

**A Survey of the Old Testament**  
**Prophetic Books**  
**by Pastor Richard H. Jones**

**#6 "Daniel"**

**I. COMMENTS ON THE PROPHET**

Daniel's name means "God is my Judge". He was probably of the nobility of Judah, for he was among the select captives taken to Babylon in the first deportation. This happened in the third year of Jehoiakim's reign in 606 B.C. (Dan. 1:1,3).

In Babylon, Daniel, along with his three Hebrew companions, were trained in the wisdom of the Chaldeans for three years (Dan. 1:4-5). Daniel was given the Babylonian name Belteshazzar. For their faith in God, and refusal to defile themselves by eating from the King's table, they were rewarded with unsurpassed learning (1:20; 2:13). Daniel himself was given the gift of visions and dreams.

Daniel occupied an exalted position in the Babylonian court and lived under the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius the Mede, and Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel lived through the Babylonian captivity and saw his people return under Zerubbabel in 536 B.C. (Ezra 1:1; Dan. 1:21).

Because of his knowledge and wisdom, Daniel had contenders, who sought to find corruption in him that they might charge him, but they couldn't (6:3-4). Then they worked to get a royal decree to prohibit prayer for 30 days. When Daniel failed to comply, he was cast into a den of lions. However, God delivered the prophet (6:16) and Daniel's accusers met his intended fate (6:24).

**II. CONTENTS OF THE PROPHECY**

Daniel's prophecy may be divided in a two fold way with the first six chapters mainly historical in character, dealing with Daniel's life and gift of interpreting dreams under Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, and Cyrus. These chapters, however, do not exclude predictive prophecy. The last six chapters consist of predictive prophecies under the reigns of Belshazzar, Darius, and Cyrus.

In Chapter one we see Daniel's fame and prosperity. Chapter two is an interpretation prophesying four Gentile world kingdoms and their destruction by Christ at His 2nd Coming. Chapter 3 tells of God's deliverance of the three Hebrew children. Nebuchadnezzar's tree vision, prophesying his fall, is disclosed in chapter 4. Belshazzar's fall is seen in chapter 5. Then chapter 6 shows Daniel's deliverance from the lions.

Chapter 7 of the second division is a prophetic vision of four beasts or kingdoms and Christ's 2nd

Coming. The vision of the ram and he-goat, Alexander the Great taking the Mede-Persian Kingdom, is the subject of chapter 8. Chapter 9 gives the 70 weeks prophecy, and chapter 10 is a vision of God's glory. The rule of Alexander's 4 generals who succeeded him is seen in chapter 11. The Great Tribulation and the two resurrections are subjects of chapter 12.

### **III. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERIOD**

The historical background of Daniel's prophecy is generally the same as that surrounding Ezekiel's prophecy. Daniel was taken captive with his three companions in the first deportation to Babylon in 606 B.C. Ezekiel was carried captive in the second deportation of 597 B.C. Jehoiakim had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood (II Kings 24:4). For Israel's idolatry, God was chastening her with a captivity of seventy years.

### **IV. NOTABLE THINGS**

- A. Note that chapter 2:4b through 7:28 are written in Aramaic, the commercial language of that day, and concerns Gentile nations and rulers. So Daniel gives a message to the Gentiles and the Jews distinctively.
- B. Note the book of Daniel is the key to prophetic revelations. An understanding of this book must preclude an understanding of the book of Revelation (Matt. 24:15).
- C. Note the seventy weeks prophecy of 9:24-27 is determined upon Daniel's people, Israel, and not upon the church.
- D. Note the resurrection of Dan. 12:2 follows the tribulation of 12:1 and shows that the saved Jews who are dead will be raised at the 2nd Coming of Christ and not at the rapture of the church saints.
- E.. Note the terms "time, times, and dividing of time" is a period of three and one-half years (Dan. 7:25; 12:7; Rev. 12:14). It is exactly one-half of the tribulation period (9:27) which is expressed as 42 months in Rev. 11:2; 13:5 and as 1260 days in Rev. 12:6.
- F. Note that the 69th week ended with the crucifixion of Christ. In 70 A.D. the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Jews were scattered. Because of their unbelief, the natural branches were cut off (Israel) and the wild olive branches grafted in (Church). During this dispensation, God is dealing with the Church, a mystery not revealed to O.T. prophets. And until the rapture takes place and the church is taken out of the way, the 70th week will not occur. (Rom. 11; 16:25,26; Eph. 3:4-9).

#### **IV. PERSONAL LESSONS**

- A. God honors the faithful.
- B. We can faithfully serve God in the midst of unbelievers.
- C. We don't have to worry about what the future holds when we know the One who holds the future.

#### **V. PROPHECY OF THE SEVENTY WEEKS**

- A. What it means
  - 1. A time of unparalleled trouble for Israel in particular (Matt. 24:21; Rev. 3:10; 6:1-19:10) and the world in general.
  - 2. Seventy weeks means "seventy sevens." Each week is equivalent to 7 years (Gen. 29:27,28; Lev. 25:8).
  - 3. Seventy weeks of years are equivalent to 490 years when Israel is in her land.
- B. Why it is determined (Dan. 9:24)
  - 1. "To finish the transgression" - it will take 490 years or 70 weeks to put an end to Israel's national rebellion and unbelief.
  - 2. "To make an end of sins" - redemption for Israel (Zech. 13:1; Rom. 11:26,27).
  - 3. "To make reconciliation for iniquity" - Israel's sins will be covered but it will take 490 years.
  - 4. "To bring in everlasting righteousness" - to bring in the Millennium with its righteousness (Jer. 33:14,16; 31:31-34; Isa. 1:26; 46:13).
  - 5. "To seal up the vision and prophecy" - 490 years must pass to fulfill all the prophecy concerning Israel.
  - 6. "To anoint the most Holy" - this is the Millennial temple - the noun is neuter - so it is a place not a person. The Shekinah glory will return to the Millennial temple (Ezek. 43:2-5; 44:4).

C. When it is fulfilled (Dan. 9:25-27)

1. The seventy weeks began when Artaxerxes permitted Jerusalem to be rebuilt (Neh. 2:1-8; Dan. 9:25).
2. "Seven seven" - equals 49 years. (The decree of Artaxerxes was made in 445 B.C. and the city was rebuilt in troublous times (Ezra 4; Dan. 9:25).
3. "Sixty-two sevens" - equals 434 years. From the decree unto the Messiah is then 434 years plus 49 years or 483 years. (From Artaxerxes decree in 445B.C. to Christ's entry into Jerusalem was exactly 483 years of 360 days) this makes 69 weeks.
4. "One Seven" equals 7 years which remain for the tribulation. This will begin when Antichrist confirms a covenant with Israel for one week of 7 years.

In the middle of the week, or after 3 1/2 years, he will break the covenant, cause the sacrifices to cease, and have his image placed in the Tribulation Temple (Dan. 9:27; 12:11; Matt. 24:15; II Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:14,15).

Artaxerxes Decree 445	End of O.T. Prophets	Palm Sunday	Rapture
7 weeks - 49 years	62 weeks - 434 Yrs.	Church	Tribulation
69 weeks - 483 years		Gap	1 week - 7 years
70 weeks - 490 years			

**VI. EVENTS THAT CAUSE AND FOLLOW THE BROKEN COVENANT (Dan. 11:36-45)**

- A. Antichrist's western confederation of 10 nations is out of the revived Roman Empire (Dan. 7:23,24).
- B. He will deceive the people as their Messiah, make a covenant with Israel (Dan. 8:25; 9:27), and place his image in the temple and demand worship (II Thess. 2:3-12; Matt. 24:15). This is near the middle of the tribulation.
- C. The Northern armies (Russia and her allies) will join the Southern armies (Egypt and African allies) and attack the beast (Antichrist's ten Nation block) over land and sea (Ezek. 38:11; Joel 2:1-21; Dan. 11:40).



<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>Chapter 11</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
Image (2:31)	4 beasts (7:3)	Ram & he-goat 8:3-5; King 8:23	Kings (11:2)	Kingdoms
Head of gold (2:32)	Lion with eagle wings (7:4)			Babylon (2:38; 7:17)
breast & arms of silver (2:32)	bear raised on one side (7:5)	Ram with 2 horns (8:3)		Medo-Persia (2:39; 7:17; 8:20)
			4 Kings	Kings of Persia Cyrus II Cambyses Darius Xerxes
Belly & thighs of Brass (2:32)	leopard with 4 wings & 4 heads (7:6)	he-goat with horn between eyes (8:5)		Greece (2:39:7-17; 8:21) Alexander the Great
		horn of he-goat broken-producing 4 notable ones (8:8)	a mighty King whose Kingdom is divided toward 4 winds (11:3,4)	Cassander over Macedonia Lysimachus over Asia Minor Ptolemy I over Egypt Seleucus over Syria & Near East (8:22)
		little horn who took away Sacrifice (8:9-14)	Syrian King (11:21-35)	Antiochus IV Epiphanes

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King of the South  
& his prince  
(11:5-10)

Ptolemy I Soter  
& Seleucus I

King of the North  
(11:11 - 20)

Seleucus IV  
Philopator

Legs of  
iron  
(2:33)

Beast with  
iron teeth  
(7:7)

Rome  
(2:40; 7:23)

Breaking  
of image  
(2:35)

Breaking of  
beast with 10  
horns (7:7)

Division of Roman  
Kingdom  
(2:41; 7:23)

HERE TODAY

10 Toes  
partly  
strong &  
partly  
broken  
(2:42, 43)

Little horn  
that plucked  
up 3 horns  
(7:7, 8, 11)

King of  
fierce  
countenance  
(8:23-25)

Willful King  
(11:36-45)

10 Kingdoms out  
of Roman Kingdom  
(7:24) out of which  
Antichrist comes  
(7:24, 25  
Rev. 13:1, 5)

DURING TRIBULATION

Stone cut  
out with -  
out hands  
(2:35)  
smites  
image

The  
Ancient of  
Days  
(7:9-14)

King of fierce  
countenance  
stands up  
against Prince  
of Princes  
(8:23-25)

Christ's  
Kingdom  
established  
(2:44, 45;  
7:24 - 27)

CLOSE OF TRIBULATION

Rev. 19:20, 21  
Matt. 24:28

