

## *The Prophetic Word of God*

The Bible is unlike any other book claiming to be able to predict the future, in that it bases its authenticity, authority, and inspiration on the revelation of God's predictions concerning future events. All other, so-called, books which claim to be able to prophesy the future are, by the most part, unfulfilled and, eventually, discredited.

### *Not so God's Word!*

"Prophecy" of God's Word is **HISTORY WRITTEN IN ADVANCE**, and proves the foreknowledge of God foretelling future events. The Prophet Daniel is a good example, as we see how he opened to the heathen king, Nebuchadnezzar, in the interpretation of the dream.

Daniel 2:45b,

*"...The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."*

Daniel's prophecy is twofold, "*descriptive*" and "*predictive*." The prophets were both "*forth-tellers*" and "*fore-tellers*." They had both "*insight*" and "*foresight*." Their prophetic utterance were not conclusions, as a result of deductions by human reasoning, nor were they, mere analysis of mortal rationality, but, rather, these prophesies were imparted to "*holy men of God*," as they were "*moved*" . . . [impelled] . . . by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:21, "*For the `Prophecy' came not in old time by the `will of man,' but Holy Men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*"

The importance of the study of "*Prophetic Scripture*" is seen when we recall that:

1. Two-thirds of the Scriptures are prophetic . . .  
     either in type, symbol, or direct statement, and
2. More than one-half of these prophecies are as yet unfulfilled, and
3. Those that have been fulfilled were *literally fulfilled*
4. The promises in reference to the **First Coming** of Christ were *literally fulfilled*,
5. Therefore, those prophecies, yet unfulfilled, will also be literally fulfilled.

If then we would know the **MIND OF GOD** as to the future we must study the "*Prophetic Scriptures*," or remain in that class that the Apostle Peter speaks of as being "*willingly ignorant*," so as to claim ignorance as an excuse for conduct (2 Peter 3:3-8)

No one would argue the fact that we are living in a **Dark World** and we certainly, are in need of "*a sure Word of Prophecy*" to give light over the stormy "*Sea of Time*."

(2 Peter 1:19)

When men see that God has a "*plan and purpose*," which He has been working

"*throughout the Ages of mankind*," they will take heart and not be discouraged by the things that are taking place in the world in this day and age.

When 2 Peter 1:20 states, "*No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation*," meaning, "*No prophecy is to be interpreted by itself, but must be understood in harmony with the **whole body of prediction** on any given subject.*"

Prophecy is not to be interpreted to suit the theory of any cult. The "*grasshopper method*" of interpretation or exegesis must be avoided.

There is no form of evil doctrine or practice that does not claim apparent Scriptural sanction, supporting its teachings from "*isolated passages*" taken out of context, however, erroneous doctrine will never be able to support its conclusion in the Word of God, **IF** the **whole**, united, testimony of Scripture is weighed.

Prophecies are not to be "*allegorized*" or "*spiritualized*." God expounds prophecy by **literally fulfilling** in every detail. For illustration, when God said to Abraham . . .

*"Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated **four hundred years**. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions."*

(Genesis 15:13-14 - also see, Exodus 12:35-36)

. . . did God mean that Abraham's seed would enter into some "*spiritual experience*" which would cause great mental disquietude and heart searching, out of which they would emerge richer in experience and spirituality," or did He mean exactly what His words **literally** imply?

Let the history of their experience in Egypt as recorded in the first twelve chapters of Exodus be the answer! There was nothing allegorical in the whips of the Egyptian Taskmasters, nor was there anything "*spiritual*" in the most difficult task of "*making the same number of bricks without straw being provided.*"

God's Divine law of prophetic interpretation is, that the prophecy will be **literally and in exact detail fulfilled!**

The requirements of a genuine prediction are five in number:

1. It must have been made known **PRIOR** to its fulfillment
2. It must be beyond all **HUMAN FORESIGHT**
3. It must give **DETAILS**
4. **A SUFFICIENT TIME MUST ELAPSE BETWEEN ITS PUBLICATION AND FULFILLMENT TO EXCLUDE THE PROPHET, OR ANY INTERESTED PARTY, FROM FULFILLING IT.**
5. There must be a **CLEAR AND DETAILED FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHECY IN EVERY PARTICULAR**

As we have already seen in a previous lesson, there were over three-hundred and thirty-

*three* Old Testament Prophecies concerning the coming Messiah which were **all** fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christ's lineage, manner in which He would be born, the exact date of His birth, various aspects of His teaching and ministry, and the list goes on and on - were all prophesied about in the Old Testament, hundreds, (sometimes thousands), of years before He was born in Bethlehem, and they were all subsequently, fulfilled in the New Testament.

Just to mention a few:

1. Sold for 30 pieces of silver - Zechariah 11:12
2. Betrayed by a friend - Psalm 41:9
3. Forsaken by His Disciples - Zechariah 13:7
4. Accused by false witnesses - Psalm 35:7
5. Silent before His accusers - Isaiah 53:7
6. Spit upon and scourged - Isaiah 53:5
7. Hands and feet pierced - Psalm 22:16
8. His garments divided by lot - Psalm 22:18
9. Mocked by His enemies - Psalm 22:7-8
10. Given gall and vinegar - Psalm 69:21
11. Prayed for His murderers - Isaiah 53:12
12. Not a bone broken - Psalm 34:20
13. Crucified with thieves - Isaiah 53:12
14. His forsake cry - Psalm 22:1
15. His side pierced - Zechariah 12:10
16. Buried as a rich man - Isaiah 53:9

We have already spoken of "*The Law of Compound Probabilities*" and, that the probability of these prophecies being fulfilled, would have been one chance in 84 (with 97 zeros following the 84) - [Which is, to large a number, or figure, for us to comprehend!]

And, when we consider the fact that these prophecies were so **clearly**, and **definitively**, given, and *so* accurately fulfilled, (despite their incredible ratio of their probably of being fulfilled), certainly gives a great deal of credibility, and credence, to the reality of the Divine inspiration of the Bible!

Add to this, the fact that these prophecies were made by different prophets over a period of 600 years . . . (half of them about 1000 years) . . . before Jesus was born, and, then, when you notice how these prophecies *dovetail* together with such marvelous accuracy to describe the betrayal, trail, and crucifixion of Jesus, one cannot help but admit that the men who foretold those incidents would have had to be indwelt by the Spirit of God.

The student of Bible Prophecy must learn to "*rightly divide the Word.*" While all Scripture is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction**, it is not all addressed to us. Part of it is addressed to the **JEWS**, part to the **GENTILES**, and part to the **CHURCH**. These three constitute the **Three Classes** into which humanity is divided.

(1 Corinthians 10:32)

The "*Jews*" and "*Gentiles*" are distinct from each other, while the "*Church*" is composed of both, however, as a "**NEW BODY**" (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; Galatians 3:27-28 and Colossians 3:10-11).

The Church is not a subject of prophecy, but, rather, of Revelation. The burden of prophecy is the Jews, Palestine, Jerusalem, and the Messiah. Therefore, it is very important in studying the Scripture not to give to the "Church" what belongs to the "Jews" or "Gentiles," and vice versa. The "Church" is not seen in the Old Testament, which speaks only of the "Jews" and "Gentiles."

The Old Testament Chapter Headings in your Bible can be misleading because they do not belong to the text but were put there by the publisher.

The entire history of God's chosen people, "Israel," is given in the Scriptures. They are an earthly people. From their call in Abraham to the present time in history, their regathering, repentance, and restoration to their own land, and their future earthly glory is the subject of Bible Prophecy. The prophetic history of the "Gentile Nations" is outlined in the Book of Daniel. This "Present Evil Age" and the manner of its ending is also the subject of prophecy.

It, certainly, would behoove us, if we are to know about future events that are to come to pass on the earth that we be students of Bible Prophecy.
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Man and women resort to fortune tellers, clairvoyants, mediums and all types of mystics in order to get information as to the future, when, all the time, they have a "more sure Word of Prophecy," within the pages of God's Word.

It is because of the neglect of a diligent study of God's Word that Bible Prophecy has fallen into disrepute and skepticism. Infidelity to what God says in His Word has become widespread, and an unhealthy pessimism that all is lost and that there is no hope for mankind, or, on the other hand, an unscriptural optimism, that the world is growing better-and-better is heard on every side. The neglect of Bible Prophecy leaves man ignorant of "God's Plan and Purpose," and makes him the easy prey of all the lying inventions and delusive Cults of the day. The only cure for the rationalism of the day is a unrelenting study of exactly what the Bible has to say about Prophecy and coming events upon the world.

## ***Daniel's Prophetic Image***

In the second chapter of the Book of Daniel we read of a dream that God gave the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. Verse 31 says, "You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue - an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome [fearful or frightening] in appearance."

This image is one of the most deeply, impressive, and instructive object lessons described in the entire Bible because on this image was stamped the historical outline of the entire period of the Gentile rule.

To understand the full significance of this remarkable prophecy one must look back 2,600 years, to the time that this dream was given and watch its astonishing fulfillment through the years.

The prophecy was given at a time when Israel's history was at a low ebb. The armies of Nebuchadnezzar had overrun Palestine. Jerusalem, the last bastion of home, had fallen. Thousands of its inhabitants had been slain and many taken into captivity to Babylon.

At this eventful hour, 612 B.C., the Jews had ceased to be a nation. They had passed under "*Gentile rule*."

This second chapter of Daniel deals with a period of time, known in Scripture as "*the times of the gentiles*"...a period of time extending from the captivity of Judah some six centuries before Christ, and ending with the Second Coming of Christ at the beginning of the millennial kingdom age. This "*time of the gentiles*" begins with the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, and Daniel and his companions were among the captives when this began. Because of Daniel's faithfulness to God, God now prepares to reveal through Daniel the course of this age from Judah's captivity to the setting up of the Messianic Kingdom.

This revelation was made at the very **beginning** of the Gentile age for a very definite reason. There were among the captives of Israel who were carried away a number of faithful ones who had not been guilty of the sins of the nation. These faithful ones must have been much disturbed at the breaking up of the kingdom of Israel and Judah. God had made His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and David, and through all the prophets that they (Israel) were His covenant nation, that they would be the head among the nations of the world, that their Messiah would come in due time and set up the Kingdom of Israel which would never, never, end, and that the land of Palestine, given to the nation of Israel by divine covenant to Abraham, would be their safe and peaceful dwelling place forever and ever.

Under David and Solomon it seemed that this glorious age had come, however, only a few hundred years later, the whole nation is taken captive and carried away to pagan lands to serve in bondage. They were out of their own land, their independence gone, and they were being ruled over by a heathen king.

Questions that arose in the hearts of the faithful who looked for the hope of Israel were:

- "*Has God forgotten His promise and His covenant?*"
- "*Is this the end of the history of the glorious nation and the covenant people?*"
- "*Will all the promises of God concerning the kingdom go by the board?*"
- "*Was God mistaken, or did we misunderstand His Word, and instead of a literal kingdom, must we spiritualize His promises and look for something else?*"

These and kindred thoughts were in the hearts of Daniel and all the faithful. God reveals the answer to all these questions. The answer was, **No!** God has not forgotten His covenant and, although Israel will be scattered many centuries for their sins, in the end time God will restore the nation . . . set up His kingdom and fulfill every promise He had made concerning the blessing of His earthly people in the land of Canaan forever and forever!

This period of time which will elapse between Israel's dispersion among the nations of the world and their regathering in the kingdom - at the coming of Messiah. This is the burden of Daniel's prophecy, given at that particular time to encourage and reassure the faithful ones that, although for the present they were captives, in the end they would be regathered and all that God had promised to their father's, and through the prophets, shall yet be fulfilled.

This is the period of time in Scripture called "*the time of the Gentiles*." God had committed the government of the world to the nation of Israel, administered through priests and

prophets and godly kings, however, the nation of Israel was disobedient and, so, God *interrupted* the kingdom and now commits it, for a while, to Gentile nations. This has been going on since the days of Nebuchadnezzar.

However, "*the times of the Gentiles*," is rapidly drawing to a close, as nations are engaged in a last desperate death struggle to avert complete destruction of the world. When it seems that all is hopelessly lost, then the **King** will return and end the "*time of the Gentiles*" and set up His glorious kingdom of peace and righteousness!

To all appearances, at the time of the giving of this dream, God's promises to Abraham's descendants, that "*all this land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever,*" (Genesis 13:14-17, had ended in tragic failure. Palestine was given, unconditionally, to Abraham and his seed. However, it seemed now that all hope that David's throne would someday rule the world, lay trampled in the dust by a haughty, heathen, conqueror.

To those captives taken to Babylon conditions could not have been more disheartening. Surely God had forsaken them. It was true that they had broken their covenant with God, and, now there was nothing ahead but misery, bondage and death.

It was at this very moment, when Judah had been taken captive by Babylon and all seemed lost, that God chose to declare the certainty of His final victory and the ultimate establishment of His kingdom throughout the whole wide world.

Here, on this image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, God gives a *blue print* of the course of events from the days of Babylon until time runs out. It is an outline of history, written in advance, whose uncanny accuracy still baffles both historians and theologians, and for which there is no adequate explanation other than supernatural illumination.

Two persons were involved in this amazing revelation: Daniel, a captive Hebrew, and Nebuchadnezzar, the monarch who had enslaved him.

Nebuchadnezzar dream a dream, vivid and startling, and, yet, when he awoke, all had "*gone from him*," he could not remember a single detail, leaving only a sense of awesome import. However, he felt compelled to recall it, and so, he discusses it with his counselors. He summoned his astrologers, magicians and mediums, and commanded them, under the threat of torture and death, to recall the dream. They tried, but they failed!

It was at this moment that Daniel came on the scene. Though he was a slave in Babylon, he was still a prince of Israel and, by his courtesy and good judgment, had won the respect of his captors. Daniel, knowing that failure would bring sudden and terrible retribution from the infuriated monarch, staked his life upon God's abiding care for those who put their trust in Him, promises that both dream *and the interpretation* would be revealed to him.

Daniel 2:19 states, "*During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision.*" God gave Daniel the same dream that Nebuchadnezzar had the night before and God not only gave Daniel the dream but He also gave him the meaning of the dream.

The next morning two men face each other, one the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar - the other, the spokesman for the King of kings, God's prophet, Daniel.

Nebuchadnezzar asks, "*Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?*"

Daniel answers, "*There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these . . .*" (Daniel 2:28).

Daniel continues, "*As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind. you dreamed of coming events. He who reveals secrets was speaking to you*" (Daniel 2:29-30). Daniel begins to reveal the dream by saying, "*Thou, O king, saw, and beheld a great . . . (or huge, large) . . . image. This great image, whose brightness . . . (or gleaming, dazzling, extreme brightness) . . . was excellent, stood before you; and the form was terrible . . . (or fearful, frightening).*"

This image's head was of fine gold, clearly representing the Babylonian Empire, according to Daniel 2:38.

His breast and his arms were of silver, representing the second World-Wide Empire, the Medo-Persian Empire, ruling 538 to 330 B.C.

His belly and his thighs were of brass, representing the third World-Wide Empire, the Grecian Empire, which ruled from 330 to 30 B.C.

His legs were of iron representing the fourth World-Wide Empire, the Roman Empire, which ruled from 30 B.C. to 476 **A.D.**

His feet were mixed with part iron and part clay, representing the fifth, *and last*, World-Wide Empire, which is **still to come**.

*"You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue--an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth"* (Daniel 2:31-35).

Every detail was exactly as the king had seen in his dream. But, what did it all mean? What hidden purpose was there behind the strange fate of this fantastic, frightening figure?

There was indeed deep meaning in it, (in every part of it, a meaning not only for Nebuchadnezzar, but for every ruler who would ever succeed him and for every kingdom under heaven . . . *until the end of time!*)

Daniel reveals that this image gives the historical outline of the entire period of Gentile

rule, from beginning to the end. Those listening to Daniel found themselves gazing breathlessly down the ages upon empires yet unborn and conflicts yet to be. They caught a glimpse of that day, far in the distance . . . to the "*later days*" . . . and beheld the final stupendous consummation, when God Himself will set up His Own glorious kingdom and time will merge into eternity.

The unseen hand of God had drawn back the curtain that hides the future and they stood, enthralled, entranced, as the pageantry of things to come unfolded miraculously before them.

The image was that of "*a man*" because it was "*man's day*" . . . a period of time in which God was turning the governmental affairs of the world into man's hands . . . a time known in Scripture as "*times of the Gentiles*," Gentile dominion shown as "*man*" would see it, "*a great image of a man*."

God's purpose in allowing "*the times of the Gentiles*," and the giving of this revelation of this great image, was to show the utter break down of governments in man's hands.

When God gives *His Own* view of this same period, "*the times of the Gentiles*" in the 7th Chapter of Daniel, He sees it as represented as "*wild, ravenous beasts*."

The first kingdom, given in Daniel 7:4, is the Babylonian Empire, is portrayed as a **LION**. The "*eagle's wings*" symbolizes the swiftness in which Nebuchadnezzar had come into power.

After the Babylonian Empire fall in 538 B.C., the Medo-Persia Empire, symbolized by a cruel and ferocious **BEAR**. The description given, expresses the superior strength of the Persian Empire. The three ribs in its mouth represent the three kingdoms this empire subdued, Lydia, Egypt and Babylon.

Alexander the Great, in a swift act of confrontation, conquered the Medo-Persian Empire in 330 B.C. and so God symbolizes this Grecian Empire as a **LEOPARD**, with four wings. The four heads signify the four divisions into which the empire was divided after the death of Alexander the Great.

The last beast pictured by God is described as a **MONSTER** of unspeakable cruelty, half earthly and half hellish, the final form of human government. This diverse fourth beast of "*the times of the Gentiles*," is indescribable, strong and terrible. This non-descriptive beast symbolizes the Roman Empire. Its "*great iron teeth*" signifies the Roman Empire conquering all the territories of the first three beasts, devouring them and stamping upon them with her feet.

This last beast is different from the beasts before it in that its power, greatness, extent of dominion and length of duration, is far superior to the other beasts. The ten horns symbolizes kingdoms of the "*later days*," that will form Gentile rule. Horns symbolizes kings. These 10 horns signify the ten kingdoms of the end time who will give their rule over to the Antichrist.

Keep in mind that this period, which the four divisions of the image and these four beasts speak of, is "*the times of the Gentiles*," referring to the period of times when Gentile nations would rule over the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem. Jesus referred to it in Luke 21:24,



when He said, "*Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*" God teaches that, at the end of this period, Jerusalem, and the land of Israel, would be re-established as a Jewish nation.

Even more wonderful than the dream or its interpretation is the fact that history has followed the very course outlined by Daniel on that momentous morning 2,600 years ago!

Daniel continues the interpretation of this remarkable vision in Daniel 2:36-38, when he declares,

*"This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands He has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, He has made you ruler over them all. **You are the head of gold.** After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth."*

***The Head of Gold - THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE*** - Ruled the world 612 B.C. to 538 B.C.

God tells us that "*the times of the Gentiles*" began with Nebuchadnezzar! God clearly reveals that the head of gold represents the Babylonian Empire and Babylon enjoyed full sovereignty from 612 B.C. until 538 B.C. However, God reveals that this empire would pass away, and said, "*After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours.*"

***The Arms and Breasts of Silver - THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE*** - 538 B.C. to 330 B.C.

Babylon was overthrown by the combined forces of Media and Persia, becoming the 2nd universal empire, symbolized by the breast and arms of silver. This second kingdom, the Medo-Persian kingdom described in Daniel, Chapter 5, took place almost seventy-five years after Daniel gave the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

***The Loins of Brass - THE GRECIAN EMPIRE*** - 330 B.C. to 30 B.C.

Again, verse 39 states, "*After you, [Babylon] another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, [after the Medo-Persian Empire] a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth..*"

The Medo-Persia Empire endured for *two hundred years*, then fell before the swift onslaught of Alexander the Great, who set up the third, or brazen, empire of Greece.

***The Legs of Iron - THE ROMAN EMPIRE*** - 30 B.C. to 478 A.D.

However, Daniel continues his prophecy in verse 40, "*Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron - for iron breaks and smashes everything - and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.*"

Greece, the 3rd empire, did rule for a century and a half until, at the battle of Pydna in June 22, 156 B.C., when she was crushed by the armies of Rome, the fourth universal empire, whose iron will was fastened upon the world for the next five hundred years.

Rome, seemingly invincible, crushed all opposition and brought whole nations under her sway; though

her standards waved triumphantly from the Persian Gulf to the isles of Britain - and from the Baltic Sea to North Africa - and through her Caesars called themselves "*gods*" and demanded total subservience from every soul within their vast domain, yet she too, came to her end.

*What an amazing prophecy . . . given 600 years before Christ was born . . . beginning with the establishment of the Babylonian empire and extending through four World-Wide Empires.*

What more convincing proof would one require to realize that the Bible is indeed God's divine revelation? What more does one need to know that God directs and orders the transactions of world affairs? Who else could declare the times and the season . . . the rise and fall of empires . . . except an omnipotent God?

Here, in this image, we have explicit predictions . . . specifics . . . not generalities . . . orderly, even chronological prophecies . . . concerning the history of empires.

Remember, Daniel's prophecy was given seventy-five years before the Medo-Persia empire overthrew Babylon; two hundred and fifty years before Alexander the Great conquered the Persian empire in 330 B.C.; and six hundred years before Christ was born!

Thirty years before Christ was born, the Roman Empire came into existence!

In the fourth and fifth centuries A.D. barbarian tribes harassed the borders of the Roman Empire, attacking with increasing boldness and frequency, unto in 476 A.D. Rome, herself, fell before the onslaught of Odoacer, king of the Heruli.

*Thus, the fourth empire passed into history!*

THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY EMPIRE THAT HAS RULED  
THE WORLD SINCE THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE!

Many have attempted to rule the world, to establish a World-Wide Empire, there was . . . Charlemagne . . . Charles the V . . . Louis the XIV . . . Napoleon . . . Kaiser Wilhelm . . . Hitler . . . and . . . others, lesser known, however, none have been able to do so. At times it seemed that they were within sight of success. One more victory, and their goal might have been achieved. But it was not to be! Every time, in some strange and unexpected way, they were defeated and their vast ambitions came to naught.

Something stood in their pathway, some Power was blocking their progress, upsetting their plans. That "*Power*" was Almighty God, Who had prophesied exactly how things would happen.

- *Where are we today?*
- *What part of this image do we fit into?*

The Bible teaches us that this present Church Age, in which we are presently in . . . (from the Day of Pentecost until the return of our Lord) . . . was not revealed to those of the Old Testament.

In Ephesians 3:2-6 Paul teaches, "*For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God . . . (that is, this dispensation of Grace, or, the Church Age, which we now living in) . . . which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery: (as I wrote before in few words,. Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ). Which in other ages **was not made known** unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.*"

God, of course, knew that Israel would reject Christ as their Messiah, yet, He deliberately left the "Church Age" out of the prophecies of the Old Testament in order to give the children of Israel every opportunity possible to accept Christ as their Messiah when He came the first time, to be born of a virgin.

This *postponing God's dealing with Israel during this entire dispensation* is clearly taught in Daniel 9:24-27, which states, "*seventy weeks determined upon **THY** people (that is, the Jewish people).*" This portion of Scripture clearly shows this "*times of the Gentiles*" was **interrupted by the Cross of Calvary** and **the setting aside of God's dealing with Israel as a Nation**, in order for the Church Age to run its course. God, again, will resume His dealing with Israel as a Nation only when the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ . . . the interim purpose of God . . . has been accomplished and taken to be with her Lord in heaven.

God started His prophetic clock of the "*times of the Gentiles*" with the Babylonian Empire, in 612 B.C. and, the pendulum kept swinging . . . time ticked off . . . for over one thousand and eighty years . . . until the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 A.D. and, then, the clock **stopped**, and will not start again until this dispensation (the Church Age) is over, when God will once again start his prophetic clock and the last World Empire will reign.

*See Pastor's Mitchell's study on "Daniel's Seventy Weeks!"*

Back to Daniel's Image, we see that this prophecy will reach down to the "*latter times*," according to Daniel 2:28. Remember, this image has to do with Gentile rule and World-Wide governments, and **there has not been a World-Wide Empire since the fall of the Roman Empire!**

The last World-Wide government, represented by *ten toes*, is dwelt with in Daniel 2:41-43. These verses say, "*Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.*"

This last World-Wide Government, represented by ten toes here, is represented by 10 horns in Daniel 7 and, in Revelation, chapters 13 and 17.

How thrilling it is to see the situation which will bring in this last World-Wide rule into

power is already in the making and, with Bible in hand, one can recognize what is taken place in the world today!

**CLAY**, representing the popular rule of the people crying against the **IRON** tyranny of dictatorship. Note, carefully what God's Word actually says, **IRON** will penetrate the **CLAY**, however it will never eliminate it.

The **CLAY** will always be there, defying men to weld the **IRON** into one great cohesive force. Just when it seems that the **IRON** is about to congeal together, the ineradicable (*that is, impossible to exterminate or annihilate*) **CLAY** appears, breaking . . . dividing . . . separating . . . into the old divisions.

**IRON** and **CLAY** will not mix, you cannot make them! The picture this prophecy gives, just before the last form of human government, is the **CLAY** - the rule of the people - against the tyranny of **IRON**.

Into this frightful world condition, of popular rule steadily rising against the iron rule of dictatorship, Satan leaps into the saddle and rides into power to establish the fifth, and last, World-Wide Empire.

The climax of Daniel's dream is the "*smiting of the image by a **STONE** cut out of the mountain, without hands.*" Daniel 2:34-35 state, "*While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the image on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the image became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.*"

This **STONE**, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, is none other than the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Five times in the New Testament, Jesus Christ is called "a Stone:" 1 Corinthians 3:11 and 10:4; Matthew 21:21; Romans 9:33 and 1 Peter 2:6.

Daniel 2:44-45 state, "*In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands--a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."*"

Revelation 19:11 tells of the time when Christ will set up His coming kingdom. This verse states, "*I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He does judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns, He name is called the Word of God. And the armies . . . [that is, His holy angels and the raptured saints] . . . 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 of the wrath of Almighty God. And He hath on His venture a name written, **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF ALL LORDS!**"*

The "*Church Age*" comes between the fourth and the fifth World-Wide Empires. The fifth World-Wide Empire is about here!

Though many have sought to revive the Roman Empire, their ambitions have not been realized, because this last World-Wide Empire cannot take place unto ***after the Church has been taken out of the world!***

The "*restraining power of the Holy spirit*" is hindering the manifestation of the Man of Sin according to 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, the lawlessness which this one of rebellion will do when he does come is already going on, (verse 7), but he, himself, will not come until the "*One*" Who is holding him back steps out of the way, ***then*** this Wicked One will appear (verse 8).

We are living in the end times! Jesus is about to come for His Own! The last, and final, World-Wide Empire is about to be established!

### ***Daniel's Four Wild Beasts***

Daniel has two visions seen during the time of Belshazzar's reign. The first vision is given in Chapters 7, and the second in Chapter 8. [There were, also, two dreams seen by Nebuchadnezzar, the first in Chapter 2 and the second in Chapter 4] This first vision of Chapter 7, is seen by Daniel about three years before the events of Chapter 6.

So, in the order of events, Daniel 7 should come before Chapters 5 and 6, however, in order to keep the "*Historical*" considerations separate from the "*Prophetical*" features of the Book of Daniel, Chapter 7 was inserted at this juncture.

Daniel 7:1,

*"In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream."*

The first words take us back to the "*first year of Belshazzar's reign.*" Since Belshazzar only reigned for a little over two years, history recording that he was slain in 538 B.C., the first year of his reign would have been 541 B.C., at which time Daniel would have been about 85 years old. The date of this first vision of Daniel would have been about 62 years after Nebuchadnezzar had his "*dream*" of the "*Great Metallic Image,*" in Chapter 2.

Nebuchadnezzar died in 561 B.C. and the Fall of Babylon took place in 538 B.C. and, for these 23 years Daniel had been in communion with God, largely spending his time in the study of the writings of Moses, and such of the Psalms and Prophets as were then in existence. This seems clear from the reference to "*the books*" in Daniel 9:2. In these "*quiet*" years Daniel was seeking more light from Scripture as to the "*Times of the Gentiles,*" and their relation to his own people, the Jews.

God, then, gives Daniel a vision, first of "***Four Wild Beasts***"

Daniel 7:2,

*"Daniel said: `In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea."*

Here, in Chapter 7, we have the beginning of the vision in symbols. (The interpretation is given in verses 17-27. The vision concerns the same kingdom as symbolized by the Great Image in Daniel 2, with some additional facts. In Daniel 2 Nebuchadnezzar is shown the Gentile world kingdoms from his day to the Second Advent of Christ. They are pictured there, from man's standpoint, as a great and beautiful metallic image. However, in Daniel 7, God shows Daniel the same kingdom from God's standpoint as ferocious wild beasts (7:17).

"*Winds*," in symbolic passages of Scripture, denotes wars, strife, and judgments from God - [See, for instance, Daniel 8:7-13 with Jeremiah 25:32-33; and Revelation 7:1-3] - while "*seas*," in symbolic passage, represents peoples. [See, verse 17; Revelation 13:1; 17:1,15].

Daniel 7:3-8, "*Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea. (Verse 4) The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it. (Verse 5) And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh! (Verse 6) After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule. (Verse 7) After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast - terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns. (Verse 8) While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully. "*"

*Daniel sees a vision of "Four Wild Beasts" rising out of the sea. "Beasts," in symbolic passages, represent kingdoms [See, for instance, verse 17 and 23-24; 8:20-23; Revelation 17:8-11] and their rulers [See Revelation 11:7; 13:18 and 17:8].*

### THE LION

The "**First Beast**" that Daniel saw emerge from the seething foam of the sea, was like a **LION**, with this difference, it has wings like those of an Eagle. Babylon is compared to a lion in Isaiah 5:29, Jeremiah 4:7; 50:17, 44-46. Babylon is also identified with "*Eagle's wings*" in Jeremiah 48:40; Ezekiel 17 and Habakkuk 1:6-8. The "*wings*" denote the swiftness of the conquests of Nebuchadnezzar. In just a very few years he made a vast empire. The wings being "*torn off*" and the lion standing upon its feet as a man with a man's heart being given to it symbolize the conquests of Nebuchadnezzar coming to an abrupt end by his insanity and his becoming sane again - as a man (Daniel 4:33,36).

### THE BEAR

The "**Second Beast**" was like a **BEAR**, a strong beast, distinguished for its voracity, [craving and consuming large quantities of food, with an insatiable hunger, eager to absorb, possess or consume], however, the Bear has none of the agility and majesty of the Lion. It is awkward in its movements, and effects its purpose with comparative slowness, and by brute force and sheer strength. These were characteristics of the Second World-Wide power, the

Medo-Persian Empire. It was ponderous in its movements, and gained its victories by hurling vast masses of troops upon its enemies. Xerxes' expedition against Greece was undertaken with 2,500,000 fighting men. Such movements of such enormous bodies of men would "*devour much flesh.*"

The Bear was a fitting symbol of Medo-Persia because of their cruelty, thirst after blood, their robberies, and love of spoil (Isaiah 13:16-18 and Jeremiah 51:48-56). The largest species of bears are found in the mountains of Media. The "*Bear raising up on one of its sides,*" has reference to the strength of the Persians compared to the Medes. This is the same thought as the "*higher horn*" of the ram in Daniel 8:3. Cyrus the Persian who was greater than Darius the Mede (Daniel 5:31) and who came up last (2 Chronicles 36:20-23; Ezra 1:1-8; 3:7; 4:5; Isaiah 44:28; 45:1). The Medo-Persia is mentioned in Daniel 5:24-31; 6:1-28; 7:5 and 17; 8:1-4, 20; 10:1-20; 11:1-2; Isaiah 13:17-22; 21:2; 2 Kings 17:6; 18:11; Esther 1:1-9:3)

The "*three ribs in its mouth,*" has references to the conquest of Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt by the Medes and Persians.

### THE LEOPARD

The "*Third Beast*" was like a **LEOPARD**, with this difference, that it had "*four heads*" and "*four wings.*" The Leopard is the most agile and graceful of wild beasts. Slight in its frame, but strong, swift, and fierce, its characteristics render it a fitting symbol of the rapid conquests of the Greeks under Alexander the Great, who, by small, but well-equipped and splendidly brave, armies, moved with immense swiftness, in about ten years overthrew the clumsy forces of Persia, and subdued the whole civilized world.

The "*four heads*" symbolize the divisions of the Grecian Empire after the death of Alexander . . . Thrace, Macedonia, Syria, and Egypt . . . (as do the four horns of 8:8, 22-23.) "*Heads*" always symbolize kingdoms (Daniel 8:20-23 and Revelation 17:9-11). The Grecian Empire is mentioned in Daniel 2:32, 35, 39, 45; 7:6, 17; 8:5-25; 10:20; 11:3-45 and Zechariah 8:13.

### THE INCREDIBLE BEAST

The "*Fourth Beast*" was like no other beast that had ever been seen on earth. It was terrifying and frightening and very powerful, hideous to behold, having what no natural beast has, "*teeth of iron*" (and verse 19 tells us that the fourth beast has, "*bronze claws*"). This Fourth Beast, of course, represents the next World-Wide Kingdom to rule the world after the Grecian Empire, which was the Roman Empire, symbolized by this non-descript beast because there is nothing on earth to compare it with. It is a dreadful, terrible, strong beast with great iron teeth. Certainly history records that the Roman Empire devoured the other beasts and stamped upon them with its feet, meaning it conquered all the territories of the first beasts - Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. It was different from all beasts before it, not only in a republican form of government, but also in power, greatness, extent of dominion, and length of duration.

Something about this beast that Daniel brings special attention too, "*it has ten horns*" The fact that this Fourth Beast has *ten horns*, is another identification that it denotes the Roman Empire, the fourth World-Wide Kingdom to rule the then known world.

Daniel is mystified as he watches the ten horns, "*a Little Horn*" rises up among them,

"three of the first horns are uprooted before this *'little horn,'* and, this little horn, has *"the eyes of a man and a mouth that speaks boastfully."*

This "*Little Horn*" springs up in the midst of the 10 horns. The "*Little Horn*" plucks up 3 of the 10 horns by their roots, symbolizing the Antichrist, coming in the days of the formation of Rome into 10 kingdoms. He will overthrow 3 of them and the others will submit to him without further war (Daniel 7:23-24 and Revelation 17:11-17).

This "*Little Horn*" is a man, in fact, the end-time Antichrist, who speaks blasphemies against God (Daniel 7:25; 11:36; Revelation 13:1, 5; 17:3).

Daniel 7:9-12 *"As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. (Verse 10) A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. (Verse 11)"Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.(Verse 12) (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)"*

As Daniel considers this fourth, non-descriptive, beast, it's 10 horns, the "*little horn*" rising up and tearing out 3 of the 10 horns, taking over the other 7, he, suddenly "*beholds*" the **Judgement** scene, looking down through time until the "*thrones*" of these "*beast's kingdoms*" are "*cast down*" and, One, called "*the Ancient One,*" takes His place on His throne. The description given in verse 9 certainly sounds like the same description of Jesus Christ, as He appears today, found in Revelation 1:13-15.

Because of the outcome of this Judgment, given in verse 11-12, it would seem that this is the "**Judgment of the Nation,**" which will take place after the Tribulation period and just before the Millennium. The "*Little Horn*" (representing the Antichrist), speaking "*boastful, presumptuous, arrogant, words,*" is slain, its body (*its kingdom*) destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. The other "*Beasts,*" the Lion, the Bear, and the Leopard - representing respectively the Babylonian, the Medo-Persian, and the Grecian Empire, have their dominion taken away, however, "*are allowed to live for a period of time."*

It would be well to remember at this time that there will be more than just one general judgment, but, rather, there will be:

- (1) The **Judgment of Believers for their Works** at the Judgement Seat of Christ
- (2) The **Judgment of the Jews** during "*The Great Tribulation.*" The Jews are an earthly people, and as all promises to them are earthly, it follows that their Judgment must be of an earthly character, and it is called by Jeremiah and Daniel as the time of "**JACOB'S TROUBLE.**" (Jeremiah 30:4-7 and Daniel 12:1). Christ calls it "**THE GREAT TRIBULATION.**" (Matthew 24:21- 31. This Judgment will bring about the conversion of the Jewish nation.
- (3) The **Judgment of Nations** after Christ's return to the earth, *with* His saints to rule and reign. This Judgment, evidently, will take place in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:1-2), and its purpose will be to separate the "*Sheep and the Goat*" Nations, so that the "*Sheep*" Nations may enter into the "*Kingdom*



*prepared for them from the Foundation of the World," which is the Millennium.  
The "Goat" Nations, as nations, will be destroyed.*

The "**Judgement Scene**" that Daniel saw in his Vision is the "*Judgment of the Nations.*"

The following verses seem to verify this fact:

Daniel 7:13-14,

*"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. (Verse 14) He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."*

Daniel sees, "*One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven,*" and He approaches "*the Ancient of Days,*" Christ's Heavenly Father. (Both Jesus Christ and His Father are "*Ancient One's,*" which is simply another way of expressing in the Hebrew language, "*One Who is Eternal!*" The Heavenly Father gives Christ, "*authority, glory and sovereign power, and all peoples, nations and men of every language worship Him, Whose dominion is an everlasting dominion that will never pass away, and His kingdom will never be destroyed.*"

Daniel 7:15-16

*"I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. (Verse 16) I approached one of those standing there and asked him the true meaning of all this. So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things."*

Daniel is "*troubled in his spirit*" as a result of the vision and wondered what it all meant. What seem to trouble him the most was the character of the "*Four Wild Beasts and the 'Little Horn,'*" so he said to one of the "*bystanders,*" standing by the throne and asked "*What is the truth of the vision of these four beasts, and that of the little horn?*" This would have had to be a celestial messenger, who answered Daniel, for no human being would have been able to.

## THE INTERPRETATION OF THE VISION

Daniel 7:17,

*"The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.*

The **Heavenly Bystander** begins to reveal to Daniel that the, "*Four Wild Beasts*" represent "*Four Kings, or Kingdoms,*" which would rise in the earth, thus identifying them with the Four Kingdoms which would rule the world. There can be no argument at our time in history, because much of this prophecy is now past history. Secular history shows that, like the fulfillment of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the Metallic Image, there has been four World-Wide Empires which ruled the world since the giving of this vision. They, of course, are Babylon, Medo-Persian, Grecian and Roman Empires.

Daniel 7:18,

*"But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever - yes, for ever and ever."*

The "**Saints of God**" will rule over these kingdoms of the world and, this reign of the

"*saints of God*" will be eternal!

Many other Scriptures show this to be true: Daniel 7:13-14, 18, 27; Matthew 13:41-50; 25:31-46; Romans 8:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:2; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 11:15; 20:4-6; 22:4-5, just to mention a few.

Daniel 7:19-22,

*"Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws--the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. (Verse 20) I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell--the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. (Verse 21) As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, (Verse 22) until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom."*

Daniel wanted to know more about this terrible, ferocious, non-descriptive, wild Fourth Beast, especially concerning his "ten horns" and "the little horn that rose among the ten horns." Daniel mentions something which he did not mention when he gave the description of this Little Horn in verse 8, which helps us to understand a little better. We already know that this "Little Horn has eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking boastfully," but, now we learn that this "The Little Horn wages war against the saints and defeats them, until the Eternal One comes and pronounces his judgment in favor of the saints of God, after which, these saints, possess the kingdom."

We must ever keep in mind that this Book of Daniel was given primarily to warn, instruct, and encourage "Daniel's people" (Jewish people). As we have seen, and will study more later, there is a seven year period (*one week*) left in God's revealed time schedule in His dealing with the Jewish nation. This will take place immediately after the Rapture of the Church, which is an interval of time between the Roman Empire and the coming last World-Wide Government.

Since the fall of the Roman Empire there has not been a World-Wide Kingdom. However, God predicts that another World-Wide Kingdom is coming. It will be the Antichrist's rule, during the Tribulation Period.

Therefore, with this in mind, "*the Saints of the Eternal One*" would have to be either, Daniel's people, the Jewish people, or the Christians who come to God after the Rapture of the church, or **both**!

The Heavenly Being continues giving an interpretation:

Daniel 7:23-27,

*"He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. (Verse 24) The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. (Verse 25) He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time. (Verse 26) But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. (Verse 27) Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him."*

The Celestial Being explains that the "*fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth.*" Even though the vision of Daniel was received by him in 541 B.C., the Roman Empire, became the fourth World-Wide Government in 30 B.C., exactly as God predicted. **The Roman Empire was the FOURTH World-Wide Kingdom!** It, certainly, was "*different from all the other kingdoms and devoured the whole earth, 'thrashing' the whole, known, world.*"

However, notice, that there are **TWO** "*Figures*" in this interpretation that demands our attention. The first is "*the fourth beast,*" and the second is "*the Little Horn.*" The Celestial Interpreter makes a clear distinguish between these two.

Just what does the Heavenly Interpreter say about "*the little Horn?*"

The Heavenly Interpreter tells Daniel that, "*The ten horns on this Fourth Beast are ten kings - or ten kingdom - that will come from this kingdom (the Roman Empire). He continues, "After them another king will rise to power, different from the earlier ones (the ten kingdom).*"

Then certain characteristics of this one called "*the Little Horn*" are given:

1. *He will subdue three of the ten kingdoms.*
2. *He will speak against the Most High*  
- or, challenge, and defy, Almighty God
3. *He will oppress the saints - (wear out, or down - afflict)*
4. *He will try to change the set times and the laws.*

This, no doubt, has to do with the Hebrew Sabbaths, Festivals and Levitical Laws. [At this time, the Jews have returned to their own land and have rebuilt their Temple, and the Jewish Festivals have been re-established.] The Antichrist has made a Covenant with them for seven years, however, in the middle of this period (3 and 1/2

years) he breaks the covenant (Daniel 9:27), and substitute the worship of himself for the worship of Jehovah, thus causing the Jewish "*sacrifices and oblations to cease*," (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14) and in his desire to annihilate all Jewish institutions, thinks to change all Jewish "*times and laws*," and he will do this for the remaining of the seven year period  
- three and one-half years.

5. *The saints* (That is, Tribulation saints and the Jewish people) *will be handed over to him for 3 1/2 years*

However, the time is coming when "*God will sit in Judgment and this Antichrist's power and the greatness of his kingdom will be taken from him and handed over to the saints, the people of the most High, as an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey Jesus Christ.*"

Daniel 7:28, "*This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.*"

Keep in mind that the question that is asked by the holy one in verse 13 is: "*When will the daily sacrifices be offered again? What about this horrible rebellion? When will the Temple and heaven's army no longer be trampled in the dust?*" - [Contemporary English Version]

The answer: "*2,300 evening and morning sacrifices . . . [because there was a morning sacrifice and an evening sacrifice each day (Numbers 28:3-4; 1 Chronicles 16:40), this would, therefore, mean 1,150 days] . . . before the Temple is dedicated and in use again.*"  
[Daniel 8:14, Contemporary English Version].

The NIV, "*...then shall the Sanctuary be cleansed of the abomination of desolation.*"

1,150 days is 110 short of the 1,260 days (3 1/2 years) of the last half of the Tribulation Period.

When the Antichrist breaks his covenant with the Jews (Daniel 9:27) at the middle of the 7 years Tribulation and begins his harsh persecution of the Jewish people, Israel flees into the wilderness (Revelation 12:6 and 14). The Antichrist hears of trouble in the North and leads his armies there, fulfilling Daniel 11:44. After he conquers the countries of the North and the East, he comes back to Israel, only to find that he must retake Jerusalem from the Jews who have taken back the city of Jerusalem while the Antichrist was busy fighting in the North.

The 110 days would be the period that the Antichrist's worship [and his image] is being cleansed from the Temple and the siege of Jerusalem by Antichrist take place.  
(Zechariah 14).

This 110 days could explain Matthew 24:22, which states, "*...but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*" [Contemporary English Version renders this verse as, "*But because of God's chosen ones, He will make the time shorter.*"] The 110 days could be the last days of the 1,260 days of the Tribulation Period which the Jews are gaining control of their Temple, "*before the Temple is dedicated and in use again.*"

There will 110 days of "*doing away with the daily sacrifices in the Temple before they*

*are offered again by the Jews when the Sanctuary is cleansed of the abomination of desolation." Or, more literally Daniel 8:14 reads, "2,300 morning and evening sacrifices will be cut off from the Temple during this period of time."*

The question that is asked in Daniel 8:13 is, "*How many sacrifices will be cut off?*"

The answer: "*2,300 sacrifices will be cut off.*"

### ***Daniel's 70 Weeks***

Daniel was past 70 years of age when he wrote the 9th chapter of the Book of Daniel. He was a student of Scripture, which accounts for the revelation which God gave to him. There is a principle of God's dealings with man here: "***God's revelation is the result of diligent study of His Word!***"

Another inviolable principle is:

*"The **more** one study's God's revelation, the **more** God will give of His revelation!"*

In Daniel 9:1, we are told that this prophecy came to Daniel, "*In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans.*"

History reveals that the date referred to here was 537 B.C., one year before Cyrus permitted the Jews to return from exile. (They had been in exile for 69 years).

Daniel 9:2 shows Daniel's faith in the Word of God, when it states, "*In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.*"

Sixty-nine years had passed during Israel's exile from Palestine. Daniel had been taken into captivity when he was but a youth. While in captivity, he often pondered God's prophecy. He was reading from the writings of the prophet, Jeremiah, where God said:

*"This is what the LORD says: `When **seventy years** are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, `plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" Jeremiah 29:10-11.*

### **DANIEL TOOK GOD AT HIS WORD**

It was Daniel's concern for God's people (Israel) that caused him to pray for wisdom. The **70 years period** of captivity in Babylon was drawing to a close, and, therefore, Daniel wondered what God would do next for His people.

*Is your faith in God's Word that strong? We have today God's complete revelation, the whole Bible, and, yet, how ignorant the*

*average Christian is concerning what God reveals of the future. God help each of us to ponder what He says about the future, just as Daniel did so long ago.*

Daniel was reading Jeremiah 25:11-12, which says,

*"This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. `But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt,' declares the LORD, `and will make it desolate forever.'"*

This "*desolation of Babylon*," spoken of here, is only a matter of history now, however. at the time this prophecy of Jeremiah was given, the children of Israel were in captivity in Babylon.

Beginning with Daniel 9:24, and running through the rest of this 9 chapter, God unfolds what has been frequently referred to as the "***Backbone of Bible Prophecy***," because these verses contain the framework, or general outline, around which all other prophecy is established.

If one errs in understanding these verses (Daniel 9:24-27) he will err in understanding all other prophecies of the Bible, however, if he has a proper interpretation of these **70 weeks** of Daniel, he will have little difficulty in appropriating all the prophecies of Scripture into a general scheme, or pattern, which God has laid down throughout His Word.

Let us take a close look at these verses - Daniel 9:24-27.

Daniel 9:24, "*Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.*"

First, notice that God reveals a period of "***seventy weeks!***" The Hebrews called seven years a "*week*," as well as seven days. To illustrate, remember, when Scripture tells us that Laban told Jacob that he must "*fulfill Leah's WEEK*," before he could receive Rachel as his wife, and then Jacob refers to this same period as "*seven years?*" [See Genesis 29:27]

God said, in Daniel 9:24, "**Seventy weeks** (or seventy periods of seven years, making a total of 490 years) **are determined**." The word "*determined*" means "*to decree, to appoint, to set, to mark out, to fix, or to already plan*." Thus, this period of seventy-sevens was already set by Almighty God, and there could be no changes.

Note, also, that this period of "*seventy sevens*" had to do with "**your people**," that is, Daniel's people . . . the Jewish people . . . Israel!

So, then, Daniel 9:24 reveals that this period, "*seventy-sevens of years*" will cover the period that will:

1. ***Finish transgression . . .***
2. ***Make an end of sins . . .***
3. ***Make reconciliation for iniquity . . .***

Revised Standard Version: "*To atone for iniquity*"

Rotherham Translation: "to put a propitiatory covering over iniquity"

- 4. **Bring in everlasting righteousness . . .**
- 5. **Seal up . . . [fulfill] . . . the vision and prophecy . . .**

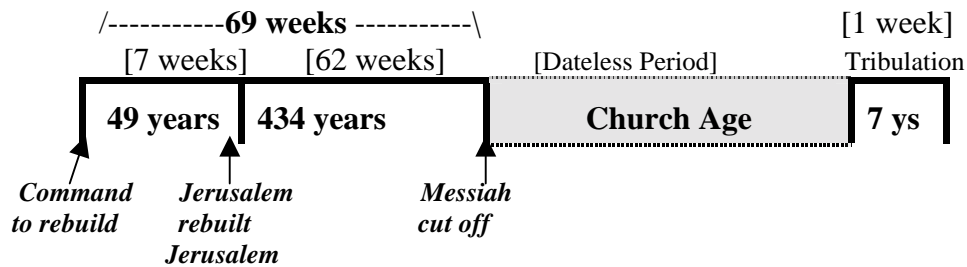
Moffatt Translation: "to ratify the prophetic vision"

- 6. **Anoint the most holy!**

Don't miss what God is saying here in Daniel 9:24. Whatever, the meaning of these statements are, it is clear that this period of "*seventy-sevens of years*," will bring in the setting up of God's eternal kingdom, when:

- 1. All transgression will be ended;
- 2. there will come an end to sins;
- 3. an atonement for iniquity will be complete;
- 4. there will be everlasting righteousness;
- 5. the complete fulfillment of this prophecy will be accomplished, and
- 6. the Most Holy One will be anointed as King!

### Daniel's 70 weeks



Now, Daniel 9:25,

*"Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble."*

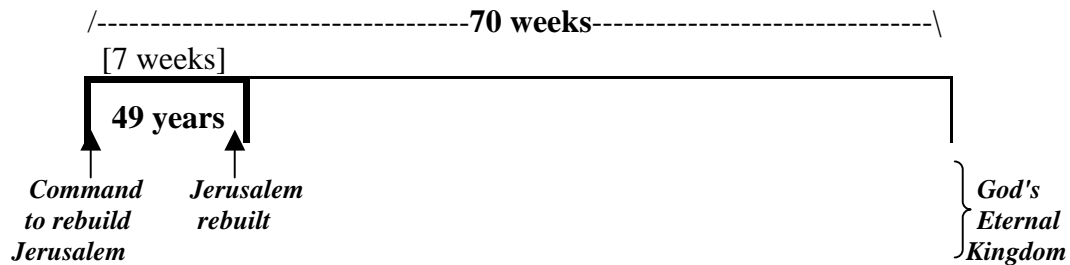
God says that the period of *seventy-sevens of years* will begin with the "*command to rebuild Jerusalem*" and would continue until "*the Messiah, the Prince, is anointed.*" Then, God begins to divide the periods of "*seventy-sevens of years*" into divisions:

- 1. The first division of the "*seventy-sevens of years*," found in verse 25, is "*seven sevens of years*," or forty-nine years.

God told Daniel, "*The first division of this whole period . . . (seventy sevens of years) . . . would be forty-nine years, and that it would begin with the going forth of the command to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem.*"

We have the exact date, the very year, in which the command was given to rebuild Jerusalem in the second chapter of the Book of Nehemiah. Verse one states, "*And it came to pass in the month Nisan . . . (our month of April) . . . in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes, the king.*" History gives confirmation of that fact, that, the year 483 B.C. was the 20th year of Artaxerxes' reign.

Therefore, we have the **first** division of Daniel's 70 week:



Permit me to be a little meticulous in sharing some historical facts:

**1.**

The first decree to rebuild Jerusalem was given during the first year of the reign of Cyrus, king of Persia (Ezra 1:1-4; Isaiah 44:28 45:1-4 and 46:11). Cyrus reigned nine years, then Cambyses, his son, reigned 7 years. In the son's reign the work on the temple ceased (Ezra 4:1-24).

**2.**

Darius I, of profane history, reigned thirty-five years. In the second year of his reign he confirmed the decree made by Cyrus 18 years before. The temple was finished in the sixth year of his reign, **but the city was not "restored."** Xerxes reigned twenty-one years (Daniel 11:1-3) during which time the city was not yet completed.

**3.**

Artaxerxes reigned forty-one years, in the 20th year of his reign, 452 B.C, he gave Nehemiah the **3rd decree** "to restore and to build Jerusalem" (Nehemiah 2:1-6:19). From this moment the **seventy-sevens, or 490 years, are counted**. It is at this point that the first division of the 490 years, seven-sevens, or forty-nine years, for "*the restoration of Jerusalem . . . the street and the wall rebuilt, even in troublous time,*" began.

**4.**

Nehemiah restored the wall in fifty-two days after he reached Jerusalem, however, this was not the full restoration, this restoration took place during the next **forty-nine years**. This the third decree to restore Jerusalem was 94 years after the first one by Cyrus.

It is a matter of history, that, the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem took exactly 49 years, **seven-sevens of years**, fulfilling the first great division of Daniel's 70 Weeks.

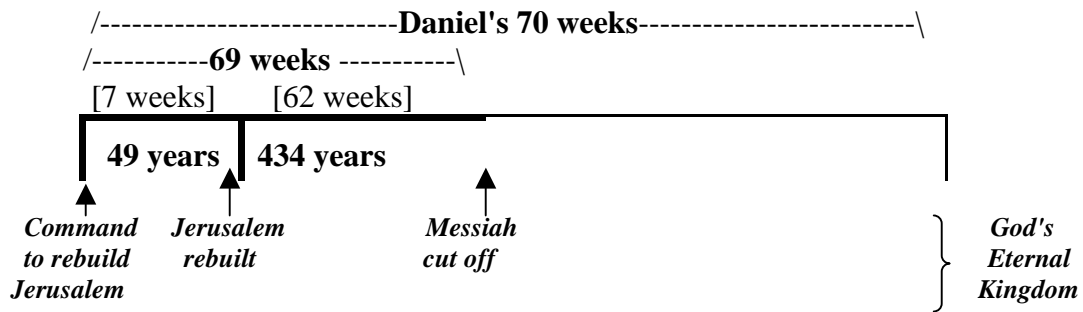
Let's consider verse 26,

*"After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed."*

After the first division, given in verse 25 . . . (*seven-sevens, or 49 years*) . . . **ANOTHER** division is given in verse 26, "*sixty-two sevens, or 434 years.*" At this time, "*will Messiah, the Anointed One be cut off, but not for Himself,*" referring, without doubt, to Christ's crucifixion, when He died in the place of others.

Now, we have two divisions of Daniel's 70 weeks:





Note, this "cutting off of Messiah" was to be **after** another "sixty-two sevens, or 434 years", following the first division of *seven-sevens, or 49 years*. This 434 years would follow the restoration of Jerusalem, making a total of *sixty-nine sevens, or 485 years*, starting at the time that the decree to "rebuild" Jerusalem was given.

Again, history will show that Jesus' crucifixion took place *exactly* 69 sevens of years. . . . (7 and 62) . . . or a period of 434 years after this prophecy started, beginning with the "command to rebuild Jerusalem."

Note, carefully, (using the King James Translation), that, after the Messiah is cut off, that, in the phrase "and the people of the prince," it is a small `p' for the word "prince," and not a capital `P,' as is true earlier in the verse, and this "prince" refers, not to **Christ**, but to **Antichrist**. [The New International Version uses the term "ruler," however it is all the same.]

Verse 26 continues, ". . . and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolation are determined."

Note, also, that it is "the **PEOPLE** of the prince [the Antichrist] that shall come to destroy the city and the sanctuary." It is not the "prince," himself, but "his people" that will destroy the city.

To repeat, after the first seven-sevens, or 49 years . . . (in which Jerusalem was rebuilt) . . . would be another sixty-two sevens, or 434 years, until Messiah, Jesus Christ, would be cut off, crucified. That is **exactly** what happened, the Messiah was cut off 483 years after the command to rebuild Jerusalem.

What happened then? "The **people** of the prince" did come. In 70 A.D., the Roman Empire destroyed Jerusalem. Titus and his armies swept down upon the land of Palestine and destroyed the city and the sanctuary, and drove the children of Israel into all the lands of the world - fulfilling this prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem, and it's temple, and bringing the desolations prophesied in Daniel 9:26, all, exactly as God said would happen, and, on God's time table.

Is it any wonder that Jesus, a few days before He was crucified, recalling the words of Daniel prophesying of this terrible coming catastrophe, wept, as He said, "The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you

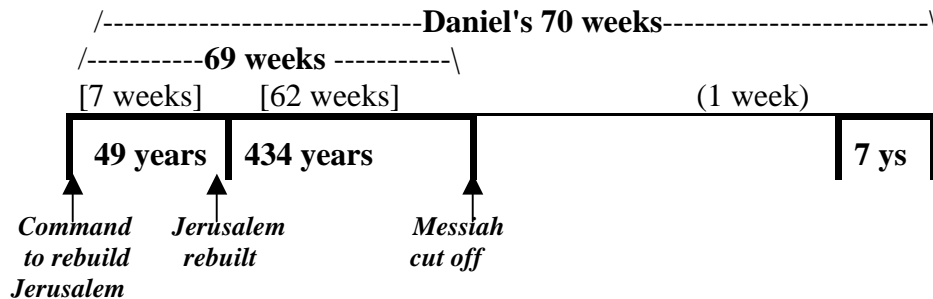
*and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you" Luke 19:43-44.*

Christ was crucified after the sixty-nine period of sevens, 483 years, starting with the command to rebuild Jerusalem!

Daniel 9:27,

*"He . . . [the Antichrist] . . . will confirm a covenant with many . . . [of Daniel's people, the Jews] . . . for one 'seven.' . . . [seven years]. In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."*

We come to the third division of Daniel's week,



The "he" mentioned here in verse 27, of course, refers back to the "prince" mentioned in verse 26, or the Antichrist. He, "the prince" shall confirm the covenant with (or, make a covenant with) many "of thy people," that is, Daniel's people, the Jews, for **one week, a period of seven years**, and in the midst, (or, the middle) of the week he will cause the sacrifice and the oblation, the act of offering sacrifices, to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate. (The New English Bible Translation renders this phrase, "**in the train of these abominations shall come an author of desolation**").

To make sure the you understand what I am attempting to explain, permit me to be redundant and compare Daniel's 70 weeks to a clock which started with the command toe rebuild Jerusalem, and . . . well, lets look at it!

God said that three things would take place as the "**Jewish prophetic clock** ticks off "seventy-sevens of years," which **begins** with the command to rebuild Jerusalem.

### 1.

The first event to take place would be the rebuilding of Jerusalem and this would be accomplished by the close of the first period which would be "seven-sevens," or 49 years.

### 2.

The second event to take place would be that "**Messiah would be cut off**" and this would take place after another "sixty-two more periods of seven years" . . . (or another 434 years) . . . had taken place, making a total of **69 sevens** from the beginning.

**These events have taken place, just as predicted!**

Chronologists have shown that the crucifixion occurred immediately after the expiration of 483 years - (using the Jewish calendar of 360 days per year).

God takes His Almighty hand and starts His "*Jewish prophetic clock*" at the moment that the command to rebuild Jerusalem went out. The exact date of this command is given in Nehemiah 2:1. Using our modern calendar, this command was given April, 483 B.C.

God's Jewish Prophetic Clock ticked off the prophesied period of "*seven-sevens*" - or 49 years and, exactly according to God's forecast time schedule.

God's *Jewish Prophetic Clock* kept ticking!

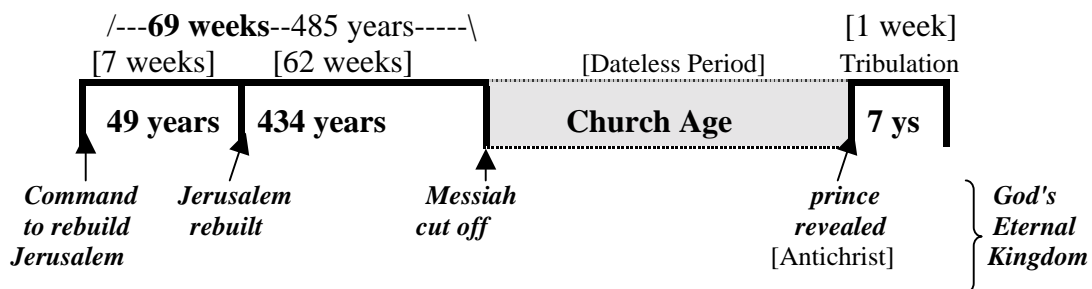
Another "*sixty-two sevens*" - (or 434 years) - advanced and, as God had predicted, "*the Messiah was cut off*," Jesus Christ was crucified *exactly* according to God's timetable when 485 years - (or "*69 sevens*") had ticked off on God's Jewish Prophetic Clock.

However, (and this is important to remember), God's Jewish Prophetic Clock **STOPPED**, when Messiah was cut off, and *there has not been another tick of God's Jewish Prophetic Clock for nearly 2000 years!*

It is important that we take note of the "*interval of time*" between the 69th and the 70th Week of Daniel.

Note, in our illustration of the clock on the previous page, God's Jewish Prophetic Clock started with the command to rebuild Jerusalem and, after it had ticked off 49 sevens, the work to rebuild Jerusalem was concluded. God's Jewish Prophetic Clock continued running and, after another 62 sevens, "*Messiah was cut off*." This makes a total of 69 sevens (7 and 62), or a total of 485 years. However, at this moment, God's Jewish Prophetic Clock *stopped!* There is still **one more week** (7 years) **of Daniel's 70 Weeks left!**

**Daniel's 70 weeks**



Students of the Bible should not have any difficulty in understanding the "*interval*" of time between the 69th and the 70th weeks, if they bear in mind the fact that God never reckons the "*Jewish Prophetic Clock*" running, except when He is dealing with the Jews as a nation.

When Israel rejected Christ as their Messiah, "*Messiah was cut off*" . . . crucified . . . and

God's Jewish Prophetic Clock **stopped**. It was at this time that the *Church Age*, of which we are now a part of, began, and fills the *interval* of time between the 69th and the 70th weeks of Daniel's 70 Weeks.

The **70 Weeks of Daniel** have nothing to do with this present Church Age, they are for "*thy people*," Daniel's people, Israel! When the Church is complete, and translated to be with her Lord in the air, **then** the last week - seven years - of Daniel's vision will begin to run its course. Israel will be a nation again! Jerusalem will once again occupy center-stage of world leadership. God will once again start His Jewish Prophetic Clock and the last week - the 70th Week - will tick off.

### 3.

The third event of this prophecy is that during this last week (the last seven years) the "*prince*" will confirm the covenant with the Jews for one week (seven years) - verse 27.

The Antichrist, evidently out of the old Roman Empire . . . [for he is "*the `prince` of the people who destroyed Jerusalem and the sanctuary,*" . . . will make an agreement, a pact, with the nation of Israel. Then, in the ***middle*** of the seven year period - three and one-half years - he will break his agreement and "***cause the sacrifices of ablation to cease , and for the overspreading of abominations he will make it desolate***" and, "***set up his abomination of desolation.***"

Jesus speaking of "*this desolation*," in Matthew 24:15 said, "*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, whoso readeth, let him understand), Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains.*" Christ then describes the tribulation period in the succeeding verses. (Also, see Mark 13:14).

Revelation 11:3 refers to this same period of abomination of desolation, and states, "*a thousand, two hundred, and three score days*" - or - three and one-half years.

Revelation 12:14 refers to this same period as "*a time . . . [that's one year] . . . and times . . . [that two years] . . . and half a time . . . [that half a year],*" ***three and one half years in all!***

Revelation 13:5 names the months of this period and counts them as "***forty-two months***" - three and one-half years!

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8 is very descriptive, when it states:

*"Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come" [verses 1-2].*

The purpose of this second letter to the Thessalonians was because some of the Thessalonians saints had misunderstood Paul's first letter, and were confusing "***the catching away of the saints***" with "***the Day of Christ.***"

Paul continues in verse 3, "*Don't let anyone deceive you in any way,*

*for that day will not come until . . ."*

Then, Paul lists **two** things which must precede the "Day of Christ:"

- (1) "There would come a falling away, first, and
- (2) The man of sin would be revealed, the son of perdition.

Continuing with verse 4, Paul says, "*He [the man of sin] will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.*"

Paul continues in verse 5, "*Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of His mouth and destroy by the splendor of His coming*" (Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8).

***The first event Paul says must occur before the "Day of Christ" can take place is a "falling away."***

The Greek word used here is "*apostasia*" and is preceded by the definite article. The correct meaning of the word is, "*to cause to withdraw; to go away; to depart or to withdraw from.*" This word is found 15 times in the New Testament and is translated "*depart*" 11 times. It is also translated as: "*fall away, draw away, refrain or forsake*" in the New Testament. All which means = **TO DEPART!** This is certainly a better translation of the original word, rather than attempt to "*spiritualize*" the word to mean a spiritual apostasy!

With the pure translation of this word before us, the next step is to ascertain from the context, what this "*departure*" refers to. The definite article occurring before the word makes it apply to a *particular* departure, one known to the writer and the recipients of the letter. It is clearly *the departure of the Church*, which is the subject of this second chapter of Thessalonians. Paul refers to the "*departure . . . (rapture) . . . of the Church*" in verse 7, for it is the Holy Spirit through the ministry of the Church which is holding back the revelation of Antichrist, and, will be "*taken out of the way*" and then "*shall the wicked one be revealed,*" and, with him, will come the tribulation!

The two events that must be fulfilled before "*the Day of Christ*" can take place, that is, when Christ comes in power and great glory with His saints to set up His kingdom on earth, are:

**(1) This "*Falling away*," and (2) the Man of sin revealed!**

If this "*falling away*" refers to the rapture of the Church, then the picture is complete, however, on the other hand, if this "*falling away*" refers to spiritual apostasy, you have the Man of sin revealed, but nothing at all is mentioned concerning the rapture of the Church, yet the Church is referred to in verses 1 and 7.

If Christ's coming is to be imminent during the Church Age, how is it that He must wait for some spiritual apostasy? Spiritual apostasy, of course, is current today, and has been down through all ages.

The purpose this second letter was written to the Thessalonians to show that the Rapture itself must "*precede*" the Day of Christ, and, the only two things that precede that day are the "*falling away*" - the departure - and the Man of sin being revealed, therefore, the interpretation that the "*falling away*" is the Rapture would seem necessary.

Daniel 9:2 says, the end of this period of seventy-sevens of years will "*bring in everlasting righteousness.*"

We are living in solemn days. Jews are returning to the land of Israel. There is a revival of the nations within the old Roman Empire. I know of nothing that must happen to bring this *parenthetical* Church age to a close, and, then, God will reach down and again start the pendulum of His Jewish Prophetic Clock ticking one more.

Think of it, when this last momentous "*week*" - the 70th week of Daniel's 70 weeks - has "*ticked off*" on God's prophetic clock, the consummation of it will bring in Christ's kingdom on earth.

The rapture of the Church will take place **before** this 70th week begins!

If you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, let me urge you, while there is opportunity, to accept Him as your personal Savior! To reject Him now, is to spend eternity *"in outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

For your own sake, for your families sake, for Christ's sake, receive Him while there is time!

Behold, now is the day of salvation!

### ***Daniel's fourth vision:***

#### ***Israel in the last days under the Antichrist. and the Beast out of the sea***

Daniel 10:1,

*"In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision."*

The *"third year of Cyrus king of Persia"* would be 533 B.C. Cyrus was the son of Astyages and Queen Esther of the book of Esther. We now have ancient inscriptions deciphered, and these with other sources of information give us a true understanding of the line of kings of Persia—sources like Herodotus, Xenophon, Ctesias, and Nicolas of Damascus who lived before Christ, and Arrian of the 2nd century A.D. In 1846 the writings on the famous **rock of Behistun**, which rises about 1,700 feet out of the plain, on the high road from Babylon to the East, was found to be one on which Darius Hystaspis gave his own genealogy.

On this stone Darius claimed to be the 9th of a succession of kings of his fathers. This record shows that the 5th Persian king was "Astyages," husband of Esther and the father of Cyrus. He is the "Ahasuerus" of Esther 1:1, and "Darius" the Mede of Daniel 5:31

The phrase, *"it concerned a great war,"* in Daniel 10:1, is translated in King James as, *"the time appointed,"* and places the time of fulfillment in the far distant future (See Daniel 10:14 and 35).

As we study together Daniel, chapters 10, 11, and 12, it is important that we remember that Daniel gave these words of his vision in 533 B.C., many years before these events came to pass, in some cases, a couple hundred years.

Daniel 10:1, tells us that Daniel understood the vision. If Daniel understood the vision *before*, the historical fulfillment of his vision, then, we today can surely understand the vision *after* the fulfillment. The whole vision is very plain, as we shall see.

Daniel 10:2-6,

*"At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all*

*until the three weeks were over. On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude."*

Daniel was fasting and praying, when, on the 4th day of what would be our month of April, when One, described in verses 5 and 6, begins to speak to him. This "Person" seems to be none other than Jesus Christ, the Messiah, Himself. Note the following comparison:

1. His clothing was fine linen - Daniel 10:5 & 12:6-7 with Revelation 1:13; 19:8
2. His loins were girded with a golden girdle - Daniel 10:5 with Revelation 1:13
3. His body was like a beryl - Daniel 10:6 with Revelation 4:3
4. His face was as the appearance of lightning - Daniel 10:6 with Revelation 1:16;10:1
5. His eyes were as lamps of fire - Daniel 10:6 and Revelation 1:14 and 19:12
6. His arms like polished brass - Daniel 10:6 with Revelation 1:14 and 19:12
7. His feet like polished brass - Daniel 10:6 with Revelation 1:14 and 10:1
8. His voice like a multitude - Daniel 10:6 with Revelation 1:14; 8:5; 10:2-4; 11:15; 14:2; 16:17-18; 19:6 and Psalm 29.

Daniel 10:7-13,

*"I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground. A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling. Then God continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia."*

Here is an example of prayer being delayed. Such delays should never hinder faith or cause one to give up seeking an answer that is promised by God. The last phrase of Daniel 10:12, when God says to Daniel "I am come to answer the prayer that you have prayed" and God's answer in the following verses shows what it was that Daniel prayed.

"The prince of the Persian kingdom," refers to the satanic prince or ruler of the kingdom of Persia, one ruling the kingdom of Persia for Satan who is recognized in Scripture as being the god and ruler of this world, having usurped man's dominion.



Matthew 4:8-9; 12:24-30; John 8:44; 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:21; 6:10-18; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 12:7-12; 16:13-16; 20:1-10)

Here the veil is lifted, and we are shown something of the workings of the "*unseen world*," and of the connection between the spirit-world and the affairs of men and nations on the earth. This "*Prince of Persia*" was not Cyrus, the King of Persia, for, Cyrus, a mere man, certainly, could not withstand a supernatural being like Gabriel for 21 days. The Scriptures clearly teach that there is a "**kingdom of darkness.**"

It would seem that over all governments of this world Satan has his trusted angels, demon spirits, who are responsible to him for carrying out his will in those governments. He seeks to hinder God's plan in the fulfillment of prophecy regarding world kingdoms. God also has trusted angels and they carry out His will concerning what He has predicted to take place in the kingdoms of this world, as we shall see in this study (See: Daniel 10:11-21; 11:1; and 12:1). Hence, the wars between these two groups of angels in the heavenlies (Daniel 10:13, 20-21; 11:1; 12:1; Jude 1:9 and Revelation 12:7-12). All wars lost or won on earth are results of wars lost or won by these heavenly armies!

Not only over every government of this world are there good and evil spirit beings seeking to influence and carry out the will of their masters, but over every individual life the same is true (See: Matthew 18:10; 2 Corinthians 10:4-6; Ephesians 2:2 and 6:10-18; Hebrews 1:14; Jude 1:9). Satan, himself, is active along with the line of seeking to defeat God's purpose in the lives of His children (See 1 Chronicles 21:1; Job 1:6 and 2:1).

"*The king of Persia*," in verse 13, refers to the satanic princes of the kingdom of the Medes and Persians.

Keep in mind that God spoke these words to Daniel in 533 B.C. The first part of this prophecy [up to Daniel 11:36] was fulfilled over 300 years later, in around 200 to 100 B.C.

God continues speaking, Daniel 10:14:

*"Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people [the Jews] in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."*

The primary reason of this message from Gabriel to Daniel, was to show Daniel what would befall Israel up to the end time of their oppression by the Gentiles.

The last phrase of verse 14, "*a time yet to come*" . . . (translated as, "*many days*" in the King James translations) . . . is found throughout Scripture and refers to the days just preceding the coming of the Messiah, as the following Scriptures will show:

1. "*Latter times*" - last years ending this age and before the Millennium - 1 Timothy 4:1
2. "*Latter years*" - Armageddon and the end of this age - Ezekiel 38:8 and 16
3. "*Latter days*" - the future tribulation - Numbers 24:14 Deuteronomy 4:30; 31:29; Jeremiah 23:20; 30:24; 48:47; 49:39; Daniel 2:28

4. "Latter day" - Millennium - Job 19:25
5. "Latter days" - Millennium - Hosea 3:5
6. "Last days" - end of this age preceding the Millennium  
- Daniel 8:19; 2 Timothy 3:1; James 5:3; 2 Peter 3:3; Jude 1:18
7. "Last day" - the rapture, at least 7 years before the Millennium and second advent  
- John 6:39-40, 44, 54; 11:24
8. "Last days" - the tribulation period or last 7 years of this age - Acts 2:16-21
9. "Last days" - First advent - Hebrews 1:1-2
10. "Last times" - First advent - 1 Peter 1:20
11. "Last time" - apostolic times and the whole church age- 1 John 2:18
12. "Last time" - second advent" - 1 Peter 1:5;
13. "Last days" - Millennium - Genesis 49:1; Isaiah 2:1; Micah 4:1
14. "Last day" - end of the Millennium - John 12:48; Revelation 20:7-15

This 14th verse is a very important statement in understanding these last three chapters of the Book of Daniel. Gabriel reveals what is to befall Daniel's People in the "**Latter Days**," three is a **PRELUDE** which describes in detail the wars of the "*Ptolemies*" and "*Seleucidae*," two of the Four Kingdom into which Alexander the Great's Empire was divided, and which are spoken of as the wars of the "**Kings of the North**" and the "**Kings of the South**," and carry us down to the end of the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes, 164 B.C. This **PRELUDE** ends with Chapter 11:31, and verses 32-35 cover the whole period from the time of the Maccabees in 166 B.C. - down to the "**times of the end**," and verse 36 introduces us to the "**Willful King**" - Antichrist, and from there to the end of the Book of Daniel, we have an account of what shall befall Daniel's People in the "**Latter Days**."

Daniel 10:15-20,

*"While He was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless. Then one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, 'I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I am helpless. How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe.' Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. 'Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed,' he said. 'Peace! Be strong now; be strong.' When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, 'Speak, my lord, since You have given me strength.' So he said, 'Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against*

*the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come."*

The angel tells Daniel that "*When I leave you, I have another fight with the prince of Persia* (the satanic ruler of Persia). This is simply the continuation of the war of verses 13-14. The "*prince of Greece*" is the satanic ruler prince of the Grecian Empire that caused Alexander the Great to be so successful that he was able, in 13 years, to destroy the Medo-Persian Empire completely. It seems that this prince of Greece is the spirit now confined to the abyss who will come out in the last days and cause the human Antichrist to revive the old Grecian Empire, so that they all can oppose Jesus Christ at Armageddon.

A look at the "*beast out of the sea*," in Revelation, would be helpful at this juncture of our study.

The "*beast out of the sea*," referred to in Revelation (17:8), is a satanic angel. The Antichrist uses this demon spirit as a tool to revive the 5th, or Grecian kingdom, as the 8th and *last* kingdom in "*the times of the Gentiles*." This spirit ruled the old Grecian Empire, the 5th of the 5 kingdoms that had fallen before John's day (Revelation 17:10). When his kingdom fell he was confined to the abyss where he remained during the 6th kingdom (the Roman Empire, which was the one in existence in John's day). He will be confined to the abyss until the 10 kingdoms are formed inside the Roman Empire to make the 7th kingdom of Revelation 17:10. He will then be loosed and use the Antichrist to revive the old Grecian Empire as the 8th kingdom of Revelation 17:11.

This is what the angel meant when he said the beast *was* (that is, had existed on earth before John's day), and *is not* (that is, was on the earth in John's day), and shall ascend out of the abyss and go to perdition (Revelation 17:8).

Kingdoms of this world have always been controlled by godly or satanic angels and wars on earth are lost or won as a result of battles in the heavenlies between God's good and Satan's evil angels. God plans the rise and fall of certain kingdoms and Satan seeks to keep the prophetic Word from coming to pass (See: Isaiah 24:21-23; 25:7; Daniel 10:13-21; 11:1; 12:1; Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:7-12; 16:13-16). In Daniel 10:12-21 and 12:1, we have the satanic prince of Persia, the prince of Greece, Michael, Israel's prince, and other angelic rulers mentioned.

This "*beast out of the sea*," referred to in Revelation 17:8, is none other than the "*prince of Greece*" of Daniel 10:20. Note the following:

1. In this vision of Daniel concerning the Grecian Empire and its 4 divisions, the rise of Antichrist is out of one of these four - Daniel 11:1-45
2. The Antichrist, the earthly head of the 8th kingdom (which is a revival of the 5th kingdom that had fallen before John's day - (Revelation 17:10), will come from the Syrian division of the old Grecian Empire (Daniel 8:9,20-25; 11:36-45). If he comes from the old Grecian Empire and revives it, then it is definite that the spirit out of the abyss is the prince of Greece of Daniel 10:20.
3. In Daniel 7:2-24 Antichrist uses one of the 10 kingdoms, (the Syrian kingdom), to overthrow the 3 others, that is, the other 3 divisions of the old Grecian Empire of Daniel 8:9, 20-25. This points to the prince of Greece as the beast out of the abyss.
4. The body of the beast of Revelation is "*like a leopard*" (Revelation 13:2), which, in

Daniel 7:6, symbolizes the old Grecian Empire, this would seem to establish the fact that the kingdom of Antichrist will be mainly Grecian in character and policy, as the Syrian division in Daniel 8:9-14, 20-25; 11:21-45. This would seem to identify the beast of the abyss as the prince of Greece

5. In Joel 3:6, together with Zechariah 9:13 we have prophecies of the Grecian Empire in the last days under Antichrist, showing that the prince of Greece is the spirit of the abyss. This revival of Greece will be the head healed that was wounded to death (Revelation 13:3, 12-14). It certainly would seem that the 8th kingdom will be the Revived Grecian Empire, rather than the Revised Roman Empire, which is the 7th head on the beast.

The heavenly being continues speaking to Daniel and says, "*But first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince. And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him.)*" - Daniel 10:21 and 11:1

"*Written in the Book of Truth*" was the revelation of the war between Medo-Persia and Greece, recorded in Daniel 2:39; 7:5-6; and 8:3-8, 20-25.

The heavenly being tells Daniel that Michael, the prince of Israel, was the only one who was standing by him in his war with the prince of Persia, that he might be overcome and, after that, the prince of Greece would be permitted to approach.

In Daniel 11:1, Gabriel explains to Daniel that 2 years previous to this revelation he had stood with Michael to confirm and to strengthen him when it was his responsibility to overthrow the prince of Babylon so that the prince of Persia might come. Now, Michael was standing by Gabriel to help him overthrow the prince of Persia so that the prince of Greece might come (10:20-21). God has to defeat the satanic rulers of certain kingdoms before the succeeding one can come to fulfill His prophetic Word. He has already predicted the rise and fall of world empires in the "*times of the Gentiles*," so to fulfill His Word He must wage war against satanic forces who constantly seek to hinder such fulfillment. (Daniel 2:38-45; 7:3-12, 19-27 and 8:20-25).

It will help us in our study to keep the eight (8) kingdoms in mind:

1. **Egypt** was the first kingdom to oppress Israel in "*the times of the Gentiles*" – the period of Israel's history from her beginning as a nation in Egypt to the second advent of Christ (Luke 21:24; Romans 11:25; Revelation 11:1-2). The words Egypt and Egyptian are used 731 times in Scripture and in nearly every case, it is in connection with Israel. Even until the Roman Empire days, Egypt was Israel's bitter enemy, (with the exception of a few periods of friendship). Egypt was the place where Israel became a nation and where they were oppressed before Moses led them out of bondage (Genesis 15:13-14 and Genesis 37 through Exodus 15). She is mentioned many times after this as the oppressor of Israel (1 Kings 14; 2 Kings 17; 18:21 through 19:38; 23:28-37; 25:25-26; 2 Chronicles 14:9-12; 16:7-9; Isaiah, chapters 30-31; Ezekiel, chapters 29-32). After having oppressed Israel off and on for over 3,750 years, Egypt will be subject to Antichrist in oppressing them again under the 8th kingdom (Daniel 8:21-25; 11:40-45). she will never be a great world power again (Ezekiel 29:15), but will serve the Lord along with Israel in the eternal kingdom (Isaiah 11:11-16; 19:23-25; 27:12-13; Zechariah 10:10-11; 14:16-21).
2. **Assyria** was the second great empire to oppress Israel. Founded by Nimrod (Genesis 10:8-12) it was a kingdom inferior to Egypt for 1,300 years. Then God allowed her to chasten Israel (2 Kings, chapters 15-19, and 23-24). The words Assyria and Assyrian are used 175 times and nearly always in connection with Israel. She oppressed Israel off and on for about 175 years. Antichrist will be the last Assyrian to oppress Israel in "*the times of the Gentiles*" (Isaiah 10:20-27; 14:25; 31:4-9; Micah 5:5-6). Assyria will be blessed in the eternal kingdom along with Israel (Isaiah 11:16; 19:23-25)
3. **Babylon** was the third empire to oppress Israel. It is the first one mentioned in Daniel, and for this reason many Bible scholars start the times of the Gentiles with Babylon, however, both Egypt and Assyria persecuted Israel before Babylon and much longer. Why start "*the times of*

*the Gentiles*" with the third empire to oppress Israel merely because Daniel saw those times from his day forward? He naturally could not *predict* the oppression of Israel by Egypt and Assyria for they were in the past by the time he lived. Nevertheless, were they not oppression by the Gentiles? If so, then they rightly belong to "*the times of the Gentiles.*" Daniel saw the Gentiles kingdoms from his day forward, while John, in the Revelation, saw the whole length of "*the times of the Gentiles*" from Egypt to the Revised Roman Empire, the purpose being to identify the 8th kingdom that will complete "*the times of the Gentiles.*" Babylon as an inferior kingdom, helped Assyria against Israel (2 Kings 17:24-30 and 2 Chronicles 33:11). She was chosen of God to take Judah captive for 70 years (2 Kings 20:1; 1 Chronicles 29 and Jeremiah 24). Babylon is mentioned in Daniel under the head of gold (2:37-38) and a lion (7:4). The word Babylon is used 284 times in Scripture nearly always in connection with Israel. She will have a latter day part in oppressing Israel (Isaiah, chapters 13-14 and Jeremiah, chapters 50-51).

4. **Medo-Persia** was the 4th empire to oppress Israel. It is the 2nd one in Daniel as the breast and arms of silver (2:32, 39), the bear (7:5), and the ram (8:20). It is referred to only 58 times in Scripture, but in an important role (2 Kings 17:6; 18:11; Isaiah 13:17; Daniel 5; 10:13-21; 11:1-2; Ezra 1:1-8; 4:1-9; Nehemiah, chapters 1 through 13). It will fulfill prophecy in the last days under Antichrist (Ezekiel 38 and 39) Medo-Persia persecuted Israel off and on for over 100 years.
5. **Greece** was the 5th empire to oppress Israel and the 3rd one in Daniel. It is symbolized in Daniel by the belly and thighs of brass (2:32, 39), as the leopard (7:6), and as the he-goat (8:5-9, 20-25). It is only mentioned by name 9 times in Scripture, due to the fact it existed between the Old and New Testament times. She is mentioned many times in the books of Maccabees in the Apocrypha. Practically all of Daniel, chapters 8, 11 and 12; as well as, Revelation 6:1-8; 13:1-18; 17:9-17; 19:19-21 must be understood in connection with Greece which will be revived again as the 8th kingdom. Greece and the Syrian and Egyptian parts of the empire persecuted Israel off and on for over 250 years. The Grecian empire is the 5th head on the beast of Revelation 17:9-11, which was before John, is not (in John's day), and becomes revived as the 8th and last kingdom to oppress Israel. She is the head that was wounded to death and made alive again (Revelation 13:3, 12).
6. **Rome** was the 6th empire to oppress Israel was the 4th in Daniel. It is symbolized in Daniel as the legs of iron (2:33, 40), the non-descript beast (7:7-8, 23-24), and the 6th head on the beast (Revelation 17:9-17). Rome oppressed Israel over 200 years and dispersed the Jews, 70 A.D. (Daniel 9:26-27; Matthew 24:1-3; Luke 21:20-24). It is from this territory that the next two kingdoms will arise.
7. **Revised Rome** will be the next empire mentioned in Scripture as oppressing Israel. This kingdom will be made up of 10 kingdoms inside the Roman Empire territory in the last days. For this reason we call it the *Revised* Roman Empire, not the *Revived*. If the Roman Empire were to be revived it would be one kingdom ruled by one man from Rome, but instead 10 separate kingdoms ruled by 10 kings and with 10 separate capitals will be formed inside the Roman Empire territory. This is symbolized in Daniel by the 10 toes (2:40-45) and 10 horns (7:7-8, 19-24), and by 10 horns in Revelation 12:3; 13:1 and 17:9-17).
8. **Revived Greece** will be the 2nd of the future empires to oppress Israel and the last world power to do so. Antichrist will come out of the 10 kingdoms and overthrow 3 of them. The others will submit to him, thus forming the 8th kingdom (Daniel 7:23-24; Revelation 17:8-17). It will be defeated by Christ at His second advent. This will end "*the times of the*

*Gentiles."*

## ***Daniel 11***

The Book of Daniel is a Book of Prophecy . . . **PRE-WRITTEN HISTORY**. Chapter 11 predicts the wars of the **Ptolemies of Egypt**, known as, "*the Kings of the South*, and the **Seleucidae of Syria**, known as, "*the Kings of the North*." Here is history so accurately fore- told and "*written in advance*," that Critics claim that the Book of Daniel could not have been written as early as 533 B.C., however, God says, "*Holy Men of God spake as they were moved [propelled] by the Holy Spirit*." (2 Peter 1:19-21). Prophecy is history written in advance, and, certainly, God can have holy men write history *beforehand* as well as *after- ward*, and that is exactly what the Book of Daniel does, writes history before it takes place. Here, in chapters 10-12, prophecy is not clothed in figures and symbols as in previous chapters, but, rather, it is a description, in literal language, of historical events concerning Daniel's people and the Holy Land, from Daniel's time down to the Second Coming of Christ.

Daniel 11:2, the Lord says to Daniel:

*"Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will appear in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece."*

History discloses that there were, indeed, four Persian kings:

1. Cyrus reigned 9 years after Astyages or, Darius the Mede, had taken Babylon in 538 B.C. and reigned 2 years
2. Cambyses, the son of Cyrus, reigned 7 years over Persia, 527-520 B.C.
3. Darius I reigned 35 years, 520-485 B.C. He was the first king of Persia to invade Greece, but was defeated at the battle of Marathon in 490 B.C.
4. Xerxes reigned 21 years, 485-464 B.C. He was the Persian king that stirred up all against the realm of Grecia, fulfilling 11:2.  
He also was defeated by the Greeks in 480-479 B.C.

Darius had conquered Thrace as far west as the Strymon river and added it to the Persian Empire. This brought the Greeks and Persians face to face in a death struggle, and a crisis in history. Persia had completely adopted Oriental culture. She represented the fullest possible growth of the ancient civilization of Egypt and Babylon. She was rooted deeply in the traditions of the past and was unable to produce a better civilization.

The Greek, on the other hand, were a fresh and youthful people. They were giving the world new ideas of literature, art, and individual rights in self-government. If the Persians had conquered the progress of the world would have been set back many centuries. When the two powers started to fight it was a war which could only end in the destruction of one type of civilization or the other, the Western or Eastern. The struggle was not continuous, but broke out again and again over a period of 150 years. During this time the Greek were developing in unity and culture. By 337 B.C. they were united in one nation under Philip of Macedon. In 336 B.C.

Alexander the Great came to the throne. His northern Greek subjects rebelled. He soon crushed the rebels and was recognized as head of all Greek forces for a war against Persia which Philip had been making preparation for. In 13 years Alexander the Great conquered the whole Persian Empire and the Greeks had become the masters of the known world.

Daniel 11:3:

*"Then a mighty king will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases."*

Alexander the Great, turned out to be this "*mighty king*," spoken of here, and fulfilled this prophecy when he carried out the plans of his father, Philip of Macedon, to invade the Persian Empire. The war began in 336 B.C. when Alexander came to the throne of Greece. He had only 35,000 soldiers and \$75,000 to start the war with - while the Persian king had a yearly revenue of \$11,000,000 - many millions in the treasure, and hundreds of thousands of soldiers - besides a great navy. Nevertheless, in 13 years Alexander conquered the whole Persian Empire and beyond. He literally did "*as he pleased*" fulfilling the prophecy in verse 3.

The vision the Ram and He-goat in Daniel 8:3-8, 20-22, gives more knowledge of these prophesied events.

Daniel 11:4 continues:

*"After he has appeared, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others."*

This 4th verse refers to the breaking up of the Grecian Empire into 4 divisions after the death of Alexander the Great. The period from Alexander to the conquest of these 4 kingdoms (336-100 B.C.) by the Romans called the "*Hellenistic*" or "*Alexandrian Age*." For a time the generals of the army agreed to rule the various parts of the empire until Alexander's son by Roxane became of age to take the throne, however, they all really desired to become king of the province held. In 311 B.C. the child and his mother were murdered. Then the struggled for power became an open contest. Antigonus, one of the most able generals of Alexander, used Syria as a base to conquer the whole empire for himself. In 301 B.C. he was defeated by 4 other generals and slain. The 4 great generals then divided the empire.

1. Cassander took Greece, Macedon and the western parts of the empire
2. Lysimachus took Asia Minor, or present Turkey and Thrace, the northern part of the empire.
3. Seleucus took all the eastern parts of the empire, including Syria and Babylon, or the modern states of Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Iran
4. Ptolemy took the kingdom of Egypt, the southern part of the empire.

Thus, Alexander's empire was literally divided toward the four winds of heaven (also see, Daniel 8:8). The phrase, "*It will not go to his descendants*," is referring to that fact that Alexander's kingdom was to be divided among others who were not of his posterity nor according to the dominion by which he rules. In 15 years not one of Alexander's family, including - 3 wives, 2 sons, his brother and sister-in-law, nor his mother, were left alive!



"His empire will be uprooted and given to others," refers to the fact that Alexander's kingdom was "plucked up" by others besides the 4 generals that would seize the greatest part of his empire. Minor parts of the empire did go to others.

Daniel 11:5 states:

*"The king of the South will become strong, but one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power."*

The Prophecy narrows down to **two** of the four Kingdoms into which Alexander the Great's Empire was divided. The reason of this Prophecy, of course, was to inform Daniel's People (the Jews) of what was coming, because Palestine, (*"the glorious land,"* verses 16, 41 45), lay between Syria, on the North, and Egypt, on the South. This Prophecy is a description of the wars between the "**Kings of the North**" and "**Kings of the South**," and their battlefield would be the "*Glorious Land*," where for centuries (from 320 B.C. to this present day, and on, only God knows when) Daniel's People would be ground between the Upper and Lower Millstones. Because of the suffering that these wars would bring to Daniel's People and the desolation they would cause the country, God revealed these wars to Daniel that he might see that it would be "*many days*" (10:14) before His People would ever become a nation again.

"*The king of the south*" was Ptolemy Soter, one of Alexander's generals, who was the founder of the Egyptian division of the Grecian Empire, which continued from 232 to 30 B.C. when Rome took over Egypt. Seleucus Nicator, was appointed deputy general of Babylonia, however, was driven out by Antigonus and fled to Egypt, where he was favorably received by Ptolemy and made one of his Princes. With Ptolemy's assistance he recovered his province and enlarged it, until it extended to Indus . . . [a river in South Asia, flowing from West Tibet through Kashmir and Pakistan to the Arabian Sea] . . . and included Syria, as well as Assyria, and so he became "*became stronger*," than Ptolemy, and his dominion became a great dominion.

Daniel 11:6:

*"After some years, they will become allies. The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance, but she will not retain her power, and he and his power will not last. In those days she will be handed over, together with her royal escort and her father and the one who supported her."*

This verse predicts that the kings of the North (Syria) and of the South (Egypt) would "*become allies*," that is, make a league together, which is exactly what happened. Having been in a bloody war for several years, they agreed to terminate it in 250 B.C. and there was peace between Egypt and Syria during the reigns of Ptolemy Soter and Seleucus Nicator. However, after a period of time, Ptolemy Soter abdicated in favor of his son, Ptolemy Philadelphus, whose half brother Magas, had married a daughter of Antiochus Soter, who had succeeded Seleucus Nicator as King of Syria. Magas induced his father-in-law, Antiochus Soter, to declare war against Egypt. Antiochus Soter was succeeded by Antiochus Theus who continued to war with Ptolemy, who offered Antiochus Theus, as a bribe for peace, his daughter, Berenice, with an immense fortune as a dowry, on condition that the Syrian King would declare his former marriage to Laodice void, and her two sons illegitimate. This evil compact was carried out and, all seemed to go well for awhile. However, when Ptolemy Philadelphus died, his daughter, Berenice, could no longer, "*retain her power*," because, Antiochus, recalling his former wife,

Laodice, and her children, put Berenice away, and took back his former wife Laodice.

Laodice, distrusting Antiochus' motives, fearing that he might at some later time, recall Berenice, had him poisoned and Berenice murdered, as well as her son. She then set her own son, Callinicus, (Seleucus II) upon the throne. He was called Antiochus II. Antiochus I reigned 280-262 B.C.

*"He [Antiochus] and his power did not last," and "she [Berenice] was handed over together with her royal escort [Laodice persuaded Seleucus to have, not only to have Berenice assassinated, but, also, her child, who by the articles of her marriage had been made heir to the throne], and her father and the one who supported her."*

Then note in this verse, Daniel 11:6, that there are four things which will befall this person referred to as "she," (Berenice):

- (1) She will *"make an alliance"* Mentioned above between the king of the South and the king of the North.
- (2) *"She will not retain her power, and he and his power will not last"* . . . predicts the death of Antiochus II by Laodice who poisoned him and put her own son on the throne.
- (3) *"She will be handed over"* . . . speaks of Berenice's divorce."
- (4) *" . . . together with her royal escort"* . . . refers to the Egyptians women who accompanied Berenice from Egypt. History says that *"they strove to defend her when she was murdered and many were killed."* These, together with her father, who gave her to Antiochus for a wife and, (literally, *"he whom she brought forth,"* referring to her son who as killed by her.

Daniel 11:7,

*"One from her family line will arise to take her place. He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress; he will fight against them and be victorious."*

*"One from her family line will arise to take her place,"* refers to Berenice's brother, Ptolemy III, (or Ptolemy Euergetus) who succeeded his father Ptolemy II (or Ptolemy Philadelphus) to the Egyptian throne. As predicted by Daniel almost 100 years before, *"He attacked the forces of the king of the North,"* He was so indignant at the treatment of his sister, that he marched into Syria with a large army, and, although he arrived too late to save Berenice and her son, took revenge by putting Laodice to death, captured Seleucia, the fortress of the King of the North, and would have possessed the whole of the Kingdom had he not been recalled by an insurrection in Egypt. However, he did annex the eastern provinces to Egypt and ravaged the coasts of Asia Minor with his navy in 246 B.C.

Daniel 11:8,

*"He will also seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For some years he will leave the king of the North alone."*

This verse has reference to Ptolemy III, who, after defeating Seleucus II, plundered

Seleucia . . . [an ancient city in Iraq, on the Tigris River, capital of the Seleucid empire] . . . Susa . . . [a ruin city in West Iran, the capital of ancient Elam, palaces of Darius and Artaxerxes I, also called 'Shushan' in Scripture] . . . and the Babylonia, even penetrating to the borders of India.

Ptolemy III carried back many princes, and spoil to the value of 40,000 talents of silver, and 2500 precious vessels and "idol-images" of the gods. However, "*For some years he will leave the king of the North alone,*" Ptolemy III could not enjoy the fruit of his great victories due to trouble in his own country. The King James Translation renders this last phrase, "*...he shall continue more years than the king of the North,*" no doubt referring to the death of Seleucus II due to a fall from a horse, and the fact that Ptolemy III survived Seleucus II by 5 years.

Daniel 11:9,

*"Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country."*

This verse has reference to a second invasion of Syria by Ptolemy III, however, having heard of rebellion in Egypt, he returned there to suppress it. If it has not been for this, he would have wholly destroyed the kingdom of Syria.

Daniel 11:10,

*"His sons will prepare for war and assemble a great army, which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his fortress."*

The sons of Seleucus II, Seleucus III (also known as, Ceraunus, or Thunderbolt) and Antiochus III (called the Great Seleucus II), did assemble a great multitude of forces to recover his father's dominions, but was poisoned by two of his own generals after a reign of 2 years. His brother, Antiochus III, was then proclaimed "*King of the North,*" so that only one of the sons actually started a war against Egypt. He retook Seleucia and regained Syria. He invade Egypt, however, came only as far as the fortress, on the border of Egypt.

Daniel 11:11,

*"Then the King of the South will march out in a rage and fight against the King of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated."*

Ptolemy Philopater, son of Euergetes, reigned 221-204 B.C. Antiochus the Great of Syria declared war on him about 219 B.C. Philopater defeated Antiochus in the battle of Raphia near Gaza, in 217 B.C. He became greatly exalted destroying and oppressing many in his own land.

Daniel 11:12,

*"When the army is carried off, the King of the South will be filled with pride and will slaughter many thousands, yet he will not remain triumphant."*

When Ptolemy Philopater, King of the South, was conquering, he oppressed especially the Jews, however, his heart was lifted up with pride by his success, and he might have followed up his victory and seized the Kingdom of Antiochus, but he was too anxious to return to his sensual pleasures, and lost his opportunity of gaining supremacy, and thus, he was did not remain

triumphant, nor was he strengthened by his victories due to the constant decline of his kingdom brought about by his permitting favorites to rule.

Daniel 11:13,

*"For the king of the North will muster another army, larger than the first; and after several years, he will advance with a huge army fully equipped."*

The King of the North, Antiochus III, called the Great, ruled from 223 to 187 B.C. During this period of 14 years of peace, he strengthened his Kingdom by mustering an army. When his armies were numerous, well equipped, and his treasury filled, he learns of the death of Ptolemy Philopater, and that he had been succeeded by his infant son, Ptolemy Epiphanes, so Antiochus, thought it was time to march into Egypt with *"a great army and much riches,"* expecting an easy victory. So, fourteen years after his defeat at Raphia, he returned to fight the Egyptians with a greater army than before. [The King James Translation adds the words, *"and many riches"*] And, history shows that, as a result of the many riches which he received from his campaign, Antiochus III, was able to restore the eastern parts of his empire.

Daniel 11:14, *"In those times many will rise against the king of the South. The violent men among your own people will rebel in fulfillment of the vision, but without success."*

*"The king of the South,"* refers to Ptolemy V, called Epiphanes, the Illustrious. He was **only five years old** at this time, when Philopater died. Rome for the first time interfered to make Antiochus surrender his conquests. Not daring to disobey Rome, Antiochus made peace with Ptolemy and betrothed to him his daughter, Cleopatra, 193 B.C.

Among the *"many who rose against [the infant] King of the South,"* was Philip, King of Macedonia, who entered into a league with Antiochus, the Great and, united, they conquering Egypt. In 198 B.C. Egypt was defeated and Palestine was again under the Seleucid's

Daniel tells Israel, *"Your own people shall rebel in fulfillment of the vision,"* and, indeed, history records that there were those Jews who took sides with Syria, fulfilling this prophecy of liberating Judea, however, in doing so they fell under the wrath of the Egyptians, and, as a result, Scopas came with a large army, while Antiochus was engaged in other parts, and subdued Palestine taking much spoil into Egypt, therefore, it was *"without success."*

*"The violent men among your own people,"* has reference to these Jews who rejected their religion and joined Ptolemy under Scopas, (the Egyptian general defeated by Antiochus the Great in 198 B.C.). These Jews were called *"robbers,"* or *"violent men,"* because they, hoping to gain the favor of Antiochus, fought against their own brethren, thus, *"fulfilled the vision"* because they failed, or were *"without success."*

Daniel 11:15-19,

*"Then the King of the North will come and build up siege ramps and will capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will be powerless to resist; even their best troops will not have the strength to stand. (Verse 16) The invader will do as he [King of the North] pleases; no one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land [Palestine] and will have the power to*

*destroy it. (Verse 17) He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South. And he [the King of the South] will give him [the King of the North] a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans will not succeed or help him. (Verse 18) Then he [the King of the North] will turn his attention to the coast lands and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back upon him. (Verse 19) After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more."*

These verses cover the remainder of the wars of Antiochus the Great. "*The King of the North*" has reference, of course, to Antiochus, the Great, coming to recover Judea. He defeated Scopas, taking several fenced cities and none of the Egyptian generals were able to oppose him. The "*beautiful*" or "*glorious*" land, Palestine, is under the dominion of the King of the South, at this time, Ptolemy Epiphanes.

To reach Egypt it was necessary for Antiochus to first conquer the "*Beautiful Land*." Upon his entrance into the land he encountered Scopas, the General of Ptolemy's army, and compelled him to seek refuge in the strongly fortified city of Sidon, which he besieged. Desperate attempts were made by the Egyptians to relieve the city, but all failed, and Sidon was compelled to surrender. Then, "*no one was able to stand against him,*" and Antiochus was able to "*do as he pleased*." He took possession of Palestine, the "*Beautiful Land*."

It was after this that, he "*determined*" to enter into Egypt with the whole strength of his Kingdom. However, he had to change his plans because the Egyptians recruited the help of the Roman, then rising in power. So Antiochus decided to resort to diplomacy and proposed that his daughter, Cleopatra be espoused to the infant king, Ptolemy Epiphanes, then seven years old. Cleopatra herself was very young, and it was because she was of tender years, and still under the care of her mother and a nurse, that she was called the "*daughter of women,*" in some translation of verse 17.

The marriage was consummated five years later. Antiochus planned to "*corrupt*" his daughter, by scheming to get her to play into his hands, rather than into her husband's, however, the plan failed. Cleopatra, not only stood by her husband, she joined him in sending congratulations to the Romans on their victories over her father.

To avenge himself against the Romans, Antiochus fitted out a fleet of 300 vessels and attacked the coasts and isles of Asia Minor. History records that, after making peace with Egypt, he fitted out a great fleet of ships, subdued most of the maritime places on the coast of the Mediterranean and took many islands, including Rhodes, Samos, Colophon, and others. He was defeated at Magnesia 190 B.C., by Scipio Asiaticus, the "*commander,*" or "*Prince*" mentioned in verse 18 of this prophecy. He then turned toward his home land. At Antioch he sent ambassadors to litigate for peace. The terms were hard. He was not only to relinquish Europe, but Asia on the European side of the Taurus, and pay 2550 talents down, and 1000 talents annually for the next twelve years, to pay for the war. A few months later, while traversing his Eastern Provinces to raise this tribute money, he attempted to plunder the Temple of Bel in Elymais, but the people rose and slew him in 187 B.C. He, "*stumbled and fell and was seen no more.*"

Daniel 11:20,

*"His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle."*

The "tax raiser" who succeeded Antiochus, the Great, was his son, Seleucus IV, called Philopater, who reigned 187-176 B.C. He was compelled to be a "raiser of taxes" to pay the heavy tribute imposed on his father by Rome. His kingdom consisted of Syria, Cilicia, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Babylonia, Media, and Persia. Being hard pressed for money, he sent his Treasurer, Heliodorus, to Jerusalem to confiscate the treasures of the Temple, called, "*Glory of the Kingdom*," Shortly after, he sought to plunder the Jewish Temple, he was mysteriously poisoned and died "*not in anger or in battle*."

### **Antiochus Epiphanes - 175-164 B.C.**

Daniel 11:21

*"He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty. He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue"*

Seleucus IV's "successor," was Antiochus IV, called Epiphanes, the Illustrious, who reigned 175-163 B.C. The true heir was Demetrius, another son of Seleucus IV, however, he was being held in Rome as a hostage, which gave Antiochus Epiphanes, a "*a contemptible person*," the opportunity of seizing the throne.

*"He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue,"* has reference to Antiochus Epiphanes was on his way from Rome when he father, Seleucus IV was poisoned. Several men had declared himself as king, but Antiochus used "*Intrigue*," [or "*flatteries*" as the King James translates it]. By doing so, instead of using war tactics, as his competitors had, and, thereby, he obtained the kingdom. History shows that he flattered Eumenes, king of Pergamos, and Attalus, his brother, and got their assistance. He flattered the Romans, and set ambassadors to court their favor, paying them tribute which was in arrears. He flattered the Syrians, gained their favor, and took the throne with their backing. Antiochus Epiphanes is called a "*vile person*," or "*a contemptible*," because he was every man's companion. He resorted to the common shops and taverns, drank with the lowest characters, and sang debauched songs with them. Because of this, history records that he was called "*Epimanes*," "*the Madman*."

Daniel 11:22,

*"Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed."*

*"An overwhelming army will be swept away before him,"* refers to the fact that it was with the help of the arms of his supporters that his competitors for the throne were overthrown and broken. Not only were his competitors overthrown but the high priest, Onias, was deposed and Jason, who had given him a great sum of money was installed in his place (2 Maccabees 4:4-10), fulfilling the prophecy, "*both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed*" (vs. 22)

Daniel 11:23,

*After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power.*

The agreement between Antiochus Epiphanes and Jason was broken and Antiochus put wicked Menelaus in the position of high priest because he offered him more money than Jason did. Thus, he acted "*deceitfully*," in his agreement with Jason, as verse 23 had predicted.

"*With only a few people*," mentioned in verse 23, has reference to the fact that, when Antiochus Epiphanes returned from Rome, he found only a few people to support his cause of becoming king, due to the fact that the people were divided among many claimants to the throne. Nevertheless, being supported by the king of Pergamos and his brother, his "*few*" fellowmen increased until he became strong enough to get the throne.

Daniel 11:24,

*"When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses - but only for a time."*

After becoming king, Antiochus Epiphanes laid claim on Coelesyria Palestine, and Phoenicia, and, as a result, war broke out between Syria and Egypt. His policy was to divide the spoils of war among his friends and subjects, as well as his own revenues. He spent much in public show and in many ways manifested his liberality more than all other kings before him. He would go out in the street and throw handfuls of money to all those passing by.

Antiochus did everything he could to prevent an invasion of his kingdom by Egypt, while at the same time, strengthening his own strongholds of defense along his borders, all the time preparing for war on Egypt. This he did "*for only a time*."

Daniel 11:25-26,

*"With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him."*

*After much preparation, Antiochus Epiphanes, finally made war on Egypt and was victorious. Ptolemy was taken prisoner, Antiochus then had himself crowned King of Egypt, 171-167 B.C.*

"*He will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him*," has reference to Antiochus using means of corruption to turn away from Ptolemy certain key men who helped defeat Egypt.

Daniel 11:26,

*"Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle."*

Referring to these who were fed by Ptolemy, King of Egypt, but were corrupted by Antiochus, causing the fall of Egypt.

Daniel 11:27,

*"The two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time."*

Both of these kings, (Antiochus Epiphanes of Syria and Ptolemy Philometor of Egypt), whom Antiochus took prisoner, were equally deceitful. Antiochus, the uncle of Ptolemy, pretended to have the interest of Ptolemy at heart, since the Alexandrians had rebelled and made Ptolemy's brother their king. When Antiochus came to Memphis, he and Ptolemy had frequent conferences at the same table, and both professed love for each other, all the while, planning how to ruin the other. Neither one prospered with his lies. The reason Antiochus did not prosper was because the Romans demanded that he surrender Egypt, which he yielded too, retaining Coelestria, Palestine, and Phoenicia. Ptolemy did not prosper because of this settlement demanded by the Romans. The reason given in verse 27 is: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed. That is, the end of the appointed time was not yet come.

Daniel 11:28,

*"The king of the North will return to his own country with great wealth, but his heart will be set against the holy covenant. He will take action against it and then return to his own country."*

After Antiochus conquered Egypt, he returned to Antioch with the spoils of Egypt and, upon hearing that there was great rejoicing in Jerusalem because they heard a report of his death, as a result he turned against the Jews. (1 Maccabees 1:19-20 ).

Daniel 11:29,

*"At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before."*

Antiochus Epiphanes made a second invasion of Egypt, but it was not as successful as the first, when Egypt was conquered and plundered.

Daniel 11:30

*"Ships of the western coast lands will oppose him, and he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant."*

The reason prophesied here . . . and what actually took place hundreds of years later . . . Antiochus could not continue his war on Egypt because of the "*the ships of Chittim*" coming against him. The Romans ordered him to cease his war on his two nephews, so Antiochus said he would consult with his friends, however, the Roman Council drew a circle around him and demanded that he give his answer before stepping out of the circle. Antiochus yielded to the Roman demand and left the country after being within seven miles of Alexandria and this caused him to lose heart.

While in Egypt Antiochus hears that Jason, whom he had deceived and deposed of his office as high priest, had gathered an army and marched against Jerusalem to take it from the wicked Menelaus. Antiochus came against Jerusalem and takes it by storm.



Daniel 11:31

*"His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.."*

When Antiochus took Jerusalem he slew 40,000 Jews . . . sold many more as slaves . . . boiled swine's flesh and sprinkled the broth in the Temple and on the altar . . . broke into the Holy of Holies and took the golden vessels and other sacred treasures . . . and, then he restored Menelaus to priesthood . . . and made Philip, a Phrygian, governor of Judea (1 Maccabbes 1:24; 2 Maccabbes 5:21). He also prohibited Jewish worship and consecrated the Jewish Temple to Jupiter Olympius. After taking away the Jewish sacrifices from the Jewish Temple, Antiochus offered a swine upon the altar and made the Temple desolate of divine worship. (1 Maccabbes 1:44-50).

This "*setting up the abomination that causes desolation*" cannot be the same as the "*abomination of desolation*" by the future Antichrist, simply because there has already been over 2,100 years since Antiochus caused this abomination of desolation (1 Maccabees 1:44-50) [Antiochus was a type of the coming Antichrist, as we shall see.]

Daniel 11:32,

*"With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him."*

Antiochus desecrated the Jewish Temple, and attempted to "*flatter*" those who did not care for the things of God, bringing about the rebellion of the Jews under the Maccabees. This war with Antiochus lasted about 4 years, after which he died in a war in Persia.

Daniel 11:33,

*"Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered."*

This verse has reference to Antiochus slaughter of the Jewish people when he took Jerusalem.

Daniel 11:34,

*"When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them."*

History records that this prophecy was true, that these Jews received very little help from anyone else in their struggles with Antiochus Epiphanes.

Daniel 11:35,

*"Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time."*

This verse bring into focus the main purpose of Daniel's vision, which was to show what would befall Israel in "*the last days*." (Also: 10:14).

This ends the historical section of this vision (2-34), which was all prophecy when Daniel received the revelation of these events. Other kings continued in Syria and Egypt until these countries were taken over by the Romans about 30 B.C.

**Before we continue, we need to understand something about prophecy!**

When we get to the 35th verse of Daniel 11, Daniel begins speaking of "*the time of the end*," and the student must understand what is referred to as "*The 'Near' and 'Far' Prophetic Word*," that is, a prophecy can refer to a relative '*near*' future event, and, at the same time, refer to a '*far*,' or distant, event. Daniel jumps, in his prophecy, from his day, which was 533 B.C. to the days of the wars of the Kings of the North and the Kings of the South, which took place some 200 to almost 400 years later. However, Daniel **now**, in Chapter 11:35, jumps again, this time "*to the end of time*."

Daniel takes a "*prophetic jump*" from his day to the days of Antiochus, in order to prepare the Jews of that time to resist Anti-god. Now, from 11:35 on, his vision "*jumps*" again from the day of Antiochus to the Great Tribulation, to prepare the people of God to resist the final Antichrist.

This procedure of understanding prophecy is true throughout the Bible. For instance, in the Book of Isaiah as one reads this book, he seems to be on a "*shuttle train*" between Isaiah's own days and the Millennium. One moment Isaiah is dealing with his own times, and then, before you realize it, in a flash he is telling about the glories of Messiah's kingdom. The future is always close to the prophet's horizon. Uplifted by the Spirit he pushes aside the centuries and brings his listeners to the verge of the Millennial glory.

From this point in the 11th Chapter and on into the 12th Chapter, the future is brought close to the eyes of God's people: they are made to see Antichrist, the Great Tribulation, the resurrection with its rewards and punishments. And why? In order to encourage and warn them. For that is the central purpose of all prophecy. "*Wherefore, comfort one another with these words*."

Some would say, "*But the narrative seems to be continuous. How can there be a description of Antiochus and one of the Antichrist, both seeming to run together?*" to answer, we need to look at a few examples of Old Testament Scriptures.

For instance, in Ezekiel 28:1-19, the first 5 verses are addressed to a literal man, the prince of Tyre, however, almost unnoticeably Scripture changes and is speaking of a description of the fallen angel behind the policies of Tyre. In Isaiah 14:4-17, the first verses are addressed to an earthly monarch, the king of Babylon, however, the account glides, again, almost without notice, into a supernatural personage, Lucifer, Son of the morning.

The point is, in like manner, the first predictions of chapter 11 refer to King Antiochus, however, we find ourselves saying, "*A greater than Antiochus is here!*" Antiochus is a type of Antichrist, but, more than that, when we come to verse 35, Daniel's vision takes on events that will take place at the end of time.

It reminds me of someone, who, before they embroider a work of fine art, first pencils in a pattern, and then works out the outline. Antiochus Epiphanes was God's "*penciled outline*," so

to speak, of the Antichrist.

### Let's continue . . .

Daniel 11:36,

*"The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.*

Who is this "*king*" that comes un-introduced to us? He seems to arrive upon the scene suddenly, making an abrupt appearance so subtle as to imply that we already know him. Here is (what seems to be) a new personality, and, yet, this verse presents him so straightforward, is as if he does not need any introduction, that he is someone we are already familiar with. [Notice that it does not say "*a*" king, but "the" King!]

Have we met "*the king*" before? Yes, we met him first in Daniel 7:8, as the "*little horn*" of the fourth wild beast, then, second we met him in Daniel 8:9-12 as the "*little horn*" that came up on one of the Four Horns of the He-Goat, and now, we met him as "*the willful king*," representing the Antichrist. Notice, that each of these three incidents mentioned the personality will reign "*at the end of time*" . . . that they will be destroyed in the same manner, certainly, implying that they are one and the same person.

It seems important to note that this "*willful king*" appears at the beginning of this passage of Scripture dealing with "*the end time*," and corresponds with the "*interval*" of time which takes place between Daniel's 69th and 70th Week, of Daniel's 70 Weeks, in Daniel 9:26-27, identifying "*this king*" with "*the prince that shall come*."

Since the "*prince that shall come*" will be the last World-Wide Emperor, it identifies, also, this "*Wilful King*" as the last World-Wide Emperor, and therefore the "*Little Horn*" of Daniel's fourth Wild Beast (Daniel 8:22-25).

We learned in our study of Daniel 8 that the "*Four Kingdoms*" into which Alexander the Great's Empire was divided are to be **revived**, and that, Daniel prophesies, "*in the latter time of their kingdom*" a king of "*Fierce Countenance*" will stand up (Daniel 8:21-23).

One of the "*Four Kingdoms*" was **SYRIA**, known as the "*Kingdom of the North*," and as the "*Little Horn*" of chapter 8 appeared on the "*Syrian Horn*," then the "*King of Fierce Countenance*" of chapter 8 must be the "*King of the North*" of the revived **Syrian Kingdom**, or the "**WILFUL KING**," the "*King of the North*," of chapter 11.

It certainly seems that the "*Little Horn*" of chapter 7, the "*Little Horn*" of chapter 8, and the "*Wilful King*" are one and the same person, who is none other than the Antichrist.

Daniel 11:36 through Daniel 12:13 identifies the Antichrist as "*The King of the North*" (**Syria**) at the "*the time of the end!*" The whole purpose of this vision which God gave to Daniel was to show "*what shall befall thy people [Israel] in the latter days*" (Daniel 10:14) under the last Syrian king who is foreshadowed by Antiochus Epiphanes (Daniel 11:21-34), and to narrow down the coming Antichrist, geographically, from the four divisions of Grecia to one - the

**Syrian** division.

Daniel's visions of Daniel 2 and 7 were given to show the formation of 10 kingdoms inside the old Roman Empire and reveal that the Antichrist would come out of one of these 10 kingdoms and lead these nations against Christ as His Second Advent. The purpose of Daniel 8 was to give additional information to that of Daniel 2 and 7 - *to narrow down* the coming of Antichrist, geographically, from the 10 kingdoms to the 4 divisions of the Grecian Empire which will make up 4 of the 10 kingdoms of the Revised Roman Empire before Antichrist comes. The purpose of the last vision (Daniel 10:1 through 12:13) was *to narrow down* the coming of the Antichrist, geographically, from the 4 divisions of the Grecian Empire to **one** of these divisions, ***the Syrian***, and complete the visions of Daniel concerning the last days and the reign of the Messiah. The passage of Daniel 11:35 through 12:13 gives the third and last description of the Antichrist in Daniel.

**THE LITTLE HORN - THE KING OF THE NORTH - THE MAN OF SIN - AND  
THE BEAST OF REVELATION - ARE ALL THE SAME PERSONALITY  
- THE FUTURE ANTICHRIST!**

1. All do according to their will  
= Daniel 11:36 with Daniel 7:25; 8:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; Revelation 13:5-7
2. All exalt themselves, above every god  
= Daniel 11:36-37 with Daniel 7:25; 8:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13
3. All speak marvelous things against the God of gods.  
= Daniel 11:36 with Daniel 7:8, 11, 20 and 25; Revelation 13:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 2:4
4. All prosper TILL indignation be accomplished  
("Indignation" refers to the Tribulation, according to Daniel 8:19 and Revelation, chapters 6 through 19:11)  
= Daniel 11:36 with Daniel 8:9-11, 21-22, 25-27;  
2 Thessalonians 2:8 and Revelation 19:11-21
5. All refuse to regard the God of their fathers  
= Daniel 11:37 with Daniel 7:25; 8:25; Revelation 13:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 2:4;  
John 56:43
6. All honor a god whom their fathers knew not  
= Daniel 11:38-39 with Daniel 8:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 13:1-4
7. All exist at "*the time of the end*" and will be successful in conquests in the same territories = Daniel 11:40-42 with Daniel 7:8, 11-12, 20-26; 2 Thessalonians 2:8;  
Revelation 13:1-10; and 17:8-17
8. All reign from Jerusalem "*in the glorious holy mountain*" and have their thrones in the Temple = Daniel 11:45 with Daniel 9:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:4;  
Revelation 11:1-2; 12:1-17; 13:1-18
9. All cause the greatest time of trouble ever on the earth  
= Daniel 12:1 with Daniel 7:21-27; 8:19, 24-25; 9:27; Matthew 24:15-28;  
2 Thessalonians 2:8-12; Revelation 13:1-18; 15:2-4; 20:1-6
10. All war on Israel during the same time and length  
= Daniel 12:7 with Daniel 7:21-22, 25-26; 8:24; Revelation 12 and Matthew 24:15-23

11. All take away the daily sacrifices and cause the abomination of desolation  
= Daniel 12:11 with Daniel 7:25; 8:24-25; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13
12. All come to an end  
= Daniel 11:45 with Daniel 7:8-11, 21-22, 25-27; 8:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 19:11-21; 20:10

### WHERE DOES THE ANTICHRIST COME FROM?

Daniel saw "*the Little Horn*" coming out of one of the 4 divisions of the Grecian Empire. Daniel 8:8-9, states, "*The goat . . . [Emblematic of Greece, as we have seen] . . . became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off . . . [referring to Alexander the Great dying at the age of 33] . . . and in its place four prominent horns, grew up toward the four winds of heaven. . . . [Referring to the Four kingdoms which were formed out of the kingdom Alexander the Great ruled over, known today as Greece, Turkey, Syria and Egypt]. Out of one of them came a little horn . . . [Out of one of these Four divisions of the old Grecian Empire will come **the Little Horn**, the future Antichrist] . . . which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land" . . . [The Antichrist will become great in Egypt, Iraq, Iran, and Palestine].*

Daniel continues in verses 21-23, in chapter 8, "*The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king. The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power. In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked...[when the transgressors are come to the full, or, when sin is at its height]...a stern-faced [fierce countenance] king, a master of intrigue....[skilled in intrigues, master of stratagem]...will arise.*"

First of all, we know that the 7th chapter of Daniel states that the Antichrist will come from one of the 10 kingdoms inside the old Roman Empire! And, if it were not for what is taught in Daniel 8, one might believe that the Antichrist might come from England, Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Yugo-Salvia, Albania, or any other part of the old Roman Empire. However, since we have in Daniel 8 the "*narrowing down*" of where the Antichrist will come from, from the 10 kingdoms to **4 of the 10**. Daniel 8 definitely limits the Antichrist's coming as coming from either Greece, Turkey, Syria, or Egypt. Which means, of course, that, in our pursuit of Bible prophecy, we must limit the Antichrist's coming from one of these four countries!

If the Antichrist is coming from Greece, Turkey, Syria, or Egypt, then it is certain that he cannot come from Italy, England, America, Germany, Russia, or any country of the world other than one of these four. Which one of these four kingdoms will the Antichrist come from? We saw in our study of Daniel 8, the Antichrist will come from **Syria**.

It seems that there will be three future tri-continent wars:

1. The First Tri-Continent War will be for the purpose of forming the 10 kingdoms inside the old Roman Empire territory.

Daniel states in Daniel 7:23-24, "*He gave me this explanation: `the fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and*

*crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier one, he will subdue three kings."*

The various countries now inside this territory of the old Roman Empire will be reduced to 10 kingdoms, which, evidently, will require a war in Europe, Asia, and Africa, bringing about the defeat of Russia who now controls part of this territory. These 10 kingdoms will be "*the Revised Roman Empire*," symbolized by the 10 toes on the Metallic Image of Daniel 2, and the 10 horns of the beast of Daniel 7 [Also seen in Revelation 12, 13 and 17].

2. The Second Tri-Continent War will take place after the 10 kingdoms are formed and the "*Revised Roman Empire*" continues a "short space" (Revelation 17:10).

The "*Little Horn*," or future Antichrist, will come from one of these 10 kingdoms within the old Roman Empire and from "*among them*" to form the **8th kingdom** of Revelation 17:8-17.

In this second war the Antichrist will overthrow 3 of the 10 kingdoms before the others submit to him (Daniel 7:23-24 and Revelation 17:12-17).

3. The Third Tri-Continent War will be after Antichrist gets power over the 10 kingdoms, in the middle of Daniel's 70th week, or 3 1/2 years before the time when Christ returns **with** His saints to rule and reign (Revelation 13:5).

The 10 kingdoms under Antichrist will fight this Third War with the countries of the north and east of the old Roman Empire territory, according to Daniel 11:44, which states, "*Reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many.*"

When Antichrist conquers these new enemies he will lead the nations against Jerusalem to battle and then, it is at that time that Christ will come to defeat them at the Battle Armageddon (Zechariah 14 and Revelation 19:11-21).

Let's go back and pick up our study with Daniel 11:36

Daniel 11:36,

*"The king . . . (We have already studied, in our last lesson, that this 'king' introduced so abruptly, is none other than the Antichrist)... will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of-things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place."*

This "*Wilful king*" (Antichrist) appears on the scene at the **close** of "**THE GAP**" between "*Messiah the Prince*" (Christ) and the "*Time of the End*" (verses 33-35), and which corresponds, as we have seen, with the "*interval*" between the **69th** and the **70th Week** of Daniel's 70 Weeks, identifying him with the "*prince that shall come*" of Daniel 9:26-27.

This "*Wilful King*" is the same as "*prince that shall come*," and is identified as the last Roman Emperor, and, also the same as the "*Little Horn*" of Daniel's "*Fourth Wild Beast*."

And, this "*Wilful King*," the Antichrist, is, also, referred to as "*The King of the North*."

See page 14
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We learned from our study of Daniel 8, that the "*Four Kingdoms*" into which Alexander the Great's Empire was divided are to be **revived**, and that in the "*latter time of their kingdom*" . . . [that is, these four kingdoms, revived to power **in the last days**] . . . and then a King of "*Fierce Countenance*" (Antichrist) will stand up (Daniel 8:21-23).

One of these "*Four Kingdoms*" was **SYRIA**, known as the "*Kingdom of the North*," and as the "*Little Horn*" of Daniel 8 appeared on the "*Syrian Horn*," then the King of "*Fierce Countenance*" of Chapter 8, would have to be the "*King of the North*" of the revived Syrian Kingdom, further proof that the **WILFUL KING**, is the "*King of the North*" of Daniel 11.

Here again, we see that the "*Little Horn*" of Daniel 7, the "*Little Horn*" of Daniel 8, **and** the "*Wilful King*" are one and the same person.

Note, verse 36 states, this "*Wilful King*" will do according to his **will**. He will "*exalt*" and "*magnify HIMSELF above every god*," and shall speak "*marvelous things*" against the **GOD of gods** (Jehovah), and he will prosper until the "*Indignation*" (The Great Tribulation) is accomplished, for that which God has "*determined*" for the **TIME OF THE END** "*shall be done*."

Daniel 11:37

*"He will show no regard for the God of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all."*

He will not regard the "**GOD of his fathers**," the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Evidently, this verse teaches that he will be Jewish.

He will "*show no regard for the One* (Jesus Christ) *desired by women*," Every Jewish woman hoped, desired, had aspirations, and dreamed that she might be the mother of the promised Messiah. The Antichrist will have no desire for "*the One desired*," Who, of course, was Jesus Christ. [1 John 2:22 tells us that the Antichrist will deny the Father and the Son].

Daniel 11:38,

*"Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his fathers he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts."*

Instead, of honoring the true God, Jehovah, the Antichrist will honor the "**god of forces**." That is, he will depend on the "**god**" that can secure for him the Kingdoms of this world, showing that this is the "**god of this world**," none other than Satan himself, who offered the "**Kingdoms of the world**" to Christ (Matthew 4:8-9). Christ refused them at the hand of Satan, (knowing He would receive them at the hand of His Father, in due time - Daniel 7:13-14 and Revelation 11:15), however, the Antichrist will accept them. We read in Revelation 13:2, "**the DRAGON** (Satan) *shall give him* (the Beast, or Antichrist) *his power, and his seat* (Throne) *and great authority*."

By the help of this "**strange god**" the "**Wilful King**" secures the "**strongholds** (Fortresses), or the fortified cities of the Ten Federated Kingdoms, and will garrison them with Imperial troops on pretense of maintaining peace and friendship.

However, Daniel 11:39 continues,

*"He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price."*

The Antichrist will "**increase the glory**" of all who acknowledge him, and give them authority, and for "**graft**" (for gain) he will divide the land.

At this time the "**King of the South**" reappears.

Daniel 11:40,

*"At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood."*

What this verse is saying is, "**At the Time of the End**, the **King of the South** will come against **him** (the Wilful King, or Antichrist) and, then, **he** the **King of the North** (the Wilful King) will return the attack of the "**King of the South**."

Since the "**King of the North**" is the Antichrist, who is this "**King of the South**?" We can not know at this present time, however, we do know that "**King of the South**," will be one of the "**Ten Federated Kings**," because he is to appear after the "**Four Kingdoms**" into which Alexander's Empire was divided will reappear. We know that he will be some future King of Egypt who will oppose the claims and military success of the "**Wilful King**," the "**King of the North**," the Antichrist.

The "**King of the North**" will swoop down like a "**whirlwind**," with chariots, and horsemen, and a large navy, upon the "**King of the South**," and "**overflow many countries**" as well.

Daniel 11:41,

*"He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand."*



After the Antichrist from Syria has conquered Greece, Turkey, and Egypt and the countries making up the last days divisions of the Grecian Empire. He then breaks his covenant with the Jews (Daniel 9:27) enters into Palestine, as well as taking over the many countries of the other 6 Kingdoms of the Revived Roman Empire. Edom, Moab, and the land of Ammon escapes.

Daniel 11:42-43,

*He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape.  
He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and  
all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission."*

The Antichrist confiscates the treasures of Egypt, and the Libyans and Ethiopians shall fall at his feet.

Daniel 11:44

*But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. {45} He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.*

In his conquest of Egypt, the Antichrist hears bad news from the East, from Babylon, and from the North, which fills him with rage and, so, he departs from Egypt with "*great fury*" and will "*pitch his royal tents*," (the tabernacles of his palace) in which he dwells, "*between the seas*," that is, between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas, on the **GLORIOUS HOLY MOUNTAIN**, (making his headquarters in the Jewish Temple).

Here, he will come to an end, and "*there will be no one to help him.*"

## **Daniel 12**

Verse 1, "*At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people - everyone whose name is found written in the book - will be delivered.*"

In our study of God's Word, we must remember that "*Chapter divisions*" are man-made. Chapter 12 begins with the statement, "*At that time.*" What time? This is a continuation of Chapter 11 and refers to the time of the "*Wilful King*," which we have seen is the "**TIME OF THE END.**" The phrase, "*At that time,*" refers to four events which takes place:

- 1. At that time** the Antichrist plants the tabernacle of his palace in the Temple of Israel on Mount Moriah (Daniel 11:45; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13).
- 2. At that time** Michael stands up and casts Satan and his angels to the earth to be among men (Revelation 12:7-12).
- 3. At that time** the great tribulation begins in the middle of Daniel's 70th Week - 3 1/2 years before the Second Advent (Daniel 8:24-25; 9:27; Jeremiah 30:6-7; Matthew 24:15-22; Revelation 10:1-19:21).

- 4. At that time** Daniel's people are delivered (translated), every one (144,000) that shall be found written in the book of life (Isaiah 66:7-8; Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1-5)

Michael is the special prince of Israel (Also see Daniel 10:21 and Revelation 12:7-12).

Because this verse (Daniel 12:1) describes the Great Tribulation Period, a time when Antichrist pours out his fury upon the Jewish people . . . the last half of Daniel's 70th Week . . . one must understand what the "*Tribulation Period*" is, from the Biblical point of view.

### THE TIME AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

The Tribulation will begin to effect Israel even *before* Daniel's 70th Week begins; how long before is not certain, however, when Antichrist rises at the beginning of Daniel's 70th Week, Israel will be undergoing persecution from the 10 Kings of Revised Rome coming into power with the religious power, Mystery Babylon. When Antichrist comes he will make a **7 year** covenant with Israel assuring them of protection in their continued establishment as a nation (Daniel 9:27). Because the Jews will not submit to Mystery Babylon, there will be wide-spread persecution and "*they shall be hated of all nations*" during the time of *the beginning of sorrows* when Antichrist will be endeavoring to conquer all these nations (Matthew 24:4-12). Antichrist will need Jewish moral and financial support in his rise over these nations, so he will make an alliance with them for 7 years. The time of the Tribulation will be during the whole of Daniel's 70th Week (Daniel 9:27). It will end at the Second advent (Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 19:11-21).

### THE DIVISIONS OF THE TRIBULATION

**1.** The first division takes in the first 3 1/2 years of Daniel's 70th Week and will not be as "*great*" in severity as the last 3 1/2 years, because of the protection of Israel by the Antichrist during the first half of the Tribulation Period. Israel's persecution then will be from a source entirely different from that of the last division. In these first 3 1/2 years she will be persecuted by Mystery Babylon and the 10 kings. This division takes in the fulfillment of Revelation 6:1 through 9:21. The judgments of the 6th seal and first 6 trumpets come in this period, showing the Tribulation during this first half of Daniel's 70th Week.

**2.** The last division takes in the last 3 1/2 years of Daniel's 70th Week and is termed "*the Great Tribulation*" because it will be more severe in persecution upon Israel than the first 3 1/2 years. Antichrist, who will befriend and protect Israel the first 3 1/2 years, will break his covenant with her in the middle of the week and become her most bitter enemy. He will then try to destroy all Israel, which calls for God's judgments of the 7 vials of the last 3 1/2 years. This part of the Tribulation includes the fulfillment of Revelation 10:1 through 19:21. Jesus, Daniel, Jeremiah, and many others speak of this time of Israel's trouble as being worse than any other time that has ever been on earth or ever will be (Daniel 12:1; Jeremiah 30:4-11; Matthew 24:21-22; Revelation 11:1; 12:14-17; 13:5-7).

### THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIBULATION

- 1.** To purify Israel and bring them back to a place where God can fulfill the everlasting covenant made with their fathers (Isaiah 2:5-22; 16:1-5; 24:1-25; 26:20-21; Ezekiel 20:33-34; 22:17-22; Romans 11:25-29)

2. To purify Israel of all rebels (Ezekiel 20:33-34; 22:17-22; Zechariah 13:8-9; Malachi 3:3-4).
3. To plead with and bring Israel into the bond of the new covenant (Ezekiel 20:33-34; 36:24-28; Jeremiah 30:3-11; Zechariah 12:10 through 13:9; Malachi 4:3-4)
4. To judge Israel and punish them for their rejection of the Messiah and make them willing to accept Him when He comes the Second time. (Ezekiel 20:33-34; Zechariah 12:10 through 13:9; 14:1-15; Matthew 24:15-31).
5. To judge the nations for their persecution of Israel (Isaiah 63:1-5; Joel 3; Revelation 6:1 through 19:21)
6. To bring Israel to complete repentance (Zechariah 12:10 through 13:9; Romans 11:26-29; Matthew 23:39).
7. To fulfill the prophecies of Daniel 9:24-27, Revelation 6:1 through 19:21, and Matthew 24:15, 29.
8. To cause Israel to flee into the wilderness of Edom and Moab to be so persecuted by the nations that they will have to turn to God for help (Isaiah 16:1-5; Ezekiel 20:33-35; Daniel 11:40 through 12:7; Hosea 2:14-17; Matthew 24:15-31; Revelation 12).

### THE CHARACTER OF THE TRIBULATION

God's wrath will be poured out upon mankind for their wickedness and corruption which will exceed the days of Noah and Lot (Genesis 6; Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:22-27; 2 Timothy 3:1-12). Words cannot describe the utter rebellion and wickedness of men during this period of final struggle between God and the devil over possession of the earth (Revelation 11:15; 12:7-12; 19:11 through 21:20; 20:1-3). Men will reject the truth until God turns them over to "*strong delusion*" of the Antichrist who will cause them to believe a lie and be damned (2 Thessalonians 2:8-11; 2 Peter 3:1-9). Even after God pours out His judgments upon men, they will still defy Him (Revelation 9:20-21; 6:2-11; 17:1-18; 18:1-24).

To be sure, these sufferings are a part of the divine chastisement of the Jewish people, however, Satan has a major part in these persecutions of the Jews. Scripture tells us that the Jewish people have a destiny, they are called to lead the nations back to God. Anyone with a mission like that becomes Satan's target, and excites the wrath of the spirit of the world.

Daniel 12:2, "*Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.*"

God's Word speaks of three kinds of resurrection:

#### 1. SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION

This refers to those who are "*spiritual dead in trespasses and sins*" Ephesians 2:1-16; 5:14 and Romans 6:11. This is a **Present Resurrection** and is going on continually. Every time a soul is born-again there is a passing from "*death*" unto "*life*" this is a *Spiritual Resurrection* - John 5:24.

#### 2. PHYSICAL RESURRECTION

This is of the **dead body**. The "*Spirit*" of man does not die, it goes back to God

who gave it. All that goes into the grave is the **body**, and all that can come out of the grave is the **body**. The bodies of both the "**righteous**" and the "**wicked**" shall rise, but not at the same time. There will be a thousand years difference. The "**Righteous**" shall rise to the **Resurrection of LIFE** before the Millennium, and the "**Wicked**" to the **Resurrection of DAMNATION** at the close of the Millennium. John 5:28-29.

### 3. NATIONAL RESURRECTION

This refers to Israel who are now *nationally dead* and buried in the "*Graveyard of the Nations*," but who are to be revived and restored to their own land (Jeremiah 16:14-15).

The time is coming when the Children of Israel will be restored to their own land, the **whole "Twelve Tribes" will return**. Paul says, "*ALL Israel shall be saved*" (Romans 11:26). Ezekiel, in his Vision of the "*Valley of Dry Bones*," was told that the bones represented the "*Whole House of Israel*" (Ezekiel 37:11).

Ezekiel 37:12, "*Therefore prophesy and say to them: This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.*"

This refers to the "**National Resurrection**" of the nation of Israel. The cry of the "*bones*" (Verse 11) when they say, "*Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost; we are cut off from our parts.*" This is the cry of a **DEAD NATION** that has been "*cut off*" from its own land. It is the cry of a **Spiritually and Nationally dead People**. By the word "*grave*" we are to understand the Children of Israel have been scattered throughout other countries, *the graveyard of the Nations*, and that God is going to bring back His People and place them again in their own land.

Ezekiel 37:12-14, "*I am going to open your GRAVES . . . (among the nations) . . . and bring you up from them . . . (that is, back from among the nations) . . . Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.*" "*I will bring you back to the land of Israel.*" Verses 21-22 continues, "*and say to them, This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms.*"

Scriptures teaches that Israel will be gathered back into their one Land, (Jeremiah 16:14-15; Isaiah 43:5-7; Amos 9:14-15), where they are to pass through the "**Fiery Judgment**" of the **Tribulation Period** (Ezekiel 20:34-38; 22:19-22; Zechariah 13:9; Malachi 3:1-3), the sufferings of which will cause them to call on the Lord for deliverance, and He will pour out upon them the "**Spirit of Grace and Supplication**" (Zechariah 12:10, and they will "**Nationally Repent**" (Zechariah 12:11-14, and be "**Converted**."

Ezekiel 36:24-27, "*For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a New Heart and put a New Spirit in you; I will remove from you your HEART OF STONE and give you*

***A HEART OF FLESH. And I will put MY SPIRIT in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws.***"

Then will Isaiah 66:8 be fulfilled, which states, "*Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.*"

We find in Ezekiel 37:15-28 further confirmation of the interpretation of Ezekiel's Vision of the "**Valley of Dry Bones**," that Israel will, indeed, live again as a Nation. The object which God gives to Ezekiel is that of "**Two Sticks**. The Prophet is told to take a stick and write on it, "*For JUDAH, and for the Children of Israel his companions.*" Which means the "**Two Tribes**," (Judah and Benjamin, known as "**Judah**"). Then Ezekiel was told to take another stick, and write on it, "*For JOSEPH, the stick of Ephraim.*" Ephraim was the son of Joseph, for whom the "**Ten Tribes**" were sometimes called after Jeroboam's insurrection. When Ezekiel had marked the sticks, he was told to join them together "**end to end**," so as to make **ONE STICK**, when he had done, the Lord said,

*"When your countrymen ask you, 'Won't you tell us what you mean by this?' say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph--which is in Ephraim's hand--and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah's stick, making them a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.' Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms'" Ezekiel 37:18-22.*

Follow the symbolism. God has Ezekiel take two sticks and write on them the names of the two divisions of the kingdom of Israel, then he was told to join them together as **ONE** stick. The application, or truth, symbolized is that both divisions of the kingdom will become one nation again upon the mountains of Israel as before the division in the days of Rehoboam and Jeroboam (1 Kings 12). They will be one nation **forever** under the Messiah.

From this we see that the **WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, (all Twelve Tribes)**, are to be gathered back to their own land, and redistricted upon it, according to the manner described in Ezekiel 48. Then will be fulfilled the words of Jeremiah 3:18, which states:

*"In those days the house of Judah will join the house of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your forefathers as an inheritance."*

Keep in mind, while studying the Book of Daniel, that the "*Scripture of Truth*" which the Angel Gabriel was making clear to Daniel (Daniel 10:21) was, "*What shall befall his PEOPLE (the Jewish People) in the LATTER DAYS (Daniel 10:14), or the TIME OF THE END (Daniel 11:35 and 12:4).*"

Naturally, the Angel would have something to say about the "**National Resurrection**" of the Jewish Nation, because it is to follow the "**Time of Trouble** (The Tribulation Period), how

better could it be foretold than in the words of Daniel 12:2, "*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*"

Jesus, in His Olivet Discourse, states, "***Immediately after*** the distress (Tribulation) of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather **HIS ELECT** (Israel) from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other" (Matthew 24:29-31).

The "**ELECT**" cannot be those of the Church, simply because they have been caught out **before** the Tribulation Period began, while these "**ELECT**" mentioned here, are caught out **after** the Tribulation Period. The passage here in Daniel is *Jewish*, therefore, the "**ELECT**" must be the "**Elect**" of Israel. Note that this passage in Matthew 24 is not a "**catching up**," but, rather, a "**gathering together**."

The scene in Daniel 12 is earthly. The Jews are looked upon at present as those that " **dwell in the dust**," who are yet to "**awake and sing**" (Isaiah 26:19). The Apostle Paul says of them, "*If the casting away of them (Israel) be the reconciling of the world, what shall be receiving of them (back) be, but **LIFE FROM THE DEAD?***" (Romans 11:15).

Daniel 12:3,

*"Those who are wise [literally, 'those who make others wise'] will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."*

Matthew 24:14 teaches,

*"This **Gospel of the Kingdom** will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."*

Matthew 24 is **NOT** referring to "**the Gospel of Grace**," but, rather, the **Gospel of the Kingdom**, then shall **THE END COME!** "**The Gospel of the Kingdom** **is** that God is going to set up a Kingdom on the earth over which David's Son, **JESUS**, will reign over. Luke 1:23-33.

This is the Gospel that John the Baptist, Jesus and Jesus' disciples proclaimed, "**Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand**." [The call "**to repent**" was **NOT** to individuals, but, rather, to the Nation of Israel.] The Nation of Israel refused to repent, they rejected their King, crucified Him. At "**the King's**" death, the "**Gospel of the Kingdom**" was withdrawn, however, it is to be preached again after the Church has been "**caught out**," and, then, preached, not only to Palestine, but to the **whole world**.

During the Tribulation Period, "**the Gospel of the Kingdom**" will be preached to all the world. There is a call to Israel . . . (as a Nation) . . . to repent, and a proclamation that Christ is coming to set up the **STONE** Kingdom (Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45), that is, the Millennial Kingdom where Christ, the King, will reign in His Kingdom over the earth.

There is a passage of Scripture in the New Testament which this 3rd verse of Daniel 12

reminds me of, it states:

*"As you continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:14-17).*

Daniel 12:3 refers to *"those who make others wise, and those who win souls and turn many to righteousness,"* and this text from 2 Timothy 3:14-17, also, refers to the same principle of God's special rewards for those who teach others wisdom and bring them to a holy, God-like, life. This is true regardless of the dispensation one lives in!

### **THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF "GOSPELS" THAT ARE TO BE PREACHED**

Keeping our perspective on what the Angel Gabriel is revealing to Daniel, we must remember that between the preaching of the *"Gospel of the Kingdom,"* we have the preaching of the *"Gospel of the Grace of God,"* that is, this present Church Age. The Gospel of the Grace of God is the proclamation of **Salvation** through faith in the *"Atoning Sacrifice"* of Christ on the Cross. The *"Glorious Gospel"* is the Gospel of the *"Glorious Appearing,* or Second Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13). The *"Everlasting Gospel"* will be preaching by an Angel just before the *"Vial Judgments"* are poured out on the earth, and it will be *"Good News"* to all who are passing through the Great Tribulation Period because it declares that their sufferings will soon cease, and it will be *"Bad News"* for the Antichrist and his followers because it will proclaim that the *"hour of God's judgment"* for them has come (Revelation 14:6-7).

These *"wise"* of the end time will be like the children of Issachar, *"which were men that had understanding of the Times"* (1 Chronicles 12:32). These *"wise teachers"* of the End Time [probably the 144,000], will understand the Scriptures and being Jewish, the Old Testament, particularly the prophecies relating to Israel. So prominent and noted will they be, *"they will shine as the stars "* in the Prophetic Heavens, and like the great Prophets of old, Moses, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel, they will shine forever and ever. So true, clear, and forceful will be their exposition of the Word of God, that it will convict the hearers and they will turn many to righteousness.

Daniel 12:4, *"But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."*

One notices the difference in the command given to Daniel to *"seal up"* the revelation given to him, while John the Apostle was told to *"seal not"* the prophecies of the Book of Revelation (Revelation 22:10). **Why?** The reason seems evident when one considers what Jesus answered His disciple's questions about why He spoke in parables.

Matthew 13:10-15, *"The disciples came to Him and asked, 'Why do You speak to the people in parables?' [That is, the multitude, mostly Jews] He replied, 'The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you [the Disciples] but not to them . . . This is why I speak to them in parables: Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah [Isaiah 6:9-12] You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's [the Jews] heart has become calloused; **THEY** hardly hear with their ears, and **THEY** have*

*closed their eyes. Otherwise **THEY** might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."*

Jesus tells His Disciples that the Jewish people of His time were "*wilfully ignorant*" of the prophetic Scriptures. They had ears to hear, but they did not understand, because they did not want to. And so, not to add to their sin, Christ had to veil the "*Mysteries*" of the Kingdom in Parables. And the reason was because the "*Veil of Unbelief*" was on their hearts.

Of the Children of Israel, Paul says,

*"But their minds were made dull [blinded] for to this day the same **VEIL** remains when the old covenant is read [when the Old testament is read]. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, **a veil covers their hearts**. But whenever anyone **URNS TO THE LORD**, the **VEIL** is taken away" (2 Corinthians 3:14-16).*

As far as the Jews are concerned, the Book of Daniel is a "*sealed book*." But it is only sealed up to them "*until the **Time of the End***." When that "*Time*" comes many of Daniel's People will "*run to and fro*," and their "*knowledge*" (of the Book) *will be increased*," and they will be comforted and sustained in the midst of their sufferings and trials of that "*Time of Trouble*."

The Book of Daniel need not be sealed to the Christian believer. He has seen its prophecies being fulfilled in history. And now that the Book is being better understood, it is more and more studied, which is a sign of the near approach of the "*Times of the End*."

Daniel 12:5-12

*"Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, 'How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?' The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, 'It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.' I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, 'My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?' He replied, 'Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end. Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand. From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.'"*

Remember, Daniel was standing by the side of the River Hiddekel (Tigris), and that Chapters 10 to 12 inclusive are one Vision. Therefore, this "*Man clothed in Linen*," is the same as the One which is mentioned in Daniel 10:5-6, and we have already studied about Him. However, at this point in the Vision Daniel noticed two other angelic beings, one on each side of



the River. One of them addressed the "**Man clothed in Linen**," supported in a cloud over the River, and asked, "*How long shall it be to the END of these wonders?*" And the "**Man Clothed in Linen**" lifted up both hands and swore by the Almighty, that it should be for a "**TIME, TIMES, AND A HALF**," or three and a half years.

Notice, two things in this answer, the "**OATH**," and the "**Length of the Time**" This certainly sounds similar to what we read in Revelation 10:1-6, and, because the Book of Revelation is the interpreter of the Book of Daniel, we need to turn to this reference:

*"Then I saw another MIGHTY ANGEL coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a LION. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.' Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, 'There will be no more delay!'"*

The description of this "**MIGHTY ANGEL**" in His appearance and actions, harmonizes with that of the "**MAN CLOTHED IN LINEN**" (Daniel 10:5-6; 12:6-7), therefore, they must be one and the same, or the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself. The description corresponds to that of Jesus Christ as He stands in the midst of the Lampstands in Revelation 1:12-16, and we know that in the Old Testament Jesus Christ was called the "**Angel of the Lord**" (Exodus 3:2-18), and the "**I AM**" of the Old Testament is the same as the "**I AM**" of the New Testament (John 6:35; 8:12; 10:9).

As the closing Chapters of Daniel deal with Israel, and as Christ was to them the "**ANGEL OF THE LORD**," what more appropriate title could He have in Chapters 6 to 19 of Revelation, that also deal mainly with Israel, then that of a "**MIGHTY ANGEL?**" The fact that He cried with a loud voice, as a "**Lion roars**," identifies Him as the "**LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH**" (Revelation 5:5).

Note that the "**Mighty Angel**" of Revelation, and the "**Man Clothed in Linen**" of Daniel both swear by the Almighty, that there shall be "**TIME NO LONGER**" (or "*Delay no longer*"). And, as the "**Mighty Angel**" uttered these words in the "**Middle**" of Daniel's 70th Week, there was only three and a half years to run, or forty-two months (Which agrees completely with Revelation 13:5), and is the exact time given by the "**Man Clothed in Linen**," for forty-two months is equal to Daniel's "**TIME, TIMES, AND A HALF**" (Verse 7).

Thus we see the Daniel and Revelation agree as to the **LENGTH** of the "**Time of the End**," and that it is given by the same Person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Daniel hears the answer, however, he doesn't understand what it means, so he repeats the question, but, still, no explanation is granted him. He is told to go his way, for the words were "**closed up and sealed**" until the "**TIME OF THE END**," when the "**WISE shall understand**."

Then two other measures of time were revealed to Daniel, 1290 and 1335 days, when

"Daily Sacrifice" will be taken away, and the "**Abomination of Desolation**" set up, which we know will be in the *middle* of Daniel's 70th Week (Daniel 9:27).

Thus we have three measures of time given in Daniel, all dating from the "**Middle**" of Daniel's 70th Week:

1. The 2,300 "*sacrifices*," or 1,150 days of Daniel 8:13-14. [See lesson on Daniel 8, page 3]  
1,150 days takes prophecy **110 days** past the 1,260 days of the last half of the Tribulation period  
(Revelation 11:3; 12:6. This same period given in months - Revelation 11:2 and 13:5).
2. 1,290 days of Daniel 12:11 takes prophecy **30 days** past the Tribulation Period
3. 1,335 days. of Daniel 12:12 takes prophecy **75 days** past the Tribulation Period.

The length of these three measures of time are respectively 110, 30, and 75 days **beyond the "End"** of Daniel's 70th Week.

The first measure of time, 1,150 days, has to do with the cleansing of the Sanctuary,  
[Dealt with in the lesson on Daniel 8, page 3].

We are not told what events the other two measures of time lead up to. However, we do know that after the return of the Lord at the "**End of Daniel's 70th Week**" there will be other events of national importance to the Jews, which must precede the setting up of the Millennial Kingdom. Evidently these periods of time are when these events take place.

There shouldn't be any difficulty in understanding what Scripture teaches. The "**time, times and an half**" or 3 1/2 years (Daniel 12:7) are the 42 months of Antichrist's war on Israel until God purges every rebel from the nation making her willing to do His will (Ezekiel 20:33-38; Zechariah 13:9; Malachi 3:3). Antichrist could easily destroy Israel in a short time after he breaks his covenant with them, **if God were not to interfere**. However, God will supernaturally cause the ground to open and swallow the armies of the dragon and Antichrist as they flee after Israel when she goes into the wilderness of Moab and Edom to escape from the hands of Antichrist (Daniel 11:41; Isaiah 16:1-5; Matthew 24:16; Revelation 12:14-17); and He will protect the remnant of the woman which does not flee into the wilderness, through stirring up the countries of the north and east against the Antichrist. The Antichrist and his armies will then leave the remnant during the last 3 1/2 years, going forth to conquer these nations. They will keep him occupied during this period of time. Then after conquering these countries, he will lead them and many other nations against Jerusalem to destroy it, however, God will, at that time, put an end to Gentile dominion and deliver Israel. (Zechariah 12 and Revelation 19). This war between Antichrist and countries of the north and east will cause the persecution of Israel to be shortened as in Matthew 24:22.

The **1,290 days** of Daniel 12:11, which is **30 days** more than the Tribulation Period, and the **1,335 days** of Daniel 12:12, which is **75 days** past the Tribulation Period, will be simply be additional days which are needed for the judgment of the nations, the cleansing of the Sanctuary, and proclamation of Christ's kingdom, and the purifying of the earth for the millennial reign of Christ. "*Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days*" (Daniel 12:12), simply means those who have lived through the Tribulation, staying true to the Lord, will be

blessed by entering into the millennial reign of Christ. It is at this time that Christ will say to the sheep nations, "*Come, ye blessed of My Father, enter the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*" (Matthew 25:34). These extra days will be taken up by certain events necessary to the actual proclamation of the kingdom.

Daniel 12:13,

*"As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."*

Another translation states, "*So go your way, and rest until the end comes, then you will rise to enjoy your portion at the end of time.*" In other words, "*Daniel, you will not now understand, nor live to see, the fulfillment of these events in your life-time, but rest content in the assurance that you will find your place in the paradise of God, as every tribe of Israel has its lot in the Promised Land.*"

Mysteries there are, however, the path of duty is always clear. There are times when all we can do to pursue our daily course in the common paths of life and leave the unknown future to unfold itself as it may. Why dream, when there is so much to do? "*Go thy way!*"

Daniel said in verse 8, "*I heard but I understood not, so I asked, `Lord what will be the outcome of these things? God replies, "Go on your way, Daniel, ask no more because the revelation is to be kept secret until the time of the end, when the crisis at the close of time comes."*"

This certainly reminds us of what Peter said in 1 Peter 1:10-12, when he states,

*"Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things."*

Daniel, frankly states that he is talking about things he does not fully understand. **What humility!** How often do we hear some a speaker say, "*Friend, you know as much about this as I do, because I do not know what this means!*"

In some cases prophetic study has been discredited because of some so-called teacher thought he knew so much about a subject, when, in fact, he knew nothing. There are times when we, like Daniel, need to read, or hear, without always being able to understand, until God's timing, or until passing events make the prophecy clear.

The 11th verse states, "*Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked.*" - God can get something good even out of the worst of situations. Here, out of the Great Tribulation will be some who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "*None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.*"

History records that not one Christian perished during the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. due to the fact that they remembered the warning of Jesus (Luke 21:20-21) and fled to the city of Pella at the very beginning of the siege. These were the "wise" ones who had studied the signs of the times. However, the wicked, who had scoffed at the message of Jesus, perished.

*"But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk in at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breast-plate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" - 2 Thessalonians 5:4-9.*

Daniel was over 90 years of age. He had lived in Babylon, away from his beloved Land and City, for over 70 years. However, his life had not been an idle one. He had been active in the public affairs of two Empires. His religion had received the severest tests. God had honored him by taking him into His confidence, and revealing to him the history of the "*Times of the Gentiles*." In his last Vision he had the blessed privilege of seeing and hearing the voice of the Lord. But his work was done. The time for rest had come. So he was told to "*go your way*," depart to his home, and rest there until the summons came for him to make his "*Exodus*" from Babylon to the Heavenly Land. Then when the "*Times of the Gentiles*" had run their course, Daniel will stand in **HIS LOT** . What that "*Lot*" is to be we are not told. However, just think, if the Apostles are to be raised and sit on "*Twelve Thrones*," judging the "*Twelve Tribes*" of Israel (Matthew 19:28), what, then, would Daniel, who participated in the affairs of Empires, and was the trusted adviser of kings, what will his "*Lot*" be? **Only God knows!**