

## CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

### DANIEL

Like Jeremiah's work, Daniel's work was accomplished during the reign of a couple of different rulers which may have contributed to the purpose of his ministry. Unlike Jeremiah's writings, Daniel's work was written in chronological order. It began approximately 605 B.C. He was given great prophetic visions of God's programs for the Gentiles and Jews from the days of Nebuchadnezzar until Christ's Second Coming. To the Jews who saw their city and Temple destroyed, Daniel's message of God's control over human government was an encouragement to them to continue trusting in the Lord's sovereignty.

It is to be understood that God disciplines nations, as well as people. Israel would not have gone into captivity if, when God began His discipline upon them for their sins, they would have responded, confessed their sins, and repented. But with each cycle of discipline they simply hardened their hearts. Israel had been divided into two sections. There were ten Northern tribes and there was the Southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin. As had been previously indicated, each section had its own king. The northern kingdom was the first part to be taken into captivity by the Assyrians. It was the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (Iraq) declared war on Jerusalem and besieged the city. The Master handed King Jehoiakim of Judah over to him, along with some of the furnishings from the Temple of God. Nebuchadnezzar took king and furnishings to the country of Babylon, the ancient Shinar. He put the furnishings in the sacred treasury.

The king told Ashpenaz, head of the palace staff, to get some Israelites from the royal family and nobility—young men who were healthy and handsome, intelligent and well-educated, good prospects for leadership positions in the government, perfect specimens! They were then to be indoctrinated in the Babylonian language and the lore of magic and fortunetelling. The king then ordered that they be served from the same menu as the royal table—the best food, the finest wine.

After three years of training they would be given positions in the king's court. Four young men from Judah—Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah—were among those selected. The head of the palace staff gave them Babylonian names: Daniel was named Belteshazzar, Hananiah was named Shadrach, Mishael was named Meshach, Azariah was named Abednego. But Daniel determined that he would not defile himself by eating the king's food or drinking his wine, so he asked the head of the palace staff to exempt him from the royal diet. The head of the palace staff, by God's grace, liked Daniel, but he warned him, "I'm afraid of what my master the king will do. He is the one who assigned this diet and if he sees that you are not as healthy as the rest, he'll have my head!" But Daniel appealed to a steward who had been assigned by the head of the palace staff to be in charge of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: Try us out for ten days on a simple diet of vegetables and water. Then compare us with the young men who eat from the royal menu. Make your decision on the basis of what you see." The steward agreed to do it and fed them vegetables and water for ten days. At the end of the ten days they looked better and more robust than all the others who had been eating from the royal menu. So the

steward continued to exempt them from the royal menu of food and drink and served them only vegetables.

God gave these four young men knowledge and skill in both books and life. In addition, Daniel was gifted in understanding all sorts of visions and dreams. At the end of the time set by the king for their training, the head of the royal staff brought them in to Nebuchadnezzar. When the king interviewed them, he found them far superior to all the other young men. None were a match for Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. And so they took their place in the king's service. Whenever the king consulted them on anything, on books or on life, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his kingdom put together. Daniel continued in the king's service until the first year in the reign of King Cyrus.

Chapter 2 records what was happening in the second year of King Nebuchadnezzar. He started having dreams that disturbed him deeply. He couldn't sleep. He called in all the Babylonian magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and fortunetellers to interpret his dreams for him. When they came and lined up before the king, he told them that he had a dream and needed to know what it means. The fortunetellers, speaking in the Aramaic language, told him to tell them his dream and they would interpret it. The king demanded that they tell him both the dream itself and its interpretation. If they could not do this, he told them that he would have them killed. If they could do this, he promised them gifts and honors. He then repeated for them to give him both the dream and the interpretation. The fortunetellers commented that nobody anywhere could do what he had asked. They went on to say that no king, great or small, had ever demanded anything like this from any magician, enchanter, or fortuneteller. They told the king that he was requesting the impossible unless some god or goddess should reveal it. That made the king very angry. He lost his temper and ordered the whole company of Babylonian wise men killed. When the death warrant was issued, Daniel and his companions were included. They also were marked for execution. When Arioch, chief of the royal guards, was making arrangements for the execution, Daniel wisely took him aside and quietly asked him what was going on. After Arioch filled in the background, Daniel went to the king and asked for a little time so that he could interpret the dream.

Daniel then went home and told his companions Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what was going on. He asked them to pray to the God of heaven for mercy in solving this mystery so that the four of them would not be killed along with the whole company of Babylonian wise men. That night the answer to the mystery was given to Daniel in a vision.

#### **DAN 2:20-23**

**20 DANIEL ANSWERED AND SAID, BLESSED BE THE NAME OF GOD FOR EVER AND EVER: FOR WISDOM AND MIGHT ARE HIS:**

**21 AND HE CHANGETH THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS: HE REMOVETH KINGS, AND SETTETH UP KINGS: HE GIVETH WISDOM UNTO THE WISE, AND KNOWLEDGE TO THEM THAT KNOW UNDERSTANDING:**

**22 HE REVEALETH THE DEEP AND SECRET THINGS: HE KNOWETH WHAT IS IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE LIGHT DWELLETH WITH HIM.**

**23 I THANK THEE, AND PRAISE THEE, O THOU GOD OF MY FATHERS, WHO HAST GIVEN ME WISDOM AND MIGHT, AND HAST MADE KNOWN UNTO ME NOW WHAT WE DESIRED OF THEE: FOR THOU HAST NOW MADE KNOWN UNTO US THE KING'S MATTER.**

So, Daniel went back to Arioch, who had been put in charge of the execution. He requested strongly that the execution be called off. He told Arioch to take him to the king. He was now ready to interpret the king's dream. Arioch and Daniel ran to the king. Nebuchadnezzar was told that Daniel could now interpret the king's dream. The king asked Daniel (renamed in Babylonian, Belteshazzar), if he was certain that he could tell the dream and then interpret it.

Daniel answered the king. He told Nebuchadnezzar that no human could do that, but God could. So, Daniel continued by telling King Nebuchadnezzar that God was informing him as to what was going to happen in the future. Daniel stated that he was not smarter than the king's men, but that God used him for the interpretation so that he could have a clear understanding as to what the dream meant.

Daniel then told Nebuchadnezzar that he had dreamed about a huge statue which had a head of pure gold. Its chest and arms were silver, the belly and hips were bronze, the legs were iron, and the feet were an iron-ceramic mixture. Daniel then said to the king that while you were looking at this statue, a large rock which had been carved out of a mountain hit the statue. It broke the statue into pieces and was scattered all over the place. The stone that hit the statue became a huge mountain which then blocked the view of the whole horizon.

**DANIEL 2:34, 44**

**34 THOU SAWEST TILL THAT A STONE WAS CUT OUT WITHOUT HANDS, WHICH SMOTE THE IMAGE UPON HIS FEET THAT WERE OF IRON AND CLAY, AND BROKE THEM TO PIECES.**

**44 AND IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS SHALL THE GOD OF HEAVEN SET UP A KINGDOM, WHICH SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED: AND THE KINGDOM SHALL NOT BE LEFT TO OTHER PEOPLE, BUT IT SHALL BREAK IN PIECES AND CONSUME ALL THESE KINGDOMS, AND IT SHALL STAND FOR EVER.**

Daniel then began to interpret the dream for the king. You are the most powerful king on earth. The God of heaven has placed you in your position. You are a ruler with great power, strength, and glory. You are in charge of men and women, wild animals and birds, all over the world. You are the head of gold. But then your rule will be brought to an end. Another kingdom, inferior to yours, will conquer you. But that kingdom will not last on and on. It will be captured by a third kingdom, a bronze kingdom. Then a fourth kingdom, iron-like in strength will invade the third kingdom, taking control of it. It will completely wipe out all lasting influence of the previous three kingdoms.

Now, for the feet and toes. A mixture of ceramic and iron will deteriorate, but some iron will remain, meaning that this fourth kingdom will have some bearing on all future

nations. As you well know, even today we have a lot of military and medical terms that have come from this fourth kingdom.

Daniel does not stop. He now tells Nebuchadnezzar while these four kingdoms are coming and going. God was, and will continue to building a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will this kingdom ever fall under the domination of another. God's kingdom will one day totally destroy all earthly kingdoms. It will be the rock that becomes a mountain, strong and mighty.

When Daniel finished, King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face in awe before Daniel. He ordered the offering of sacrifices and burning of incense in Daniel's honor.

**DANIEL 2:46-48**

**46 THEN THE KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR FELL UPON HIS FACE, AND WORSHIPPED DANIEL, AND COMMANDED THAT THEY SHOULD OFFER AN OBLATION AND SWEET ODOURS UNTO HIM.**

**47 THE KING ANSWERED UNTO DANIEL, AND SAID, OF A TRUTH IT IS, THAT YOUR GOD IS A GOD OF GODS, AND A LORD OF KINGS, AND A REVEALER OF SECRETS, SEEING THOU COULDEST REVEAL THIS SECRET.**

**48 THEN THE KING MADE DANIEL A GREAT MAN, AND GAVE HIM MANY GREAT GIFTS, AND MADE HIM RULER OVER THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF BABYLON, AND CHIEF OF THE GOVERNORS OVER ALL THE WISE MEN OF BABYLON.**

At Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to administrative posts throughout Babylon, while Daniel governed from the royal headquarters.

Chapter 3 tells us that King Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue, ninety feet high and nine feet thick. He set it up on the Dura plain in the province of Babylon. He then ordered all the important leaders in the province, everybody who was anybody, to the dedication ceremony of the statue. They all came for the dedication, all the important people, and took their places before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had erected.

**DANIEL 3:4-30**

**4 THEN AN HERALD CRIED ALOUD, TO YOU IT IS COMMANDED, O PEOPLE, NATIONS, AND LANGUAGES,**

**5 THAT AT WHAT TIME YE HEAR THE SOUND OF THE CORNET, FLUTE, HARP, SACKBUT, PSALTERY, DULCIMER, AND ALL KINDS OF MUSICK, YE FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE THAT NEBUCHADNEZZAR THE KING HATH SET UP:**

**6 AND WHOSO FALLETH NOT DOWN AND WORSHIPPETH SHALL THE SAME HOUR BE CAST INTO THE MIDST OF A BURNING FIERY FURNACE.**

**7 THEREFORE AT THAT TIME, WHEN ALL THE PEOPLE HEARD THE SOUND OF THE CORNET, FLUTE, HARP, SACKBUT, PSALTERY, AND ALL KINDS OF MUSICK, ALL THE PEOPLE, THE NATIONS, AND THE LANGUAGES, FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPPED THE GOLDEN IMAGE THAT NEBUCHADNEZZAR THE KING HAD SET UP.**

**8 WHEREFORE AT THAT TIME CERTAIN CHALDEANS CAME NEAR, AND ACCUSED THE JEWS.**

**9THEY SPAKE AND SAID TO THE KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, O KING, LIVE FOR EVER.**

**10 THOU, O KING, HAST MADE A DECREE, THAT EVERY MAN THAT SHALL HEAR THE SOUND OF THE CORNET, FLUTE, HARP, SACKBUT, PSALTERY, AND DULCIMER, AND ALL KINDS OF MUSICK, SHALL FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE:**

**11 AND WHOSO FALLETH NOT DOWN AND WORSHIPPETH, THAT HE SHOULD BE CAST INTO THE MIDST OF A BURNING FIERY FURNACE.**

**12 THERE ARE CERTAIN JEWS WHOM THOU HAST SET OVER THE AFFAIRS OF THE PROVINCE OF BABYLON, SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO; THESE MEN, O KING, HAVE NOT REGARDED THEE: THEY SERVE NOT THY GODS, NOR WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE WHICH THOU HAST SET UP.**

**13 THEN NEBUCHADNEZZAR IN HIS RAGE AND FURY COMMANDED TO BRING SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO. THEN THEY BROUGHT THESE MEN BEFORE THE KING.**

**14 NEBUCHADNEZZAR SPAKE AND SAID UNTO THEM, IS IT TRUE, O SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO,**

**15 NOW IF YE BE READY THAT AT WHAT TIME YE HEAR THE SOUND OF THE CORNET, FLUTE, HARP, SACKBUT, PSALTERY, AND DULCIMER, AND ALL KINDS OF MUSICK, YE FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP THE IMAGE WHICH I HAVE MADE; WELL: BUT IF YE WORSHIP NOT, YE SHALL BE CAST THE SAME HOUR INTO THE MIDST OF A BURNING FIERY FURNACE; AND WHO IS THAT GOD THAT SHALL DELIVER YOU OUT OF MY HANDS?**

**16 SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, ANSWERED AND SAID TO THE KING, O NEBUCHADNEZZAR, WE ARE NOT CAREFUL TO ANSWER THEE IN THIS MATTER.**

**17 IF IT BE SO, OUR GOD WHOM WE SERVE IS ABLE TO DELIVER US FROM THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE, AND HE WILL DELIVER US OUT OF THINE HAND, O KING.**

**18 BUT IF NOT, BE IT KNOWN UNTO THEE, O KING, THAT WE WILL NOT SERVE THY GODS, NOR WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE WHICH THOU HAST SET UP.**

**19 THEN WAS NEBUCHADNEZZAR FULL OF FURY, AND THE FORM OF HIS VISAGE WAS CHANGED AGAINST SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO: THEREFORE HE SPAKE, AND COMMANDED THAT THEY SHOULD HEAT THE FURNACE ONE SEVEN TIMES MORE THAN IT WAS WONT TO BE HEATED.**

**20 AND HE COMMANDED THE MOST MIGHTY MEN THAT WERE IN HIS ARMY TO BIND SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, AND TO CAST THEM INTO THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE.**

**21 THEN THESE MEN WERE BOUND IN THEIR COATS, THEIR HOSEN, AND THEIR HATS, AND THEIR OTHER GARMENTS, AND WERE CAST INTO THE MIDST OF THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE.**

**22 THEREFORE BECAUSE THE KING'S COMMANDMENT WAS URGENT, AND THE FURNACE EXCEEDING HOT, THE FLAME OF THE FIRE SLEW THOSE MEN THAT TOOK UP SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO.**

**23 AND THESE THREE MEN, SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, FELL DOWN BOUND INTO THE MIDST OF THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE.**

**24 THEN NEBUCHADNEZZAR THE KING WAS ASTONIED, AND ROSE UP IN HASTE, AND SPAKE, AND SAID UNTO HIS COUNSELLORS, DID NOT WE CAST THREE MEN BOUND INTO THE MIDST OF THE FIRE? THEY ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO THE KING, TRUE, O KING.**

**25 HE ANSWERED AND SAID, LO, I SEE FOUR MEN LOOSE, WALKING IN THE MIDST OF THE FIRE, AND THEY HAVE NO HURT; AND THE FORM OF THE FOURTH IS LIKE THE SON OF GOD.**

**26 THEN NEBUCHADNEZZAR CAME NEAR TO THE MOUTH OF THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE, AND SPAKE, AND SAID, SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, YE SERVANTS OF THE MOST HIGH GOD, COME FORTH, AND COME HITHER. THEN SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, CAME FORTH OF THE MIDST OF THE FIRE.**

**27 AND THE PRINCES, GOVERNORS, AND CAPTAINS, AND THE KING'S COUNSELLORS, BEING GATHERED TOGETHER, SAW THESE MEN, UPON WHOSE BODIES THE FIRE HAD NO POWER, NOR WAS AN HAIR OF THEIR HEAD SINGED, NEITHER WERE THEIR COATS CHANGED, NOR THE SMELL OF FIRE HAD PASSED ON THEM.**

**28 THEN NEBUCHADNEZZAR SPAKE, AND SAID, BLESSED BE THE GOD OF SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, WHO HATH SENT HIS ANGEL, AND DELIVERED HIS SERVANTS THAT TRUSTED IN HIM, AND HAVE CHANGED THE KING'S WORD, AND YIELDED THEIR BODIES, THAT THEY MIGHT NOT SERVE NOR WORSHIP ANY GOD, EXCEPT THEIR OWN GOD.**

**29 THEREFORE I MAKE A DECREE, THAT EVERY PEOPLE, NATION, AND LANGUAGE, WHICH SPEAK ANY THING AMISS AGAINST THE GOD OF SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, SHALL BE CUT IN PIECES, AND THEIR HOUSES SHALL BE MADE A DUNGHILL: BECAUSE THERE IS NO OTHER GOD THAT CAN DELIVER AFTER THIS SORT.**

**30 THEN THE KING PROMOTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, IN THE PROVINCE OF BABYLON.**

Look back at verse 25. Note that the Messiah is referred to as the “Son of God.”

Chapter 4 says that King Nebuchadnezzar then spoke a blessing on everyone. He pronounced that people everywhere should have peace and prosperity. He was so excited about the miracles that God had done. He testified that the High God had surprised him with miracles and that the High God’s kingdom was eternal. Nebuchadnezzar continued by stating that he had a nightmare dream. This was another warning from God. God gives us all second chances, third chances, actually hundreds of chances to get our acts together.

Nebuchadnezzar sent for all the wise men of Babylon so that they could interpret the dream. He told them the dream, but none could tell him what it meant. Then Daniel, known in Babylon as Belteshazzar, came on the scene. He was a man full of the divine Holy Spirit. Nebuchadnezzar told him the dream.

**DANIEL 4:9-18**

**9 O BELTESHAZZAR, MASTER OF THE MAGICIANS, BECAUSE I KNOW THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLY GODS IS IN THEE, AND NO SECRET TROUBLETH THEE, TELL ME THE VISIONS OF MY DREAM THAT I HAVE SEEN, AND THE INTERPRETATION THEREOF.**

**10 THUS WERE THE VISIONS OF MINE HEAD IN MY BED; I SAW, AND BEHOLD A TREE IN THE MIDST OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEIGHT THEREOF WAS GREAT.**

**11 THE TREE GREW, AND WAS STRONG, AND THE HEIGHT THEREOF REACHED UNTO HEAVEN, AND THE SIGHT THEREOF TO THE END OF ALL THE EARTH:**

**12 THE LEAVES THEREOF WERE FAIR, AND THE FRUIT THEREOF MUCH, AND IN IT WAS MEAT FOR ALL: THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD HAD SHADOW UNDER IT, AND THE FOWLS OF THE HEAVEN DWELT IN THE BOUGHS THEREOF, AND ALL FLESH WAS FED OF IT.**

**13 I SAW IN THE VISIONS OF MY HEAD UPON MY BED, AND, BEHOLD, A WATCHER AND AN HOLY ONE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN;**

**14 HE CRIED ALOUD, AND SAID THUS, HEW DOWN THE TREE, AND CUT OFF HIS BRANCHES, SHAKE OFF HIS LEAVES, AND SCATTER HIS FRUIT: LET THE BEASTS GET AWAY FROM UNDER IT, AND THE FOWLS FROM HIS BRANCHES:**

**15 NEVERTHELESS LEAVE THE STUMP OF HIS ROOTS IN THE EARTH, EVEN WITH A BAND OF IRON AND BRASS, IN THE TENDER GRASS OF THE FIELD; AND LET IT BE WET WITH THE DEW OF HEAVEN, AND LET HIS PORTION BE WITH THE BEASTS IN THE GRASS OF THE EARTH:**

**16 LET HIS HEART BE CHANGED FROM MAN'S, AND LET A BEAST'S HEART BE GIVEN UNTO HIM; AND LET SEVEN TIMES PASS OVER HIM.**

**17 THIS MATTER IS BY THE DECREE OF THE WATCHERS, AND THE DEMAND BY THE WORD OF THE HOLY ONES: TO THE INTENT THAT THE LIVING MAY KNOW THAT THE MOST HIGH RULETH IN THE KINGDOM OF MEN, AND GIVETH IT TO WHOMSOEVER HE WILL, AND SETTETH UP OVER IT THE BASEST OF MEN.**

**18 THIS DREAM I KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAVE SEEN. NOW THOU, O BELTESHAZZAR, DECLARE THE INTERPRETATION THEREOF, FORASMUCH AS ALL THE WISE MEN OF MY KINGDOM ARE NOT ABLE TO MAKE KNOWN UNTO ME THE INTERPRETATION: BUT THOU ART ABLE; FOR THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLY GODS IS IN THEE.**

Obviously, Nebuchadnezzar was very disturbed over the dream. When the world gets disturbed, it turns to the believers for help. This is why it is so important for us to always be prayed up. We need to be instant in season and out of season to minister to those in trouble. The king recognized that only Daniel's God could interpret the dream. At first Daniel was upset. The thoughts that came swarming into his mind terrified him. Nebuchadnezzar recognized that Daniel appeared to be nervous. So, he told Daniel to relax and not to be afraid to interpret the dream.

Daniel then explained that it would be easier if the interpretation was for Nebuchadnezzar's enemies rather than Nebuchadnezzar himself. The tree you saw that

grew so large and sturdy with its top touching the sky, visible from the four corners of the world; the tree with the luxuriant foliage and abundant fruit, enough for everyone; the tree under which animals took cover and in which birds built nests — you, O King, are that tree. Your fame is world-wide.

The holy angel proclaimed that the tree was to be chopped down, but that the stump was to be left. Daniel continued the interpretation by stating that the roots were to be left in the ground and were to be belted with a strap of iron and bronze in the grassy meadow. Indicating more that his reference was to the king, Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that he would be forced to live in the outdoors. He would be soaked with dew and his meals would be eaten with the wild animals for seven seasons. Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom would still be there after the seven seasons. At this point, Daniel advised the king to make a clean break from sin and start living for others. If he would do this, then he could return to the good life.

Just twelve months after the dream, the king had not heeded the warning. He was filled with pride. He declared that Babylon was great and that he had built it all by himself for which he was due honor and glory. As we know pride comes before the fall. This is a warning to us individually and to our nation. The words were no sooner out of his mouth than a voice out of heaven spoke telling Nebuchadnezzar that his kingdom would be taken from the king.

Everything began to happen just as the interpretation had suggested. The king was driven out of human company and had to live with the wild animals. His hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a hawk. He was soaked with dew and ate with animals. At the end of the seven years, Nebuchadnezzar was restored to wholeness.

God had kept His Word. God was and is always willing to save and cleanse the vilest of sinners and to restore the backsliders. God want us individually and as a nation to look to heaven and believe in Him

**DANIEL 4:34-36**

**34 AND AT THE END OF THE DAYS I NEBUCHADNEZZAR LIFTED UP MINE EYES UNTO HEAVEN, AND MINE UNDERSTANDING RETURNED UNTO ME, AND I BLESSED THE MOST HIGH, AND I PRAISED AND HONOURED HIM THAT LIVETH FOR EVER, WHOSE DOMINION IS AN EVERLASTING DOMINION, AND HIS KINGDOM IS FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION:**

**35 AND ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH ARE REPUTED AS NOTHING: AND HE DOETH ACCORDING TO HIS WILL IN THE ARMY OF HEAVEN, AND AMONG THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH: AND NONE CAN STAY HIS HAND, OR SAY UNTO HIM, WHAT DOEST THOU?**

**36 AT THE SAME TIME MY REASON RETURNED UNTO ME; AND FOR THE GLORY OF MY KINGDOM, MINE HONOUR AND BRIGHTNESS RETURNED UNTO ME; AND MY COUNSELLORS AND MY LORDS SOUGHT UNTO ME; AND I WAS ESTABLISHED IN MY KINGDOM, AND EXCELLENT MAJESTY WAS ADDED UNTO ME.**

Everything God does is right, and He does it the right way. He knows how to turn a proud person into a humble man or woman.



Chapter 5 tells us that Nebuchadnezzar passes off the scene and a man named Belshazzar becomes king. He probably was not the son of Nebuchadnezzar, but, perhaps, a grandson or great grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, thus the Scripture calling Nebuchadnezzar his father. As we are going to see as we study this chapter, Belshazzar was the last king of Babylon. King Belshazzar held a great feast for his one thousand nobles. The wine flowed freely. Belshazzar, while drunk, ordered that the gold and silver chalices that Nebuchadnezzar had stolen from God's Temple of Jerusalem be brought in so that he and his nobles, his wives and concubines, could drink from them. They drank the wine and drunkenly praised their gods made of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. At that very moment, the fingers of a human hand appeared and began writing on the wall of the palace. When the king saw the hand writing, he became afraid. He called for the enchanters, the fortunetellers, and the diviners to come. He promised them wealth and fame if they could read the writing on the wall. None of them could read the message.

The king became frightened. All the blood drained from his face. The nobles became disturbed. The queen joined them in the banquet hall. She told them that Daniel could read the writing so they should not be scared. She told them that Daniel was full of the divine Holy Spirit. She reminded that Daniel had interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

Belshazzar asked to have Daniel, now an old man, was called in. The king asked if he was the one of the Jewish exiles who had been brought from Judah. He then promised Daniel riches and fame, including third-in-command in the kingdom if he could interpret the writing on the wall. Daniel told the king to keep the gifts or give them to someone else. However, here is the interpretation. Daniel answered the king, telling Belshazzar to keep his gifts, or give them to someone else. I, on the other hand, will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means. The High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar a great kingdom and a glorious reputation. As a result of God making him so famous, people from everywhere, whatever their race, color, and creed, were totally intimidated by him. He determined who lived and who died. He promoted or robbed, at will. There came a point when God said that He had enough. Nebuchadnezzar was dethroned for seven seasons. Daniel then probably pointed his finger at Belshazzar, telling him that he was just as arrogant as Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel rebuked him for using the Temple vessels for a drunken party and the worship of heathen gods. Daniel told the king that he was foolish for dishonoring the Living God who holds all of our lives from birth to death in His hands.

Now for the interpretation of the writing on the wall. God was warning Belshazzar that He had numbered the days of his rule and they do not add up (Mene). Not only that, but Belshazzar had been weighed and his weight was not very much (Teqel). Last of all, the kingdom has been divided up and handed over to the Medes and Persians.

Belshazzar did what he had promised. He robed Daniel in purple, draped the great gold chain around his neck, and promoted him to third-in-charge in the kingdom. That same night the Babylonian king Belshazzar was murdered. He was sixty-two years old. Darius the Mede succeeded him as king.

Chapter 6 informs us that Darius reorganized his kingdom. He appointed one hundred twenty governors to administer all the parts of his realm. Over them were three vice-regents, one of whom was Daniel. The governors reported to the vice-regents, who made sure that everything was in order for the king. But Daniel, filled with spirit and

intelligence, was head and shoulders above the other vice-regents and governors. For that reason, the king decided to put him in charge of the whole kingdom.

The vice-regents and governors got together to find some old scandal or skeleton in Daniel's life that they could use against him, but they could find nothing. He was totally exemplary and trustworthy. They could find no evidence of negligence or misconduct. So they finally gave up on that idea, but then the vice-regents and governors conspired together and came up with another idea. They went to the king and glorified him by declaring that he should live forever. Then they suggested that the king decree that for the next thirty days no one is to pray to any god or mortal except to King Darius. They told the king that anybody who disobeys should be thrown into the lions' den. King Darius signed the decree.

When Daniel learned that the decree had been signed and posted, he continued to pray just as he had always done. His house had windows in the upstairs that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he knelt there in prayer, thanking and praising his God. His enemies stalked him caught him praying, asking God for help. They went straight to the king and reminded him of the royal decree that he had signed. Then they reported Daniel for praying to God three times a day. Darius knew he had been tricked, making him upset, but knowing that he would have to follow through on the decree.

#### **DANIEL 6:16-23**

**16 THEN THE KING COMMANDED, AND THEY BROUGHT DANIEL, AND CAST HIM INTO THE DEN OF LIONS. NOW THE KING SPAKE AND SAID UNTO DANIEL, THY GOD WHOM THOU SERVEST CONTINUALLY, HE WILL DELIVER THEE.**

**17 AND A STONE WAS BROUGHT AND LAID UPON THE MOUTH OF THE DEN; AND THE KING SEALED IT WITH HIS OWN SIGNET, AND WITH THE SIGNET OF HIS LORDS; THAT THE PURPOSE MIGHT NOT BE CHANGED CONCERNING DANIEL.**

**18 THEN THE KING WENT TO HIS PALACE, AND PASSED THE NIGHT FASTING: NEITHER WERE INSTRUMENTS OF MUSICK BROUGHT BEFORE HIM: AND HIS SLEEP WENT FROM HIM.**

**19 THEN THE KING AROSE VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING, AND WENT IN HASTE UNTO THE DEN OF LIONS.**

**20 AND WHEN HE CAME TO THE DEN, HE CRIED WITH A LAMENTABLE VOICE UNTO DANIEL: AND THE KING SPAKE AND SAID TO DANIEL, O DANIEL, SERVANT OF THE LIVING GOD, IS THY GOD, WHOM THOU SERVEST CONTINUALLY, ABLE TO DELIVER THEE FROM THE LIONS?**

**21 THEN SAID DANIEL UNTO THE KING, O KING, LIVE FOR EVER.**

**22 MY GOD HATH SENT HIS ANGEL, AND HATH SHUT THE LIONS' MOUTHS, THAT THEY HAVE NOT HURT ME: FORASMUCH AS BEFORE HIM INNOCENCY WAS FOUND IN ME; AND ALSO BEFORE THEE, O KING, HAVE I DONE NO HURT.**

**23 THEN WAS THE KING EXCEEDING GLAD FOR HIM, AND COMMANDED THAT THEY SHOULD TAKE DANIEL UP OUT OF THE DEN. SO DANIEL WAS TAKEN UP OUT OF THE DEN, AND NO MANNER OF HURT WAS FOUND UPON HIM, BECAUSE HE BELIEVED IN HIS GOD.**

Then the king commanded that the conspirators who had informed on Daniel be thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. Before they hit the floor, the lions had them in their jaws, tearing them to pieces. Darius then proclaimed peace to every race, color, and creed on earth. He added that Daniel's God was to be worshiped and feared in all parts of the kingdom for He is the living God, world without end. His kingdom and rule never fails. Darius referred to Daniel's God as a Savior and Rescuer, and a miracle working God. From then on, Daniel was treated well during the reign of Darius, and also in the following reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Chapter 7 records that in the first year of the reign of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream. What he saw as he slept in his bed terrified him — a real nightmare. He had seen the four winds of heaven whipping up a great storm on the sea. Then four huge animals, each different from the others, ascended out of the sea. The first animal looked like a lion, but it had the wings of an eagle which were pulled off. It then stood erect on two feet and a human heart was placed in it. This animal represented the Babylonian Empire.

A second animal that looked like a bear appeared. It represented the Medes and Persians. It had three ribs in its mouth. It was told to be vicious by attacking, devouring, and filling its belly.

The third animal looked like a panther. It had four birdlike wings on its back. We will see that this creature represents the Greeks. This animal had four heads and was made to rule.

The fourth animal was a grisly horror — hideous. It had huge iron teeth. It crunched and swallowed its victims. Anything left over, it trampled into the ground. It was different from the other animals — this one was a real monster. It had ten horns. Then an eleventh horn appeared. It was a little horn. Three of the original horns were pulled out to make room for it. There were human eyes in this little horn, and a big mouth speaking arrogantly.

All of a sudden oriental-type cushions were hastily cast down to a place somewhere in the air. God, the Judge, came and sat down. His robes were white as snow, his hair was white like wool. His seat was a river of fire. Interestingly, God's throne is obviously mounted on wheels. Thousands upon thousands served him, tens of thousands attended him. These are the ministering angels that surround the throne of God. The courtroom was called to order, and the books were opened.

The little horn, better known as the anti-christ, was speaking arrogantly. Then, the beast was killed and its body cremated in a roaring fire. The other animals lived on for a limited time, but they didn't really do anything, had no power to rule.

A human form, a son of man, arrived in a whirl of the clouds of heaven. He came to The Divine Judge and was presented to him. As I am sure that you already know that this was Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah. Since He had previously been an eye-witness and had even personally experienced temptations and evil-intended attacks of the beast, He was there to testify against all of the satanic forces. He was given power to rule — all the glory

of royalty. Everyone served Him. His rule was established forever, never ending and never to be replaced.

Daniel was curious, and somewhat disturbed, about all that was taking place in his dream. He wanted to know the meaning of what he had seen. So, just as God had given Daniel the interpretation for Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, God was now going to give Daniel the interpretation to his vision. He, obviously, was caught up into the air to the place where this court was being conducted. This may have been literally because it seems that the vision has ended and all the angels and the features of the vision have disappeared.

**DANIEL 7:16-17**

**16 I CAME NEAR UNTO ONE OF THEM THAT STOOD BY, AND ASKED HIM THE TRUTH OF ALL THIS. SO HE TOLD ME, AND MADE ME KNOW THE INTERPRETATION OF THE THINGS.**

**17 THESE GREAT BEASTS, WHICH ARE FOUR, ARE FOUR KINGS, WHICH SHALL ARISE OUT OF THE EARTH.**

These are not four human kings, but instead the representatives of four different kingdom. The literal translation says that they shall come from the surface of the earth by Divine decree. It is God who limits the duration of the dominion of kings, as well as compels them when to arise. Of course, this is in reference to the four world empires that have already been discussed—Babylonian, Medes and Persians, Greek and Roman.

**DANIEL 7:18**

**18 BUT THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH SHALL TAKE THE KINGDOM, AND POSSESS THE KINGDOM FOR EVER, EVEN FOR EVER AND EVER.**

At this point, the time jumps to the tribulation period which as you know has not happened, yet. The saints, in this case, are the Jewish people who are in true communion with God, even though they are being persecuted by the anti-christ. They will receive the Messianic kingdom which was given to Jesus when He ascended into heaven. They will have submitted themselves to His rule and will be exalting Him as their Savior, even while they are in conflict with the anti-christ. The Messiah aids them from heaven by strengthening, comforting, and supporting them in their sufferings. The King and His people actually meet face-to-face for the first time when their struggle ends with their transitions into the eternity and glory of the Messiah's kingdom.

**DANIEL 7:19**

**19 THEN I WOULD KNOW THE TRUTH OF THE FOURTH BEAST, WHICH WAS DIVERSE FROM ALL THE OTHERS, EXCEEDING DREADFUL, WHOSE TEETH WERE OF IRON, AND HIS NAILS OF BRASS; WHICH DEVoured, BRAKE IN PIECES, AND STAMPED THE RESIDUE WITH HIS FEET;**

Daniel requested more information about the fourth beast since it seemed to be so different from the other three. Daniel asked God to share with him more about how it fit into the overall vision.

Daniel was curious about the ten horns in its head and then the little horn which had eyes. Daniel describes the fourth beast again. This time, he adds that the beast, not only had teeth of iron, but it also had claws of brass. Iron and brass denote strength.

Daniel continued to tell God what he had seen in the vision.

**DANIEL 7:20**

**20 AND OF THE TEN HORNS THAT WERE IN HIS HEAD, AND OF THE OTHER WHICH CAME UP, AND BEFORE WHOM THREE FELL; EVEN OF THAT HORN THAT HAD EYES, AND A MOUTH THAT SPAKE VERY GREAT THINGS, WHOSE LOOK WAS MORE STOUT THAN HIS FELLOWS.**

The little horn moves in and replaces three other horns by using captivating words and eloquent speech. This little horn was described as being “more stout” than the other horns. The Roman empire was represented by the fourth beast. It was the fourth empire and it was not conquered by another empire. It did almost become extinct, but some phases of it did not die out. Since Daniel was envisioning the tribulation period which is yet to occur and the Roman Empire at the same time, there apparently is going to be a restoration of the Roman Empire during the tribulation period. This seems to indicate that the anti-christ, the little horn, may come from the revised Roman Empire.

**DANIEL 7:21-22**

**21 I BEHELD, AND THE SAME HORN MADE WAR WITH THE SAINTS, AND PREVAILED AGAINST THEM;  
22 UNTIL THE ANCIENT OF DAYS CAME, AND JUDGMENT WAS GIVEN TO THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH; AND THE TIME CAME THAT THE SAINTS POSSESSED THE KINGDOM.**

Notice that Daniel declared that God saw to it that the saints received justice. Also, remember that the saints do not participate in the judgment process, only God does the judging in this situation. They just enter into heaven after they leave this earth. Then God responds to Daniel.

**DANIEL 7:23**

**23 THUS HE SAID, THE FOURTH BEAST SHALL BE THE FOURTH KINGDOM UPON EARTH, WHICH SHALL BE DIVERSE FROM ALL KINGDOMS, AND SHALL DEVOUR THE WHOLE EARTH, AND SHALL TREAD IT DOWN, AND BREAK IT IN PIECES.**

The Hebrew language places emphasis on “shall devour” rather than on “the whole earth.” God is saying that the method used to take over everything is more to be noted than the amount of territory he controlled. This goes along with the breaking and stamping that has already been mentioned. This indicates a devastating and destructive energy, without the idea of conquering.

**DANIEL 7:24**

**24 AND THE TEN HORNS OUT OF THIS KINGDOM ARE TEN KINGS THAT SHALL ARISE: AND ANOTHER SHALL RISE AFTER THEM; AND HE SHALL BE DIVERSE FROM THE FIRST, AND HE SHALL SUBDUE THREE KINGS.**

Here we are not talking about ten kings from ten different kingdoms, but ten horns or kings come out of this one kingdom. It may be that Syria, Poland, Egypt, Hungary, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Germany, France, Spain, and England will bind together to make up this revised kingdom.

In verse 8, we were told that the little horn would definitely be a human. Just as the Roman Empire was totally different from the Babylonian Empire, so is the anti-christ totally different from his predecessors. This is especially true in his conduct attitude toward God and the saints which in the end of the tribulation period be to his disadvantage. The anti-christ up roots three kings through degradation and takes their place.

**DANIEL 7:25**

**25 AND HE SHALL SPEAK GREAT WORDS AGAINST THE MOST HIGH, AND SHALL WEAR OUT THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH, AND THINK TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAWS: AND THEY SHALL BE GIVEN INTO HIS HAND UNTIL A TIME AND TIMES AND THE DIVIDING OF TIME.**

The anti-christ blasphems God. This is nothing new. The anti-christ spirit has been in the world for ages. We can see evidence of this among the leaders of today's world. Changing the times and laws are nothing new either. That which is good is now call bad and that which is bad is called good. This is the result of the anti-christ spirit being present. His purpose for such changes is to divert individuals from godliness to worldliness. The term "political correctness" is to remove God from society. According to this verse, the word "time" refers to a year. "Times" denotes two years and "dividing of time" denotes ½ year. The time is 3 ½ years which refers to the last half of the seven years of tribulation, better known as the Great Tribulation.

**DANIEL 7:25**

**26 BUT THE JUDGMENT SHALL SIT, AND THEY SHALL TAKE AWAY HIS DOMINION, TO CONSUME AND TO DESTROY IT UNTO THE END.**

God will then call a halt to the persecution of the Jewish saints. He will bring an end to the last God-opposed world-power, which marks the end of the heathen world-power as a whole. God will then erect His kingdom here on earth.

**DANIEL 7:27-28**

**27 AND THE KINGDOM AND DOMINION, AND THE GREATNESS OF THE KINGDOM UNDER THE WHOLE HEAVEN, SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH, WHOSE KINGDOM IS AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM, AND ALL DOMINIONS SHALL SERVE AND OBEY HIM.**

**28 HITHERTO IS THE END OF THE MATTER. AS FOR ME DANIEL, MY COGITATIONS MUCH TROUBLED ME, AND MY COUNTENANCE CHANGED IN ME: BUT I KEPT THE MATTER IN MY HEART.**

Chapter 8 talks about another vision of Daniel. Remember the four world empires: Babylonian, Medes and Persians, Greek, and Roman. In Daniel's first vision, there seemingly was an indication that someday there would be a revival of the Roman Empire and would be under the rule of the anti-christ. Here in chapter 8, Daniel experiences a second vision—notice it is not called a dream. Daniel saw himself in Shushan, formerly a Babylonian city, but was now controlled by the Medes and Persians. They had made it their capital city of the province Elam. Daniel found himself standing at the Ulai River which bordered the city.

This is different from the first vision. The first vision had taken Daniel to a place in the air above the earth. This time the vision is taking place on the earth. From Daniel's description of the place, he must have been literally taken there by the Spirit of God.

**DANIEL 8:3-4**

**3 THEN I LIFTED UP MINE EYES, AND SAW, AND, BEHOLD, THERE STOOD BEFORE THE RIVER A RAM WHICH HAD TWO HORNS: AND THE TWO HORNS WERE HIGH; BUT ONE WAS HIGHER THAN THE OTHER, AND THE HIGHER CAME UP LAST.**

**4 I SAW THE RAM PUSHING WESTWARD, AND NORTHWARD, AND SOUTHWARD; SO THAT NO BEASTS MIGHT STAND BEFORE HIM, NEITHER WAS THERE ANY THAT COULD DELIVER OUT OF HIS HAND; BUT HE DID ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, AND BECAME GREAT.**

Looking around, Daniel was surprised to see a ram also standing at the gate. This was a single ram which is unusual because they usually are in a flock. In this case the ram represented the Persian monarchy. The ram had two huge horns, one bigger than the other, but the bigger horn was the last to appear. This indicates that the empire was still growing. The horns also indicate that the empire had weapons with which to fight. The bigger horn represented a ruler by the name of Cyrus. He was powerful. He forced the Medes to yield totally to him, making them to assume the second place in power and dignity. Daniel watched as the ram charged: first west, then north, then south, conquering as he went. The river was to the East. The ram did not go into the river. That was the direction of his own territory. No beast could stand up to him. He did just as he pleased, strutting as if he were king of the beasts.

**DANIEL 8:5-7**

**5 AND AS I WAS CONSIDERING, BEHOLD, AN HE GOAT CAME FROM THE WEST ON THE FACE OF THE WHOLE EARTH, AND TOUCHED NOT THE GROUND: AND THE GOAT HAD A NOTABLE HORN BETWEEN HIS EYES.**

**6 AND HE CAME TO THE RAM THAT HAD TWO HORNS, WHICH I HAD THERE SEEN STANDING BEFORE THE RIVER, AND RAN UNTO HIM IN THE FURY OF HIS POWER.**

**7 AND I SAW HIM COME CLOSE UNTO THE RAM, AND HE WAS MOVED WITH CHOLER AGAINST HIM, AND SMOTE THE RAM, AND BRAKE HIS TWO HORNS: AND THERE WAS NO POWER IN THE RAM TO STAND BEFORE HIM, BUT HE CAST HIM DOWN TO THE GROUND, AND STAMPED UPON HIM: AND THERE WAS NONE THAT COULD DELIVER THE RAM OUT OF HIS HAND.**

Daniel saw a he-goat with an immense horn in the middle of its forehead come up out of the west and fly across the whole country, not once touching the ground. This he-goat or billy goat, as we would call it, represented the Grecian Empire. The billy goat approached the double-horned ram that I had earlier seen standing at the gate and, enraged, charged it viciously. It charged the ram and hit it so hard that it broke off its two horns. The billy goat knocked the ram to the ground and stomped all over it. Nothing could have protected the ram from the goat. Cyrus was the last ruler of the Medes and Persian Empire.

**DANIEL 8:8-12**

**8 THEREFORE THE HE GOAT WAXED VERY GREAT: AND WHEN HE WAS STRONG, THE GREAT HORN WAS BROKEN; AND FOR IT CAME UP FOUR NOTABLE ONES TOWARD THE FOUR WINDS OF HEAVEN.**

**9 AND OUT OF ONE OF THEM CAME FORTH A LITTLE HORN, WHICH WAXED EXCEEDING GREAT, TOWARD THE SOUTH, AND TOWARD THE EAST, AND TOWARD THE PLEASANT LAND.**

**10 AND IT WAXED GREAT, EVEN TO THE HOST OF HEAVEN; AND IT CAST DOWN SOME OF THE HOST AND OF THE STARS TO THE GROUND, AND STAMPED UPON THEM.**

**11 YEA, HE MAGNIFIED HIMSELF EVEN TO THE PRINCE OF THE HOST, AND BY HIM THE DAILY SACRIFICE WAS TAKEN AWAY, AND THE PLACE OF HIS SANCTUARY WAS CAST DOWN.**

**12 AND AN HOST WAS GIVEN HIM AGAINST THE DAILY SACRIFICE BY REASON OF TRANSGRESSION, AND IT CAST DOWN THE TRUTH TO THE GROUND; AND IT PRACTISED, AND PROSPERED.**

The billy goat grew to a humongous size. Alexander the Great was that big horn on the goat. At the height of its power its immense horn broke off. Alexander the Great died at a time when his power was at its greatest point. Four other big horns sprouted in its place, pointing to the four points of the compass. The Greek Empire was divided into four parts and was led by four rulers, none of whom compared to Alexander. And then from one of these big horns another horn sprouted. It started small, but then grew to an enormous size, facing south and east — toward lovely Palestine. The horn grew tall, reaching to the stars, the heavenly army, and threw some of the stars to the earth and stomped on them. It even



dared to challenge the power of God. Then it stopped the daily worship and desecrated the Sanctuary.

As judgment against their sin, the holy people of God got the same treatment as the daily worship. The horn cast God's Truth aside. It violently took over everything and everybody.

**DANIEL 8:13-16**

**13 THEN I HEARD ONE SAINT SPEAKING, AND ANOTHER SAINT SAID UNTO THAT CERTAIN SAINT WHICH SPAKE, HOW LONG SHALL BE THE VISION CONCERNING THE DAILY SACRIFICE, AND THE TRANSGRESSION OF DESOLATION, TO GIVE BOTH THE SANCTUARY AND THE HOST TO BE TRODDEN UNDER FOOT?**

**14 AND HE SAID UNTO ME, UNTO TWO THOUSAND AND THREE HUNDRED DAYS; THEN SHALL THE SANCTUARY BE CLEANSED.**

**15 AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN I, EVEN I DANIEL, HAD SEEN THE VISION, AND SOUGHT FOR THE MEANING, THEN, BEHOLD, THERE STOOD BEFORE ME AS THE APPEARANCE OF A MAN.**

**16 AND I HEARD A MAN'S VOICE BETWEEN THE BANKS OF ULAI, WHICH CALLED, AND SAID, GABRIEL, MAKE THIS MAN TO UNDERSTAND THE VISION.**

Daniel was able to hear two holy angels talking. At first Daniel could not understand what they were saying, but then the conversation became clear to him. One angel questioned as to how long what they were seeing going to last — the abolishing of daily worship. The angel went on to ask when would there be judgment against sin and the abuse of God's holy people and the Sanctuary.

The other angel included Daniel in the conversation by giving the answer to Daniel. He did not give a particular time for the end, but he declared that the Sanctuary and its services would be set right again after 2,300 sacrifices had been omitted.

Suddenly there was a humanlike figure standing before Daniel. A man's voice from over by the Ulai Canal told Gabriel to tell Daniel what all this meant. The name Gabriel means “man of God.”

**DANIEL 8:17-19**

**17 SO HE CAME NEAR WHERE I STOOD: AND WHEN HE CAME, I WAS AFRAID, AND FELL UPON MY FACE: BUT HE SAID UNTO ME, UNDERSTAND, O SON OF MAN: FOR AT THE TIME OF THE END SHALL BE THE VISION.**

**18 NOW AS HE WAS SPEAKING WITH ME, I WAS IN A DEEP SLEEP ON MY FACE TOWARD THE GROUND: BUT HE TOUCHED ME, AND SET ME UPRIGHT.**

**19 AND HE SAID, BEHOLD, I WILL MAKE THEE KNOW WHAT SHALL BE IN THE LAST END OF THE INDIGNATION: FOR AT THE TIME APPOINTED THE END SHALL BE.**

Gabriel stood beside Daniel, causing Daniel to become afraid. So, Daniel fell face down on the ground and went into a deep sleep. He, however, was still able to hear the angel who explained that this vision has to do with the final period of the earthly history. Needless to say, these words were not comforting to Daniel. Then the angel set Daniel up and continued

to tell him that this vision regarded judgment and that there was an appointed time for all of this to end.

**DANIEL 8:20-26**

**20 THE RAM WHICH THOU SAWEST HAVING TWO HORNS ARE THE KINGS OF MEDIA AND PERSIA.**

**21 AND THE ROUGH GOAT IS THE KING OF GRECIA: AND THE GREAT HORN THAT IS BETWEEN HIS EYES IS THE FIRST KING.**

**22 NOW THAT BEING BROKEN, WHEREAS FOUR STOOD UP FOR IT, FOUR KINGDOMS SHALL STAND UP OUT OF THE NATION, BUT NOT IN HIS POWER.**

**23 AND IN THE LATTER TIME OF THEIR KINGDOM, WHEN THE TRANSGRESSORS ARE COME TO THE FULL, A KING OF FIERCE COUNTENANCE, AND UNDERSTANDING DARK SENTENCES, SHALL STAND UP.**

**24 AND HIS POWER SHALL BE MIGHTY, BUT NOT BY HIS OWN POWER: AND HE SHALL DESTROY WONDERFULLY, AND SHALL PROSPER, AND PRACTISE, AND SHALL DESTROY THE MIGHTY AND THE HOLY PEOPLE.**

**25 AND THROUGH HIS POLICY ALSO HE SHALL CAUSE CRAFT TO PROSPER IN HIS HAND; AND HE SHALL MAGNIFY HIMSELF IN HIS HEART, AND BY PEACE SHALL DESTROY MANY: HE SHALL ALSO STAND UP AGAINST THE PRINCE OF PRINCES; BUT HE SHALL BE BROKEN WITHOUT HAND.**

**26 AND THE VISION OF THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WHICH WAS TOLD IS TRUE: WHEREFORE SHUT THOU UP THE VISION; FOR IT SHALL BE FOR MANY DAYS.**

As you know this is talking about the anti-christ. Although he will be empowered by satan and control the world for seven years, there will come a time when he will be smashed to bits — but not by human hands. Daniel was told that it was going to be a long time before this would happen, so it was not to be published immediately. The Old Testament Scriptures refer to such event as far off. The New Testament Scriptures refer to the same events as being near at hand.

**DAN 8:27**

**27 AND I DANIEL FAINTED, AND WAS SICK CERTAIN DAYS; AFTERWARD I ROSE UP, AND DID THE KING'S BUSINESS; AND I WAS ASTONISHED AT THE VISION, BUT NONE UNDERSTOOD IT.**

In chapter 9, verse 26 notes that the Messiah would be killed.

**DANIEL 9:1**

**1 IN 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;**

Darius, son of Ahasuerus, born a Mede, became king over the land of Babylon.

**DANIEL 9:2**

**2 IN THE FIRST YEAR OF HIS REIGN I DANIEL UNDERSTOOD BY BOOKS THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS, WHEREOF THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO JEREMIAH THE PROPHET, THAT HE WOULD ACCOMPLISH SEVENTY YEARS IN THE DESOLATIONS OF JERUSALEM.**

Based on the Word of God given to the prophet Jeremiah, Daniel realized that Jerusalem would lie in ruins for seventy years.

**JEREMIAH 25:11-12**

**11 AND THIS WHOLE LAND SHALL BE A DESOLATION, AND AN ASTONISHMENT; AND THESE NATIONS SHALL SERVE THE KING OF BABYLON SEVENTY YEARS.**

**12 AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, WHEN SEVENTY YEARS ARE ACCOMPLISHED, THAT I WILL PUNISH THE KING OF BABYLON, AND THAT NATION, SAITH THE LORD, FOR THEIR INIQUITY, AND THE LAND OF THE CHALDEANS, AND WILL MAKE IT PERPETUAL DESOLATIONS.**

**JEREMIAH 29:10**

**10 FOR THUS SAITH THE LORD, THAT AFTER SEVENTY YEARS BE ACCOMPLISHED AT BABYLON I WILL VISIT YOU, AND PERFORM MY GOOD WORD TOWARD YOU, IN CAUSING YOU TO RETURN TO THIS PLACE.**

These seventy years began in 606 BC, the time of the first conquest of Judea by Nebuchadnezzar, and ended with Cyrus in 536 BC.

**DANIEL 9:3**

**3 AND I SET MY FACE UNTO THE LORD GOD, TO SEEK BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION, WITH FASTING, AND SACKCLOTH, AND ASHES:**

Daniel turned heavenward to the Master God, asking for an answer — praying earnestly, fasting from meals, wearing rough burlap, and kneeling in the ashes. He desperately and fervently pleaded for the mercy of God.

**DANIEL 9:4**

**4 AND I PRAYED UNTO THE LORD MY GOD, AND MADE MY CONFESSION, AND SAID, O LORD, THE GREAT AND DREADFUL GOD, KEEPING THE COVENANT AND MERCY TO THEM THAT LOVE HIM, AND TO THEM THAT KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS;**

Daniel's heart hurt as he thought about the sufferings of his people how long the captivity was going to last. This is what had led him to meditate on the writings of Jeremiah. This is what prompted him to pray so earnestly. He reminded God that He never gives up on those who love the Lord and does what He says.

**DANIEL 9:5**

**5 WE HAVE SINNED, AND HAVE COMMITTED INIQUITY, AND HAVE DONE WICKEDLY, AND HAVE REBELLED, EVEN BY DEPARTING FROM THY PRECEPTS AND FROM THY JUDGMENTS:**

Daniel acknowledge that God's people had sinned in every way imaginable—done evil things, rebelled--straying from the will of God.

**DANIEL 9:6-10**

**6 NEITHER HAVE WE HEARKENED UNTO THY SERVANTS THE PROPHETS, WHICH SPAKE IN THY NAME TO OUR KINGS, OUR PRINCES, AND OUR FATHERS, AND TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND.**

**7 O LORD, RIGHTEOUSNESS BELONGETH UNTO THEE, BUT UNTO US CONFUSION OF FACES, AS AT THIS DAY; TO THE MEN OF JUDAH, AND TO THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM, AND UNTO ALL ISRAEL, THAT ARE NEAR, AND THAT ARE FAR OFF, THROUGH ALL THE COUNTRIES WHITHER THOU HAST DRIVEN THEM, BECAUSE OF THEIR TRESPASS THAT THEY HAVE TRESPASSED AGAINST THEE.**

**8 O LORD, TO US BELONGETH CONFUSION OF FACE, TO OUR KINGS, TO OUR PRINCES, AND TO OUR FATHERS, BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST THEE.**

**9 TO THE LORD OUR GOD BELONG MERCIES AND FORGIVENESSES, THOUGH WE HAVE REBELLED AGAINST HIM;**

**10 NEITHER HAVE WE OBEYED THE VOICE OF THE LORD OUR GOD, TO WALK IN HIS LAWS, WHICH HE SET BEFORE US BY HIS SERVANTS THE PROPHETS.**

Daniel is saying to Almighty God that He has done everything right, but His people are in desperate need of His mercy due to their rebellion. They have turned their backs of the Word of God that had been given to them by the prophets.

**DANIEL 9:11-14**

**11 YEA, ALL ISRAEL HAVE TRANSGRESSED THY LAW, EVEN BY DEPARTING, THAT THEY MIGHT NOT OBEY THY VOICE; THEREFORE THE CURSE IS Poured UPON US, AND THE OATH THAT IS WRITTEN IN THE LAW OF MOSES THE SERVANT OF GOD, BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST HIM.**

**12 AND HE HATH CONFIRMED HIS WORDS, WHICH HE SPAKE AGAINST US, AND AGAINST OUR JUDGES THAT JUDGED US, BY BRINGING UPON US A GREAT EVIL: FOR UNDER THE WHOLE HEAVEN HATH NOT BEEN DONE AS HATH BEEN DONE UPON JERUSALEM.**

**13 AS IT IS WRITTEN IN THE LAW OF MOSES, ALL THIS EVIL IS COME UPON US: YET MADE WE NOT OUR PRAYER BEFORE THE LORD OUR GOD, THAT WE MIGHT TURN FROM OUR INIQUITIES, AND UNDERSTAND THY TRUTH.**

**14 THEREFORE HATH THE LORD WATCHED UPON THE EVIL, AND BROUGHT IT UPON US: FOR THE LORD OUR GOD IS RIGHTEOUS IN ALL HIS WORKS WHICH HE DOETH: FOR WE OBEYED NOT HIS VOICE.**

Daniel is declaring God's people had broken their oath to God and now they are paying for it. They had not heeded God's warnings, so He had no choice except to bring judgment upon them. That, however, does not mean that God had given up on His people. It was still His will to bless them rather than having to reprove them.

**DANIEL 9:15-19**

**15 AND NOW, O LORD OUR GOD, THAT HAST BROUGHT THY PEOPLE FORTH OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT WITH A MIGHTY HAND, AND HAST GOTTEN THEE RENOWN, AS AT THIS DAY; WE HAVE SINNED, WE HAVE DONE WICKEDLY.**

**16 O LORD, ACCORDING TO ALL THY RIGHTEOUSNESS, I BESEECH THEE, LET THINE ANGER AND THY FURY BE TURNED AWAY FROM THY CITY JERUSALEM, THY HOLY MOUNTAIN: BECAUSE FOR OUR SINS, AND FOR THE INIQUITIES OF OUR FATHERS, JERUSALEM AND THY PEOPLE ARE BECOME A REPROACH TO ALL THAT ARE ABOUT US.**

**17 NOW THEREFORE, O OUR GOD, HEAR THE PRAYER OF THY SERVANT, AND HIS SUPPLICATIONS, AND CAUSE THY FACE TO SHINE UPON THY SANCTUARY THAT IS DESOLATE, FOR THE LORD'S SAKE.**

**18 O MY GOD, INCLINE THINE EAR, AND HEAR; OPEN THINE EYES, AND BEHOLD OUR DESOLATIONS, AND THE CITY WHICH IS CALLED BY THY NAME: FOR WE DO NOT PRESENT OUR SUPPLICATIONS BEFORE THEE FOR OUR RIGHTEOUSNESSES, BUT FOR THY GREAT MERCIES.**

**19 O LORD, HEAR; O LORD, FORGIVE; O LORD, HEARKEN AND DO; DEFER NOT, FOR THINE OWN SAKE, O MY GOD: FOR THY CITY AND THY PEOPLE ARE CALLED BY THY NAME.**

Daniel prayed that God would deliver His children once again just as He had delivered them out of Egypt—this time out of Babylon. He wanted God to forgive them and restore Jerusalem. He asked God to accept and answer His prayer. He told God that rebuilding the Sanctuary would not only be for the welfare of His people, but that it would also be for His own sake. Daniel, through faith, had humbled himself at the feet of God. He asked God to hear his prayer and look upon the ruined city and what it could be with His presence within it.

**DANIEL 9:20-27**

**20 AND WHILE I WAS SPEAKING, AND PRAYING, AND CONFESSING MY SIN AND THE SIN OF MY PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND PRESENTING MY SUPPLICATION BEFORE THE LORD MY GOD FOR THE HOLY MOUNTAIN OF MY GOD;**

**21 YEA, WHILE I WAS SPEAKING IN PRAYER, EVEN THE MAN GABRIEL, WHOM I HAD SEEN IN THE VISION AT THE BEGINNING, BEING CAUSED TO FLY SWIFTLY, TOUCHED ME ABOUT THE TIME OF THE EVENING OBLATION.**

**22 AND HE INFORMED ME, AND TALKED WITH ME, AND SAID, O DANIEL, I AM NOW COME FORTH TO GIVE THEE SKILL AND UNDERSTANDING.**

**23 AT THE BEGINNING OF THY SUPPLICATIONS THE COMMANDMENT CAME FORTH, AND I AM COME TO SHEW THEE; FOR THOU ART GREATLY BELOVED: THEREFORE UNDERSTAND THE MATTER, AND CONSIDER THE VISION.**

**24 SEVENTY WEEKS ARE DETERMINED UPON THY PEOPLE AND UPON THY HOLY CITY, TO FINISH THE TRANSGRESSION, AND TO MAKE AN END OF SINS, AND TO MAKE RECONCILIATION FOR INIQUITY, AND TO BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND TO SEAL UP THE VISION AND PROPHECY, AND TO ANOINT THE MOST HOLY.**

**25 KNOW THEREFORE AND UNDERSTAND, THAT FROM THE GOING FORTH OF THE COMMANDMENT TO RESTORE AND TO BUILD JERUSALEM UNTO THE MESSIAH THE PRINCE SHALL BE SEVEN WEEKS, AND THREESCORE AND TWO WEEKS: THE STREET SHALL BE BUILT AGAIN, AND THE WALL, EVEN IN TROUBLOUS TIMES.**

**26 AND AFTER THREESCORE AND TWO WEEKS SHALL MESSIAH BE CUT OFF, BUT NOT FOR HIMSELF: AND THE PEOPLE OF THE PRINCE THAT SHALL COME SHALL DESTROY THE CITY AND THE SANCTUARY; AND THE END THEREOF SHALL BE WITH A FLOOD, AND UNTO THE END OF THE WAR DESOLATIONS ARE DETERMINED.**

**27 AND HE SHALL CONFIRM THE COVENANT WITH MANY FOR ONE WEEK: AND IN THE MIDST OF THE WEEK HE SHALL CAUSE THE SACRIFICE AND THE OBLATION TO CEASE, AND FOR THE OVERSPREADING OF ABOMINATIONS HE SHALL MAKE IT DESOLATE, EVEN UNTIL THE CONSUMMATION, AND THAT DETERMINED SHALL BE Poured UPON THE DESOLATE.**

The Jewish people were familiar with referring to time in this manner. The Mosaic Law had declared that every seventh year was to be designated as a Sabbath of the land. So Gabriel told Daniel that there will be 70 seven years periods of time or 490 years appointed for his people and for the Holy City to quit rebellion, stop sinning, set things right forever, confirm what the prophet saw, and anoint The Holy of Holies. God showed Daniel that the refining judgments of Israel would come to an end, and their acceptance of the Messiah would bring in everlasting righteousness. This prophecy provides a time frame for prediction from the time of Daniel to the establishing of the millennial kingdom. It also establishes the fact that God is not finished with Israel as a nation. In fact, Israel was God's prophetic clock for the whole world.

Since Daniel had been studying the work of Jeremiah, it is obvious that this seventy weeks explained by Gabriel is connected with what Jeremiah had described. The Jewish calendar has 360-day years. The weeks of years began with the commandment by Artaxerxes in 445 B.C. to restore Jerusalem. For a chronological statement see verse 25 above. The years are divided as: (1) Seven sevens or forty-nine years taking us from Artaxerxes' decree to the giving of Nehemiah and the covenant renewal celebration at Jerusalem. Actually, this was a prediction as to how long it would take to rebuild Jerusalem.

(2) Sixty-two sevens or 434 years taking us from the dedication of the second temple to the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(3) The total of (1) and (2) is 483. According to Daniel this is when the Messiah is to come. That leaves one seven or seven years.

**As you know this seventieth week is yet to take place. It is during this seventieth week that the little horn will arise to power. The city and Sanctuary will again be laid in ruins by the army of the newly arriving leader. Then for one seven, he will forge many and strong alliances. National Israel will enter into a covenant with the little horn, the revived Roman Empire prince. Daniel witnessed this taking place in his alarming vision described in the previous chapter. Halfway through the seven, the anti-christ will banish worship and prayers. At the place of worship, a desecrating obscenity will be set up—an image of the anti-christ. This abomination of desolation will remain until finally the desecrator himself is decisively destroyed by the King of all Kings—our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

**Daniel prospered during the reign of Cyrus the Persian. Cyrus, in 539 B. C. issued a decree permitting the return of the Jews to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Daniel wrote in 538 B. C. about a vision that he had of the Glorious Appearing of Jesus at His second coming.**

**DANIEL 10:5-6**

**5 THEN I LIFTED UP MINE EYES, AND LOOKED, AND BEHOLD A CERTAIN MAN CLOTHED IN LINEN, WHOSE LOINS WERE GIRDED WITH FINE GOLD OF UPHAZ:**

**6 HIS BODY ALSO WAS LIKE THE BERYL, AND HIS FACE AS THE APPEARANCE OF LIGHTNING, AND HIS EYES AS LAMPS OF FIRE, AND HIS ARMS AND HIS FEET LIKE IN COLOUR TO POLISHED BRASS, AND THE VOICE OF HIS WORDS LIKE THE VOICE OF A MULTITUDE.**

**The last known event in the life of Daniel took place in the third year of Cyrus. The year was 526 B. C. He was granted the overpowering vision of the archangel Michael contending with the demonic powers of pagan society; of the course of world history, through the persecutions of Antiochus IV; and the eschatological antichrist, the resurrections, and God final judgment. The vision concluded with the assurance that though Daniel would come to his grave prior to these events he would yet receive his appointed reward in the consummation.**