammed with lessons about the importance of repentance, the coming Tribulation and God’s mercy. The theme of

the entire chapter turns on the singular title of God, “*The Most High*“. Like a bit of dressing sandwiched in between the bread and meat of God’s Word, the phrase “*the most High*” can go unnoticed till it is detected by its forceful flavoring. Yet, far from being a touch of sauce dabbed onto meat, the title “*the most High*” and the implications it carries for end-times saints, along with instruction about the judgment of the Tribulation and the restoration of the Millennium is, in fact, the main course.

Principle among the assertions of this study of Daniel is that Daniel is God’s end-times secret weapon and that the life and times of Daniel offers us real-life lessons of faith for the last days. As God’s secret end-times weapon its stories and revelations are meant to build faith and keep the saint from sliding into the deception of humanism which Satan is weaving in these final hours before Christ’s return.

However, God does not want His people in these last days to think that things are spinning madly out of control. His prophetic word tells how, on one hand, evil and bad things will get, and on the other hand, He wants us to know that all of it is in His plan and that His arm to save has not been shortened. As the proverbial story of King Nebuchadnezzar forewarns, our well-being is a matter of choosing

the right side to be on. The story of the rise and fall and – ultimate restoration of this pompous king – parallels the dual nature of the end-times. It is a call to repentance, and simultaneously a warning of Great Tribulation and eternal judgment to those who do not heed the call to trust in the ultimate and eventual restoration of good under Christ's reign during the Millennium. We can see that Nebuchadnezzar's experience 2,500 years ago was a prelude for the reassuring message that "*the most High*" rules over all things and that the return of the Lord will come as suddenly as "*a thief in the night*".

What follows is the mega confrontation between "*the most High*" of the universe and "*the most high*" of this passing world. Obviously, there cannot be two "Most Highs". By definition, there can only be one who is highest of all. That one, of course, is God. Hosanna in the Highest is what the simple folk proclaimed Him as. "He is high and lifted up", the Scripture says. Four times in this fourth chapter Daniel tells us that God is "*the most High*". All actual and true Christians intuitively know this fact, though in a desire to be politically correct many self-serving, high talkin' Christians do not always hold to this fact these days. Nevertheless – God is and always will be.

Through a prophetic dream given to

Nebuchadnezzar God pits himself against the mighty king of Babylon to prove that He is the one who truly deserves to be called “*your Highness*“. The dream’s stated purpose is this:

“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.” Daniel 4:17

God is simply stating here the irreversible doctrine that he is in sole position of the power to approve and or abolish all political, military, social, or governmental authority on earth. Bar none. Nebuchadnezzar, the all-powerful king of Babylon, vanquisher of Pharaoh and Egypt, conqueror of Tyre, destroyer of Jerusalem, and ruler of the world; the leader of the empire which God dubbed, “the hammer of the whole earth”, was singled out by God for this purpose, to show who “*ruleth in the kingdom of men*“.

Of all people in the world, Nebuchadnezzar was the least likely man to be brought low by anyone or anything. That’s exactly why God picked him out. God singled out the strongest, most powerful man

on earth to prove that no military or political strongman can resist or undo His will. By personally prophesying the fall of the greatest man alive, a man untouchable because of his position and stature, and then bringing the prophecy to pass, God established that there is only one “most High” who reigns. He not only rules over kingdoms, empires and governments, but also over the thoughts and minds of men both great and small. This should give not only Christians in America but everywhere pause to think concerning the nature of their faith when it comes to nationalities, politics and government, whether democratic or otherwise.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR COMPLETED THE TOWER OF BABEL

As men go, Nebuchadnezzar was a great, great man. In all of history, this outstanding leader ranks as one of the most, if not the most powerful man who ever ruled. His authority was absolute. All he had to do was speak and his word was law. His cunning and wisdom are legendary. It was his personal vision that oversaw the creation of one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the hanging gardens of Babylon. He was a master general, a prudent king, and a wise leader. His dream to master the world came true,

but God challenged that dream by giving the king a literal dream that let him know who the master of the world was and ever will be. The dream acknowledged Nebuchadnezzar's greatness. In the dream, he saw a great spreading tree that filled the whole earth providing all the creatures and inhabitants of the earth with what they needed.

*"I saw, and behold a tree In the midst of the earth
and the height thereof was great.*

*The tree grew and was strong, and the height thereof
reached into heaven, and the sight thereof to the end
of all the earth:*

*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." Vs 10-12*

The great king Nimrod, (Genesis 10) the father of Mystery Babylon, founder of Babel, and architect of the Tower of Babel, was Nebuchadnezzar's spiritual forefather. Herodotus, the Greek traveler and so-called father of history, reported that he saw the Tower of Babel which stood near the center of Babylon along the Euphrates River. Herodotus reported that Nebuchadnezzar had not only restored

it but had completed the Tower's seventh level, the level unfinished by Nimrod. Along with the hanging Gardens, the Tower of Babel was the city's centerpiece. It was the focal point of Babylonian religion and worship and the symbol of Nebuchadnezzar's pride and power. The fact that Nebuchadnezzar had finished what Nimrod was not allowed to complete is indicative of his antichrist spirit because the dream reveals that king Nebuchadnezzar had accomplished the intent of the Tower of Babel in real terms through the extent and political power of his Babylonian Empire. As the early men of Babel had said, *"Let us build a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven"*, Gen 11:4 the height of Nebuchadnezzar's tree (kingdom) in the dream did actually *"reach unto heaven"*, the very aspiration of Nimrod that so exasperated God about the building of the infamous ziggurat. The glory and majesty of Nebuchadnezzar's construct went Nimrod one better because it also encompassed the whole earth, and gave its subjects and peoples *"sight thereof to the end of all the earth"*.

Nebuchadnezzar's Hanging Gardens of Babylon was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world in the background loomed the Tower of Babel, completed by the defiant king, reaching above the clouds into the heavens. The kingdom of Babylon

provided sanctuary, sustenance, and oneness for all the inhabitants of the earth. As Nebuchadnezzar had completed the Tower of Babel, so he masterminded a kingdom to fulfill Nimrod's original vision and hope. But just as God had scattered the people at the Tower of Babel and confounded Nimrod's plans to build a kingdom to rival anything God could put together, so God confounded Nebuchadnezzar and his blasphemous pride. (Remember Nebuchadnezzar had been reproached and seen the hand of the most High twice in previous incidents, but had refused to get the point and repent.) Nebuchadnezzar, having seen in the dream that the mighty tree which fed the earth and provided a haven for its inhabitants was chopped down to nothing but a stump, was greatly disturbed and, as he had done once before, called on the faithful wise man Daniel to interpret the meaning of the dream. Daniel, wishing the news were better, but unafraid to tell the king the truth, told Nebuchadnezzar that it was prophetic concerning impending judgment that was scheduled to come on the king himself.

Daniel told him, *"This is the interpretation, O king, and the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king."* Dan 4:24 Daniel warned the king that God would turn him into a beast and take all understanding away from him. But after seven years

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of living like an animal, God would restore his kingdom and “*add excellence to him*“. Daniel told him God would make him a mad beast, devoid of reason, for those seven years and then return him to his former self and give him blessing, all to show that God is, “*the most High*” who rules over all things.

PRIDE GOES BEFORE A FALL



William Blake's famous picture of
Nebuchadnezzar changed to a beast.

Though a year passed and it must have seemed to Nebuchadnezzar that the dream would never come true, it suddenly came to pass in a moment of time, when his pride and arrogance had hit its pinnacle. Like a crashing hard drive, the dream's prophecy suddenly descended on the king. None of his

physicians, magicians, healers, aids, wise men or priests could stop the malady or deliver him from the catastrophic effects. In just a twinkling of an eye, and no more, Nebuchadnezzar's ability was taken away from him and he was transformed into a madman. He had been warned but had not repented. Now he would have to go through his seven-year ordeal. As the conceited and arrogant king glorified himself proclaiming what a wonderful kingdom he had built for his own majesty, the sword of God's judgment struck. Before the king could even finish getting the words, "*for the honor of my majesty*" out of his mouth God said to him, "O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken, *The kingdom is departed from thee*". Dan 4:31 The seven years which Nebuchadnezzar lived as a beast, because of the "*decree of the watchers*", and to the "*intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men*", Dan 4:25 should be viewed as a microcosm of the seven-year Tribulation which is outlined in *Revelation*.

This judgment on the king of Babylon is a Biblical precursor to the Tribulation. As Nebuchadnezzar was literally turned into a beast so people will turn into 'beasts' in the spirit during the Tribulation. When someone takes the Mark of the Beast, it is safe to say, that their heart will be changed from a man's to a beast's. The Bible says there is no chance

of salvation once a person takes the Mark. The only difference between what happened to Nebuchadnezzar and those who take the Mark will be, unlike Nebuchadnezzar, that they will not have a chance to repent. They will be doomed forever to the fires of Hell.

The rapture will catch the world and many parts of the Church which have foolishly gone unprepared, off guard and send them reeling into the Tribulation just as Nebuchadnezzar's personal tribulation hit casting him into extreme Tribulation. The people's chances for mercy, their chance to "*escape all these things that shall come to pass*", as Jesus promised Lk. 21:36 will have been lost.

In a moment, in mid-sentence, as happened to Nebuchadnezzar, when people least expect it, "*at an hour when you think not*" Lk. 12:40; while they are still "*eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage*" Matt. 24:38; when the "*trumpet shall sound*" 1 Cor.15:52 "*the Lord will come as a thief in the night*" 2 Pet. 3:10 to carry away those who have "*prayed that they may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass*". Lk. 21:36 Stringing these scriptures together may seem a complicated matter, but it shows that "The Rapture" should be considered as a special blessing and a judgment upon the House of

God and never something to be taken for granted by any believer.

Most of the world will be as the king who thought so highly of himself and made the world his god. He was “*the most High*” of his life. Nebuchadnezzar stands as a symbol of man. We have all put ourselves above “*the most High*”. No matter how small our kingdom, at least it’s ours. Christians, even believers can do this, and if they do shall they be Raptured? We have anointed ourselves “*the most High*” of the kingdom of our heart. If people who are alive during the end-times do not abdicate their throne and give up the kingdom of their heart to Christ they will suffer going through the seven-year Tribulation just as the judgment of Nebuchadnezzar foreshadows.

GOD HIGHLY FAVORS THOSE WHO REPENT

Finally, after previous judgments on other people, Nebuchadnezzar accepted the truth about his judgment and repented.

“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 honored him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion and his

kingdom is from generation to generation.” Daniel
4:34

How many of us are like this antichrist archetype and figure? We do not receive the testimony of God or his people, but when it touches us our attention is gotten and we are finally moved.

The Book of Revelation tells of the triumphant moment at the end of the Tribulation when God’s angel declares from heaven that: “*The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever*”. Rev 11:15 Nebuchadnezzar saw this first in his heart, where we must all come to see it. Then he could receive the majesty of God and admit He has the power, only He, that he is *the most High*. Before he died, Nebuchadnezzar, the builder of Babylon; the same man who finished and restored the tower of Babel which was started by Nimrod; the king who had raised the image of gold in the plains of Dura, had thrown in a fit of insane apoplectic, violence, the three Jewish men into a fiery furnace for not worshipping the image, and had erected ziggurats to worship the Babylonian gods; came to make the confession of an enlightened, repentant man toward the one, true God. He had been a broken man. He had acknowledged the supreme sovereignty of God.

Chapter four ends with this remarkable personal testimony from Nebuchadnezzar. *“Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.”* Daniel 4:37 Nebuchadnezzar had seen the Biblical truth: *“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* Phil 2:10-11 The story of King Nebuchadnezzar’s personal rise, fall, and subsequent restoration is a living testimony to the true moral and spiritual teaching of the book of Ecclesiastes 12:13 which teaches; *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter (life’s meaning): fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”*

Nebuchadnezzar’s story is the sequel to Job. Man repents. All things are restored with *“excellence added”*. Nebuchadnezzar’s testimony is the forerunner to countless testimonies of end-times saints who were once enslaved by pride, came through repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ and by crucifying the lusts of the flesh and pride of life, to be saved from destruction. His is the testimony of one who heard his ‘Father’s’ instruction given in the fourth chapter of the book

of Proverbs. *“The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.”*

Nebuchadnezzar represents that prideful soul, lost in delusion and worldly abundance, one who missed opportunities to repent and ended up having to go through hardships unimaginable and through great tribulation. This can happen to any Christian if they fall back to an unrepentant way. Those who do shall not be spared Tribulation. If we repent or find the right path we shall find that perfect way. And we are persuaded better things of you, and say with Paul;

“Henceforth is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” 2 Tim 4:8

Let us further read and study Daniel, dear saints, with an eye fixed on the end and on Christ’s glorious appearing in the clouds on that day which fast approaches.

DANIEL – CHAPTER FIVE

*A Wrong Kind of Security: The Handwriting
On The Wall*



Babylon's doom foretold in the handwriting on the wall
as depicted by Rembrandt's "Belshazzar's Feast"

One of the oldest proverbs known to man is: 'The

handwriting is on the wall'. It generally means that once something is in motion, once it is determined, it cannot be reversed and that it will take place. That is the lesson of Belshazzar, the unfortunate ignoramus king who pushed God to the limits of His patience and suffered a dreadful judgment because of his incredulous stubbornness and pride. Just as King Nebuchadnezzar may have been the most powerful man ever to walk the face of the earth likewise his grandson, Belshazzar may have been the most secure ruler ever to have sat upon a king's throne. Security can sometimes be our undoing, however, especially when it causes us to ignore God. King Nebuchadnezzar's heir enjoyed a security so complete, so solid and untouchable, that it has never been equaled by another living soul, before or since. No army could touch his kingdom, no man could usurp his authority, and no decree of his could be overridden. But, because of his secure position and omnipotent power, Belshazzar thought his future was insured, thought he could do anything he wished. This belief, this impudence is a recipe for judgment.

THOUGHT HE WAS TOTALLY SECURE

Belshazzar was the original "boy in the glass bubble".

He wasn't just born with a silver spoon in his mouth; he was born with a full set of gold cutlery jammed into both cheeks. His grandfather and father had left him everything he could possibly use or desire. Nothing could touch him. Of all men on the face of the earth, Belshazzar, the inheritor of the throne of Babylon, had reason to feel self-confident and above reproach. The city of Babylon, over which he was the absolute dictator, was much more than a city. It was even much more than the mightiest of mighty fortresses. It was not surrounded by a mote or razor-wire fences; no, his city could not be entered by negotiating obstacles as flimsy or as passable as those. His city was absolutely impregnable. Measuring 15 miles square it was encompassed by walls which were an incredible 60 feet thick and 300 feet high. Chariots could ride six abreast on the highway built atop the city walls. Inside the 225 square miles were vast gardens, farms, and countless herds of livestock. Flowing through the middle of the city was the Garden of Eden's Euphrates River, irrigating her crops and giving the Babylonian population an abundance of water that provided fisheries, recreation, and modern style sanitation. Babylon was entirely self-sufficient. To the world, she stood as a paragon of self-confidence. Smack in the middle of the Fertile Crescent, Belshazzar's

Babylon was an island as secure as paradise itself. Or so Belshazzar believed.

From her walls, the king and his elite nobility laughed scornfully out at the powerful, but frustrated Median-Persian army (an alliance of warring tribes from the Iranian plateau), which in its quest for world domination had, for a number of years, encompassed the city hoping to find a way to destroy her and break her hold on the earth. Their only hope of world dominion, they perceived, was to bring Babylon down, even though it seemed an utter impossibility. This is the state of Belshazzar's kingdom and the condition of his heart up until the fateful night when he callously threw a particularly unholy orgy that cost him his eternal soul. Suddenly a mystical, supernatural finger appeared over the party and wrote some indecipherable words on the plaster of his palace walls. Instantly, all of the king's self-confidence and arrogance vanished into thin air with one solemn act of God. The curious words so distressed the king that he nearly fainted and his knees knocked together violently with fear. *"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."* Dan. 5:6 Even if this fool had every cause to be self-confident and arrogant, Belshazzar had turned his back on the one

and only person or thing that could destroy him – God. The Bible says, “*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*“. Heb. 10:31 Belshazzar did not have an inkling of the coming judgment. The thought never entered his mind that his kingdom could come crumbling down in one night, but he was about to find out that the idea of total security in this transient life is a fleeting illusion, especially when we live a life of relentless mocking and striving against God. We can have this spirit even without mocking God when we are confident in our savings account, our job, or any other form of temporal security. The parable Jesus told about the man who had his barns full and thought he was all set provides an example. If we do not have peace with God, but only peace in this world it will serve us no good on the day that God requires our soul. Besides we should know that unassailable peace in this life is, at best, a temporary illusion.

Just as it was too late for the man with his barns full, now it was too late for Belshazzar. Panic-stricken, he called all the wise men of his court in to interpret the writing on the wall but no one was able to shed any light on the subject. His panic only increased because of the baffled state of his ‘wisemen’ and seers. These were the same type men, by the way, that could not tell his grandfather the

dream, but only Daniel. Belshazzar had learned nothing from history. *“Then was the king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.”* V.9 All of the princes and lords were astonished because they had never before seen their demigod, their model of confidence and serene power turned into a whimpering, fearful weakling. The Spirit of God had descended on him and melted him like a stick of butter left too long in a microwave oven. If we have invested our hope in money and security of goods and safe living here, what shall we do but melt right along with our worldly things once the oven gets too hot?

TOASTED THE GODS OF THIS WORLD
THERE IS A LIMIT EVEN TO GOD’S
PATIENCE

In the case of Belshazzar, we can see that God will not suffer those who mock, blaspheme, and strive with Him forever. If God is to be a righteous judge, there must be a day of accounting for everyone. It can, and often does, come suddenly, as it did to Belshazzar. The supernatural finger that had suddenly appeared out of nowhere wrote words on a wall *“over against the candlestick”*. It is interesting

that God so chose to note that the handwriting was “*over against the candlestick*“. The candlestick should jog the memory of the end-times saint because a candlestick was used in Revelation to symbolize Christ’s letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2:3. Christ says that he walks among the seven candlesticks which are the seven churches; seven being the number of fullness and completeness, as in seven days of the week and seven spirits of God. The symbolism here is that this handwriting is to be seen in the light of the church. The message of the Gospel is visible under the light of Christ. It is for the believers to know and take to heart. It is both a warning to the church and a message of warning meant to be used by the church to warn the world of unbelievers.

The king, this ignorant, stubborn man could not understand the meaning of the words. So, as his grandfather had done twice before in similar predicaments, Belshazzar summoned Daniel before him to interpret the mysterious Words of God. “*Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing 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 show the interpretation*” Dan. 5:12 Belshazzar could have known about Daniel,

should have known about Daniel, and about the prophet's wisdom and his connection with the "Most High", the Holy God. His grandfather had made decrees and bestowed honors on Daniel and it must surely have been known by Belshazzar. Nebuchadnezzar had made national proclamations about the God of Daniel who was God above all gods. But Belshazzar obviously was not interested. Verses 22-23 says, "*And thou his son [Nebuchadnezzar's] O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this. But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven.*" The words Paul preached in Romans could well have been told to Belshazzar; "*The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.*" Belshazzar had been preached to and given every opportunity to accept God's will. He was without excuse. How many will have been warned and not heeded it? Belshazzar never made a move to repent or heed the dramatic testimony of his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar. Instead, he decided to ignore God. But Isaiah says, "*Woe to the man that strives against his maker.*" Still baffled and shaken by the "*handwriting on the wall* ", it was one of Belshazzar's wives who told him about Daniel and suggested he send for him. When Daniel came in he saw the writing and at once knew it spelled doom

for the haughty king. He rejected the king's offer of honor and pronounced this judgment from heaven.

MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR MAKER TODAY, O MAN

Just because one of the fruits of the Spirit is longsuffering we should not be lulled into believing that God's patience has no limits. God is a God of peace and not strife, but he is also a righteous God and he is not a 'respector of persons'. He won't plead with us, or contend with us forever. This goes for Christians who lollygag about. Take heed end-times brothers and sisters! That's right, saints; God will not strive with us forever, even Christians. *"Let all those who name the name of Christ depart from iniquity."* 2 Tim 2:19 He will not tolerate nor abide hypocrites and double-minded men who profess Him with their mouth, but hang with sin and other wicked practices like unbelief and fearfulness. Anything that makes us fall short of God's grace and approval of that can jeopardize our peaceful relationship with him.

Daniel read the mysterious words, "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin:" and said, *"This is the interpretation of the thing: Mene; God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it. Tekel; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Peres; Thy kingdom is divided, and*

given to the Medes and Persians.” vs 25-28 In that very night Belshazzar was slain and his kingdom fell. The Medes and Persians had re-routed the Euphrates River and bribed someone inside the city to open one of the iron gates at the mouth of the river. Walking unchecked down the dry river bed into Babylon, the army at once fanned out around the city and slaughtered the defenseless population, including the king and his family.

From the very beginning, God told us that, “*my Spirit will not always strive with man.*” Gen. 6:3 We should make peace with our maker as soon as He makes it available. It does not take the proverbial rocket scientist to know that none of us has a guarantee that we will be able to draw another breath. That’s why God has warned us, “*Today is the day of salvation.*” From the start, God warned man that there will be both a day of personal reckoning and a day of judgment for the whole earth. Thus the proverb which originated from this chapter’s title: “*the handwriting is on the wall.*” The handwriting has long been on the wall. The apostle Peter wrote about those people like Belshazzar who resist the warning which God has mercifully given about coming judgment, both individually and on the world. He wrote;

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“... be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished’. 2 Peter 3:2-6

I suspect that many Christians mock God’s promise in the same fashion in their hearts even in this late hour of prophecy. Crazy! But true. They will miss the Rapture for sure. Daniel stood in the palace, before the mighty king and pronounced God’s great and swift judgment on the most secure man in the world. No one is free or immune from God’s judgment. God’s spirit will not always strive with man. Give in to God today while you still have breath. *“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” 2 Peter 3:7* Belshazzar is an abject lesson for

end-time believers and nonbelievers, alike. Through his example, all can see and understand the terror and swift judgment that will come on any soul who strives against God and repeatedly rejects His mercy or thinks to use his sacred things in an irreverent way or take his name in vain. Belshazzar is a clear prefiguring of all those people who should know better (backsliding Christians and unbelievers alike), who, because of their hard heart, continue to walk down the broad thoroughfare of destruction until it is too late. Though the circumstances were more dramatic and awesome than most, Belshazzar's story is typical of those who reject their opportunities to be converted in their heart, even if they have a cloak of apparent righteousness of words thrown over their religious visage. God cannot be trifled with; we must handle sacred things with sacred hands and heart. It is both the calling of the Christian and the Christian's duty, to be part of the Royal Priesthood, as so designated in 1 Peter 2:9.

DANIEL – CHAPTER SIX

*Reaping What We Sow: Out of the Lion's
Mouth*



Daniel In The Lions Den by Briton Riviere

We hope to drive home the point that the book of Daniel is God's secret end-times weapon prepared long ago to help end-times saints in their struggle against the forces of the antichrist as they wait

patiently for their Lord's return. God declared in the final chapter of Daniel that the book's meaning was to be locked up until the time of the end when travel and knowledge would be increased and for nearly 2,500 years its prophecies and allegories have sat quietly dormant, waiting for the appointed time. Since the end of the Second World War, the meaning of the book of Daniel has gradually blossomed so that it is now able to be understood. The fact that the Church can understand the meaning and purpose of Daniel is, in itself, a sign that we sit on the precipice of Christ's return.

The serious student of Scripture can focus on each chapter and every verse of this unique book of the Bible with a single spiritual eye turned toward discerning their end-times significance. The testimonies recorded in the first six chapters of Daniel are micro examples testifying to the kind of faith which end-times saints must exhibit. These real-life personal testimonies help end-times believers know where the battle is, who the enemy is, and how to protect and hold on to the precious faith which God has given them. When we see Daniel in this light, as a prophetic foreboding of the battles of the end-times, then we will have little problem realizing that we are embroiled, like it or not, in a great life-and-death spiritual battle.

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If we studiously absorb the lessons of Daniel and prayerfully allow God to incorporate them into our faith, Daniel's intended purpose will be fulfilled in us. Daniel's example will help us to defend our minds against deception and aid us in fending off spiritual attacks that otherwise would hamper our trust in God. The Bible says God's Word is the sword of the spirit and Daniel is given to the end-times believers as a sharpening tool to make their swords of the spirit razor-sharp, equipping ready warriors to wield those swords against the relentless antichrist spirits that are ever at work trying to rob our courage and destroy one's faith.

A TRUE LIFE PARABLE

Every Sunday school curriculum gives Daniel and the Lions' Den a prominent place. The story is so familiar that it is easy to skip right over some of the end-times lessons because it is such a well-worn saga. Bear with me as I briefly summarize the story just to refresh our memory. You may recall that a group of princes and high ranking officials, jealous of the power and influence bestowed on Daniel by the king, plotted to have the prophet put to death.

The envious men had duped the king into signing a law that anyone who made petition to any god or

man other than king Darius for a thirty day period would be thrown headlong into a den of hungry lions. Knowing that Daniel faithfully got on his knees three times a day to pray to God in his house in front of the same open window which faced Jerusalem; and knowing that no decree or threat would deter Daniel from worshiping and praying to his God, the conspirators assembled at Daniel's window to catch him in the act of breaking the new law. You'll also remember that the men were not disappointed. While Daniel knelt in repose in usual manner, his accusers called for the king's police and promptly had him arrested. The gloating weasels immediately took Daniel before the king and demanded of Darius that he enforce the ill-conceived law, which he immediately regretted instituting.

Though the king was sorry he had signed the royal decree he could not overturn it, nor could he find a way to save Daniel. Sorrowfully, but with some hope that God would save Daniel, Darius consented to the law he had signed and allowed Daniel to be thrown to the lions. We all know the happy ending to the story.

The next morning the king anxiously raced to the den to see if God had kept Daniel safe. The king was delighted when Daniel replied to his call that all

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was well and that he was untouched by the hungry lions. The king was bursting with some powerful, but mixed emotions. He was relieved that Daniel, his right-hand man, had been spared by God, but was seething with fury for Daniel's accusers.

The testimony ends with Daniel being vindicated and honored and God being glorified throughout Darius' kingdom. The conspirators, you may or may not remember, were thrown to the lions along with their wives and children, where they all were immediately pounced upon, broken and torn to pieces, and eaten by the hungry, blood-thirsty beasts.

The lesson taught over and over again in countless Sunday school classrooms and bible studies is the obvious one: God delivers those who put their total faith in Him. Daniel and the lions' den promises that God's people will be justified and that sinners will suffer the judgment. But there are some other teachings to be gleaned from the story that are particularly pertinent for those end-times saints who are waiting for the return of their redeemer.

SATAN GOES AROUND LIKE A RAVENOUS LION

The book of 1 Peter tells the elect to "*Be sober, be*

vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” 1 Peter 5:8-9

Daniel suffered this fearful thing of being thrown to the lions for the benefit of the end-times saints to see graphically and clearly that Satan is a roaring lion seeking to devour whomever he can. Satan and his minions are the real lions in the den; Daniel represents the end-times saints who can be safe from their bite. People, who do the Devil’s bidding, either out of ignorance or intentionally, are not the object of the roaring lion’s most concentrated attacks. But the servant of God is a continual target. In Daniel’s case, the Devil first tried to scare Daniel into not relying on God anymore and when that did not work he literally used lions to try to destroy him so he could no longer serve God. Neither thing worked on Daniel and we can be sure that if we remain faithful, God will never let that happen to us either.

WE MUST BE IN RIGHT STANDING IN
THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

The key factor is that we remain faithful. End-times saints will take care to see that there is nothing that

comes between them and God. No sin, no relationship, no worry, no desire, can interrupt or cause their relationship with God to be disjointed in any way. They can harbor no grudge against God. Verse four says, "Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom, but they could find none occasion nor fault; for as much as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him." This would indicate we need to seek a spiritual 'perfection' if we are to be stable and secure and live peaceable lives in Christ. This verse is critically important because we should know that Satan and his servants continually scour the debris of our lives for anything which to condemn us or accuse us to the Father "concerning the kingdom". He and his demons are trash pickers looking for anything to use against us. This is why we are exhorted to "flee youthful lusts", to "follow after righteousness", and to accept the scolding of the Lord for our own good, that: "no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby". Daniel was untouchable because "he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him". Perhaps his greatest quality was that he repented and had a humble repentant heart like that

of King David and that was the key to his powerful faith. (See Chapter Nine: Daniel's Prayer)

We must learn what it means in Christ and what it feels like daily to be in perfect and right standing with our God, for one of Christ's imperatives states: "*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*" Matt. 5:48 Daniel stood tall in perfection because he bowed low in humility and reverential obedience to his Father in heaven.

The Bible calls Satan "*the accuser of the brethren*". He wants to find some unrighteousness, some sin, something that has crept into our relationship with God that causes us to be out of fellowship with him so he can accuse and attack us as he did with Job. If we cannot look God in the eye, or stand before Him with a clear conscience then Satan will use that as an opening to rob our peace and undermine our joy and faith. His hope is that he can condemn us and rob us to the extent that he can eventually kill our faith.

The Devil goes about as a roaring lion seeking to devour whomsoever he can, but if he can't kill our faith he will accuse us and cause us to condemn ourselves in our own hearts. Remember the Devil comes to rob, destroy, and to kill. If he cannot kill us or the thing God has created and achieved for us he will try to steal it, if he cannot rob us he will try to wreck it or break that which God has given us. He

does not fight fair or have compassion on the weak or pitiful. He is the father of all lies and will never let up on the saints of God as long as he has power to corrupt the lives and hearts of man. His special target, obviously, is those with Job-like, Daniel-like, faith.

End-times saints cannot afford to give Satan any ammunition. Our righteousness is in being clothed with the righteousness of Jesus. The way to do that is simply to hear His voice and be obedient. Jesus said, *“My mother and my brethren are those who hear the word of God, and do it.”* Lk 8:21 This is our righteousness – obedience to our Lord. Daniel’s simple obedience and unwavering devotion to the one true God delivered him from the death Satan had so dastardly tried to conjure up for him. When the king went to the den to see how Daniel fared against the lions, Daniel called out and said, *“My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouth 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.”* Vs. 22 God sent his angel and delivering power because Daniel was living a righteous life.

The Bible says that God hears the fervent prayers of a righteous man. Our righteousness, in the end-times, is the blanket of the blood of Jesus Christ shed for us on Calvary. If we are washed in His blood

we will be obedient to God and it won't just be a mantle of words, but indeed also. This amounts to the better part of the teaching of the epistle 1 John. We are told in Galatians chapter 6 that against the fruits of the spirit, there is no law. The fruits of the spirit are grown in us through our attentiveness to God's Word and our obedience to His voice in our heart which is made alive by our yielding to the Spirit of God. If we are obedient, Satan's accusations are groundless. He will have no opening to harm our faith, no means to destroy or kill our faith. We must put off the old man and put on Christ. Be careful of cheap imitations offered by the frightened, lukewarm Church. No legalism, fundamentalism, false religion, or bogus person claiming to be Christ on earth can do what obedience to Christ can do for us to win peace and righteousness in us through the Spirit. Before Daniel was thrown into the lions' den the king said to him, "*Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.*" As Daniel, end-times saints must prepare their hearts to serve God continually. Then God will hear our prayers and deliver us.

DANIEL WAS NOT ASHAMED OF HIS GOD

Verse 10 says "*...when Daniel knew that the writing was*

signed [into law], he went into his house; and his windows being opened 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. ”

he knew it was a setup, that his mortal enemy had arranged the plot. Daniel was not ashamed of his God and went to him for help in every matter. The Bible does not tell us what Daniel prayed to God that day, but He probably included in his prayer that he trusted God, and whatever happened he was putting his life in God's hands. We can be sure that Daniel thanked God for His mercy and kindness and for being in control of all things in heaven and on earth. Having prayed, we can also be sure that Daniel did not apologize for his faith or for praying to God. End-times saints, also, will not apologize for their faith in Jesus Christ. Their prayers and supplications will continually ascend to the Father's throne regardless of the consequences which man or devil might threaten. They will hold fast to the name of Jesus and not deny His name and they will preach His gospel – in season and out of season. Though Satan and his demons accuse and condemn them, the perfected end-times saint will be steadfast in the faith. They will be spiritually faultless because of their total reliance on the Holy Ghost and their determination to cast off their self-righteousness so

they can put on the righteousness of Christ, by obedience unto the voice of the Good Shepherd, the Holy Spirit.

EVERY PERSON WILL REAP WHAT HE SOWS

This testimony of the faithful servant, Daniel, and the antichrist's conspiracy to shut him up ends with a lesson most grave. The men that had concocted an evil trap to ensnare God's servant were caught in their own trap. *"And the king commanded and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and 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."* Vs 24 The New Testament says, *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall reap life everlasting."* Gal 6:7-8 This sobering lesson is for Christians as well. Seeing that the men were put to death in the same way in which they had plotted to see the servant of God killed is a reassurance that God avenges the righteous and that the unrighteous reap their just reward. But all end-times saints must be keenly aware that all men reap what they sow, including born-again Christians.

You cannot live in both worlds and thrive. This truth applies to everyone, whether an unbeliever or a believer. Answering an altar call or becoming a baptized member of a church, as an infant, teenager, or grizzled old adult, does not give us license to do anything we want. As the word says, God will not be mocked.

The first letter of Paul to the church at Corinth says, “*We must all appear before the throne of Christ, every man, to receive the works he has done in his body, whether good or bad.*” He was preaching to the choir here; speaking to the converted. Those words are spoken to born-again Christians as a reminder that no one is given an exemption from obedience. The sprinkling of ‘holy water’, partaking of communion, or ritualistic confession cannot be a substitute for righteousness, departing from iniquity and following after love and such things. Like the men who secretly plotted to destroy Daniel, we do unrighteous works in secret, there will come a day of reckoning, and we will receive a proper reward because with God there is no respecter of persons and we must reap what we sow.

If we follow the flesh and its lust and work for selfish gain without a care for our brothers and neighbors we shall reap corruption and in the end, our reward will be personal loss, if not destruction.

But if we sow in the spirit through obedience to God we shall reap spiritual rewards. *“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*
Gal. 6:8

PART II

THE
ANTICHRIST'S
EMPIRE VS
CHRIST'S
PROMISE

THE ANTICHRIST KINGDOM AND
THE END

With Chapter seven of Daniel, we now embark on the study of the second half of the Book of Daniel. We shall break it down chapter by chapter into a systematic bite-size series in which we will encounter some of the most dramatic and incredible prophecies of the entire Bible. These second set of six chapters trace the evolution of the Antichrist kingdoms through history and tell us when they will be unveiled for our understanding.

Understanding the Book of Daniel is in itself a

sign that Christ's Return is imminent. For we are told at the end of the prophecies that the prophecies would not be understood until the very end. Then, when we could understand them (in the days when knowledge and travel would 'explode' around the globe) man would know that God's judgment and the victory of the kingdom of God over Antichrist was shortly to be accomplished.

What is the first lesson we should glean from the list of four beasts? Know and understand that what looks so striking, so beautiful and powerful, so lasting and trustworthy on earth has a ruthless, devouring, hideous spirit lurking beneath its surface. If ever the saying "beauty is only skin deep" were true it applies to the "magnificent" kingdoms of this earth. They will not last forever.

The tone of the dream abruptly changes when Daniel sees these powers cast down and destroyed, and God sitting on his throne, surrounded by the saints, ready to pass judgment on the beasts. The fourth beast was destroyed and thrown into Hell and the other beasts had their dominion and power taken away. Then Jesus, literally "one like the Son of man", appeared on the clouds of heaven and he was given power and authority over an everlasting kingdom. That, in a nutshell, is Daniel's vision.

The following chapters 7-12 present prophecies

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about Jesus' entire ministry, his first coming, his second coming, and his judgment on his people in God's city of Jerusalem.

The prophecies of Daniel conclude with this announcement: The world will be overcome by self-knowledge and technology that is used by Satan to lure the whole earth away from faith in God. But the reader is assured with this final comfort of God when we are told that the wise will understand what is taking place in this very, very tricky and evil world of the end just before the return of Christ.

PART 2

INTRODUCTION

The Antichrist Kingdom and The End

We now begin the study of the second half of the Book of Daniel. We shall break it down chapter by chapter into a systematic, six-part bite-size series in which we will encounter some of the most dramatic and incredible prophecies of the entire Bible. The following six chapters shall trace the evolution of the Antichrist kingdoms through history.

- We will witness the rise and fall of the evil one, the Antichrist himself.
- We will come to know and understand his career and the spiritual reasons for his rebellion and hatred of God.
- We will look into the heart of man and discover the reasons why most people will follow the Antichrist en masse.
- But, we shall also come across the single greatest, most encouraging, all-

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encompassing prophecy of Scripture; the one which tells us of

- Jesus' first and second coming.
- How to identify the Antichrist.
- And what determines the beginning of the seven-year period of horror known as The Tribulation.
- We will have promises and interpretations ministered to us by none other than the angel, Gabriel.
- And ultimately, we will be reassured that God's kingdom is the kingdom of His Son and of His people (us) and that it will be victorious, lasting from *everlasting to everlasting*.

If you love prophecy then Daniel is for you. If you are ignorant of Bible prophecy then the book of Daniel is for you. The book of Daniel is extremely important to the end-times saint and needs to be studied with the same sort of fervency that we study all other aspects of Bible truth. It is important that the reader keeps in mind that Daniel is *God's Secret End-times Weapon* fashioned 25 centuries ago through the life and pen of his wise and faithful servant to further our faith and salvation. Everything written in the book's twelve chapters is

intended to be applied by end-times saints to their personal faith. At the book's conclusion, the studious reader is informed that its meaning and understanding would be sealed up and impossible to be understood, until the time of the end when travel and knowledge would be increased. We, who live in this fast-paced, rat-race of a world, as the information superhighway hums away on laptops throughout the land and on facebook's everywhere, we cannot but conclude that the time for understanding Daniel's meaning and purpose is established, and is of itself a sign that this generation is likely the final generation of saints. God is using Daniel to alert us and keep us abreast of the lightening history we are experiencing. The old adage: forewarned is forearmed has never been more true than it is in today's changing world. God is using Daniel as a secret weapon that arms his people with knowledge and, above all, builds faith.

DANIEL - CHAPTER 7

The World Historical Antichrist Battle

The Four Empires Are the True Antichrist Beasts of This World

DAN. 7: CLEAR VISION OF EVOLUTION OF THE ANTICHRIST KINGDOMS

Until now Daniel has not been given a dream of his own, or a prophecy strictly speaking. Chapter seven changes this by opening with:

“In the 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 first six chapters of Daniel are ordered in a certain chronological sequence. Starting with his arrival in the king's palace in Babylon around 512 B.C.E, Daniel related, in order, events during the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar (Neb's grandson), and the Median King, Darius. They are stories of conquest by faith and build to a glorious crescendo with the story of Daniel and the lion's den during the time when the Persian Empire ruled supreme over God's earth. But now, suddenly in the seventh chapter, Daniel's first prophetic dream reverts back to the dream he once had during the reign of Belshazzar the last Babylonian king. Why the break in chronology? Because it is beginning a new chronology, one of the future, a chronology that will tell the story of history all the way up to the end. The fact that the sequential flow of Daniel is broken in chapter seven lends credence to subdividing the study in half. The first half is about the type of faith end-time saints need; the second half is about the type of spirits they are up against and the promise that the kingdom of God will win out over the apparently awesome kingdoms of the antichrist and this world. The second half lays out history before

it ever happens. Its revelation gives the end-times saint added courage and faith knowing that God is in control of all things, even the governments and kingdoms of this world. God, and only God, knows the beginning from the end.

Daniel's dream is interpreted for us by an angel of God. Though the dream's prophetic meaning seems, at first, mysterious we are told what will happen in the future. But, as in all prophecy, we do not know exactly who, where, or when these things will occur. But we do find out *what* is going to happen. Some details on how or when we can piece together by our study of the entire Bible prophecy, but we are told definitely, what is going to happen. Keeping that in mind, that we are being told what is going to happen, let us look at the dream and discover what it signifies.

The dream is a follow up of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapter two, which we already took a look at during the first half of this study. Arthur Bloomfield, in his book on Daniel, described the relationship between the two dreams as just a matter of perspective. Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapter two shows the four major kingdoms of prophecy from the world's viewpoint. They are glorious, magnificent and built into a body of great majesty and might. But Daniel sees these four kingdoms

from God's vantage point and they are ugly, vicious beasts waiting to devour and crush mankind under their dominance. In chapter two Nebuchadnezzar, representing the kings of this world, saw the four great significant empires of history as gold, silver, brass and iron – a marvelous statue of a colossal being that towered over the whole earth. Daniel, however, sees them marauding through the earth, devouring each other and fighting against God's people Christ's kingdom. In Nebuchadnezzar's vision, God merely forecasts the evolution of the Antichrist and its ultimate defeat by the kingdom of Christ. In Daniel's dream, God exposes the beastly, cruel nature of the rulers of this world and begins to enlighten the end-time saints about the Antichrist's tactics and methods.

DANIEL'S DREAM OF THE FOUR BEASTS

In the dream, Daniel sees the winds of the earth blowing on the ocean, and out of the midst of the waters rose up four very powerful beastly creatures.

- The first is a lion that stood on its hind feet and it was given a man's heart.
- The second is a bear with three ribs sticking out of its mouth and it was told to

arise and devour much flesh.

- The third is a four-headed, winged leopard, and dominion was given to it.
- The fourth is like no other having iron teeth and ten horns and Daniel described it as dreadful, terrible, and exceedingly strong. This last beast had a “little” horn come up from the midst of the ten horns and three of the horns were plucked up. And the little horn had eyes like a man and a mouth speaking great things.

But Daniel was troubled and wanted to know what it meant, so he asked one of the angels in the dream. The angel said, “These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.”

A QUICK LOOK AT ANTICHRIST HISTORY

The four kingdoms have already been identified by Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in other places in Daniel (as we shall see) and by history itself. The four kingdoms which rose out of the earth to fight against the everlasting kingdom of God’s son are: Babylon (the lion), Persia (the bear), Greece (the leopard), and Rome (the indescribably horrible beast). These are

the kingdoms of significant history. They are the powers that matter in God's plan of redemption and the struggle for the souls of this earth. But anyone who knows about history may object that the Roman Empire has been gone now for over a thousand years and since that time there have been other movements and powers that have shaped world history. But not so fast.

A quick look at history tells us that the scepter of Rome has never completely faded away from the face of the earth. The Charlemagne and the Hapsburg's in Europe continued the title of the Holy Roman Emperor from 800 A.D. until the First World War ended the monarchy in 1918. Kaiser Wilhelm carried the title Caesar (Kaiser). Napoleon's vision of a new empire was bolstered by his forcing the Papacy to bestow on him the title of Holy Roman Emperor. Papal Rome has continued in the spirit to dominate the beliefs of the people throughout the West. The dream of chapter two describes the partly strong and partly weak condition of the Roman Empire. The interpreter tells us the kingdom would be divided and that it would not be able to get it all together until the Antichrist came.

"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron:

DANIEL THE BOOK

forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

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.

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.

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.

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed .." Dan. 2: 40-44

Take some time to re-read the second chapter and especially ponder the words about the fourth empire which is Rome. Consider whether or not it still exists both in spiritual and material realm. Chapter seven shows a further connection between Rome and the Antichrist which is still yet to come in prophecy. Out of this fourth beast come ten horns.

In verse 24 we are told that these ten horns are ten kings, later in Daniel, we discover that they give over their power totally to the Antichrist (the little horn). The coming of the Antichrist is prophesied in II Thessalonians 2:3 and (Revelation 13 & 17). It is clear that the Antichrist must come out of the fourth beast; therefore it is reasonable to assume that the fourth beast is still alive and well. Deep within that beast is the drive and determination to dominate the world. Hitler came out of that Roman Spirit, Napoleon came out of it. Another will come who will use the powers of Europe and other “Roman” devotees to fulfill the vision of the Antichrist. Chapter seven can be edifying to the end-times saint because it shows how Daniel’s prophecies have been fulfilled and now all that remains is for the arrival of the Antichrist.

ALL FOUR BEASTS HAVE COME JUST AS PROPHESED

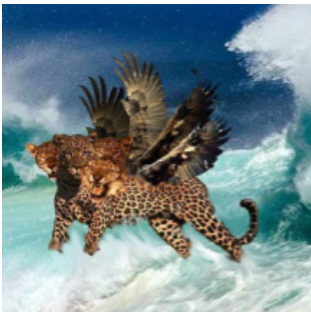
Babylon was the kingdom in power when Daniel had his dream of Chapter seven. It was the most glorious of all kingdoms to come and the image of a lion standing on its legs like a man and being given the heart of a man reminding us of King

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Nebuchadnezzar who was made like a beast but then restored and given a heart of a man.



Persia lay just around the corner. Symbolized by a bear, the Persians would take the Babylonian possessions and make it a cohesive empire. They set up systems of governors and provinces which could be ruled from a central location. They were renowned for their ruthlessness. Thus: the picture of a bear with ribs in its mouth devouring much flesh.



Greece In 340 B.C. Alexander the Great took a

band of Greeks over the Hellespont into Asia Minor and within three short years had taken over the Persian Empire. By 332 B.C. Alexander the Great had taken over the known world. Thus: the picture of a leopard with wings. With lightning speed, he had subdued the world. But upon his death at Babylon in 332 B.C. the kingdom was divided to the four winds. His generals made four separate kingdoms portrayed in the symbol of the four-headed leopard.



Rome vaulted to world dominance during the last two centuries before Christ. It marched the antichrist spirit throughout the world and lived up to the prophecy of stamping the world under its feet. No nation or land could withstand the force of its will.

Daniel's dream has come to pass, though it took six hundred years for the first part of it to be fulfilled. Now we wait on just the last part about the ten horns of the Roman Empire and the "little horn".

WE CAN TAKE HEART BECAUSE
DANIEL'S AMAZING VISION OF THE
KINGDOMS OF HISTORY HAS
ALREADY COME TRUE, SO WE KNOW
THE REST IS SHORTLY TO COME TO
PASS ALSO.

DANIEL - CHAPTER 8

Antichrist – Man and Beast



What would you think if someone told you that a teenager, younger than the Beatles when they took the world by storm with their music, or a person just one year out of high school, or someone not even half the age of President Obama, would appear on the world scene, rise to world prominence, and

within five years be the supreme dictator of the civilized world? You'd probably think the person that made such a prediction was, well to put it nicely, out of touch with reality.

And, what would your response be if that person went on to say that this upstart would be enthusiastically embraced by working people, wealthy businessmen, powerful politicians, the entire military establishment, and religious and civil servants and leaders alike? You'd probably say, "Impossible! How could such a preposterous thing ever happen in a sane world?" But that's just it brothers and sisters; it has already taken place in history and something while even more fantastic that looms over the world in the immediate future.

This is the reason why many misguided Evangelicals began wrongly looking at President Obama as a possible Antichrist; his rise to power was sudden and improbable. The historical instance of this unbelievable story of Alexander The Great was prophesied in a vision by Daniel and duly recorded for all eyes to see in the Holy Scriptures. You can look it up. The young prodigy began as a king over a small but fierce army in Macedonia and by the time he was in his late twenties the earth was swooning at his feet. His word ruled supreme over all nations and peoples of the known 'western' world.

It is because of the fulfillment of this prophecy (and a multitude of other Bible prophecies) that we can know beyond doubt that what prophecy describes in the future is absolutely sure to happen. The force of Proph-history (Prophistory) is mainly to reassure believers that that which lies in the future has been foretold by God and will surely come to pass. The prophet Daniel saw the end-times, saw the history of the nations of the Antichrist Kingdom, what the historian-philosopher Friedrich Hegel called (more than twelve centuries later) the *World-Spirit*.

Daniel saw the one who would finally come to fulfill Alexander the Great's antichrist boots. The one Daniel saw might rightly be called, Alexander the Greater, because the vision describes an even more incredible leader, one that would dominate the world in the final days just before the return of the Messiah and the establishment of his 1,000-year reign on earth.

Chapter eight of the book of Daniel reveals why Alexander is unique and vitally important in the fabric of Antichrist prophistory. Over the years of Man's existence, his rise to power is the most implausible of all. There is no way in which it could have been cooked up from the mind of Man by some dreamer. The career of Alexander the Great is

among the most poignant proofs given by the omnipotent God telling us that God is in control of all things, that no government or ruler holds power without His providential consent.

Alexander is important for a second reason. As one can discover, also in chapter eight of the Book of Daniel, Alexander stands alone as the truest Biblical archetype of the man “Antichrist”; taking up the reins of the “Antichrist” kingdom with special boldness even among the cavalcade of Antichrist leaders of history. In Daniel chapter eight we see for the first time that the man and the system are dependent on one another. In Daniel ch. 8 “the Man” merges with “the Empire” to become “the Beast”, the Antichrist in all its power.

WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ANTICHRIST?

People always want to know about the Antichrist. The topic never fails to sell books or make money in Hollywood. Who is he? What is he? Where will he come from? What’s his purpose? Is the Antichrist just a system, or is it a man, or both? Rumors and half-baked interpretations of Bible prophecy abound like stupid ideas at a Darwinian convention. But if we will earnestly study and take to heart God’s

prophetic word we can stop stumbling around in a stupor, drunk on silly rumors and gossip, and get a clear understanding of the Antichrist, its system, its leader, its goals, and its purposes. To start with, we can get clear and substantial answers to our questions about the Antichrist by looking no further than the prophecies of Daniel. In this part of our study of Daniel, we can see, for the first time, that the ultimate expression of the Antichrist is both a leader and a group of nations, or as the Bible calls them, a king and a kingdom. It has religious and economic legal organization under a centralized government of established institutions, with a despot demanding total loyalty and subjecting the mass of people to obedience, and ultimately, worship. The Antichrist Empire is both a man and a government. To this point in Daniel, we have only had small clues that this could be. The visions and dreams of Daniel show primarily that the Antichrist is a kingdom, a secular power with spiritual princes and authorities dominating it and determined to utterly influence the nations of the earth with its anti-Christ type gospel. As is revealed by analysis of chapters two and seven of Daniel (and seen in conjunction through a study of Revelation 13,17 & 18), the ultimate antichrist kingdom of the end-times is a composite of the four primary “beastly” empires

of Western Civilization. These empires (Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome) were engulfed in turn, like one large fish eating a smaller; so that finally the last kingdom, Rome, had the antichrist properties of the three prior world kingdoms. In this manner, the empires were digested and integrated into one immense fully grown Beast. This Beast has been the carrier of the Antichrist spirit throughout the course of world history. By its immense power, it has so controlled and influenced the world that it has infested the fabric of every society. Together with Mystery Babylon (false religion of Rev.17&18), the antichrist kingdom has worked its deception on every continent and nation on earth.

Chapter seven had briefly mentioned a man at the end of it and given a few details about him but now in chapter eight, we leap ahead from the transition of power between Persia and Greece right to the man. This is because God wants to draw attention to the relationship of man and kingdom; and the quantum leap from Greece (past a discussion for now, of Rome) directly to the “Antichrist” emphasizes the connection. The leader and the kingdom are inseparable. One cannot fulfill the destiny of the Antichrist without the other. The Antichrist spirit, with its one-world system and ungodly spirit, must have a supreme leader who can not only dictate in

personal terms but also can command the personal worship as a personal god of all mankind. On the other hand, this “evil one”, as the Bible calls him, must have a system, military force, and a government behind him in order to impose his blasphemous rule on the world. Suddenly, in chapter eight we see God’s Word making a definitive statement about the “Antichrist”. But before getting too deeply into the evil one’s character God wants us to know the leader and the kingdom are one inseparable “*BEAST*”.

DANIEL HAS VISION OF COMPETING ANTICHRIST BEASTS



Chapter eight opens by relating the vision Daniel had during the reign of the last Babylonian king, Belshazzar. In the dream, Daniel sees a ram and a goat engaged in a violent battle. The goat, which has a single great horn between its eyes like a unicorn, beats the ram, but in the height of its power, the goat

loses its great horn. Immediately it grows four horns in its place, but then, out of nowhere a “*little horn*” comes up in their midst. This “*little horn*” is stronger than either of the animals or any of the horns that came before it. This “*little horn*” does fantastic things, he tramples on heavenly forces, beats God’s people, takes away the daily sacrifice for the people (the avenue for forgiveness of sin), and defiles God’s holy sanctuary by some transgression that is described as a “*transgression of desolation*“. Then the dream closes as Daniel hears an angel tell a man that the “*little horn*” would prosper for a certain prescribed period and then at the designated time he would be defeated, things would be set right and the sanctuary would be cleansed of this evil one’s presence and works.

Each of the visions and dreams which God gave personally to Daniel were impossible to understand without supernatural help ministered from heaven. In each instance, God was faithful to give the prophet an angel or a revelation that interpreted certain key symbols of the vision so that there would be no need or doubt as to the proper interpretation.

”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,

DANIEL THE BOOK

*and I heard a man's voice ... which called, and said,
Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision, "*
verse 15 & 16

Even with the angel interpreter, however, Daniel was not able, in most instances, to understand the full intent and impact, or the full implication of a given vision, because they were for the end-times and not meant to be understood in his time. It is no coincidence that these heavenly interpretations always serve to unlock the meaning of the vision for the end-times generation of saints. Left to our own understanding the dreams and visions might also remain a mystery, but since we are in the end-times their meaning is revealed, the understanding of them unlocked. Gabriel gave Daniel the basic information needed to understand the vision; time and history has supplied the key to unlocking their meaning.

ANGELIC INTERPRETATION

The angel told Daniel that the ram with two horns represented the kings of Media and Persia. The rough goat was the king of Grecia and the great horn between his eyes was the first king of the empire. When transgressors are come into their full, a fierce

king would stand up who would be mighty and have *understanding of dark sentences*. The Antichrist would understand how to manipulate evil for evil's gain like no other man who has ever come before. Daniel was given some specific insights into this king's tactics and character and was told that the vision was to be "*shut up*", for its fulfillment would be far off in the future. And that far off future date projected more than 2,500 years ago, is now...

Thanks to the ministering angel there is no guesswork involved for us. We know what the animals (beasts) represent and what the horns symbolize; we are given certain factual details about the Antichrist and the kind of power he will wield. Many of these statements about the Antichrist have to be mulled over, however. What are their implications? Who will they affect? Why will he do such evil things? We must discern what God is telling the end-times saint about the "Beast's" purpose. Alexander and his career can be of help in studying these questions. He is the forerunner to the Antichrist and therefore exhibited similar spiritual powers as the "*evil one*" of the end. Also, to gather all the benefits of Daniel's prophecies we need to look at the vision of chapter eight, carefully comparing its verses with its angelic interpretations so we can discover all we can about its full and important

meaning to the end-times saint. When we do this we shall see how history has proven the word in Daniel to be 100% correct.

FULFILLED PARTS OF CHAPTER EIGHT'S VISION

"The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia." Vs 20

Remember, Daniel saw this vision during the reign of Belshazzar, king of Babylon. Before the Media-Persian Empire overtook Babylon, Daniel had seen it coming. The kings of Media-Persia had brought a mighty army to the outskirts of the great walled city of Babylon, but as we saw in an earlier part of our study they were unable to breach the 350 foot high and 87 foot thick walls that surrounded the 15-mile square city-state. No one in their right mind would have figured that this self-sufficient city-state would or could ever fall into the hands of an enemy no matter how imposing their army. But that didn't stop Daniel from proclaiming his vision and recording its prophecy. Sure enough at the prescribed time, the unthinkable, the impossible did happen. In the year 538 B.C., sixty years after Nebuchadnezzar's siege and destruction of Jerusalem, the armies of Media-

Persia conspired with some traitors inside the city walls in a clever plan to breach Babylon's security. While the armies outside dammed up the Euphrates River which ran through the center of Babylon and dried up the river bed, the conspirators inside the city opened the massive river bed gates and the armies marched unchallenged into the leisurely city. Once inside, they encountered no resistance from the indulgent, fat, self-secure populace. With control of the mighty city, the Media-Persian kings had won possession of the whole kingdom and all its wealth. And so began a 200-year rule of the Persian Empire just as Daniel had foreseen in his earlier visions and part one of the prophecy of eight was fulfilled. *"And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king."* Vs

21

Three hundred and fifty years before the coming of the true Messiah, a fair-haired young man, barely past adolescence launched a miraculous attempt to become the savior of the world. At nineteen this unlikely youth took control of the army of his assassinated father's tiny kingdom and within 12 years had subdued the world and built an empire that stretched from Greece to Egypt, through the entire Middle East, and all the way to India. This dynamic figure, as any schoolchild knows, was

Alexander the Great of Macedonia, the Greek warrior and king who in 341 B.C. crossed the shallow waters of the Hellespont which separate Europe from Asia and within two years had conquered the mighty Persian Empire and set off to unite the world in what he called a "*brotherhood of man*". It was the first ecumenical movement since Nimrod's conspiracy of antiquity at the Tower of Babel. Alexander's meteoric rise to power was unthinkable at the time and was aided by supernatural intelligences. Though his methods have since been applied and his hopes rekindled by a succession of European dictators like Julius Caesar, Charlemagne, Napoleon and Hitler (also Antichrist figures), Alexander's feat has never been duplicated. His vision of a "brotherhood of man" and a one-world integrated society under a common government still remains the dream of a misguided, rebellious world.

Though freedom is cherished on an individual basis, the revival of the spirit of Alexander the Great and his leadership is always crouching just around the corner waiting to rebuild "The Tower of Babel" in spirit. Men are ever ready to accept a Messiah from their own ranks, one who comes in his own name and is benevolent, magnanimous, and righteous and promises to correct all of the world's ills. Whether it is the motto of the Caesars "*In*

essentials unity: in nonessentials liberty: in all things charity“, Charlemagne’s promise to restore the security and majesty of the Roman Empire, Napoleon’s quest to carry the banner of the French Revolution around the world, “*Fraternity, Liberty, Equality*“, or Hitler’s promise to rid the world of impurity and institute the thousand-year reign of the Third Reich (fake millennium), or the attempt to bring world peace by establishing a *United Nations*; Alexander was the first. Alexander was the great visionary and forerunner of these pretenders with their pretensions. The only one he takes a back seat to is the real Antichrist, who today waits in the wings ready to take the world’s stage when the time is right. No one could have anticipated Alexander’s incredible career, his military victories, his world vision, his worldly wisdom, and the empire he built against all the odds. That’s because the great empire of Greece was the empire of one man, built upon his vision and his father, Philip of Macedonia, and with the help of the “prince of darkness”. No one could have foreseen these unbelievable things, no one that is, except God. God not only saw them and knew they were coming, He showed them to His prophet Daniel 250 years before they ever happened and had Daniel record them for posterity so we of the last generation could know and understand that

they only foreshadowed the wickedness and true nature and scope of the real Antichrist of the end-times.

“Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.”



Third Empire in the Evolution of Antichrist Empires

Alexander's kingdom took him less than 12 years to build. It covered the world to India and the very gates of the great wall of China. He had plans underway to sail around the Cape of Good Hope and venture to the West in search of the ends of the earth when he suddenly died by poison or fever at, of all places, Babylon, putting an

abrupt end to his conquest of the earth. Just as Daniel had said, his magnificent empire was scattered to the winds.

This prophecy was fulfilled after Alexander's death. His united world kingdom was short-lived as was his "*brotherhood of man*". All he had so miraculously achieved in so few years was divided by his four generals into four separate kingdoms just as the prophecy said would happen. Ptolemy took Egypt and began a dynasty that lasted for 300 years and 14 generations all the way to Cleopatra in 41 B.C. Three other generals took three other sectors of the sprawling empire and made sub-kingdoms which all lasted until the coming of the Roman "*beast*". Then the vision leapfrogs to "The Beast"; that is, "the" Antichrist of whom Alexander is the greatest archetype.

"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." Vs 23

Now the scene and tone shift entirely to a man and his kingdom in the end-times. The connection of man with the empire, leader with the kingdom, has been made in the career and destiny of Alexander.

When the leader is gone, however, and his kingdom blown to the four winds the power of the “Antichrist” is dissipated, until the “Beast” once again becomes complete with the appearance of the “evil one” who can lead the cause of rebellion. Having made that point, the vision now goes directly to the end and to the antichrist himself, the leader of the “beast” in the final days. This man, vile person, understanding dark sentences emerges. The time is established as the very end of the Antichrist Kingdom, by the phrase *“in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full”*. By the interpretation, we are told something more about the character of the Antichrist person. For the first time, we are given a glimpse into his personal character and career. Before, Daniel’s visions were about the system, the government, the kingdom, and its influence and place in history. Now it’s about the man, his personality and evil character; the one who will lead the campaign against God in the world. Verses 24 and 25 give us further information.

“And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. 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“.

NOW GOD BEGINS TO SPEAK OF THE MAN WHO IS ‘THE BEAST’

No longer is God’s Word talking about a kingdom as it did in exposing the antichrist in chapters two and seven. God is not talking about beasts that stomp the whole earth and overtake kingdoms and make empires to impose its government, order, and religion on the nations of the earth. Now God’s Word turns to a discussion of the heart of the man who is at the helm of the antichrist spirit. Much of the revelation about this man is an expose of our own hearts, as much as it is an expose of world government, politics, religion, and idolatry. He gains power and control and exercises them with unbridled ambition. In the Antichrist person, we see all that our flesh is capable of in this present evil world.

He will have a fierce countenance and understand dark sentences. Among other things, he will be ruthless and wise in the occult and in manipulating men.

His power shall be mighty, it says, but not in his own power. He will be helped by the princes of darkness and made a powerful genius by Satan's help. He shall destroy wonderfully and prosper and practice and destroy the mighty and holy people. These words start to give us the idea that the antichrist will be about as formidable a man as the world has ever seen or dealt with. His inventions to destroy and conquer will be captivating and awesome. He will have victory after victory and everything he tries will be successful and he will be able to overcome even God's anointed people and it will look as though nothing can stop him, not even God Himself.

Through his policy, he will cause craft to prosper. Deceit of a high spiritual nature will take place and lies and half-truths will rule by his slick ways and velvet tongue. In his heart, he will come to magnify himself in that he will truly think he is God and by using "*peace*" he will somehow destroy many. He will even think he can stand up against the Prince of princes, Jesus Christ, and His kingdom. He will be a charming, persuasive, believable man. He will be charismatic and a bright shining star that people will cling to with hope and put all their faith in. But he will be thoroughly deceitful and evil in every intent. This is the picture that Daniel chapter eight starts

to paint for us. It is to make sure that God's faithful believers, those who trust in His spirit and Word, will not be deceived because, as Jesus, Himself said, *"the deception at the end would be great"*.

(See table profiling Antichrist character from prophecies of Daniel at bottom of page.)



The Death of Alexander The Great With the death of Alexander came a division of the Empire among his four generals—Ptolemy, Seleucus, Cassander and Lysimachus.

The last phrase of verse 25, however, concludes saying, *"but he shall be broken without hand."*, even though it will seem as if nothing can stop him, no man or peoples can resist his will or see through his charismatic exterior to understand his evil intentions and hateful obsessions. We are prophetically informed that he will be broken

‘without hand’ (by God). Man will not be able to do it, but God will do it. The chapter ends by reassuring us that the vision is true but it would be shut up and not come to pass for a long time,

“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. 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. “ vs 26-27

Daniel is not only a great man of faith and God’s end-time prophet, he is God’s historian. Though Daniel did not understand what his visions meant and all that they implied, because they were meant for a generation of believers far off in the distance of time, he always remained God’s faithful reporter. That’s how we should view him, as God’s faithful reporter and historian. As God’s historian Daniel has written history in a miraculous way, in a way which only God who knows the beginning from the end, could give it. Daniel wrote the history of Western Civilization before it happened. By accomplishing this great miracle through Daniel, God has inspired us to believe the incredible, otherwise unbelievable things prophesied about the

last hours of judgment on earth so we are not deceived by the amazing deceptions of antichrist and his system, which includes false religion. Daniel's vision of the evolution of Western Civilization and its unarguable dominance over the entire earth is a beacon of God's enormity and sovereignty over all things, including the kingdoms and powers of the earth. Daniel saw the metamorphosis of the antichrist kingdom but, understandably, was unable to interpret the symbolism of the visions as we, too, would be unable to grasp the meaning, except in each case God sends a messenger to interpret the meaning for us so that we are not left wondering what the symbolism really signifies or means. Chapter eight lays the groundwork for future visions more detailed in nature, concerning the antichrist and his mission. Daniel is told that the vision of the "*little horn*" (or antichrist himself) is not to be for many days but for an appointed time at the end. Daniel's prophecies encourage us to realize that God has a plan, that He has always had a plan, and that His plan has a beginning, middle and end. And, while it may seem like a long time in coming to us, it is and will continue to move at God's pace, and perfectly on schedule. Daniel proves that church saying: "*God ain't never late. He's always on time*". Consider these incredible prophecies in chapter

eight that are now historical fact, but hundreds of years before their fulfillment could never have been foreseen by the most imaginative human mind. Daniel saw the rise of the Median kings and the prominence of the Persians over them. He saw the swift destruction of the rock solid Persian Empire by the lightning quick attacks of the Greek youth, Alexander the Great, and he saw the sudden breaking up of that kingdom into four parts. Each event, each twist of fate and turn of earth's destiny was supernatural, unlikely and unthinkable. At these events historians still marvel at to this very day. Can the future Daniel saw, the one of an Antichrist Beast, a kingdom led by a Satanic man, be that far away?!

PROFILING THE ANTICHRIST: THE ANTICHRIST THROUGH THE EYES OF DANIEL

Daniel is chock full of insights about the Antichrist, his mission, how he will accomplish it, what tactics he will use, and what his personality will be like. The following chart isolates all the scriptures of Daniel which specifically regard the Antichrist and offers a bite-size comment in the adjoining column at the

right. They have been categorized by personal character, military man, political man, social leader, religious leader; persecutor, and the judgment he will receive.



PERSONAL CHARACTER

Quote From Book of Daniel	Related Comment
<i>And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, (verse 11.21)</i>	The Antichrist is identified as an unclean, foul and evil person in God's eyes.
<i>And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully:(verse 11.23)</i>	He is a liar. A master of intrigue, his real motives will not come clear until it is too late.
<i>and he shall do exploits, (verse 11.28)</i>	He will do unbelievably great things and will be a legend in his own time.
<i>And the king shall do according to his will: and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. (verse 11.36)</i>	He will be invincible; nothing or no one will be able to stop him. And he will be the most arrogant and self-confident man ever. He will even dare to say he is a god and must be worshipped. He'll even ridicule and mock God openly and encourage others to also.

DANIEL THE BOOK
AS A MILITARY MAN

*And he shall subdue three kings.
(verse 7.24)*

He will defeat three nations at the start of his reign and thereby solidify his position and power among the nations who support him.

*out of one [nation] came a little horn,
which waxed exceeding great, toward
the south, and toward the east, and
toward the pleasant land. (verse 8.9)*

This man will increase in strength toward the south, east and Israel (the pleasant land), it makes sense that he comes from the north. Probably United Europe.

*And with the arms of a flood shall
they be overflowed from before him,
and shall be broken; yea, also the
prince of the covenant. (verse 11.22)*

He will be able to sweep across all enemies including the “prince of the covenant”, the covenant he makes with Israel which marks the start of the seven-year period called the Tribulation this corresponds with Daniel’s final week in his prophecy of seventy weeks (chapter 9).

DANIEL THE BOOK

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. 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. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and overall the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians [shall be] at his steps. 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. 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.(verses 11.40-45)

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.(verse 11.25)

At the time of the end, the Antichrist will finally defeat his nemesis, the south (probably Egypt, and her allies, probably Arab). During the Tribulation, he will overwhelm the rest of the nations in the Middle East and in Africa. He will enter into the “glorious land” which is Israel and come to the Jews as the Messiah, their deliverer; He will be heralded as their Savior. His peace covenants and restoration of Judaism as a religion, complete with Temple, priesthood, sacrifice, and observance of Mosaic Law, will make him Israel’s defender and champion, No one will be able to stop him, except God Himself. He will be stopped when Jesus returns on a white horse with tens of thousands of his saints (see Rev. 19). The Antichrist, with the help of Satan, would otherwise rule the world and bring about its total destruction. Jesus said that if it were not for God’s intervention all flesh would be destroyed, but before the Antichrist can accomplish his evil plan of mastery over the world he will be stopped by the true Savior, the Son of God.

The Antichrist will get supernatural help and knowledge and defeat the forces of the “south” which is probably the Arab world led by Egypt.

TERRY MYERS SMITH

RELIGIOUS LEADER

(SEE HIS RELIGIOUS TIMETABLE IN
CHAPTER 12)

DANIEL THE BOOK

*And he shall speak great words
against the most High (verse 7.25)*

He will think he is above God and greater than God.

*and think to change times and laws:
(verse 7.25)*

This probably refers to his changing things in the Jewish law to suit his purposes.

*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.(verse 8.10)*

He will have power, thanks to his father Satan, to even defeat spiritual forces. He will be invincible against any other “antichrist” spirits that oppose him or try to compete with him. This is something no other “Antichrist” figure in history has ever enjoyed.

*Yea, he magnified himself even to the
prince of the host, and by him the
daily sacrifice was taken away, and
the place of his sanctuary was cast
down.(verse 8.11)*

In order to declare himself God he must get rid of the sacrifices and oblation made in the holy of holies. He will sit in God’s seat. Anything sacred or holy about the temple will be totally defiled by this act of blasphemy.

*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 practiced,
and prospered.(verse 8.12)*

He will get all the support from Israel’s army that he needs to do this. And they will ignore and turn the truth upside down. And it will be completely accepted and things at first will look like they are working out perfectly.

*and understanding dark
sentences(verse 8.23)*

He will be incredibly wise and perceptive. Like no one before he will have insight into mysteries and secrets and know-how to manipulate every circumstance and every man. He will have all of Satan’s wisdom of the ages.

*And his power shall be mighty, but
not by his own power:(verse 8.24.)*

Satan will give him great, great powers.

*and he shall magnify himself in his
heart, (verse 8.25)*

He will actually think he is God and better and stronger than God and able to beat God. Just like his father Satan had once thought to challenge God.

he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes;(verse 8.25)

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.

and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; (verse 9:27)

he shall be grieved,.. and have indignation against the holy covenant: ... and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.(verse 11.30)

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. (verse 11.31)

He won't give a second thought to defying Jesus Christ and his saints because he will be convinced by Satan's deception that he is greater than Jesus. That he is the true Savior and not Jesus.

This is vitally important because it tells us that the Tribulation officially starts when the Antichrist confirms the Jewish covenant with Israel and practice of the Jewish religion in the temple begins. The Antichrist's purpose in starting up the Jewish religion in the temple is so he can eventually declare himself God. When the time is right he will get rid of the daily sacrifice (for the Jew the only way to a relationship with God) to make room for the "real" God, Himself. This is the abomination that makes things "desolate".

He will never intend to reverence or uphold Mosaic Law it will all be a show just to set himself up in the temple of God so he can show himself to be God.

When the time is right Satan will stir him up to get fed up with the Jewish religion and he will find plenty of Israelis who will conspire with him to make himself their God.

He will have the Israeli and his forces behind him to declare himself God. And he will have them put a statue of him in the temple that can speak and it will have the power to kill people who do not worship its image. (Rev. 13)

DANIEL THE BOOK

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. 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. 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, (verses 11.37,38,39)

He will not fear nor will he be in awe of God or of Jesus Christ. He will invent a god of his own, Connected to him, Satan, and the image that the false prophet has power to make come alive. He will worship this “god of force” and it will be a new religion dedicated to the unholy trinity of him, his father Satan, and the false prophet. Its focus will be on the image and the mark that everyone will have to take in order to buy or sell anything. (Rev. 13)

PERSECUTOR

And he shall wear out the saints of the most High. (verse 7.25)

The love of many will wax cold. The Antichrist will wear down the saints. Many will not have the patience to resist the mark.

and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of times (verse 7.25)

He will be given power to kill and persecute the saints for 3 1/2 years (One year, two years, and a half year) or as Revelation 13 puts it, 42 months

and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.(verse 8.24)

He will be given power to overcome the Church.

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. Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. 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. (verses 11.33,34,35)

The persecution will be great. The righteous will die. Many will try to straddle the fence and some will be spies. It will be a very treacherous time. The faith of the saints will be tested to its utmost.

TERRY MYERS SMITH

POLITICAL LEADER

And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance ... shall stand up. (verse 8.23)

He will be indomitable. His presence will be overpowering and no one will be able to resist his strong, charismatic personality.

And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; (verse 8.25)

He will always be two steps ahead of everyone. He will be a genius. His policies will be innovative and highly successful- at first.

and by peace shall destroy many: (verse 8.25)

What looks like peace and harmony will be his means to defeat and crush anyone that stands in his way of declaring himself God and ruling the world.

to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.(verse 11.21)

He will be a velvet tongued liar. He will be a spellbinding speaker with the ability to turn even the most powerful and resolute personalities in any direction he wants them to go. He will not be elected by the people but the leaders of ten nations will promote him as their titular head at first but he will take over with real authority after he destroys three of them who had second thoughts about making him president over them.

for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people. (verse 11.23)

He will rise out of obscurity from a single nation.

And both [antichrist and king of the south] 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. (verse 11.27)

Everything he says at a negotiating table will be a lie and self serving. He will think nothing of reneging on his word.

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: (verse 11.32)

He will convince the Jews who betray the Mosaic Law and their Jewish religion to believe that they are serving the powerful, right and true god.

SOCIAL LEADER

and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice (verse 8.24)

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. (verse 11.24)

Then shall he return into his land with great riches; (verse 11.28)

and shall divide the land for gain. (verse 11.39)

Every social and economic program that he institutes will appear to be the work of an utter genius. Yet it will be so simple that people will say, "Why didn't we think of that?"

He will do whatever his heart desires. He will be received with open arms and given whatever he wants by the richest nations and peoples of Europe. Everything he does will be new and exciting. He will redistribute wealth; give the common man what he thinks he wants. He will even be able to prophesy about the effects of his social, political and military measures. It will even look as though he is so incredibly wonderful that he knows the future.

He and his kingdom will become magnificently wealthy in a very short time.

He will redistribute wealth wherever he conquers.

THE JUDGEMENT ON HIM

But he shall be broken without hands. (verse 8.25)

But Jesus Christ will defeat him in the end.

Read Daniel to get full content of the meaning of these verses.

The Antichrist will be a great deceiver

Read and study revelation 13, 17 & 18 to get a full view of the Antichrist.

The Antichrist will be a man of endearing qualities.

DANIEL – CHAPTERS 9 AND 10

*Daniel's End-Times Spiritual Warfare -
PRAYER AND FASTING*

Prayer and fasting have always been a prime subject for Christian teaching, and rightly so. Dating back to the earliest days of the Church, volumes upon volumes have been penned on prayer by devout men and women in Christ. Just listing the good ones would be a chore. Anecdotes and stories about prayer abound in Christian lore. For instance, it was said of James, (the Lord's half-brother and author of the epistle of his name), that he had the nickname "The Camel" because his knees were hardened and calloused by all the time he spent on them before the Lord in prayer. Most Christians can speak of personal revelations. For instance, the Lord recently spoke to me in a prophecy and said, "Get on your

knees and be strong, stand and be humble.” I take that advice literally, and try to do my share of praying, trusting in prayer more than my own wit and strength, while standing humble before Him. Everything *under the sun* (lower than the Son) is vanity, just as it says in Ecclesiastes; but we can believe that everything done through and with the Son is fruitful. On any given Sunday morning, across our land, sermons on prayer descend from pulpits by the score. Or, at least, they once did. There is a present danger that the roaring avalanche of verbiage can make us deaf to hearing about prayer. Like our children, we hear the noise but tune out the message. It all can become one giant cliché. “Praying, oh yea, I should be praying.”

Being heard through the thunderous roar with a message of prayer is the challenge of this next part of our study of Daniel. The power of prayer is one of the most important messages of the book of Daniel and we should not turn a deaf ear to it. That God saw fit to devote two of the twelve chapters out of His secret end-times weapon (remember, this study revolves on the fundamental premise that Daniel is God’s secret end-times weapon) to prayer and fasting should speak to us about their tremendous importance for the end-times warrior of faith. To illustrate the magnitude of this message God has

provided our study with a word of confirmation by way of a gift of knowledge.

This gift of the Spirit came to us by way of a letter sent by a subscriber to our magazine some years ago.

Prior to receiving the letter I had been studying and preparing to write this part of the series on Daniel (chapter 9 on Prayer and Fasting in the End-times). I had been particularly impressed by the visitation of the two angels that came to answer Daniel's prayers. One angel appears in chapter nine of Daniel, the other in chapter ten. In 9:21 the angel says to Daniel while he 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." The second instance is in 10:13, where Daniel writes, "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me [an angel] 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." First, it is said that the angel "flew swiftly" and seemed to be unimpeded in getting to Daniel. But then, in chapter ten, a more powerful angel (who seems to be Jesus) was not able to get through to Daniel right away, but was hindered for 21 days. He even needed to be helped by one of

the chief angels. I wondered why one got through and the other had trouble. God offers no explanation in Daniel. I told our fellowship about this question I had and instead of teaching on Daniel and prayer that night, as I had planned; I solicited insights and understanding about this curious spiritual occurrence. We discussed the possible causes and talked of the reality of Satan's spiritual powers and principalities. We knew it signified spiritual warfare and that God answers prayer in His time and in His way. We were all edified by our inquiry, but nothing was absolutely established in our hearts and minds about the relevance of the two angels and why God had raised the interesting question for the body's consideration.

Then in the following week we received a letter at the magazine from a man from Nashua, NH. I did not have an opportunity to look at the letter before our next gathering. After our worship and after God's Word had come forth, a brother innocently asked if anyone had done any digging into the question about the two angels or if anyone had a word from God on them. No one did. Then my wife spoke up and asked me if I had read the letter. I said I

had not, so on her suggestion I got the letter and read it to everyone. This is what the man wrote.

Dear Sisters and brethren,

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in Jesus' mighty and unbeatable name! ... Before I really knew Jesus I was into practicing witchcraft and was a self professed Satanist, both dealing and using drugs. Jesus is Lord of my life now and I give Him all the glory. I'm free in Him! Anyway, the Lord has truly blessed me with many gifts, one of them being, my eyes are wide open to the reality of the warfare. I had good discernment before, but the past 15 months or so have been a real blessing from on high. Please feel free to use the following information in part or in whole in articles, sermons, or whatever, to the Glory of God!

The reality of spiritual warfare I don't think a lot of God's people fully realize. There is a spiritual unseen world all around us. If one could see into this realm they would see God's angels and the devil's demons fighting against each other. In Daniel 9:21 it speaks of Gabriel, God's angel, being caused to fly swiftly, as result of Daniel praying. Also, in Daniel 10:13 it speaks of God's angel being opposed by one of the powers of darkness. Revelation 12:7-9 explicitly

talks about “war”, and God’s angels literally fighting with Satan and his demons. God also says that the devil and his angels are not strong enough to win. If someone could see in the spirit world they would see God’s angels and Satan’s demons fighting. We are in a real war, but the war is spiritual, not carnal. Christians are supposed to be soldiers. Remember the old song, “Onward Christian Soldiers”? That’s literal! God’s Word speaks of the weapons of our “warfare”. In the Greek the word “warfare” is; strateia (I believe it’s where “strategy” comes from). One of the actual meanings of warfare is; military service.

Warfare, weapons, strategy, these are all military terms. Christians are in a spiritual army, it is called the Body of Christ. Jesus gives the orders and we had better obey. Souls hang in the balance. In 1 Corinthians 14:8 the Word says, “For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself for battle?” Trumpet, battle, soldier, army, orders, armor; these are all terms that are military in nature. The word “battle”, in the Greek means: a single encounter of a series, fight, or war. An encounter with what you might ask? We battle with principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this

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age, and spiritual hosts of wickedness in high places. Eph. 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith. There is the fight, the fight of faith. It is a fight, but God's angels are fighting for us. Psalm 103:20 says, "Bless the Lord, you his angels, who do his word, heeding the voice of his word." God's angels are the ones carrying out the written word. But Psalm 103:20 says the angels heed the voice of his word. Who is the voice of God's Word, but God's people! See how it works! All believers are far above the Devil and his cohorts, so hold your position you already have and don't waver. Praise God!

Be blessed with this.

Signed: Your Brother, D. S.

INTERPRETATION:

The timing and miraculous mention of the very two verses we had discussed only a few days earlier had been a witness of the importance of spiritual warfare. Whatever the reason for the angels being hindered or unhindered, we knew God was telling us to join the army, and become spiritual prayer warriors. Prayer and fasting are vital parts of our arsenal in Christ, critical in fighting our war in the spirit. As a secret weapon, everything about the book of Daniel is geared to making the end-times saint a better soldier

in Christ. Its inspiring lessons are supposed to make our shield of faith grow in size and strength. Its revelations and prophecies should increase our understanding and help to make us “wise as serpents, but gentle as doves.” Its promises should be a stone that whets our personal sword of the spirit (which all good soldiers must carry with them), honed to a razor-sharp edge.

GOD WANTS US TO BE FULLY EQUIPPED SOLDIERS

The Father wants His Son’s soldiers to be armed, protected, and smart. In these last evil days, it is good to let Daniel and his faith become a sort of drill sergeant for us. The book can be a kind of spiritual “boot camp” for Christians to learn about spiritual guerrilla warfare. The first half of Daniel is about faith, the type of faith that the wise end-times saint will acquire. As God’s word says, “*Without faith it is impossible to please Him.*” Heb. 11:6 The examples of faith in Daniel will help us live more pleasing lives for our Savior. The second half of Daniel is devoted to revealing the truth and dangers of the Antichrist. Like any good military strategist, God wants His soldiers to know the enemy. He wants

His soldiers to understand why they are fighting and what they are fighting for. It is not enough to be knowledgeable and fully equipped for battle. A soldier must also know how to fight. For this, God uses Daniel once again to draw our attention to two main forms of spiritual warfare. In chapters nine and ten, the Spirit of God takes us aside, turning for a moment from drilling us, to show us two of the most effective ways of defeating our foe: *Prayer* and *Fasting*.

Our greatest source of teaching comes from the Holy Scriptures, of course. Jesus taught us about prayer and fasting. The Epistles are replete with inspiration and enlightenment about prayer. The Old Testament presents example after example of men of prayer. Most notable is Elijah, the man of whom James 5:17 said, *“was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit...”* The book of Daniel lags behind none when it comes to teaching and inspiring us about prayer. It teaches us the attitude we must bring with us into our prayer closet. It also shows us, the end-times believers, many of the elements of prayer which we should have in our prayer life in these last evil days.

Throughout Daniel, we are brought into contact with the spirit of prayer and its glorious power. Daniel was saved from defilement in chapter one because he sought God and knew his will. He was saved from death in chapter two by prayer. He was delivered from the mouth of the lions in chapter six by prayer. And finally, in chapter nine and ten we are pulled aside from our end-times study of faith and about the Antichrist to learn how to fight the good fight of faith.

A SCAN OF DANIEL'S PRAYER IN CHAPTER NINE

Daniel had studied the words of Jeremiah and discovered that the prophet had told Israel that their captivity would last exactly 70 years. Take note that Daniel knew God's Word. He had studied it. He had even had it revealed to him (chapters 7 & 8) by revelation from heaven. In order to understand it, however, he had to go to God in prayer, with fastings and supplication and repentance. (Much of our prayer to God should be in question form, and then waiting for the answer.) He writes that he went before God in sackcloth and ashes the Old Testament symbols of repentance and humility. Daniel set himself on his knees to plead the case

of his people before the Lord. And as we shall see in later studies God answered his humble prayer by trusting to his pen the entire scope of His plan of the nations and salvation for His people: the Commonwealth of Israel. Daniel began his prayer by both admitting his personal sin and acknowledging God's righteousness while praising Him for His wisdom, mercy, and forgiveness.

“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;

We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments.

Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spoke in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

O Lord, righteousness belongs 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.

O Lord, to us belongs confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him..." Dan 9:4-8

In some ways, the end-times saint can see this prayer as appropriate also for the body of Christ. The end-times saint, though living righteously, as Daniel, should not distance himself from association with the sin of the people. Daniel admitted his uncleanness (as a natural man) and was willing to intercede, to "take the heat" for the chosen elect people's sake. The Diaspora had happened and captivity had been imposed. The body of Christ would seem to be in a similar state today. Daniel was asking in his heart that salvation and freedom would once again come to the people of God and their captivity would be returned forever. We can ask the same for the body. Daniel admits they had gone astray. They had not listened to the *Law and The Prophets*, in other words, neither to God's servants whom he sent to them nor followed the commandments and instructions laid down in Mosaic Law. Worse still, Israel had not listened to

the voice of God and so the curses of God had fallen upon them.

Daniel then prays, *“yet made we not our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth. 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.”* Dan 9:13-14 Judgment must begin at the house of God declares the book of 1 Peter. Daniel, as our example of an end-times intercessor, tells us we must acknowledge God’s righteous judgment in our lives and in the body of Christ at large. **God will not honor anything but the truth.** For God says of Himself, He cannot lie. God is love; and love, we are told in 1 Cor. 13, *‘rejoices in the truth’*. After acknowledging the disobedience to truth and love, Daniel then beseeches God to turn His anger and fury away from Jerusalem so that for His name’s sake His people will no more be a reproach. This intercessory prayer we can pray for the body.

“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. 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. 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." Dan 9:16-18

AFTER THIS, DANIEL OFFERS THIS SIMPLE PLEA.

"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." vs 19

HEAR – FORGIVE – HEARKEN AND DO.

We can pray this prayer that God will glorify his name in us and the church, every day that we have breath. Now we come to the part of Daniel's prayer for which God used the above timely letter to emphasize his message. Daniel describes the spiritual sequence as the word came to him by an angel.

"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;

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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.

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

At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.” Vs.

20-23

The natural presumption about prayer is, it is God's tool for making known our needs, requests, and desires. Though prayer is all of that, it is much more. Daniel's prayers in chapters nine and ten help us understand just how much more. Prayer is also supposed to sharpen our discernment, increase our understanding, and enlighten us on God's will. In short, prayer should enhance our communication with the Father and the Son. Take note that Daniel is not merely talking *at* God in His prayer, issuing demands or requests. He starts these prayers because he wants help from God. Daniel expects help to come in the form of answers. Prayer must open

communication with God. It must draw us into His presence. We cannot here go into the difference between answered prayer before and after the advent of Christ. In Daniel's case, God sent angels to answer His prayers (one of them most likely was Christ Himself in chapter 10). In the case of the end-times believer, that angel is the perpetual messenger God Himself in the person of the Holy Ghost. But the intensity and reality of the battles and the role of angels in assisting us in spiritual warfare remain the same. In the age of grace, we can go boldly before the throne of God in His heavenly throne room. The coming of the Messiah changed our access and made things easier and more instantaneous because of the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, but the spiritual warfare has in many ways only increased. We know that the Devil is furious because he knows his time is short. Daniel serves us as a clear portrait of the intensity and reality of the battle taking place around us at all times. Chapter ten of Daniel is a miniature play acted out before us in order to open our eyes to the reality of this battle. Read it and you will see. Also, read 2 Kings 6 and the story of Elisha and his servant and how God opened their eyes to see the host of angels that surround and defend the saints in time of need.

CONCLUSION

Chapter seven shows that God had forecasted the rise of the Antichrist kingdom and detailed its metamorphosis from Babylon to Persia, to Greece, to Rome. For the first time in His relationship with man, God revealed in chapter seven of Daniel that the Antichrist is a kingdom. He showed that the Antichrist kingdom would come about by a process of evolution and that its spirit would control and dominate not only the governments and commerce of the earth but also the souls and minds of all the earth's inhabitants. In short, Daniel chapter seven shows that God knew and ordained that Western Civilization would be the dominating force of the earth. That the spirit prince over this kingdom would be the ruler of all other wicked spirit princes and their earthly governments.

In chapter eight God establishes the second important precedent concerning the Antichrist when He reveals for the first time ever in Scripture that the Antichrist is not only a kingdom, but it is a person also. To the student of prophecy, this may seem obvious, but this is the revelation from which our knowledge that the Antichrist is a man stems. The vision given Daniel in chapter eight skips from the third kingdom (Greece), over the most

significant kingdom (the fourth one), right to the end-times Antichrist kingdom of ten horns headed up by a singularly evil man. The reason for this leap is to draw attention to this great essential fact that the Antichrist is a man, a leader who will take the reins of the Antichrist kingdom at the end and cause the most brutal, tyrannical rule mankind has, or ever will, know. Chapter eight goes directly from the kingdom of Alexander the Great to the final Antichrist leader because Alexander is both Scripture and history's finest and most perfect archetype of the "*evil one*".

There are many more details and edifying revelations that God would have the students of prophecy glean from chapters seven and eight, but these are the two great purposes of chapters seven and eight and the major points of emphasis for our study. God has established for us, the end-times saints, that the Antichrist is both man and kingdom. His word has established that they are inseparable. The kingdom needs a man to lead it and the man needs a kingdom to lead. The kingdom has been walked into all parts of the earth by the iron and unremitting legs of "Rome" and its influence has permeated every stratum of society and life on every continent. History bears this out. Its influence is felt in every government, culture, and ideology.

All this dreadful and terrible kingdom needs is an object of its worship, the man whom the world will receive as its savior, the Antichrist. These awesome visions were shown by God to Daniel, and understandably they greatly troubled him. *“As for me, Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.”* Vs. 7:28 And chapter eight ends with these words. *“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.”* Vs 8:27

So what is the next recorded response we, the end-times saints see from Daniel our prototype end-times saint? Not surprisingly, we see him with a contrite heart seeking God’s face and engaged in spiritual exercise and warfare. In reading chapter nine we don’t know it but God has already decided to tell Daniel what his plan of salvation is for the Jewish nation and that Daniel should not lose hope. God has everything under control. He will tell him about his plan to save all of Israel and He will reveal to Him in detail what must happen in the end and how the fullness of the transgressors must be allowed to prosper in order for the truth to come out, for the faith of the saints to be tried, and so the lies of the Antichrist and Satan can be exposed for all time and forever.

God will do this in perhaps the greatest single prophecy of all Scripture (at the end of chapter nine) and in chapter eleven when he tracks the career of the Antichrist in detail. But first Daniel goes into prayer, and then fasting and warfare so he can get a true handle on what this all means to his faith and the destiny of his people. Daniel, like every first-time hearer of prophecy, is uncertain how to understand these things or how they are supposed to edify him. So Daniel, in his wisdom, resorts to the only thing he has, the only thing the end-times believer has, he resorts to seeking God's face by prayer and supplication and to asking God for His mercy and kindness to intercede on his and his people's behalf.

If Daniel is a picture of the prototype end-times saint and all of his Biblically recorded experiences and actions can be applied to the faith of believers at the end, then the Christian should take note of these two chapters. Two chapters out of 12, in God's secret end-times weapon, are devoted to prayer and fasting. That alone says a lot about where we should be pouring our time and efforts.

As major players in the end-times, the common man and simple believer will be involved in the furtherance of the invitation to brideship which is being issued at this very moment by the spirit to any

who have ears to hear it. The regular citizen of the kingdom of God will be faithful to prayer and fasting in the kind of way counseled by God in Isaiah 58.(Read this chapter for yourself.) No longer should a Christian expect this sort of spiritual labor to be the exclusive province of monks and 'holy' men as it may have been left up to them in past epochs of christian history. We should not turn this work over to them alone; it is proper for all Christians to serve God with their whole heart and mind.

Daniel's prayer makes the clarion call to the humble and meek and those reckoned as lowly in power or lacking mass appeal. Chapter nine makes its appeal to spiritual work as a calling to regular end-times saints, not just to 'priests' and ministers of the gospel. So important is this grace to have faith for prayer, which is bestowed upon the ordinary believer that God has separated it even from the general counsel and teachings of end-times faith given in the first half of Daniel and has placed it within revelations concerning the history and fate of the Antichrist Beast and its leader, because it is an essential weapon in the fight against antichrist elements in the end-times. This appeal to spiritual labor appears in the Bible directly ahead of the

greatest prophecy of the Bible in 9:24-27 (#10 in our study of Daniel). It sits at the door leading into the prophecies of Daniel, prophetic revelations which run the course of this age (chs. 10-12) and address the judgment of this world at the end, false religion, and the redemption of faithful believers.

MOST COMPREHENSIVE PROPHECY OF ALL SCRIPTURE: DANIEL 9:24-27

*Jammed Packed Spanning 1st and 2nd
Comings*

Daniel was not only a prophet but as the archetypal end-times saint, he was a preeminent student of God's Word. It was through his study of the writings of Jeremiah that he realized the captivity of the Jews in Babylon would last exactly 70 years. Daniel asked God to what end this would be. Would Israel ever be saved? If so, when? What was His purpose in bringing about salvation by linking together what seemed to be such a dramatic and ironic array of events? And, how much tribulation

and persecution would have to be endured by His loyal people during the long years of those chain of events?

Daniel has been shown the vicious nature of the Antichrist and his kingdom. Having knowledge of the coming blasphemies of Antichrist, Daniel is in need of reassurance and answers to the very alarming questions which are weighing heavily on his soul. So he did the only thing he could. He prayed. He looked to God privately with prayers, fasting, and an honest heart. He registered the following plea with God.

“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.” Dan 9:19

God immediately answered Daniel’s plea in dramatic fashion when the angel Gabriel “flew” to Daniel to deliver this comforting announcement.

“At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.” Dan 9:23

The entire bundle of prophetic promises would take place within a bundle of “70 weeks” of years, a week of years being seven years.

There are four verses, Dan. 9:24-27, which should be studied closely, four jam-packed verses of a prophecy delivered by the angel Gabriel to the prophet Daniel...

These may be the greatest single collection of prophecies of the Bible as they depict Jesus first and second comings and so much of the career of the Antichrist himself. They were given to comfort Daniel’s vexed spirit and console him in his feelings of despair for his people after they had been exiled into Babylon. The four verses run over twenty-five hundred years covering the entire scope of the redemption of the commonwealth of Israel (which includes both Jew and Christian Gentiles.) The prophecy tells:

- The timing, to the very day, of the first coming of Christ.
- It tells us the event that sparks the beginning of the seven-year period called The Tribulation marking the one absolute way to know who the Antichrist is and when he shall begin his regime. If for no other reason than these two, this prophecy would be among the most important in Holy Scripture, but it not

only pinpoints the first coming of the Messiah and identifies the beginning of the seven-year dictatorship of the Antichrist, it also reveals:

- The exact time of the Jews return from Babylonian captivity.
- The rebuilding of the Second Temple, the reconstruction of the Holy City, and its walls.
- The very day of Jesus' death.
- The subsequent destruction of both, Herod's Temple and Jerusalem.
- Alludes to the Age of Grace as the time of salvation for the Gentiles.
- Tells the duration of the Antichrist's reign of terror.
- Refers to the ultimate blasphemy of all time – when Antichrist will sit on God's throne in Jerusalem and claim to be God.
- And finally, the prophecies conclude in verse 24 by heralding the ultimate salvation of God's saints telling us about:
 - The promise of salvation to Israel.
 - Declaring the ultimate establishment of everlasting righteousness.
 - Reassuring the faithful about freedom from sin and its effects.
 - The conclusive victory of God's kingdom

over all other kingdoms and powers throughout heaven and earth, and the finish of all that is promised to Daniel.

- The bringing in of Everlasting Righteousness (Jesus' rule on earth)

- And, the coronation of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords from the cleansed and restored Temple in Jerusalem.

“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.” Dan. 9.24

Gabriel began his report telling Daniel not to fret over the outcome of the battle or over the salvation of Israel. Ultimately, six crucial matters concerning the salvation of mankind would be resolved for the faithful. The kingdom of God would win out. He tells him that a predetermined amount of time had been allotted by God upon Jerusalem and the Jews for their transgression against God to come to the full and finally be finished.

Sin would then be halted and a reconciliation for

their iniquity would be paid, justice would be served and they would have peace with their God. Everlasting righteousness would then be established and the visions and prophecies that Daniel had been given would all come to pass just as God promised. The verse concludes by stating that the Most Holy, or the Messiah, would be anointed as their king.

These promises – sin and transgression ending, reconciliation with God and the establishment of everlasting righteousness – speak of the work of a Savior, one that had day scheduled on a cross on a hill called “The Skull” at the outskirts of the city of God, Jerusalem. The prophet Isaiah had been shown some two hundred years earlier what the prophecies of Daniel 9:24 were promising about the Messiah and his mission.

Isaiah 53

“For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief and we hid as it were our faces from him: he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

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Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper

in his hand.

He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors: and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for transgressors.”

Isaiah. 53

Verse 24 of Daniel 9 is an all-encompassing expression of God’s Messianic promise to the Jews and in one line offers more than a glimpse into the details of Isaiah 53. It is the same promise given to Judah in Egypt by his dying father Jacob fifteen centuries before; “*The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh (Jesus) come: and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*” This is the promise of salvation, the hope of righteousness being established once and for all among God’s people; culminating in the glorious coronation of “The Holy One” which is revealed as Jesus Christ the Righteous. The work done on Calvary by Jesus will accomplish all that God has promised to the nation of Israel. By His shed blood,

death is defeated, sin and transgression forgiven. His mercy covers our unrighteousness which is paid for in full by His suffering and death. The power of His resurrection has opened the door to righteousness. The veil that separated man from God has been torn so that we now have the opportunity to stand before God to make known our petitions and receive His righteous and merciful judgment.

Through this prophecy, we come to know the day is coming when Jesus will return with ten thousands of His saints to take this world and rule it as our true Savior. He shall come with a sword in His mouth and a rod in His hand. For by His word alone the mountains and the cities shall topple by His rod of iron the world will submit to his justice and perfect integrity of government.

*“And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse:
and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and
True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make
war.*

*His eyes were as a flame of fire and on his head
were many crowns: and he had a name written, that
no man knew, but he himself,*

*And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood:
and his name is called The Word of God.*

And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Rev. 19:11-16

All of this is told or eluded to in the promises of verse 24, which introduce this great, great prophecy of the “70 weeks”.

THIS SINGLE PROPHECY SPANS 1,500 YEARS

God compresses this wide-ranging prophecy of 1500 years by breaking it down into 70 units of “weeks” or groups of seventy years, within which there is a lengthy interregnum allowing for the ‘time for the gentiles’ and people outside of Israel and the Jews to be brought into the heavenly kingdom of God. This formula and breakdown was also used in order to “hide” the time of Jesus’ first coming so that the wicked and perverse generation which were allowed

by God to crucify Jesus would perform what was in their heart, i.e. to do away with God. As the Bible says, if they knew what they were doing they would not have crucified the Lord. God used the cryptic “weeks” as His yardstick of time for the same reason that Jesus taught in parables, so that hearing they might not hear and seeing they might not understand lest they comprehend and be converted without real repentance having taken place. Once again, it was an expression of the closing remark of the Book of Daniel, that in the end the wise will understand all these prophetic matters but the wicked shall not understand.

The work of the Savior, forecast by the news delivered to Daniel via the heavenly messenger Gabriel, would take time, many judgments and events would have to unfold in the process. It would not happen right away, not in one generation’s time, or even, as it turned out, within a single millennium. At the end of Daniel’s writings, God tells him to seal up the book because it is for a time far off in the future. God’s plan would come to fruition only in the “fullness of time”.

God chose to tell the duration of the prophecy using the representative number 70. Broken down, 70 is 7×10 . Seven is God’s number of perfect fullness (as in seven days to the week), and ten is

His number of perfect order (as in ten digits to the decimal system), especially so in government systems. The two numbers combine to teach the end-times believer that this prophecy will be completed both in the fullness of time and in full and perfect order according to the way God has willed it. It is the expression of the promise spoken of by Paul in Ephesians 1:10, *“That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.”*

A “WEEK” AS A DESIGNATION OF TIME IS A PERIOD OF SEVEN YEARS.

Verse 25 says, “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to 1.) restore and to build Jerusalem unto 2.) the Messiah the Prince shall be 3.) seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks (which = 62 weeks): 4.) the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.”

God begins verse 25 by advising Daniel that he should, *“Know therefore and understand”*. In other words, God is simply saying, I want you to realize and fully comprehend the rest of the implications of

this prophecy. It is very important. Daniel is stopped from rushing to a conclusion about the time restraints on the many things in this long-ranging, far-reaching prophecy by ingenuously keeping the prophecies' fulfillment open ended in terms of time.

This apparently short time span – one year and four months by our common reckoning of a year-weeks would not be enough time to have His entire plan of the age of Grace completed. Historians and scholars agree that a seven-year span of time was not uncommon among the Jews to denote a period of time, akin to our use of decades, or centuries, or millennia. We must also remember that God's purpose for the book of Daniel and the prophecy of the 70 weeks is meant primarily for end-times understanding. Since the end-times saint would have the advantage of history's hindsight to see that a week obviously represents a period of seven years, it would give the end-times believer a clear and rock-solid understanding of the time schedule of the many prophecies. It also would make clear the distinction of the 70th, or final "*week*", and how it is isolated from the other 69 weeks for a very necessary and significant reason. This is necessary for two reasons. The first being that it segregates the duration of the world-wide reign of the ultimate Antichrist as a seven-year period, and second, it

informs us that only during this particular period at the end will the earth be under the ultimate extensive dictatorship of Antichrist and his evil. Unlike the other 69 weeks and the interregnum periods when 'would-be' antichrists would be unable to fulfill the full vision of Antichrist, at the end the 'real' Antichrist will have full totalitarian fascist rule over the globe. (1)

(1) *(This totalitarian rule will only be challenged by what the Scriptures in Daniel 11 calls the King of the South: which refers directly to Egypt and probably any remaining Moslem powers or forces which the Antichrist will finally subdue only at the last moments of his seven year reign which coincides directly with the seven year Tribulation period.) Therefore, God is telling us through Daniel that one must follow the timing of the seventy weeks prophecy carefully if one is to understand the prophesied course of history, so as not to be enticed at any time by the antichrist conspiratorial spirit.*

This means that at this time in history we may rightly regard that the first 69 weeks of the prophecy have already been fulfilled and the next events will be within the last 'week'. We only wait for the start of the seventieth week to take place. Simple math

is all that is required to see the outstanding fulfillments that came to pass exactly on time and in perfect order.

In years 69 weeks = 69 x 7 (7 years = one week), or 483 years. This increment of 69 weeks (483 years) is broken by the prophecy into two unequal parts of 7 weeks and 62 weeks. The two parts represent: first, the restoration of Jerusalem to the Jewish people and second, the advent of their long awaited Messiah. Verse 25 also discloses the exact time when they would occur.

THE FIRST SEVEN WEEKS BEGAN WITH REBUILDING THE JEWISH TEMPLE

The first thing; i.e. the rebuilding of Jerusalem, occurred in 445 B.C.E. when King Artaxerxes of Persia decreed that his Jewish cupbearer, Nehemiah, would be given unlimited and extensive authority to rebuild Jerusalem with Persian backing, money, and resources. It was accomplished exactly on the prophecy's schedule when the city gates and the Temple were dedicated 7 'weeks', or 49 years later. The prophecy about the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple was accomplished perfectly. The detailed story of how this was accomplished, the

rebuilding of the Temple, etc., even in “*troubulous times*“, is recorded in the Biblical books of Nehemiah, Haggai, and other prophets.

THE FOLLOWING 62 WEEK PERIOD
ENDS WITH MESSIAH ENTERING
JERUSALEM

This brings us to the year 397 B.C.E. and the start of the second prophecy of 62 ‘weeks’ duration. This part is not as easily chronicled because of the confusion of calendars and dates between the Roman, Jewish, Greek, and Babylonian systems. But if we go according to the Babylonian calendar (the “host” nation of Daniel’s prophecy), which used 360 days as its annual count, and break down the (62 weeks x 7) into its corresponding number of 434 years, and take it further down to its number of corresponding days we get an even more exact number (176,240) with which to work. Starting from the decree of Artaxerxes on April 14, 445B.C. and counting down to the 176, 240th day, we come just six days short of the day for which we can best guess was the day Rome and Pontius Pilate crucified Jesus and we know it was on the Passover and when the Passover was celebrated in 32 C.E.. Five days short of the Passover in that year is what Christians declare

as Palm Sunday. This is the day the prophecy declared would be the coming of Messiah the Prince, therefore it is the exact day upon which Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem cheered on by throngs of enthusiastic worshippers hailing Him as the Messiah on that first “Palm Sunday”. Christ, the King was hailed as the Messiah, and six days later was “*cut off, but not for himself,*” just as the prophecy had said would happen.

“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 flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.” Dan. 9.26

The first part of verse 26 tells of Jesus (Messiah) “being cut off” which points to His death on the cross and that He would be severed from Israel for a time. It further implies – by saying “*but not for Himself*” – that this rejection would be connected with a mission of unselfishness, which we know was a mission to save not only the Jews but the Gentiles out of every nation and peoples as well.

We further deduce that the last part of vs. 26 of the prophecy refers not only to the destruction of

Jerusalem and the Temple which was fulfilled in 70 A.D. by the Roman Emperor Titus, but that the phrase “*unto the end of the war desolations are determined*” also refers to the overall spiritual war that has effectually made Israel and the nation of the Jews desolate throughout the Age of Grace, or otherwise the period in God’s plan of the ages also known as the ‘*Time of the Gentiles*’. So the second phase of 62 weeks has already been accomplished.

ONLY THE LAST WEEK REMAINS TO BE FULFILLED

There is still one week left, dangling alone in prophecy, unattended to by the Jewish nation and the sufferings of the Messiah. Most notably it is a ‘separation of times’ a wide gulf in spirit, between the 69th and 70th “weeks”, for the 70th and final week addresses not the Christ, but the Antichrist and his time; The 70th Week. It is verse 27.

“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week [the 70th 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.” Vs 27

The 70th Week is a separate entity, but the time between the 69th and 70th weeks is opened ended without any prophetic designation of the amount of days or times in between them. It is an interregnum without a specific duration given to us by God. It is a time designated by God the Father for the salvation of the lost sheep of the Gentiles. It is a time of which Jesus tells us is only known by the Father himself, not even the angels or Himself know how long it will last or when it will end. They only know as we know by way of prophecy that it will end at some designated time purely within the Father’s Will alone – but we know it will end with the second advent of His Son.

Daniel and the Book of Revelation, as well as the other prophets and things in the Gospels and Epistles tell us what and how the 70th Week shall come to pass and how it shall be concluded, but unlike the things in the 69 weeks in which we are told specific time frames, we do not know when the 70th week shall begin. We only know the sign that will begin it, and that from there on out, seven years will provide us with the fulfillment of all its

prophecies and then the end will come right on schedule.

WAITING WITH SUSPENSE

We are existing in a kind of state of suspended animation, a time of separation of times, generally accepted by teachers of prophecy as a “suspension” of time set aside for the full and complete salvation of any of the Gentiles who would turn to Jesus and accept His salvation. The event which triggers the start of the last week is the covenant that the Antichrist makes between Israel and many nations. It is the last seven years, the final ‘week’ of the great prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27, the showdown and judgment of man and his government with Christ and his people.

At this moment we wait. We are rapidly approaching its conclusion. Peter spoke of it as a period of undetermined length, a time of grace and salvation, and God’s extended mercies on the rebellious souls of Man.

“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as

DANIEL THE BOOK

some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” 2 Peter 3:8-10

THE FINAL WEEK IS GLORIOUS

The general conception among teachers of prophecy in Evangelical circles is that the Tribulation either begins with the Rapture of the faithful believers or the initiation of a false peace by the Antichrist with Israel. While both of these may end up being true because their timing might coincide with the actual start of the Tribulation, neither of them mark the beginning of the seven-year period we commonly call the Tribulation.

This period represents not just the showdown with the antichrist spirit but is the culmination of ‘God’s plan of salvation and the Messianic promise to the Jewish nation. It has been referred to by many prophets through the ages and in various ways by Jesus, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Paul, John, Peter, and the book of Revelation as well as dozens of other

books of the Bible. But of all the places in which it is mentioned, Daniel verse 9:27 is the one place that definitely declares what constitutes the start of the Tribulation and how long it will last. Daniel's vision of the 70th week is the first scripture to reveal that the Tribulation has a predetermined duration of seven years. It also declares that this seven-year period will begin when the prince (Antichrist) confirms the covenant with many for one "*week*". In this one verse, the Lord strikes at the very heart of the Antichrist and shows us not only how he will be known but also what his mission actually is.

What is meant by "*the covenant*" which this "*vile person*" (as he is called in chapter 11) confirms with many for seven years? It seems only reasonable that it must be used in the context of the Jewish covenant of the Old Testament. Any other idea of confirming the covenant is stretching credibility. To the Jew this covenant comprises the land and promises made to the fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the covenant of the law which was given to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

Chapter 11 of Daniel refers to this *covenant* he made as "*the holy covenant*". Dan. 11:28 This covenant must have something to do with Mosaic religion and probably something to do with the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. Some sort of deal will

likely be struck between hostile Arabs and Muslims that will give them a trade-off for a settlement in the Palestinian problem and give the Jews their Temple, probably on the Temple Mount.

We know that the Jewish Temple must be rebuilt because much of the Antichrist's religious activity that is of paramount importance for his ruling the world takes place and is centered around activities in the Jewish Temple. There is no other meaning that can be attached to the word 'covenant' which triggers the 70th Week than God's religious sacred covenant with Israel. The point is that the Antichrist will be known beyond any shadow of doubt by his helping to reestablish Jewish religion and putting the Arab problem seemingly at rest. The Tribulation will begin that day when the agreement is inked when this man "*confirms the covenant with many*". This is the very moment of the beginning of the Tribulation, not the Rapture, not false peace, not the forming of the ten nations or the inauguration of a president over a European confederation, not tumults and wars, or pestilence – these are signs of the end, yes – (though any or all of these could happen simultaneously to the start of the Tribulation), it is the deal that is connected somehow to the "holy" covenant. We watch for this, though we watch for Christ's appearing first and

foremost. But who knows we may not have yet been Raptured before the start of the 70th Week. Only time shall tell.

The reason this point is important is that it also reveals much about the mission and spirit of the Antichrist and the subtleties of his religious deceptions. “*To confirm the covenant*” means he will be a religious man. He will be a champion of Jewish religion. He will sponsor the reestablishment of Jewish law and he will ordain the re-institution of sacrifice in a rebuilt and renewed temple. The confirmation of the covenant of God’s people may even take place with the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremonies of the new Temple, or it may be at the ceremony of the groundbreaking for the Temple.

The Tribulation is inexorably connected to the setting up of the temple and the re-establishment of Mosaic Law. Consider, “*and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease*”. For this to happen, the sacrifices and oblations of the law must be renewed. The Antichrist will be the one behind their establishment. The sacrifices and offerings for Israel will be reinstituted largely due to his efforts and influence. It will look good and godly. He will look and fit perfectly the part of a modern-day David to the Jews. He will be comfortable in the

temple, sure and mighty in war, clever in diplomacy, and apparently have the anointing of God resting on his charismatic and yet humble head. The reason the Antichrist must establish the temple and reinstate the law and sacrifices is because his mission is to set himself up as God, *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”* That’s what Paul warned in his letter to the church of Thessalonica.

To do this the Antichrist must be in Jerusalem, sitting upon God’s own throne. This is the act that is so abominable that it makes everything desolate. Christians speak of the time when the Holy Ghost will be driven out of the earth and no longer convict men of sin. This is the moment in the midst of the week (Tribulation) by which things become desolate, because of this incredible blasphemy of making himself God. This is the same abomination of desolation that Jesus spoke of and urged that everyone should run for the hills when they hear it has happened. The 70th week is coming upon us, but God wants the end-times saint to know that the Rapture is also coming and, as He promised to the

faithful believers in Philadelphia, we can be kept from this terrible hour if will we heed His warnings and walk according to His ways.

This is why it is appropriate to cry out – Come Soon, Lord Jesus – Come Soon!

DANIEL – CHAPTER 11

*Fast Track Through Antichrist Empire To
The Coming...*

FINAL ANTICHRIST KINGDOM

PREFACE

Many Christians still hold the mistaken notion that history is a boring and useless subject. To them, history is simply not relevant. What they fail to understand is that much of the Bible is history and that God's idea of all meaningful history is nothing less than fulfilled prophecy. Chapter 11 of the Book of Daniel is one of the best examples of this in all of Scripture. The chapter is a brisk and explosive venture into the history of western civilization and

the competition between nations to hold rule over God's Holy City, Jerusalem. It is also a concise and awesome chapter that provides a summary of political and military history of western civilization, otherwise called the Antichrist Empire. This chapter of Daniel is nothing less than a bird's eye view, the quintessential true history of the Antichrist government, and its relentless attempts to dominate the world and unite mankind in rebellion against the Creator.

If only the historians of the world, modern and ancient had known what Chapter 11 reveals, for as 21st Century pop culture might put it; this chapter is history with a bullet. Like a dying man seeing his entire life pass before him in an instant, so this wonderful chapter gives the end-times believer all the knowledge one needs to identify the Antichrist conspiracy which summed up is nothing less than to wrest control of the earth and the hearts of Man away from God. Forty percent (the first 19 verses of this 46 verse chapter) of its prophecy has already been fulfilled. It is in the truest sense rightly called: history. That leaves 60 percent that is future, or what The EOE calls history waiting to happen. We urge even those who do not care for history to take a look at this remarkable chapter with us.

The 20th verse was essentially fulfilled in 2008

with the collapse of the United States economy resulting in her decline as the Raiser of Taxes, as verse 20 indicates, means she is in a free-fall descent as the one and only supreme world power. The fall of the USA as the ruling Antichrist Empire makes certain the assertion that the final 26 verses of Daniel 11 have to do with the Antichrist himself and the reign of his world empire. It must be only a short while before it is literally fulfilled globally and by the “vile person”, as Daniel labels him. All Daniel’s prophecies about the Antichrist loom in the very near future, some are even looming in this very hour – perched for our study as contemporary history waiting to happen...

INTRODUCTION:

Daniel 11 is the story of the conflict among the nations during the entire Age of the Gentiles or Age of Grace. This great prophecy looks down the tunnel of time, over 2,000 years of history, to trace the ebb and flow of two prophetic superpowers that were destined to butt heads for centuries, until the North finally overcomes the other, the South. Halfway through the chapter, the prophecy settles on the “Little Horn” (the Antichrist person himself) and speaks of a time when the Antichrist Empire is

finally ‘fused together’ and united under his rule into a behemoth of strength which can dominate the Globe. It concludes with the Antichrist’s desperate wars at the end and his ultimate defeat at the return of Christ.

Here, in relatively few verses, is recorded all the prophetically significant political movements and imperialistic wars during this ‘Time of the Gentiles’. Throughout the Time of the Gentiles God has kept the Antichrist kingdom on “ice” by keeping it divided from within. Because the Beast’s power is so great, God ensured that this awesome monster was kept in check by allowing a rival empire of comparable power and status to compete against it. That empire is the spirit prince of the South. Daniel calls him the ‘king of the south’ and while it refers to a man or a kingdom it should also be understood that it is ruled by spirit princes. (Previous dreams and visions of Daniel showed this truth.) World domination and possession of men’s souls has always been the high stakes of history.

The prized possession and focus of the spiritual battle has never been as men have supposed it to be. It is not who controlled the breadbasket of the earth. It is not who ruled the seas. It is not which empire had the control of the world economy or who dominated militarily. Though those things were

important and necessary to achieve the goal, they were never the prize, which is and has always been spiritual. The spirits who reign over these empires, controlling and influencing their leaders and peoples, have always known that the true prize and the real power rested in the hands of the kingdom that controlled Jerusalem and, specifically, the site of the sacred Jewish Temple. The reason being that without control of The Temple it would be impossible to fulfill the vision of the Antichrist, which is man becoming God in God's Temple. Here and only here can dominion over the soul be gained.

While regular men have often been ignorant of its significance, these spirit princes know that whoever controls the place where God has centered His promises, where the conflict between creature and Creator must ultimately be settled, will be able to command the worship of all mankind. God has said that His Son will be worshipped from His throne in Jerusalem – His Holy City. Satan wants to usurp God's power, enthrone "his son" in The Temple and demand the worship of mankind. Nothing else will suffice. This is the goal of Satan; the Beast and the reason for its need for a world kingdom.

The competition between *North* and *South* has always been focused on the navel of the earth, Jerusalem. *North* vs. *South* competition has been in

full gear for more than 1500 years since the final dissolution of the Italian Roman Empire and its division into East and West. The competitor against this, partly strong and partly weak divided Rome, is the ancient 'spirit of Egypt'. The prince of Rome controls the King of the North and the spirit prince of Egypt controls the King of the South. Like spiritual amoeba these empires of North and South have changed form and direction, their seats of authority being moved from one nation to another, but as a single-celled brainless creature, they remain essentially the same, they are still the same spiritual principalities of Rome and Egypt. The spirit of the South was born in Egypt thousands of years ago. It is the same Egypt that Moses confronted with the staff of God. In the end, this spirit of Egypt will have gone full circle returning to the land of the Pharaohs where it will become the nemesis of the Beast and stall its plan to steal the hearts of all mankind from the Creator. Daniel 11 reveals that during the Tribulation the Spirit of Egypt will remain the only competitor stopping the Antichrist from unchallenged rule of the earth. Not until the very days of the end and the moment of Armageddon will the battle be nearly won by the Antichrist to exterminate the King of the South and its opposition.

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 11
ANTICHRIST HISTORY IN A BULLET:
FROM BEGINNING TO ARMAGEDDON &
RETURN OF CHRIST

After the division of Rome, Jerusalem lay in ruins for many years inhabited by shepherds, sheep, poor Jews, and Arabs. In 622 A.D.; however, the king of the South suddenly became the dominant force in the Holy Land due to the supernatural rise of Islam. A few centuries later Islam's successor, the Turks (the Ottoman Empire) transformed the South into a full and cohesive force in much the same way that Persia had added body and substance to the Antichrist kingdom. For 1,300 years the South, under Ottoman rule, held jurisdiction over the Holy Land; the only break was during the brief and fragile success of the king of the North's First Crusade. The South's control was not ended until World War I when the Ottoman Empire, weak and crumbling from within, gave way to the armies of Great Britain which marched triumphantly through the gates of Jerusalem in November of 1917. After centuries and centuries of frustration, Great Britain's annexation of the Holy Land marked the return of the control of the Antichrist Empire over the Promised Land. Yet it also marked the beginning of the end of the Time

of the Gentiles, that its days were numbered because it was destined by prophecy to be quickly followed thirty-one years later by the miraculous return of the Jews after World War II in 1948. Jewish sovereignty of Israel is the iridescent prophetic sign that the beginning of the end for the Gentiles and the Age of the Latter Days had come.

Daniel 11 shows that the coming of the Antichrist and his end-time empire comes on the heels of this northern resurgence and the subsequent return of the Jews to the Promised Land. Even with the return of the Jews to their home the Antichrist and the Roman influence remain a strong and manipulative force in Israel today, and would right up to the very end. The reassertion of the Roman influence in the Holy Land during the last hours is detailed in Daniel 11 giving an account of the Antichrist's campaigns and his great deceit targeted at the Jew and God. By flattery and force, by bribery and betrayal, the Antichrist will convince unholy Jews that he is their friend and finally their Messiah and their "god".

REVIVAL OF "SOUTH" FORETOLD IN VERSE 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; and his dominion shall be a great dominion.” vs 5

The first four verses of chapter 11 review the transition of power from Persia to Greece, and the scattering of Alexander the Great’s kingdom into the four winds. Verse five then alludes to Alexander’s foremost general, Ptolemy, who, after Alexander’s death, seized the sagging kingdom of Egypt and revived its former glory and greatness. In the process Ptolemy and Egypt gained control of the Promised Land, keeping it for 120 years until 200 B.C. just as Daniel 11:5 had prophesied. In all the Ptolemy Dynasty of Egypt began in 323 B.C. after Alexander’s death, lasting 293 years it spanned 14 unbroken generations and did not meet its end until Augustus Caesar executed the son of Cleopatra and Julius Caesar, Ptolemy XIV in 30 B.C. Ptolemy’s dynasty was used to resurrect the might of the South in preparation for the ‘Time of the Gentiles’ which of course began with the birth of Christ.

Ironically, the *South* was being prepared to compete against the *North* Kingdom by one from out of its own ranks: a Greek. The Ptolemy dynasty was of Greek blood, Ptolemy reputed to be the half-brother of Alexander and bastard son of Philip of Macedonia. Ptolemy, in Egypt, and the other

generals of Alexander baptized all parts of the Southern Kingdom in the spirit of the Antichrist. Ptolemy sought to spread Greek humanism throughout the empire and endeavored to make Alexandria the Capital of Greek culture. What had been started by Alexander, to baptize the world in one spirit of humanism, was accomplished by the splitting up of the Empire into little feuding neo-Greek empires. But while they were all partaking of the same spirit of the Antichrist they were not working together in unison. Instead, they were competing for power. In essence, Ptolemy was used by God to unwittingly defect from the Antichrist Kingdom to instruct and revive the South so it could later turn on the Antichrist North.

SATAN'S UNIFYING PLAN FOILED

“And in the end of years they shall join themselves together [north-south], for the king’s daughter of the south [Cleopatra] shall come to the king of the north [Julius Caesar] to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm: but she shall be given up and they that brought her [Pompey and Caesar], and he that begat her (Ptolemy), and he that strengthen her in these times (Marc Antony).” Vs 6

As prophesied, Cleopatra was betrayed by Rome and did not retain power. Pompey and Julius Caesar, the ones who “*brought her*” to Rome, were betrayed and murdered. He that begat her, the Ptolemy Dynasty, came to an abrupt end with the murder of Cleopatra’s son. He that *thought to strengthen her*, (Marc Antony), was defeated by Augustus Caesar, and Marc Antony and Cleopatra together committed suicide. The alliance was a disaster for all involved. Never again would an alliance be attempted – religious fanaticism would see to that – from now on it would be all-out war for domination of the world and control of the Promised Land.

As the North was cracking in two, the South was being prepared slowly for its role, until, like an exploding bomb, it erupted with unprecedented fury onto history’s center stage. Appearing out of nowhere as the creation of the false prophet, Mohammed, this supernatural movement, loaded with the gunpowder of religious fanaticism, quickly shot its way across the deserts of Arabia, the Middle East, and Africa, even reaching into Europe itself. In just twenty short years the Empire of Islam was born, and the Southern Kingdom had become a formidable competing empire, belligerently and successfully challenging the splintered North.

EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE VS. ISLAM

“But out of a branch of her roots (Cleopatra’s Egypt), shall one stand up in his estate (the estate of the king of the south), which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the north, and shall deal against them and prevail.” Dan. 11:7

It was now time for this Southern movement to stand up in Egypt’s estate and prevail against the fortress of the North. At a time when the divided Roman Empire was receding, the movement out of the spiritual roots of Egypt, this Islam (*meaning submission to God*) was flying along on a magic carpet ride. Nothing could stop it. After its conception by the false prophet Mohammed in A.D. 620, Islam instantly engulfed the entire Southern world. Within ten years Arabia, Persia, Mesopotamia, and the “Jewel” itself were in Islamic clutches. Egypt, all of Northern Africa, and as far east as India, fell a few years later. And then, within a century of the movement’s beginnings, the prophecy was fulfilled.

In 711 the Umayyad Empire of Islam “entered into the fortress” of the Beast and took parts of its cherished possessions. Most of Spain, some of France, all of the islands of the Mediterranean and parts of Italy were conquered, just as Daniel’s

prophecies promised, so it happened; and then “*shall one stand up [Mohammed] which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the north, and shall deal against them and prevail.*” Islam had gained control of the Promised Land and had entered into and prevailed against the North. The King of the South had extended its borders into the North while growing into an imposing beast in its own right in less than a century’s time. From out of nowhere the Islamic Empire had grown even greater in territorial size than the Beast and was standing at its every border flexing its muscles. She had her revenge and carried away the North’s gold, cattle, slaves and her pride.



Within little more than 100 years the King of the South (Moslems) had entered into the Empire’s domain and threatened its very existence. Just as Daniel had foretold.

BUT ROME LIVES ON

It is critical to keep in mind, however, the important prophetic truth that the Roman Empire and power continued to exist between these years of 600 and 1200, as well as beyond. They have remained, in one form or another throughout this age. They may have existed in a somewhat dormant state but the hopes and aspirations, the memory of glories, and the religions always the religion – continued to govern the people even in the absence of a single centralized imperial government. Rome has never ceased to exist.

ROME ALSO PARTLY STRONG

Though Rome was weakened through providentially imposed division, it must be remembered that God had also promised it would be partly strong, and because of its enduring strength, the North was always able to make counter moves against the rival South. At critical times the Roman spirit was able to pull things together temporarily in order to repulse invasion or make thrusts of its own into the Southern Kingdom's stronghold. In one instance, as Daniel prophesied, it even reached into the Promised Land itself. In A.D. 1071, the leader of Rome, the Pope, successfully stirred up the soul

of Europe and got it to undertake a “Holy War” to regain control of Jerusalem.

CRUSADE AFTER CRUSADE – AS DANIEL PROPHESED

“But his sons [the North], shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one [force] shall certainly come, and overflow and pass through [the First Crusade]; then shall he return and be stirred up even to his fortress. 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 [the North] shall set forth a great multitude [all of the Crusades which numbered at least 11]; but the multitude shall be given unto his [the south’s] hand.” Dan. 11:10-11

The Papacy preached the Crusades and the rulers of the Holy Roman succession financed them. The First Crusade did “*pass through and overflow*” the armies of the South and met with success in taking Jerusalem, even if it was only a temporary success.

As a prime Antichrist archetype Pope Urban II incited all of Europe to make a unified move upon the Holy Land.



“From the confines of Jerusalem and the city of Constantinople a horrible tale has gone forth and very frequently has been brought to our ears: namely, that a race from the kingdom of the Persians, an accursed race, a race utterly alienated from God, a generation, forsooth, which has neither directed its heart nor entrusted its spirit to God, has invaded the lands of those Christians and has depopulated them by sword, pillage, and fire. ...” – **Pope Urban II, Proclamation at Clermont, 1095**

This was the hybrid Roman Empire’s most ambitious common enterprise of the period of the Middle Ages and its most conspicuous failure. It was an attempt to bring together all mankind in Christian unity under the leadership of the Pope the so-called successor of Peter. The most intense part of this enterprise and the one that enlisted the most widespread support in Europe from all levels of society was the Crusades of which there were no less than 11 full-fledged attempts to conquer Jerusalem for the Empire. The first Crusade was relatively

successful and a kingdom was set up by the princes and kings of Europe that lasted in degrees for about a hundred years, but this turned out to be a renegade kingdom not subject to the Roman Empire proper or the Papacy's direction and authoritative Will.

The Crusades, in the narrow sense of the expeditions to conquer and hold the Holy Land for the Antichrist, began at the end of the eleventh century and lasted the duration of the Middle Ages. The Crusades also worked for the cause of the Antichrist and the Holy Roman Empire's testing alliance with Mystery Babylon (the papacy as representative) in the following ways:

- *The re-conquest of Spain and Sicily from the Moslems.*
- *The extension of the Christian frontier in the Baltic region to take in Lithuanians, Estonians, Prussians and Finns.*
- *Christian missions to convert the Mongols and other Eastern peoples.*
- *Concurrent with the Crusades was the effort to convert or eliminate the Jews within Europe that led ultimately to their expulsion from many parts of the West. As well as the persecution of designated*

Christian sects that did not support the Pope and his policies of unification and power politics.



The Crusades inspired the most dedicated valor, the most bloodthirsty cruelty, and the greediest vandalism of medieval men. They offered the fullest opportunity for combined fulfillment of Germanic heroic aspirations and Christian ideals of brotherhood and self-sacrifice all in the cause of Antichrist dominion and power though this was the exact opposite of their claim to be doing everything in the name of God.

Eventually, after a hundred years or so the King of the South was “moved with choler” to cast out the North, and did so, just as Daniel had forecasted. The North sent a second Crusade, and a third, and a fourth, and a fifth, and so on, through the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth Centuries; and

all failed. “*Multitudes* and *great multitudes*” kept showering down on the South but with resiliency prophesied, the South repelled every onslaught. Corruption and dissension from within had doomed the North to failure just as the prophecies of Daniel had said would happen.

The Holy Roman Empire was kept impotent by its own inherent weakness and from the fanatic opposition of Islam. The demonic spirit leaders of the South had learned well the lessons of empire from its older rival in the North. Islam had employed its own carefully orchestrated Antichrist religion which preached the goodness, integrity, and spark of deity in man, and while it was winning souls with this “highfalutin” religion it was hypocritically devouring the flesh of men on its way to creating a vast earthly empire. Islam had set up a system of Caliphates (ministers of God as successors of Mohammed) which served the same purpose that bishoprics served in Rome. As the Pope claimed to be the Vicar of Christ on earth, so Mohammed and the caliphs were held in esteem as the sole representatives of God and the teachers of God’s final revelation. Both empires had similar systems; both were fueled by the spirit that had deified Alexander the Great. Though Islam’s religion has endured, its kingdom lasted only long enough to set

up the soul of the empire and then give way to the arm of flesh, the Turks, who would administer the soul of the South with a heavy bureaucratic zeal and at the same time fiercely continue the competition with the North.

THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE VS. OTTOMAN EMPIRE

The violent, unrelenting competition between North and South was continually provoked by these blasphemous voices of propaganda. The wars were many and long and “many ten thousands” were lost. Daniel 11 prerecorded it this way:

“And when he [the South] hath taken away the multitude [the multitudes of Crusade armies], his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it.

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 much riches.

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.” vs 11:12-14



The Turks not only thwarted the Crusades and cast the North out of the Promised Land; they forced the Holy Roman Empire to turn inward to its own defenses in order to rid itself of Islam's foothold in Europe. But Europe, as the Beast, remained powerful and persistent. Even though the South had beaten back the Crusades they were unable to discourage the relentless North from trying to overrun their empire and regain the Holy Land for itself. As was written, the King of the South would not be strengthened in victories over the North, for Rome would keep coming and coming, and after many years, at the time appointed, would overtake the decayed Ottoman Empire. It would take six hundred years of relentless campaigning from the North but Rome's return to the Promised Land, and the defeat of the South was preordained.



The Ottoman Empire encroached on Eastern Europe all the way up the Danube River almost to Vienna. The King of the South threatened to overrun the Holy Roman Empire and the Papal States and put an end to the Roman Empire more than three centuries, but was never able to destroy the Beast, Rome.

From A.D. 1300 to World War I in 1914, the competition between North and South was manifest in the confrontations between the Holy Roman Empire and the Ottoman Empire. The Roman spirit was expanding itself into the “New World”, into deepest Africa, and the Far East, colonizing culturalizing, and “religiousizing” the rest of the

globe. All the while the Ottoman Empire continued at Rome's doorstep, a menacing thorn in Rome's beleaguered side. Despite Rome's outrage, the barbarous infidels of the South remained solidly lodged within the boundaries of the "northern fortress". Between the years 1300 – 1550, the Ottoman Turks rode across desert and mountain gobbling up its southern turf as well as vast areas of Eastern Europe. Turk conquests in Hungary, the Balkans, Serbia, Croatia, Transylvania, Macedonia, the Crimea, Albania, and other European provinces, all parts of the old Eastern Roman Empire, more than compensated for earlier Islamic losses in Western Europe. Each new province was put under the tight bureaucratic control of the Turks and by 1550, the Turks had wrested control of Greece and the entire eastern half of the Austrian Empire. But most importantly, the Turks ruled the heartland of the earth, Israel. They also reigned uncontested in the surrounding Middle East, west along the Mediterranean coast of Africa, and east to India. Islam had provided the South with a comparative soul and spirit to Rome and an equivalent anti-scriptural, antichrist power; but it took the Ottoman Turks to give the empire a unified diplomacy, a strict centralized government that administered the soul and spirit of the empire with the iron fist of

practicality. The Ottomans gave the South a body of such magnitude that it could compete for the antichrist vision on the same scale as its older and wiser counterpart.

Making the Southern threat even more imposing was the fact that The Holy Roman Empire remained throughout this period in a hopeless state of confusion and turmoil brought on by its internal divisions. Not until the Age of Discovery and the continued imperialism of the Word-Spirit Empire did the *North* recover and begin to rise again toward a world dominance and eventually to the Global Kingdom which is coming in the near future. Intrigues and wars were without end, a natural result of the prophetic ailment of division. Religious authority competed with secular powers and secular powers competed with religious authority.

The Empire of the Beast remained a hulking, but crippled giant. But it kept trying to reunite itself to fulfill the vision of the Antichrist. Two great examples of trying to fulfill the vision of the Antichrist are Napoleon and Hitler. Others who preceded these figures of the end-times as leaders of the Holy Roman Empire (The Germans) were Charlemagne in the 8th Century, Otto The Great in the 10th, Pope Urban II in the 12th (trying to dominate the German kings) and, Charles V in the

16th Century. But these were only men who tried to unify the 'Roman' Empire, take the Holy Land and set themselves up as more than the imperial head and leader but even as the equivalent of God on earth. They all fell far short of their hope.



Napoleon

Hitler and Napoleon held the same vision of themselves and exerted far-reaching schemes along with their lofty aspirations because the whole world had by then been 'discovered' and opened up for imperialistic designs of 'Rome', more so

than with any other of the previous Antichrist aspirants of the age between the first and second coming of Christ. Most everyone knows about Hitler's career, his regime, and his compulsion to rule the world under the Germanic ideals of antichrist dominance. But Napoleon is just as fantastic an Antichrist figure and being removed from us by two hundred years the details and

specifics of his career and bold Imperial antichrist intentions are not as well known.

He was a so-called enlightened leader with liberal and radical ideas blended together in such a way as to be welcomed enthusiastically by the populace and common man, just as the Antichrist will be. He did popular things: reforming laws, restructuring government for the people, restoring religion, counterbalancing the ruthless tyranny of France's revolutionary government, and easing taxation, just as the Antichrist will do. Napoleon offered a disgruntled Europe freedom from the yoke of their oppressive governments, seducing them with promises of liberty, equality, and fraternity just as the Antichrist will do. He proposed to deliver the people from bondage and the people believed him, just as the people will believe the Antichrist. The Antichrist of then, the Antichrist of now, and the Antichrist of the future offer the same thing: a form of salvation in troubled times. The Antichrist was then and will be in the end, a great man: intelligent, charismatic, and bold. He will ally himself with religion and have a form of godliness and righteousness. Napoleon restored the Catholic Church which had been destroyed by the Revolutionary government, making it a state institution for public education and giving back its

land and authority in law. This also foreshadowed the Antichrist's alliance with religion. With the help of the false prophet, the Antichrist will wage a brilliant war to win the souls of men, just as his forerunner Napoleon had done before, but he will succeed where Napoleon failed. The Antichrist will unify the Empire, cast down the power of the *South*, draw unbelieving and religiously bogus Jewish leaders into his conspiracy, and set up his throne in God's temple in Jerusalem, declaring himself to be God. But in the end, just as Napoleon was defeated, so the Antichrist will be defeated. (*See Revelation 19*)

Napoleon ended in utter failure never uniting the Empire or setting up the throne of the Antichrist. Just as Daniel's prophecy had promised, those trying to fulfill the vision before its time would fail. Satan had tried to rush the cadence of prophecy but was foiled. Once again the Lord had proved who was Lord (as in the lesson of Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon) by showing who sets up and deposes rulers on earth. God had turned the tables on Satan using the Devil's child, Napoleon, to fulfill prophecy and pave the way for its future end. Napoleon's antichrist ambitions had given Mankind a glimpse into the future. For a brief moment, the world had seen the embryo of the horrible "Beast" which will spread its gospel of deception at the end and lead

the world into war, hatred, pestilence, death, and eventually – Hell. The last of the prophecies of Daniel 11 were now set for the final stages of fulfillment. A new world order had been inaugurated by Napoleon's efforts, for among the things he did was to revive the spirit of ancient Egypt. The *North* was again looking with covetous eyes at the jewel of the earth, Israel. And the entire globe was full of the spirit of revolution and rebellion.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE SAILS AROUND THE GLOBE



“And he shall stand in the glorious land...” Dan. 11:16
As deposer of Napoleon, Britain stood next in line, ready to catapult the stymied Antichrist Empire around the globe. The feet and toes of the Beast still remained clay and iron, partly weak and partly strong, and British supremacy as the Antichrist

leader would be constantly challenged, until the bitter fruit of division finally burst forth in unprecedented fury with two World Wars during Britain's waning years. But that was as it was supposed to be; Britain's prophetic mission, though profound in many respects, was not to unite the Empire, but to give it a foothold in the whole earth.

Britain's prophetic mission was threefold. Ruling the Empire during a time of great change and upheaval, the accomplishment of its three major prophetic tasks set the stage for the new order of the End Times. 1.) Britain was used to tear down the old order of the Ottoman Empire in the South to make the way for revival of the ancient empires of Egypt, Persia, Syria, Ethiopia, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and most importantly, Israel. 2.) As the most remote part of the ancient Roman Empire, the United Kingdom was used to baptize every remote corner of the globe with the spirit of Rome. Britain educated the masses of every continent in the hopes and humanism of "modern Rome", thus laying the groundwork for world government. 3.) And most profound of all – Britain was used by God to re-establish a sovereign Jewish state in Israel after twenty-five hundred years. Daniel 11 alludes to the history of this:

“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. 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.

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.

After this shall he turn his face toward 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 turn upon him.

Then shall he turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.” Dan. 11:15-19

By 1914, at the outbreak of World War I, the Turkish Empire of the ottomans, the “Sick Man of Europe”, was nothing more than a hollow shell waiting to be crushed like a rotten egg under the iron foot of the

able and vengeful North. Britain and its allies descended on the Ottomans and as Daniel had promised, there was not “*any strength to withstand*”. The six-hundred-year-old order of Ottoman rule was vanquished and by war’s end, the British and their allies had partitioned the crumbled empire according to ancient boundaries and then dividing them among themselves as spoils of war. Syria, Iraq (Babylon), Iran (Persia), and Jordan were made into British and French protectorates, all trade routes and strategic waterways were placed under British control, and most critical of all, Palestine (Israel) was seized by Antichrist scepter holder, Great Britain.

BRITAIN STEAMS ROME AROUND THE WORLD



In this last-hour of revival of the ancient countries we must remember to keep our eyes on Israel whom God has set among the nations as a beacon for all believers. Israel’s revival shines as an unmistakable

supernatural light, signaling the end of the Time of the Gentiles. The crooked means of the British annexation of Israel and her double-dealings with her shot forth the first gleaming rays of end-times light in so far as World-Spirit imperialism is concerned. As the end of the First World War drew near, British army's under General George Allenby, meeting no resistance entered the gates of Jerusalem on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the 11th month of 1917 and hoisted the British flag over God's Holy City. It was a banner day in prophecy not just because it signaled the beginning of the end but because it was the fulfillment of Daniel's words some 2,400 years earlier. According to Daniel's prophecy, the North had taken the strongholds of the South and had finally entered the "*glorious land*" with none standing before him. After centuries of frustration through the Crusades, the attempts of the Russian Czars and Prussian Kaiser's, through Habsburg and Papal intrigues and Napoleon's bold excursion to Egypt and the Middle East, the North had finally returned to claim the "*Jewel of the Earth*" as a possession of its very own. In the very hour, British dragoons began marching through the ancient streets of Jerusalem Great Britain was at the zenith of its political and military power. Geographically and politically she would never be

more powerful, never have more landholdings, less dangerous enemies, than in that moment.

This was her ultimate moment; and yet it also heralded the beginning of the end for her and the Gentile world which she represented, because it was all downhill from there. It was also destined that her prodigy America should be at that very moment on the ascent. But Great Britain had accomplished its prophetic purpose in the hand of Providence.



British Empire 1920's

The spirit of Rome, imbued in the British Empire, had now infested every part of the world.

The Far East was being colonized, indoctrinated, and exploited from China to India. In Africa, colonies flourished in the south and west, and the entire three thousand miles of the fertile Nile River, from Egypt in the north to Uganda in the south, belonged solely to the Empire. In the New World, Britain owned nearly every island and had a colony in Central and South America. Elsewhere in the New World, Canada remained a loyal member of the British Commonwealth as did her sister, Australia, in the Southern Hemisphere. Its former colony the United States, remained a loyal member of the family, fighting and squabbling with

her, but ready to defend the family pride against all outsiders. The Empire held every strategic base in the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf with island fortresses that extended into the Indian Ocean, around to the China Sea, out into all parts of the Pacific Ocean, surrounding the South American continent, on up into the Atlantic Ocean and back home. What islands it did not control, and there were very, very few, its offspring did.

The Providentially ordained competition to keep the 'Roman' heritage from uniting remained a fully divisive force however throughout the reign of Great Britain. As a sign of the diversity of times and the closing in of the end the archetype of British Antichrist leadership fell to the career of a queen. Queen Victoria presided over the Empire for better than 60 years and led it to the zenith of its power and territorial domain. During the British rise to Antichrist dominance in the Empire the Spanish, French, and Germans offered the greatest resistance to world domination and the unifying of all mankind under English authority. Russia provided the resistance from without. Britain's own progeny, the United States of America was yet looming in the wings. In 1913, with the creation of the Federal Reserve System, the United States suddenly wrested the financial dominance of the world away from its

mother country and was on its way to the inevitable position it held until the middle of the first decade of this century. But it took two World Wars for the British Empire to be so weakened that it could no longer hold its power.



Israeli Statehood May 14, 1948

When war and civil unrest finally broke out in Palestine the British stubbornly persisted in disregarding its promise to God's people and ignored the desperation of the homeless and hated Jews of Europe, but by then God's Spirit had ignited the Jewish people to look with a single eye toward Israel. The Empire had tried to corrupt the chosen daughter (Israel) by blocking her return home, or by giving the Jews of Palestine into the hands of the Arabs, or by persuading Jews to give up the idea altogether. All the attempts to corrupt this great fulfillment of prophecy were nevertheless

supernaturally thwarted by God, as God gave the Jews the boldness to defy the Empire and the world, and not “*stand on his [Britain’s] side*“. God’s hand was on the Jews to persevere because the time had come. Finally, after wanderings and slavery, after living in ghettos and weathering the genocide of Hitler’s Germany, finally, after thirty-one years of the broken promises of the Balfour Declaration, after World War I and World War II, a sovereign Jewish state was re-established in the Promised Land in 1948. Miraculously and against all odds the Jews prevailed.

The British withdrew after the Zionist military campaign of bombing, harassment, and guerrilla warfare had cost them more than they could afford. Whole Arab populations, entire Palestinian towns panicked and fled, leaving their homes and belongings behind just for the taking. As fireworks blazing in a night sky, the end of the time of the Gentiles was exploding onto the prophetic scene. The British Empire’s greatest historical purpose was to be used to open the way for the return of the Jews to Israel. To be sure it was against all Antichrist wishes the Empire tried everything possible to avert its happening, but it was providential. And, as all Antichrist empires before, Britain was used by God for his specific purpose and then judged. All of what

happened to Britain and with Israel was just as Daniel had said.

After 1948 the British Empire went into an amazing rapid decline. Within fifty years of the deceitful Balfour Declaration and Britain's hypocritical treatment of the Jew, the largest Empire ever known was cut by ninety percent. The reproach of the Empire was stopped first by its withdrawal from Palestine and then, like a house of cards with its key card pulled out from the bottom, the whole Empire came tumbling down. In less than two decades an empire that had been built over three centuries left the world stage with a whimper. The U.S. of A. had already taken control of the world economy and now she took control of the world militarily in order to protect her interests around the world. Her declared mission was always to convert the world to her self-righteous brand of freedom and utility, just as all of her predecessors had always done before her.

THE UNITED STATES: RAISER OF TAXES

"Then shall stand up in his estate [Rome] a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within a few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle." Dan. 11:20



This is the last estate of the divided Roman Empire before the coming of the “vile person”. This is the power that would take the place of Britain and act in behalf of the spirit of Rome. This military might of the world, this spiritual leader of the Roman Empire since World War II and the demise of British Empire, is the United States. Its greatest weapon and strongest hold on the world? Economic. Thus the reference to taxes or revenues. The almighty dollar has held sway in the world for this half of the 20th Century. The U.S., with its vast economic holdings, has been a mega superpower. But our time has drawn to a swift end.



The brief empire referred to in Daniel 11 would indicate so and with the collapse in 2008 of the greater portion of our financial institutions this prophecy has now also been fulfilled. Our power was built mainly in the twentieth century and primarily since W.W.II. Nations and regions of the world have either been out and out colonies or “subsidiaries” of U.S. business power. The phrase, “*raiser of taxes*“, used to describe the character wedged in between the conqueror of the Holy Land (Britain) and the Antichrist himself, suggests an emphasis on taxes, revenues, economics, investment, business, or: ‘money’ in general. President Coolidge once said, “*The business of America is business!*” The map of U.S. military presence around the world shows how completely dominant the U.S.A. has been, how

thoroughly it has taken measures to protect its economic interests and how it meant to impose an antichrist type unity and peace upon the world in a perfectly 'Roman imperial' style, blending cultures and societies under its exclusive political power. Business and economics is at the core of U.S. world diplomacy and its doctrines; the politics of economics flows deep and runs in a unified voice with torrential current in all its fundamental doctrines of all of America's sacred writings: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and all its general code or laws, just as it did in the original Roman Empire. One of its branches of government, the Legislative branch, has as its greatest power the control of expenditures and its governance by law. Economic freedom is the rock upon which the United States was founded. Now that that rock has crumbled can the actual Antichrist Kingdom be very far away at all? The next step in the Antichrist's history is slated to be the establishment of the so-called Kingdom of the Ten Kings.

THE IMPERIAL ROMAN EAGLE



The standard of the Empire down through the entire age enduring to this day as the symbol of the scepter holder, The United States. It is an indicator of the continuity and ongoing existence of the Roman Empire in one form or another throughout the Age of Grace, that time between the first and second comings of Christ.

The Competition of the North Antichrist vs King of South During the Time of the Gentiles

- 322 B.C. – King of the South (Egypt) Revived
- 40 B.C. – Unity between North and South foiled
- 622 A.D. – The Nation of Islam enters into the North
- 700 – 1200 – The Crusades fight back with only limited success

- 800 – 1914 *Ottoman Empire holds off the Antichrist North for centuries*
- 1740 – 1917 – *British Empire sails Rome around the world, retakes Holy Land*
- 1914 – present – *U. S. of A. turns globe into business world. Short lived glory*
- ? – *Antichrist takes rule of 10 nation empire and unifies “Rome”*

* There has always been an element among the Rabbis and religious leaders who believe the Messiah will create a worldly government with the Jews as the absolute authority over the whole world. The hope was expressed in Jesus’ day when they came to him to try to make him king, but he refused the offer as untimely and unwarranted because his mission was not of a worldly nature at his first coming. He will not be King of kings until his return.

DANIEL – CHAPTER 12

Toward Understanding Revelation

Conclusion of Daniel Study

We conclude our series on the book of Daniel looking at both signs of Christ's Return and the understanding of Daniel as a sign in and of itself that the end of days are near. This overview of Daniel also sets up the student of prophecy nicely for the next vital adventure in understanding the enormity and importance of the time in which we live. The study of the book of Revelation is that adventure. The study of Revelation needs be preceded by a thorough look into the dreams and prophecies of Daniel for a very good reason. Daniel teaches the end times saints about the kind of faith they will

need in order to truly understand and keep Revelation's profound message. Revelation can only be known and kept by a pure faith in God's holy word. Daniel is that part of God's word that directly exposes the antichrist and his strategies (see religious timetable of Antichrist strategy during Tribulation at bottom of page) and gives us faith as an antidote to its powerful poisoning influence. To fully understand Revelation the student of prophecy must have a sound understanding of Daniel. Revelation and Daniel are sister books and, as we shall see, Daniel is Revelation's perfect helpmate.

In the very first chapter of Revelation the believer is challenged by Jesus Christ to read, hear (understand), and to keep the words written in its pages. A blessing is promised to anyone who takes that plea of Jesus Christ's seriously. The primary assertion of our study of Revelation is that it is not enough to know what is in Revelation, in fact it is not enough even to understand what is in Revelation, the end-times saint must **keep the words written in the book**, as well. We believe the blessing bestowed on the believers who keep this clarion call means they will be kept from the great deception that is coming on the earth in these final hours. The end result of the blessing of the book of Revelation will be that the obedient saint will be part of the

rapture. Those who **keep** the words of Revelation (and we shall later emphasize what keeping the word means) will have the same testimony as the first man raptured, Enoch, who had as a testimony that he pleased God. (Hebrews 11) The bottom line of our study of Revelation is this: to read, hear and **keep** the words written in Revelation is pleasing, very pleasing, to God, and there is a great blessing – the rapture – awaiting those who, by faith, receive the message of Revelation.

Daniel Lays the Groundwork for the Kind of Faith We Shall Need

If our study of Daniel showed anything it showed that it is God's secret end-times weapon. It is a unique book of the Bible because it is the only book that had its meaning locked away until the last days. God has used the understanding created by the opening of Daniel to unlock Revelation's meanings. The angel, Gabriel, told Daniel to seal up the vision till the time of the end when travel and knowledge would be increased. Obviously, we are in the end

times. We live in a Global Village where every city is but a few hours from another, thanks to jet travel. Computers, phones and televisions distribute knowledge to the world's literate masses at the speed of light. These are perilous and dark days, however, and Daniel has been given to the end-times saints to enhance and increase their faith and help them weather the storm of the rapidly approaching and all intrusive antichrist spirit.

The antichrist spirit is taking rule in the earth and is even hemming in and corrupting the Church. But Daniel can be an antidote and an elixir of health for our faith. In our study, we discovered that the first half of Daniel (first six chapters) was a string of real-life testimonies showing the Church the type of faith to which God wants His end times saints to aspire. He wants us to trust in Him totally and be holy and perfect in obedience (chap. 1). We are required to know that God has a master plan for the nations and that Christ's kingdom will ultimately defeat the antichrist kingdom and rule on earth (chap. 2). God has provided us, through the blood of His Son and the power of the Holy Ghost, with the means to live crucified lives, so that in godly fear and respect we may worship only Him regardless of the consequences (chap. 3). We are also to be acutely aware that no man or government rules but by His

consent and that, forsaking social and political gospels, we should know that He is in control of man's destiny (chap. 4). We ought to keep in mind that a day of judgment is coming and every wrong will be righted, every man shall reap what he sows, and there is no respect of persons with God (chap. 5). And, lastly, we learned that if we trust in God, and never waver from worshipping Him in spirit and in truth, not conceding to the antichrist spirit, but living righteous in Christ, we shall be delivered from the "*mouth of the lion*" (chap. 6). Our study of Daniel discussed these deep matters of faith in detail and offered instruction to the end-times saint on how to attain to them by the New Testament of Jesus' blood. The purpose was to acquaint us with the necessary end-times faith. That is the faith needed and illuminated by Daniel. It is a faith that can quicken the understanding of Jesus' declaration that, "*Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow after me cannot be my disciple*", and "*anyone who finds his life shall lose it, and anyone who loses his life for my sake shall find it.*" Matt 16:24-25

Daniel also Teaches Us About the All-pervasive

Antichrist Spirit

The second half of the study of Daniel (chapters 7-12) is the earliest Biblical revelation of the Antichrist's career and his kingdom's development. It lays the groundwork for Revelation's eye opening disclosures and awesome warnings. It pinpoints the motives, times and actions of the Antichrist. The last six chapters of Daniel show the ultimate goal of the antichrist spirit and the antichrist collusion between man and devil. The Antichrist's personality was discussed and we became educated about the spirit of antichrist in a spiritual way that only the searing truth of God's Word can do. Through Daniel's graphic illustrations we also peered into our own fleshly inclinations and worldly hopes and the necessity to crucify them with the "old man" by the faith offered the saints in the first six chapters of Daniel. All this has paved the way for a study of the final book of the Bible: Revelation. After studying Daniel we should not only know the antichrist spirit in the world but the antichrist spirit that is prone to dwell in our own heart. Now Revelation's mysteries may not be so mysterious to us because we know the enemy and his strategy. We also found out that

we are inclined by nature to be accomplices with the antichrist spirit.

We All Need Help Understanding Revelation

When it comes to reading and understanding the prophecies and words written in the Book of Revelation we all need help. The finest teachers of Revelation, Joseph Siess, E. W. Bullinger, Arthur Bloomfield, Gordon Lindsey have relied on those who labored in the word before them. Though none of these men have the luxury of hindsight by the advantage of fulfilled prophecy as we do, we owe them a debt of gratitude.

The understanding of Revelation has been building for the past one hundred years. It has been more than twenty years of the study of God's Word, of reading and hearing from these former teachers, and of watching prophecy unfold that has culminated in this study and its understanding of Revelation. Our purpose is that the student who hears the words of this study will acquire the faith to keep the words of Revelation and thereby obtain its blessing. Our purpose stems from the words spoken

to John by Jesus Christ in the third verse of Revelation: *“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”*

Many of our readers, we fear, have a knowledge of Revelation without true understanding and faith for its fulfillment. Their view of God’s plan of salvation is disjointed because their understanding of Revelation is incoherent and not cohesive. They don’t know God’s goals or purposes. Arthur Bloomfield in his book *Armageddon: before the Last Battle* noted how important it is to understand that a study of prophecy is really a study of the entire Bible and God’s overall plan. He wrote: *“God had something in mind – a very definite goal – when He created the world. All the Bible points toward that goal. It is the development of one master plan. It always looks ahead. In that sense, the entire Bible is prophecy. A study of prophecy is a study of the Bible. A study without the prophetic forward look is merely a study of certain aspects of history. Prophecy is history from God’s viewpoint.”*

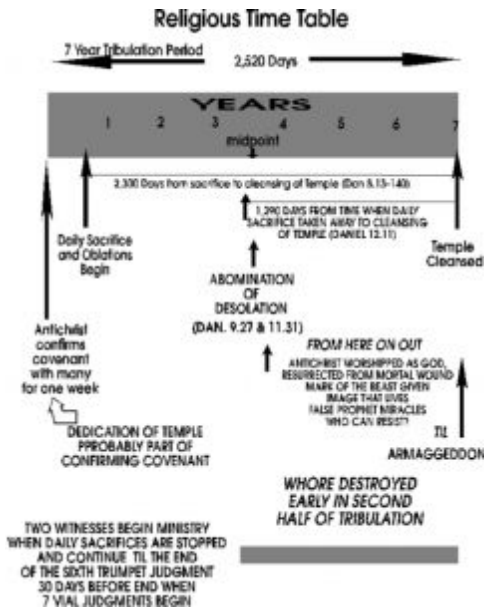
Prophecy is important because it and history – His story – are one and the same. All important history is fulfilled prophecy. All Bible prophecy is simply history waiting to happen. It is unfortunate but many believers have a hard time seeing how all of the events, promises and judgments of Revelation

relate to one another and fit in with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This study hopes to bring things into focus for those people. It should help them see that God does not do anything by the seat of His pants. His plan of redemption for mankind has always had a clear beginning, a definite middle, and an explicit end.

Our study of Revelation will show you how Revelation relates to your personal walk of faith, that it is a living testimony for today's Christian and an anchor for the end-times saint. Before going on to study Revelation, one final statement is worth making about Revelation. Revelation is not the Revelation of St. John the Divine, as some Bibles title it. It is not John's revelation at all. The very first verse of Revelation declares whose revelation it really is, it says; *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:"*

God gave the revelation to Jesus who had it delivered to John. When we understand that the Book of Revelation is noted by the Father to be the revelation of His Son, Jesus Christ, then we know it is a special and extremely important book. We shall ask every question, study the whole gospel, and look the Bible through from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation

22:21 for understanding of this Revelation of Jesus Christ so we may keep the words that are written therein.



THE ANTICHRIST'S RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES DURING THE TRIBULATION

* At the center of the chart is the time known as the Abomination of Desolation which is the exact middle of the Tribulation but also marks the start of the “Great” Tribulation when the Antichrist replaces the religion of God with his religion and sets up his throne and image in the Temple.

*Gaining an understanding of the vile person about what he is, learning about his spirit and behavior, serves the end times Christian by issuing a warning about the Antichrist spirit. Antichrist the man will be the embodiment and personification of a spirit that is already alive and well in the world today. It has infiltrated and become an integral part of today's politics, arts, sciences, religions, governments, philosophies, societies, economics, psychologies, churches and cultures – every fabric of lives. We study prophecy and the Antichrist's role in the end times so that we will not be seduced or overwhelmed with the Antichrist spirit, and miss the rapture.

*Under his reign, deceit of a high spiritual nature will take place and lies and half-truths will rule the day by his slick ways and velvet tongue. His own heart will tell him that he is the true God. He will be so persuasive and believable that people will put all of their faith in him. He will, however, be thoroughly deceitful and wicked in all of his intentions. He will believe that he can stand up to the Prince of princes, Jesus Himself. These accounts are recorded in Daniel to warn the faithful, who have put their lives in God's hands, to not be deceived by this man and his spirit. Remember, Jesus

Himself said that the deception at the end would be great.

*Most Christians, even with the warnings found in the scriptures, will be caught off guard and seduced by the spirit of this dynamic and likable man. He will be like an angel of light and will have what appear to be religious remedies for every spiritual question or problem. Religion will be a big ally and tool used by him, as his real goal is total worship by the world as the one true God.

Notice: The Tribulation begins when the Antichrist makes his covenant with many nations. It ends when the Temple in Jerusalem is cleansed by Jesus who has returned to earth and conquered the armies of the earth who have converged upon Israel to fight against God and the Lamb at Armageddon.

The chart above highlights the main actions of the Antichrist which affect religion during the seven-year Tribulation. It is during this time that the Antichrist uses the Great Whore for his own glory and then betrays her as depicted in the prophetic account of her judgment in Revelation 17. He, the False Prophet, and Satan are busy employing every religious, political, and military means to command the worship of all mankind. All actions are designed to gain their worship and deprive God of all worship

and to keep Him from all power and authority on earth.

At the top, we are informed that the Tribulation lasts 7 years or 2,520 days in duration. The time in which the Antichrist makes all his religious moves in an effort to gain the worship of the world for himself and his 'father' Satan, and to try to defeat God and the forces of heaven.

The mid-way point is designated because the overall Tribulation is divided into two distinct halves: Tribulation and Great Tribulation. Judgments increase in severity and supernatural force in the second half and the open opposition of man and God becomes open and dramatically hostile.

Under the auspices of the Antichrist 220 days into the Tribulation, the Jews restore the daily sacrifices and oblations in the new built temple. Daniel tells us that 2,300 days later the Temple will be cleansed of the pollution of the Antichrist's defilement. And that there are 1,290 days from the time when the Antichrist reneges on his commitment to the daily sacrifices and stops them, until the time of the cleansing, which happens at Jesus's return.

TECHNOLOGY & KNOWLEDGE SPEEDING AHEAD TOWARD THE COMING OF CHRIST

Four of My Generations Tell the Story

The notion that an incredible increase in the rate of travel and knowledge would be both the key that unlocked the meaning of the Book of Daniel, as well as a sure sign of the second coming of Christ, stems from the declaration made at the end of the Book of Daniel. It declares: “*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."

Dan. 12:4

It occurred to me that in just four generations of my heritage, starting with the birth of my great grandfather in 1832, travel and knowledge have increased at break-neck speed. These things show that Christ stands at the door ready to call His faithful home to heaven with Him. In just four of his family's generations, major prophetic events and conditions have grown from non-existent or embryonic proportions to being fulfilled on a worldwide scale. In most ways, life for the editor's great grandfather was much the same as it had been for Noah, Abraham, David, Jesus or Martin Luther. Travel, education, communication, and world politics were just beginning to change at his birth in 1832. But just a mere three generations later, at the time of the editor's birth, every sphere of human existence had been radically altered, and by it the end times prophecies enumerated by Jesus, Daniel, and Revelation had become realities. Nation had risen against nation, wars and rumors of war had come to overwhelm world peace and cost the lives of millions and millions of sons and daughters. Earthquakes and pestilence, perversion and social degeneracy, false predictions, and bogus saviors now dominate the news, Travel, and knowledge have

been greatly increased. Europe is united and the foundation of the Antichrist Empire has been laid. And last, but not least, the Jews were restored to their homeland in Israel for the first time in 2,500 years. In this testimony, the editor shows how all these things came about in just a period of four generations, how man's life has been turned upside down by these things and how the world is speeding headlong toward the appearing and return of Jesus Christ.

Four generations is a unit of time, which God has long been using for the purposes of setting a time limit on prophecy. He said that he would visit the sins of the fathers on the third and fourth generation of their children. (Ex.20:5, 34.7/Num. 14:8/Deut. 5:9) It was prophesied that Israel would be in bondage in Egypt for four generations. Gen.15:16 And, God told Jehu that as a reward for doing the right thing, God would allow four generations of his to reign as kings in Israel. 2 Kings 10:30 In each case, the four generations was a unit of measure used to determine the length of a prophecy, but it was also connected with judgment. In the law, where its references are always about the individual, God's mercy would fall on four generations of those that did well and His judgment would come unto four generations for those who sinned against Him. As a nation, Israel

was destined to stay four generations in Egypt while the sins of the Amorites were allowed to come to their fullest. Even kings are judged by this unit of time. While the children of Jehu did sit on the throne for four generations their reign came to a halt because of their father's and their own sin. Four generations is a span of time, which God uses to let sin come to its full and have prophecy come to fulfillment. 2 Kings 15.12 There are many alive today who could tell a similar story to the one I am about to tell. Just four generations removed, their great-grandfather, like mine, was living in a world untouched by the fulfillment of end-times prophecy compared to the one in which we live.

My mother's people were farmers who came to America during the German and British immigrations of the 1700s, first in Maryland and Kentucky, then in the Midwest in Iowa and Missouri. My paternal great-grandfather, John Myers, was born in 1832 on a farm in the fledgling state of Missouri, not at all long after the famous Daniel Boone had moved to the wilderness there. As a young man, my great-grandfather had an adventurous spirit. He left his farm roots and struck off on his own to find excitement in the untamed western frontier. In 1850, at the age of 18, he felt the lure of the California gold rush and headed to the

Sierra Nevadas, becoming one of thousands of forty-niners looking for that pot of gold downriver from Sutter's Mill.

After a few years of hardship, disappointment and poverty, he returned to the Midwest and the only life he knew. Eventually, he returned to farming, got married, and fathered eleven "farmhands" by two separate marriages. For the next 60 years, or so, until his death in 1911, he tried to make a go of it tilling the soil. Some years were better than others, but he barely eked out a living for himself and his family and spent most of his life on rented or indentured soil.

My grandfather was number ten of the eleven children and was born to my great-grandfather rather late in life, in 1887. I knew my grandfather, and as most little boys do, held him in awe and great admiration until he died in 1957. His tall lanky frame and jet-black hair made him seem a tower of strength and virtue to me. His nickname was "Chief" and it was always said of him that he looked Indian, as they called Natives in Missouri in those days. There were always family rumors that there was Blackfeet native Indian blood in the Myers family tree. He was the typical country philosopher, a product of late 19th Century cracker barrel politics. Mayor of a Missouri farm town for two terms, he was also the town's

barber, a trade he had learned while serving with Dwight D. Eisenhower's regiment in Texas and Mexico in 1916. LaPlata MO., named after the tribe's name, was where he cut his political teeth.

Missouri, being a border slave state where slavery was permitted by law but despised by many, was a place of frontier justice, right and wrong, the law, wars, and part of the Scots-Irish Bible belt. My grandfather was very much opposed to slavery and bigotry of any sort as was my mother, his only child. The Bible was a prime topic of discussion at the barbershop throughout his lifetime. Like so many small-town leaders of that by-gone era, Roy was well versed in politics, the Bible, and the law. He believed strongly that every man was created equal before God. He had a Baptist upbringing and was a man who regarded keeping his word as his most important and valued possession. He often quoted the Scriptures to my mother – in the context of a real life, embroiled in the community in which he spent his entire life. He generally left the theology to the ministers and their confined walls, where they spouted mostly theory rather than practical reality.

My mother, of similar ilk, was born in 1926. Though many of her father's older siblings were still involved in farming, her father was now a full-time barber and resident of the small commercial "city"

of a couple hundred folk, which served as the center of community activity and the hub for marketing the crops of the surrounding farms of northern Missouri.

Roy had instilled in Eloise much of the Bible's sayings including hatred for prejudice and bigotry, and a vivid love for the truth. But like her grandfather before her, she too carried an adventurer's spirit and left for the big city of St. Louis as soon as she graduated high school at the end of WWII. She had a somewhat checkered life, bearing five children with two husbands until becoming born-again (not at a revival meeting or through a TV ministry) but by noticing marked passages in her father's bible one night. At the age of 47 she pushed aside religious platitudes and began living a life in Christ that gave her heightened adventure but without the worldly chaos and instability of the blindness that comes with religion without a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ.

I was the second of her children born to her in 1950.

As you can tell, I feel very closely connected to these three former generations. Though the time between our births spans 118 years, I feel as though I can reach out and touch them, taste their lives, feel their problems and fears, understand their struggles

– they are that close to me even if the two hundredth anniversary of my great-grandfather's birth is fast approaching. And though I never met my great-grandfather I knew and loved my grandfather, who had sat on the lap of the man who had walked in the fields and brought in the harvest, dealt with the weather and deaths of loved ones that I knew as a child.

My mother and I have shared much of our adult lives because of the relationship we have with our Savior, Jesus Christ. My life and my spiritual, emotional existence are not far removed from that man who was born to a pioneering family in the year that Andrew Jackson took the two-week journey by carriage from Tennessee to the White House to fill his first term as President of the United States. I had known and hugged the man who had been his son, who had worked on the farmhouse roof with him, who had held sheaves of wheat for him while he quickly tied them off before the rains came. He would give me a couple of pennies when I begged for them so I could get a pocket full of candy. I had seen the lines of life on his face, had noticed the respect in people's voices when they spoke the name Roy on the steps of the city hall, read clippings in the La Plata newspaper of his wars with the Santa Fe Railroad when he was mayor. People who still

remembered the ‘excessive generosity’ of ole John Myers, though he had passed forty-odd years earlier. It was all very close to me. That’s how swiftly things have all come about and how the changes are upon us all in these last days before the coming of Jesus Christ. A person’s life in these times are but news in less than a hundred words, a few bytes of information somewhere in the universe of the world-wide-web.

Even if my hands did not touch John Myers my heart does. Our hands can hardly hold the changes that are whistling by us before they vanish giving way to another innovation. My grandfather pitched hay out of a horse-drawn wagon with my great-grandfather. In the year John died his son Roy was serving in the Great War in an armored tank division. Not only was time speeding by so was the way of life; speeding toward the end.

It is only three generations away that my great-grandfather had been a forty-niner; so close you can still be moved by the passion of his life, his trip to California, the disappointment of finding not gold, but squalor, violence, and hardship. Then his struggle to provide for his huge family, the loss of a child, the death of his first wife. The Bible sitting on the bureau.

And I can feel Roy’s pain at his father’s death,

his wonder and trepidation at traveling to Texas, for he never left Missouri' other than that time, except when he went to Chicago for treatment of Diabetes? or Leukemia? (I never got a straight answer on that) – the place where he died.

People didn't travel much in those days. The awe he must have felt at seeing the first armored divisions that were preparing to turn war into a new mechanized kind of horror. I can hear the determination in his voice when he went toe-to-toe against the big power company that was trying to get him to sell out his own people and do away with the town-owned light plant. I see the triumph when he helped persuade the Santa Fe railroad to come through town by letting them have access to the town lake for water for their steam locomotives, and thereby helped every farmer in the country get their crops to market.

Four generations is not that removed from us. They speak of a singular reality – time is short, and getting shorter, racing to the end where Jesus will bring in a new era, a new kingdom called the Millennium. Things come and go now faster than when the Santa Fe roared through town. Thunders by more powerful than a division of tanks, quicker than jets flying over a filled Super Bowl stadium with Lady Gaga jumping around in meat dress half-

naked. What is incredible is how much prophecy has been fulfilled in the short amount of time in four generations, how quickly prophecy flies, and how travel, communications, knowledge, science, technology have changed our world and forecast the coming of Jesus Christ.

IN 1832...



Great-grandfather John's world was rough and uncivilized by modern standards. When he was born in 1832 all of the signs of the end times were in their infancy or unimaginable. Most men were still traveling on foot, the back of a beast, or by cart or wagon. Today's historic guide at Stonewall Jackson's home in Virginia called it a 'three-mile an hour world' in those days.

No one had ever heard of an automobile and few, except city dwellers, had even heard the pat-pat-pat of a steam engine or set their eyes on a primitive railroad system. Native of North America still

communicated by smoke signals and horns. The cavalry used mirrors to send messages. The minting of the first US postal stamp was still fifteen years away. The pony express mail system was still fifteen years away. Travel and knowledge was much the same it had been for thousands of years. The elite and the rich were the only ones who could afford an education.

John would be past school age and in his twenties before the federal law making it mandatory for children to attend school was instituted by the Congress of the United States. Europe had just been torn apart by the Napoleonic Wars and the ensuing chaos would bring about revolutions that toppled many of Europe's oldest reigning monarchies. Europe, master of the world, instead of being unified, was being set up for the two Great World Wars of the twentieth century. Europe's problems were not pestilence and earthquakes, for those rarely happened, but it was social strife and political upheaval. Unity was a laughable idea. It would take a war and Bismarck to unify Germany in the 1870s. The false sciences of Psychology and Evolution and the silly romanticism of Communism, so influential in the deterioration of morals and biblical standards of conduct and major contributors to fulfilling the prophecies of 2 Timothy's 'perilous times'

concerning the last days, were not yet hatched. And as far as Zionism (the movement to get the Jews a homeland back in Palestine) goes, it had not even been considered. It still lay dormant, lost under the heavyweight of thousands of years of history, forgotten totally by the Church and the world. There was a smattering of revival of prophetic things in England and across America that was cropping up around the year 1832 but the only one who had not forgotten the prophecies about it or abandoned hope for its fulfillment, especially the return of the Jews to Israel, was God Himself. This was the basic prophetic condition of the world when John Myers came into it. But in the course of his lifetime it began to change – dramatically change with each successive generation.

The Book of Daniel tells us that God sealed up the meaning of its end-times prophecies until the last days when “travel and knowledge would be increased”. In 1832, the year of John Myers’ birth, a three-year expedition left Missouri to explore the uncharted Rocky Mountains. Seven years earlier the first steam passenger service had been launched in England. It hadn’t been that long since Robert Fulton in 1807 had made a successful voyage up the Hudson River to Albany, N.Y. in his steamship named Clermont chugging along at 5 miles per hour.

In the same decade, the first railroad was opened in lower Manhattan using horses and sails as its mean of power. No president had ever ridden on a train. It was not until six years after John's birth in 1838 that Vice-President Martin Van Buren became this country's first chief executive to experience train travel. That was just during his early childhood, during his lifetime the travel and knowledge of the world was increased exponentially.

By 1840 a trip from New York to Philadelphia took six and half hours by train compared to three days in 1817. But still, men lived, for the most part, as they had since the invention of the wheel, in a three-mile an hour world. Henry Clay's American System of transportation and Commerce was still in its embryonic stage being fought out on the floor of the United States Congress. But things were on the move. More than one presidential race was being fought in the arena earth-shaking technological and travel lightning advantages.

A steamship could carry a passenger from Boston to New York in a day, down from half a week or more at the turn of the century. In the first decade of John's life more than 300 railroad companies sprung up in America laying down 2,816 miles of track. In the United Kingdom, there were 1,331 miles of track and mainland Europe was beginning its railway

boom as well. At the age of 18 when John left St. Joe Missouri for California, the trip was by wagon and could take as much as four months or longer depending on weather and Indians. Less than two decades later when the transcontinental railroad was joined at Promontory Point, Utah the trip from New York to San Francisco, which once took as long and nine months, now only took eight days. That's a difference of less than a day for every month. By the time John Myers was 50 years-old things had changed to the extent from the Rocky Mountains not even being explored to being able to leave his home in Missouri and go anywhere in the continental United States in under five days.

Advances in communication and the transfer of knowledge were meteoric also. The innovation with the greatest impact was the telegraph. In 1844 Samuel F.B. Morse transmitted the first telegraph message "What had God wrought!" from the Supreme Court Building in Washington D.C. to a B&O Railroad station in Baltimore. Within four years there was a telegraph line between Chicago and New York. Companies began to spring up around this new invention that instantly linked men who were thousands of miles apart. In 1856 Western Union was formed and within ten years it had become the first great American corporate monolith,

helping to form the first American Stock Exchanges. By the end of the civil war in 1864 more than 75,000 miles of wire had been strung across the continent. News of John's birth would have passed by word of mouth and by slow delivery of newspapers. But now information of every sort was delivered in an instant to anywhere that had a telegraph pole and a wire hanging on it. It became a federal offense to tamper with wires or messages. The news of Thomas Jefferson's death in 1826 probably did not reach many Americans for weeks – even months. The news of Abraham Lincoln's assassination in 1856 was received by the nation within hours. America had become a nation of alcoholics because the road system was so bad and it was so difficult to get grain to market before it spoiled that it was better to preserve them as 'spirits' so they could get to market. John Myers was rumored to be among those alcoholics that gave rise to the suffrage movement before his death. The railroads helped change that dilemma so that fresh produce could get to market, though alcoholism was too deeply ingrained in the American lifestyle to be eradicated or much affected. But the changes in travel and communication through knowledge had affected the world's mode of life drastically during his life.

At the time of John's death in 1911 many other

major prophetic factors of the end-times still loomed on the horizon in a state of dormancy, however. Europe was three years away from its first world war, but these would be the fulfillment of “nation rising against nation” as foretold by Jesus. As he read his Bible the prophecies about the Jews and their return to Palestine must have still seemed far-fetched. The Zionist movement had only begun, and in such an obscure way that it could have escaped his attention altogether.

IN 1887...



When grandfather was born in 1887, end-time prophecy was about to explode. The French-born inventor Gottlieb Daimler introduced the first combustion engine-driven automobile. The German leader, Bismarck, warned Europe against a global conflagration between the colonial empires. And the first calculator was introduced by a French engineering student. Individuals had the freedom to travel

quickly and on his own time schedule. It was mandatory that his community provide him with an education. Colleges and universities were springing up every year in every state of the Union. Travel and knowledge were greatly increased; technology was gearing up, economy was working full force for technology and knowledge's purposes and cause. The two-and-a-half thousand year-old prophecy was bursting forth. When Roy was but four years old a Jewish journalist, Theodor Herzl, became appalled by the anti-Semitic sentiments at the famous Dreyfus trial in France. The Jewish officer was wrongly accused, convicted, and sentenced for treason. In a short time, Herzl had mustered enough support to call attention to his desires for a homeland for Jews. When Roy was ten-years-old the first World Zionist Congress was held at Basel, Switzerland, in August 1897 and the Zionist Movement was officially born.

The invention of dynamite by a Zionist Jew during the First World War caused the British government to agree to support a Jewish homeland in Palestine (known as the Balfour Declaration) in return for the formula, this gave the movement the impetus it needed to push for an Israeli nation. As Roy's life progressed there were rumblings and questions being asked in the Church about the possibility and

propriety of the ancient prophecies of the Jews being restored to Palestine and if they might be literally fulfilled. Nine years before his death these unlikely prophecies concerning the Jews had been unbelievably fulfilled. Roy had seen two World Wars and witnessed how they were used by God to make the return to the Jews to Palestine a reality. The unthinkable, the unimaginable had come to pass. In 1948 the United States recognized the nation of Israel and a government of Jews was set up in the Promised Land for the first time in two and a half millennia.

IN 1926...



When Eloise was born to Roy the pace of the world was quickening even more. Airplanes were beginning to dot the skies. The world was being drawn closer and closer together. What took six days of travel now took one day. What took six hours took one or two hours. Before she was a year old Charles Lindbergh had made the first solo flight

across the Atlantic. Mail was no longer being delivered by pony express but by airplane. And the first liquid-fuel rocket was launched in Auburn, MA by Robert Goddard. Goddard told the newspapers, "Now it is possible for man to travel to the moon." Eloise would see man plant a flag on the moon before her fiftieth birthday. The year of her birth saw the first talking movies and Scottish inventor John L. Baird gave the first successful demonstration of a new medium called television. Now you could see and hear a person instantly.

Before her birth, a world of organization had been created at the end of World War I to promote world unity and bring about world peace. Though the League of Nations fell apart it's offspring, the United Nations, has given world unity a boost since its inception after the Second World War in 1945. Since that time organization after organization has spawned new hope in Europe for a united European Community. From a time when all of Europe was at each other's throats Eloise had witnessed the coming of European unity, a miracle thought impossible during the generations of her grandfather and father.

The European Parliament, World Court, and Common Market have slowly made way for the unity of Europe, which is all but fully realized today.

The EU or European Union has broken down its borders and barriers and share common economic and political goals. Today they are able to routinely put forward a common front when faced with crisis from within or from without. They share a common currency. They have a president. Europe is essentially one. How quickly thousands of years of human existence and daily life had been set on its head.

SINCE 1950...

Since my birth in 1950, the changes in travel and communication have progressed to a point where they would be utterly mind-boggling to my great-grandfather, even my grandfather. Computers, heart transplants, electronic money, cell phones, genetic engineering, community colleges, GEDs and CDs, tech schools, digital cameras, recording devices, e-mail and Blackberries, jets and helicopters, atom smashers, satellite TV, nuclear power, microwave ovens, and Cialis – what next? ... How could he have even guessed at such stuff. He couldn't have.

The Jews celebrated the 50th anniversary of Israel in 1998. Jerusalem became the capital of Israel after the war in 1973. The world wants a peace accord with them according to the prophecies of the Antichrist

spoken of in Daniel. The only part of the prophecy yet to be fulfilled is that of the Antichrist's covenant with them and the seven-year period of the Tribulation (See chapters 9, 11 & 12 of Daniel and Revelation 6-13)

Europe is unified. After the war years, which Jesus said would happen, they are of one mind and one spirit and have a resolve now to do things together. Even age-old divisions have come tumbling down with the fall of Communism, the dissolving of the iron curtain, and the dismantling of the Berlin Wall. The way for the Antichrist is very nearly prepared, his power base almost established. All we await is his installation as Europe's head.

Earthquakes and other natural disasters are on the rise. My forefathers had little inconvenience with these things, but now the world is being bombarded by them (See Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13)

The strangest, most bizarre, and unspeakably evil things are happening on a daily and regular basis. When mass murders, senseless crime, and vandalism used to be an unusual thing in my mother's day it has become the "norm" of a society that has fulfilled the scripture THAT SAYS, *"...In the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” 2 Tim. 3:1-5

All of these things were forecast by prophecy. For centuries, Bible-believing Christians were told that when they began to see these things happen it would indicate that the appearing and return of Christ was close at hand. In just four generations, little more than one hundred years, these unimaginable things have all blossomed into reality. With increasing intensity and velocity these signs continue to affect the world and herald the return of Christ. Take a look at the newspaper tomorrow, I guarantee you will see evidence of these signs of the times and the nearness of Christ’s appearing.

SUCH AN INCREASE OF TRAVEL AND KNOWLEDGE IN
JUST FOUR GENERATIONS

It should be noted here that there is a difference between what one could call “the appearing” of Christ and “the return” of Christ. The “appearing” of Christ refers to His coming in the clouds and calling His people up to meet Him in the air. This is commonly called “The Rapture”. The “appearing” happens suddenly, in the twinkling of an eye,

without warning. Only those who have been waiting and watching for Him will see and hear Him at His appearing. Once He appears and the Rapture has happened He and the raptured saints will return to heaven to begin preparations for the Tribulation and His return. The “return” is a completely separate event from the “appearing”. At the end of the Tribulation, all eyes on earth will see Him coming with His huge army of saints. At His return, He will be coming all the way back to earth to take the throne as King of kings. He will come back on a white horse to descend upon the earth with wrath and vengeance to defeat the rebellious armies of the world at Armageddon. Unlike “the appearing”, “the return of Christ” will not be instantaneous or come without warning. Its time will be easily predicted because it will come at the end of the seven-year Tribulation.

SUMMARY

THE 12 CHAPTERS OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

FIRST SIX CHAPTERS ARE:

GOD'S SECRET WEAPON FOR THE
END-TIMES SAINT

- Chapter one reveals Daniel's daily spiritual life in the midst of an antichrist world.
- Chapter two depicts the condition of the Antichrist Empire through history.
- Chapter three warns believers about Antichrist promotion of idolatry.
- Chapter four proves that no king or leader rules except by God's consent/ we should have no faith in man's governmentChapter five establishes the ultimate judgment of all who oppose God's will and live vainly as if life's pleasures on this earth can go on unimpeded forever.
- And, Chapter six teaches us that God's people will be put in hopeless situations, but he will save them out of all their distresses if they are faithful to acknowledge God in all their ways.

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**SECOND SIX CHAPTERS ARE:
HISTORY WITH A BULLET**

Daniel is given visions, dreams, words, prayers, and prophecies. In these, God relays to us His opinions and feelings – His truth – which He poses to us so we can properly incorporate them into our faith. The Persian Empire, Roman Empire, Alexander The Great, Napoleon, The British Empire, the Ottoman Turks, Islam, The United States: all held in awe by mankind, are forecast in the prophecies of Daniel and shown to be nothing but blurbs, measurable fulfillments, mere sequential epochs in the Most High's overall plan of redemption. The great empires and leaders are on exhibit in their niche, nothing more than momentary flashes of satanic outburst along God's prophetically lighted thoroughfare of eternity. The twelve chapters of Daniel, inspired completely by the Holy Spirit, as the infallible, immutable, perfect Word of God, reveals this ever frustrated antichrist spirit, predestined to its worthy doom. What cannot be discovered by sight, handled or touched, nor tasted, nor discerned by any human faculty of the senses; is revealed for our spiritual purview by the Holy Spirit's words brought to life

by the supernatural experiences of God's humble servant, Daniel.

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**DANIEL IS PACKED WITH KNOWLEDGE
AND TRAVELS BRISKLY THROUGH
HISTORY**

It is fitting that Daniel would only be understood when travel and knowledge increased, because Daniel is jam-packed with spiritual knowledge, and travels the entire course of the history of western civilization. It entails a vast journey around the world and through the ages. If you are not already excited about the Book of Daniel, dear saint, you should be. Daniel is one of the most remarkable, incredible, and powerful books of the entire Bible and one of the greatest signs of the nearness of the return of Jesus Christ to earth.

- Daniel foretold the antichrist history of the world. CHS 7, 8 & 11
- Profiles the Antichrist Profile Chart & Gives Details about his career. Antichrist religious timetable in Tribulation
- Tells the precise beginning, middle, and end of the Tribulation. ch 9:24-27

- Tears off the benevolent disguise of the antichrist spirit and exposes the Beast. Ch 7
- It comforts the believer and reassures the people of the earth that God has everything under control. ch 10 & ch 12.
- And, proves that no ruler, government or empire has ever had, the slightest bit of power without God's OK. Ch 2: Antichrist to Dust