

Note

Daniel – Part 1 & 2

Era	Characters	Chapters
In the beginning	God created the world.	Genesis 1
Before 4000 BC	Adam & Eve	Gen 1~5
Before 3000 BC	Cain Abel Seth	Gen 4~5
Before 2500 BC	Noah	Gen 5~10
Before 2100 BC	Job Elihu	Job
About 2000 BC Era of Patriarchs	Abraham Isaac & Ishmael Jacob & Esau Joseph	Gen 11~50
About 1500 BC~ 1000 BC Era of prophets	Moses Aaron Joshua	Exo Lev Num Deu
	Joshua	Joshua
	Judges(Othniel Ehud Shamgar Deborah Gideon Tola Jair Jephthah Ibzan Elon Abdon Samson) Abimelech	Judges
	Ruth Boaz Naomi	Ruth
	Eli Samuel Saul David	1 Samuel
About 1000 BC Era of princes	Saul Jonathan David Absalom Solomon	1 Samuel 2 Samuel
	Solomon Jeroboam Rehoboam Ahab Elijah Elisha Jehu	1 kings
	Ahab Hezekiah Manasseh Josiah Elisha Jehu	2 kings
	Saul David Solomon	1 Chronicles
	Solomon Rehoboam Asa Jehoshaphat Jehoram Joash Hezekiah Josiah	2 Chronicles
About 500 BC Era of priests	Zerubbabel Ezra Nehemiah Haggai Zechariah	Ezra Nehemiah
	Esther Mordecai Haman Ahasuerus	Esther
	Isaiah Ahaz Hezekiah	Isaiah
	Jeremiah Baruch Zedekiah	Jeremiah
	Jeremiah	Lamentation
	Ezekiel	Ezekiel
	Daniel Nebuchadnezzar Belshazzar	Daniel 

Summary

Daniel - Part 1 of 24

Daniel's main theme: Good and bad kingdoms will come and go, but God's eternal kingdom will come eventually and we will live there forever. The book also contains three sub-themes.

Sub-theme 1: Faithfulness

Daniel contains three stories of faithfulness: 1) Daniel and friends refused to eat the food of the pagans; 2) Daniel's friends refused to bow to the idol; 3) Daniel refused to pray to the king. In each story, they suffer but are ultimately blessed. They were willing to make a stand for God and eventually come out on top. So be faithful and purpose in your heart to do right and be faithful in the little things, and you will be able to face lions.

Sub-theme 2: Suffering because of arrogant kings

Nebuchadnezzar thinks he is a god. Belshazzar drinks from God's vessels. In both cases, God strikes them down for their arrogance.

Sub-theme 3: The eternal kingdom

From the visions, we know that eventually, God's eternal kingdom will come.

Daniel - Part 2 of 215

In Daniel's first vision, one of the last beast's horns was a Syrian General, Antiochus Epiphanes. The second vision refers to Alexander the Great. Both preceded Christ's First Coming. Like how Daniel was worried about what was going to happen, many Christians debate about Christ's Second Coming.

However, Daniel tells us that the words are sealed until the end of time, therefore, this book is not for us to discuss the things to come. We only need to know that Christ will come again and some will join Him in everlasting life, while others will go to everlasting contempt. Our focus should, thus, be on making disciples of all nations.

Also, though we may struggle on Earth, we have an allotted place in God's eternal kingdom. Hence, we have peace amidst the world's turmoil, as we continue doing God's will and serving Him to the best of our abilities.

Transcript

Daniel – Part 1 of 2

Today we come to the book of Daniel.

It's a very strange book in the sense that it's a very familiar book. Every Sunday school kid knows Daniel in the lion's den and the stories. And yet, it's a very unfamiliar book, because the prophecies in the second part of Daniel baffle Christians. So in one sense, easy book, in another sense, almost totally impossible to understand without spiritual understanding.

The first part of the book of Daniel is about his life. The second part is about his visions or dreams, which are prophetic. This book is often said to be the key to biblical prophecy. If you know some of the principles, it will help you understand prophecy.

This book is written in two languages. Only two books in the Bible are written in two languages: Ezra and Daniel. The two languages are Aramaic and Hebrew; in these two books there are two languages.

What is Aramaic? Aramaic is the common language of that region, that whole area; can we say the global language in those days in that part of the world. Aramaic is a cousin, linguistically speaking, of Hebrew, but it's a different language. The first part, chapter 1 of this book of Daniel is written in Hebrew, and then chapter 8 to 12, the visions part, the hard to

understand part, in Hebrew again. The easy part, the stories, chapter 2 to chapter 7, are written in Aramaic. What's the purpose? I don't know, maybe the Aramaic part, let the public read it. The people in those days wanted to read what Daniel wrote, they would understand the Aramaic part because there was no translated Bible. And so the Aramaic Bible is very interesting: Daniel's life. But the prophecy part is in Hebrew. The non-Hebrews could not read it, you couldn't understand it if you were not a child of God, and you couldn't care less anyway. So please don't ask a non-believer to read the prophecy part of Daniel, you will just totally confuse him.

Before we go into the nit and grit and confuse ourselves, let's see the big theme of the book of Daniel. The big theme is Kingdoms. God allows kingdoms to rise and to fall. Ultimately, every kingdom goes through the same cycle. God allows it to rise-when men have power, they have pride, and in pride they become cruel, they become corrupt, and they cause misery to their people, and then God brings them down and brings another one up. We study the dynasties in Chinese history-they start pretty well, then after a while, they go into that cycle of corruption and power and cruelty, etc, and then God brings them down. So, basically, the theme is ultimately all human kingdoms are going to fail us. But at the end of time, there will be one kingdom-God's kingdom. That's what this book is all about. So many kingdoms here, you see, every dream is about different kingdoms coming up, rising, and another one replaces it and then at the end of it all, one kingdom is going to come up. And that is God's kingdom, bringing not pain, but peace. So I hope that you see the big picture and anytime you lose the big picture, you lose it all. God ultimately has a plan for us that we will live in the ultimate kingdom of God. Be patient!

There are sub-themes- three stories of faithfulness. In chapter 1, how Daniel and his three friends refuse to eat the food of the pagans. Chapter

3, the three friends of Daniel refuse to bow to the idol. And then lastly, chapter 6, Daniel himself refuses to pray to the king. So, you see three stories of faithfulness of God's people. And then the three stories end up with them suffering, but ultimately being blessed for their faithfulness. So that's the sub-theme: Faithfulness leads to some suffering, but ultimately, blessing.

There is a second sub-theme. It shows that suffering comes because of super arrogant kings. In chapter 4 and 5, when Nebuchadnezzar thinks that he's like God, then God has to bring him down. And then chapter 5 shows his son, Belshazzar, drinking from the holy vessels of God's temple in an orgy. Who does he think he is? God hammers them down. Then Nebuchadnezzar becomes a beast, an animal for seven days. His son gets killed that very night he fools around with God's holy vessels. So, what is this sub-theme? Sub-theme is these kings, after a while, think that they are like gods, but they become like beasts! Instead of subjecting to God, we want to be gods.

Another sub-theme is the visions. The visions show that ultimately there will come a kingdom. Ultimately, at the end of time, there will be a king and there will be an eternal kingdom - an amazing one, an enduring Kingdom, an everlasting kingdom.

So these are the three sub-themes in the big theme.

Let's look at Daniel. Who was Daniel? Daniel was a teenager, probably, when Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king, conquered Jerusalem but hadn't burned it yet. And he took the royal line, the elite of Jerusalem to Babylon. Daniel, being of the royal line, was in Babylon and God blessed

him and he served under four kings-2 Babylonian kings: Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar; and 2 Medo-Persian kings, Darius and Cyrus. So he served under four kings, two different empires. Quite unusual. Very, very rare. And he was not serving, he was a super civil servant. He was like, Prime Minister level.

Let's look at chapter 1. It tells us that the Babylonian king brought out these hostages, this royal line. And one of the purposes of the Babylonian king was to train an elite civil service because he had to rule an empire. So he wanted the best brains, very much like Singapore. We have scholarships to get all the best and brightest to Singapore. Of course you don't capture them or kidnap them. We entice them with scholarships. In those days they use a different source of getting what we call good brains, good manpower, so they get the best and brightest from different places-hostages, and then they are brought into the king's court. And they are selected from an interview, like a scholarship interview. And then Daniel and his three friends, all from the royal line, probably teenagers (that's the best time to indoctrinate) were selected. In Singapore, we give scholarships to teenagers, usually in secondary school, so that their brains becomes Singaporean and one day, hopefully they stay in Singapore and increase or give us a better genetic pool of bright people. So same thing, any wise ruler will do that.

And one of the first things they did to Daniel and his friends was to change their names. You'll find the name Daniel, ends with 'el' - that's God. Mishael, another 'el'. And two of them ended with 'ah' - Hananiah, Azariah. That is Yahovah (Jehovah). Basically, they changed their names from the names of their God to the names of Babylonian gods. So they have new names. Daniel became Belteshazzar, which is the name of a Babylonian god and all the others also. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are all names of Babylonian gods. The idea was to give them a new identity, their

loyalty now is to Babylon. They never protested that. What's in a name anyway? You can call me anything you like. That's your choice, right?

But when they were put into the college, this elite school, to be trained, one of the things was their diet. They wanted them to look impressive, big and strong guys, so there was lots of meat and the best food. But being Jews, they couldn't eat food that was not kosher, was not killed according to Jewish law, animals had to be killed in a certain way and certain animals could not be eaten too. But when they were offered the food, they said, "No, we cannot eat this food". They didn't bother with their change of names but with the food, they said, "No, no, no, we can't eat this food". So they negotiated with the chief, the one in-charge of their training. And they said, "Can we eat our own food? We can't eat the meat because it's not killed according to our laws. And can we just eat veggies?" At least that's safe, so they wanted to eat beans. And so the supervisor was a bit nervous, and he said, "Now if I allow you to do that, you would look skinny and scrawny, how you are going to stand before the king, I will be in deep trouble. Not only must you be trained mentally, culturally, but look good". But they negotiated and said, "Give us 10 days". That's a very short time. I mean, it's almost like a miracle and 10 days later you decide whether we look better than the other guys. I mean, how do you change your looks in 10 days? Ask any guy that goes to a gym, he will tell you it's not possible. But after 10 days, the guy comes back and he says, "My goodness, you guys look better". Basically, they wanted them to be fleshy-old culture. We have a new culture, we want to be skinny. All old cultures love to be pudgy; show that you are prosperous. So, it worked out. And you know what? At the end of it, it's like the end of their course, they went for an interview with the king, and they were found to be 10 times better than all the rest. Imagine that you aced your exam, your civil service examination and you go into the elite Administrative Service. What is the lesson here? They were willing to make a stand for God, thinking that it will, maybe, cause them to be kicked out of the school but on the other hand they became the top students. So be faithful in the little things. They purposed in their heart. It says Daniel purposed in his heart that "I will do right". When you have a

choice, do right and be faithful to stand in little things. Then one day, he can stand before the lions.

Chapter two - Now they're all in the elite civil service. And one day, Nebuchadnezzar has a crazy night; he cannot sleep. He has a horrible dream. He wakes up and forgot his dream. That's quite common. He's very troubled, he needs to know this dream because it's definitely something that troubled him. And, in his mind, something very important. He calls all his wise men, all these best and brightest, and says, "Hey, I want you to tell me my dream and the interpretation". All the wise men say, "What are you talking about? It's impossible. No king has ever asked this. You tell us your dream. And then we can interpret your dreams." Nebuchadnezzar is like Hitler. He's a monster. He says, "No, you're just buying time because I can't remember it. If you don't tell me my dream, I'll kill all of you". So, when the executioner had to give the news, including Daniel and his friends, he was told that the King has gone mad, the king is going to kill all of you because if you can't tell his dream, all the wise men, the entire civil service, the elite would be killed. Then Daniel says, "Let me pray". So he calls his three friends and they prayed, and you know what? God shows him the dream and the interpretation. So he stands before the king, and he says, the God of heaven has told me this. This is your dream. And what was the dream? It was about a massive statue. Nebuchadnezzar says, "Yes, that's my dream. What does it mean?" The statue has a head of gold; breast, chest, arms-silver; belly and the thighs-brass; legs, lower legs-iron, reaches down to the toes of mixed iron and clay. What in the world is this statue? A massive statue. And Daniel says, "These are the kingdoms that will come. The head of gold is you." Babylon was a glorious empire, very gorgeous: the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Babylon was by the beautiful rivers and everything was perfect, "glorious" is the word. Gold is glorious, impressive. The second would be chest to arms. That would be the Medo Persian Empire. It's good but it's not as glorious as yours-silver. The third Empire: Very powerful- Greek, Alexander the Great: he never built any great city like Babylon but he conquered a lot. And then the last one-iron- the Roman empire. Nebuchadnezzar is impressed, he elevates Daniel to

be the Prime Minister. And Daniel then asks his friends to help him to rule Babylon, and Nebuchadnezzar says, "Your God, He must be the God of gods".

Now, what is Daniel saying? He says, "Your kingdom will be smashed one day". That's basically what he said. And the Medes thought they were big and after them, the Greeks - all smashed. Basically the theme is the same: kingdoms come, kingdoms will go. Don't be too arrogant. Don't be too impressed. If you're the king, don't be arrogant. If you're a subject, don't be too impressed or depressed, depends on which way you look at it. So that was how he was elevated from elite service to Prime Minister level.

In chapter 3 the king gets egoistic. Instead of thinking, one day the Medo-Persians will wipe us out, he focuses on the head of gold. And then he gets so excited, he builds a golden statue - 90 feet tall, puts it on the plain so it stands out really high. And then he makes a decree that whenever the state band played, everybody had to bow to this golden idol, which is basically him. Of course, Daniel's three friends who are top civil servants now, refused to bow. And there is a decree that if anybody doesn't bow, he will be burned in the fiery furnace. So the three refused to bow and they are thrown into the furnace of fire. You see, this is the arrogance of people when they have power. And so he throws them in and he says, "Make the fire seven times hotter." But, he realises they're not dead. In fact, he somehow peeps through the door of the furnace and he sees they're walking around and there's not three of them but there's four of them walking in the fire. And one of them, it says looks like the Son of God. So must be some angelic beings. Some say it may be the pre-incarnate Christ. And then he calls them out and when they come out, they don't even smell of smoke. In the furnace yet they don't smell of smoke. And he says, "Oh, my goodness, your God must be the God". He already said that Daniel's God is the God of gods. When you're proud, you get stupid. At least for a while, he acknowledges that.

Then in chapter 4, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream one night, this time he remembers the dream. The dream is about a huge tree that reaches up to the heavens, and under that tree all the birds and the animals take their shade and get their food from this massive tree. And then suddenly, there is a voice that smashes down the tree. What is this? The tree is smashed down and left a stump. And then the voice says, "You will be a beast for seven years". Now, he is troubled. He doesn't know what all this is. So he calls all his wise men again and they cannot come up with an interpretation. Finally Daniel interprets the dream for him. Of course, Daniel was very embarrassed to tell him, "this big tree is you. All the kingdoms and empires are under you and you have rule over them, they need you, they under you. But one day, God is going to make you nothing. Just a stump". What do you mean by that? "You will be a beast for seven years, you will be like an animal, behave like an animal for seven years. But strangely enough, your kingdom will not be gone. It will still be there and after seven years, when you get back your mind, the kingdom will still be there". The stump is still there, and the tree can still grow. You think the king would be mad, you said, "I'm going to be an animal?" But the king is so impressed that he actually praises Daniel and says "You're amazing that you can interpret this dream". Now, what is God doing to this arrogant, terrible man? God is giving him another chance. The 1st time, he realises Daniel's God is the real God, then after the furnace, the 3 men's God is the real God, and now God is going to reduce him to a beast. You know what? The thick brain of his, so proud, cannot digest, and cannot figure. One year later, he walked in the palace and said, "Look at my empire. I built it. I built this whole thing by my power, for my honour, and for my glory". And then that very moment, he goes crazy. And he behaved like an animal and he lived with the animals. Let me give you a little background story and this is probably true. Nebuchadnezzar, this is historical, married a beautiful girl from Tehran, Persia. Tehran, if you know today, is surrounded by mountains. Beautiful place. Babylon is flat. And so this beautiful queen he married, missed her hometown so much: the mountains. The king wanted to impress his bride, and he said, "I'll make you a mountain". So he filled the plains of Babylon, and literally made a beautiful mountain-like structure. It became one of the seven Wonders of the World called the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. A man-made mountain with beautiful trees and everything planted. And she

also missed the animals that used to roam in the mountains in her old home of Tehran. And so he made a zoo up there, full of animals for her so that she could look at it from the palace, and remind herself of her home. Nebuchadnezzar ended up in that zoo, up there with the animals, for seven years. It says his fingernails grew like birds' claws. But after seven years, when he acknowledged that he is not god, that there is a God in heaven, he was normal again and became king again. In fact, I like one part that Daniel said to him, when he interpreted the dream, before he went mad. Let me read it to you.

Daniel 4:17 The sentence is by decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the Holy ones, to the end, that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men, and gives it to whom He will and sets over it the lowliest of men.

How do you like that? How do you like your civil servant tell the Emperor: "Let me tell you, this tree God is going to chop it down and the tree is you and the reason is God wants you to know that it is God that allows you to be where you are. He sets you up. And you know who he usually chooses? The lowliest of men".

So, he's humbled, he dies.

His son, Belshazzar, not Belteshazzar. Belteshazzar is Daniel. And he's going to celebrate and he needs beautiful cups for his wine. And calls, "Get the golden cups from where my father took out from the Holy Temple in Jerusalem". Beautiful cups for serving God. And they drink, and that very night, a finger writing on the wall. The writing's on the wall, "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin". What does that mean? He can read it but he can't understand it. Can you imagine a dismembered finger right before your eyes, one little finger, maybe index finger, writing on the wall? Trembling, he calls for all the wise men. And finally they call for Daniel and Daniel says, "You know what that means? You have been measured, assessed by God

and weighed in the balance and found unworthy to be king. And so your kingdom will be taken away". (I'm paraphrasing.) That very night, Darius, the Medo-Persian conqueror, came into the fortress of Babylon, almost unconquerable, killed Belshazzar and that was end of the Babylonian empire. God puts you up and God takes you down. That's chapter 5.

Now, Darius likes Daniel. So Darius made Daniel the chief of his ministers, Prime Minister. The others are very jealous. I mean, he used to serve the Babylonians and now the Persians come in, and they still choose this guy. He is an old man at this time. Probably in his 80s. And of course, the younger guys don't like that. We will never get our promotion. There's no retirement age. Civil service always had a retirement age so the youngsters get their chance. So they have to fix this guy so they can get promoted. So they plan to tell the new king, "Let's test the loyalty of all our people. Make a decree that nobody is to seek the help of any other authority, except you". In other words, to prove their loyalty to you, not to some other outside power-that's the only way they could fix Daniel because he's incorruptible. They knew he would pray because he prayed publicly. Every day, three times a day, he would go up his room, windows wide open, and pray. Public. And when the decree was made, he did it again, stood towards Jerusalem and prayed to his God. And they reported him. The decree was if anyone, within the 30 days, sought help from any other, he should be thrown into a lion's den. Obviously, the Medo-Persian's way of killing is different; no more furnace but a den of hungry lions. And so the king wants to make an excuse for Daniel because he liked Daniel, he trusted Daniel, but he can't, he made the decree. And so they throw him into the lion's den. And the king that night was so troubled, couldn't sleep. Wakes up early in the morning, rushes to lion's den and somehow he senses the God of Daniel, was in it. "Daniel, are you there?" And Daniel say, "I'm here. I'm fine". And Daniel comes out, totally protected. Some people say the lions were well-fed so they didn't eat him. I like the story. You see, chapter 6 doesn't let the story end there. The king now was so angry with those who plotted to fix Daniel that he got all of them arrested, including their families and threw them into the lions' den. And the story says the lions had a good meal that day with

those guys. So obviously, they were hungry but God protected Daniel. Many people, and Sunday school stories show Daniel as a strapping young man in the lion's den, but that's a misrepresentation. He was about 80 years old at this time. He had served Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. If you count the years he was not young.

What have we learned thus far? What is the theme? God tells Nebuchadnezzar that kings and empires will come and go, don't be egoistical, be humble, but he can't. Belshazzar can't. Basically, don't worry. We live under terrible "kingdoms" now. One day God can pull down Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar. One day God will come and set up an eternal kingdom, you will live there forever. So that is basically the theme of the book of Daniel. Later we see in the prophetic part of Daniel that people will argue about how many days and all that. I don't think that's right, because if good men differ on the interpretation of Daniel's prophetic timetable then, maybe it's wise that we learn the principles of the book, the big picture, rather than argue about whose view is correct. Let's take a break now before we go on to the prophetic part.

Transcript

Daniel – Part 2 of 2

We now come to the second part of Daniel, the prophetic part of Daniel from chapter 7 onwards.

Before we enter this, let me just say a few things about prophecy. When the Old Testament prophets spoke of the Kingdom coming, they did not realise that the King would come twice. None of the Old Testament prophets grasp that. They knew the King would come. You and I know today, all Christians should know the King comes twice. Jesus came first time 2000 years ago as a suffering King and He will come again as a conquering King. We don't know when, but the gap between the first and the second is 2000 years, at least, because we live in this valley, this big valley of 2000 years since His first coming. So, we have this grasped, we have this understanding the King comes twice. So, there are two Kingdoms. They didn't. So, when they say the Kingdom comes, you're not sure which one they are referring to because they also don't know which one, they're referring to. They just see a Kingdom coming and they don't realise, that's why.

Now, today I'll live in a Kingdom, a divine Kingdom. I'm a citizen of heaven. I have a King; His name is Christ. I also live in an earthly kingdom. I live in Singapore and I'm a citizen of Singapore, probably so. So, I live in a core existence of a divine Kingdom that has come 2000 years already. But this divine Kingdom has co-existed with earthly kingdoms. Now, did the prophets know that? The answer is no. They thought when the Kingdom comes, all the earthly kingdoms are gone. They didn't realise there will be a long period of co-existence. How long? I don't know. Many scholars will say, "Oh, Daniel says so many years, so many years" and they all disagree. So, I hope you get this clear, because this is very important.

Let's go to chapter 7. Now, Daniel has a problem. Before, the king had two dreams and he was troubled and Daniel can interpret his dreams. Now, Daniel has a dream and he can't even interpret his own dream because the point is, God doesn't give him. Daniel has no ability to interpret his dream. It's God that gives him the ability. But now that he has a dream, he's troubled. And, in his dream, he sees four beasts coming out of the sea, a lion with wings, a monstrous looking bear, a leopard with angel's wings and then finally a monster you can hardly describe. So frightening. But this monster has lots of horns and one very special horn.

Now honestly, you have so many interpretations who the lion is, who the bear is, who the leopard is. I don't know and I don't care. But I want concern about the fourth beast. This monstrous beast which has horns. Why am I concerned? Because one of these horns, of his many horns, does something that concerns us.

This one in Daniel 7:24. Let me read it.

[As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom, ten kings that shall arise; \(the fourth kingdom, this monster beast that comes up, ten kings shall arise\) and another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the former ones and he shall put down three kings.](#) This is a very confusing; what it means I don't even know.

Verse 25

[He shall speak words against the Most High, \(that's God\) and shall wear out the saints of Most High, \(that's us\) and shall think to change the times and the law and they shall be given into his hand for time, times and half a time.](#)

Whoever this one is, he is a guy who is not afraid to speak against God, to trouble the people of God and he will be there for time, times and half the time, which is three and a half years. That's the way they call it time. It's a

year generally speaking. Who is this? Some say, he has come before. There was a horrible guy who came out of the Roman Empire. His name is Antiochus Epiphanes. He was a Syrian general. Later I'll explain how he came about. He would be the one that will desecrate the temple. He's done it. This guy Antiochus Epiphanes, he put a pig on the altar. He put prostitutes in every temple room. He put a statue of Zeus in the court and he slaughtered 40,000 faithful Jews. This happened, about hundred over B.C. And, he sold to slavery 40,000 other faithful Jews. Like an antichrist. Is this talking about the next antichrist or the one that came or is it both? I don't know. Many people say he was a foreshadowing of the Antichrist. This guy, I just read about, speaks against God, change the times, he makes the laws. So, that was Daniel's dream, he was so troubled, who's the lion, who's the bear, who's the leopard. People have different interpretations. Daniel was so troubled.

And then Daniel has a second vision. This time, it's much easier to explain because God explains it. In chapter 8, you read Daniel sees now, he's sitting by the river, a ram, a ram with two horns. Remember I said Medo-Persian Empire, Medes first, then Persians. The Persians were more powerful, second horn interpreted in chapter 8 when you read it. So, it's interpreted, the ram is the Medo-Persian Empire. Then, as he watched this ram suddenly, he saw a goat charging at top speed, amazing speed. His feet were not as if on the ground, as if he's flying and he slammed the ram and the ram was helpless, slam down. And, this goat went on in great power and then while he was in his peak of power, he was over, gone. And, four other little horns popped up. This goat has one horn. And, that horn was snapped off and four horns, tinier ones, smaller ones, came up in its place and it's interpreted. It is the Greek Empire.

Now who was the Greek Empire? Alexander the Great, every child knows that story. Alexander the Great, came to power at speed nobody could believe. He was 32 when he conquered the world, from India to Egypt. The mental horseback. At 32 years old, he had conquered the world. He was so fast in conquering that he didn't even have time to consolidate and that's why he was the empire of brass, strong brass. But not like the Babylonians, who build this beautiful gold, glorious empire that everybody gate them,

gold. The Medo-Persian was the silver and the Greeks were the belly and the thigh: strength. And, he conquered at top speed, 32 years old he died and his empire was split up into four kings. This is in the bible, in history. Four generals took over, none of them liking each other. So, it's all there, prophesied in Daniel chapter 8. These four generals, one ruled what we called Asia Minor, Turkey area. One general ruled Greece. One general ruled the Syrian part: Syria, the Babylonian/Syrian, that area. And the last one, Egypt.

So, in other words, Alexander's Empire was split four ways, four generals. Now let's forget about the guy who ruled the Turkey area and the Greece area, they are out of the picture. Later, you'll find the guy, the general, that ruled the Syrian Empire became stronger and stronger. He's called the King of the North, later we'll see that in chapter 11. King of the North. King of the south is Egypt. Now why am I putting these two? I'll give you a bit of geography lesson. Poor Israel was stuck between these two, Syria and Egypt. And the King of the North, the Syrian General became stronger and stronger and was determined to conquer the King of the South. He did eventually. But Egypt, Judah was in his way. So, he had to smash through Judah because in case the loyalty of this guy, in the middle, doesn't know which side to go to.

So, what we have here now is a king. But the generals became kings and then one of those kings, the little horn became the monster horn that we read off that he will declare himself to be God. He will sit in the temple. He will desecrate everything that the temple stood for. And then, finally, he will claim that he is God. Some say that's the Antichrist about to come, some says it's Antiochus Epiphanes, don't know, maybe both. So, that was in Daniel chapter 8.

So Daniel is so troubled by this and this something's going to happen one day that will trouble his beloved Jerusalem and the temple. And, as he's troubled, he realises that Jeremiah wrote a prophesy, and he checks it up and says, Jeremiah said we will only be in exile for 70 years. This is in chapter 9. The 70 years is almost up and he starts to pray an amazing

national prayer. He prays for Israel, ask forgiveness from God, “God, we've paid off our penalty, we paid 70 years already, almost time to go home, God, to be freed and our people can go back from the exile”.

And then, the angel Gabriel comes and tells him some bad news. Angel Gabriel said 70 years, they didn't, actually, they continued to sin 70 years. Let's stretch the punishment, times it by seven, seventy times seven.

Now let's look at chapter 9:24-25, I'm trying not to trouble you with too many questionable interpretations of PC (Paul Choo). But, hopefully some of them are more acceptable. So, let's look at Daniel 9:24-25.

70 sevens are decreed (In the Bible, it's 70 weeks, a week is sevens, 70 sevens) about your people and your holy city (So, no more 70 but 70 times seven) to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

Verse 25:

Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of the Anointed One, a Prince, there shall be seven weeks.

I hope you understand this. He is saying, it's no more 70. 70 times seven, 490 from the decree to go out. That means from the time they were told you can go back and build the temple till the coming of the anointed One, to the coming of the Prince, the Messiah is 70 times seven. That's how many? 490 years.

If you look at the calendar, that's the time Christ came. Under 500 years. I mean, you cannot calculate exactly because there were four decrees to go back, four times they were told you can go back, which decree you are counting from? It says from the decree to go back till the coming of Christ, 70 times seven. Give and take a bit. To me, it's good enough. Can you imagine? Christ coming, time was given that in less than 500 years, he

would come, first coming of Christ. He did. To me, that's good enough for my prophecy, all the other details I don't need to know because it may speak of the second coming and I don't know nothing about the Second Coming. I can argue, or I can believe in this or that and the lion is the US, UK or whatever, I don't know. But I know something has already happened. From the going back to build a temple to the coming of Christ, less than 500 years, it happened. Good enough for me. All the details, I don't know.

So, that's for me, the prophecy I need that, if His first coming was predicted and He came, His Second Coming is predicted, He will come. That's good enough for me. When? I don't know. Who cares? He's coming. I'm sure. How do you know you're sure? Because when he predicted the first one, He came and he predicted, He'll come again. He'll come, but when? I don't know. Because honestly, I don't think many scholars agree. Anyway, I always say prophesy. Keep humble. Don't be too smart. Chapter 9, that's good enough for me.

Chapter 10. It tells us about conflict. That things happen in earth, there is a parallel happening up in the heavens. When there's conflict on Earth, there is angelic and demonic conflict up there. We call it spiritual warfare. And, a whole theology has been built about spiritual warfare. It's a new thing now. Very, very popular. Before people enter into a territory. Because in chapter 10, he speaks off the Prince of Persia, the demonic Prince of Persia, demonic Prince of Greece, controlling these kingdoms. And then, the angel Michael, Michael is the angel of Israel in case you didn't know that. The guardian angel of Israel is Michael. Prince of the guardian angel of Greece, I don't know his name but he's there. Prince of Persia, he's there. In other words, they are demonic forces up there. And the whole theology tells us now that before you enter a place to do evangelism, you go up, you go there first to bind the demonic forces. You go and pray against the demons so that your evangelism, your whatever you do can spread freely. While I know there are demonic forces up there, I was never told to bind any of them. I was never told, "Go ye therefore and bind the demonic forces and then make disciples", I never see that. In fact, when Jesus was on this earth he didn't go around - what do you call it? - attacking demons, he didn't until people came with the demonic and said, "My son is

possessed with the demon”. Jesus just cast them out. Whenever He was confronted, when there was a demonic thing in front of Him, He dealt with it. He didn't go around looking for demons to cast out. Honestly the demons are everywhere, everywhere. Right now while I'm preaching to you, they're probably demonic beings running around trying to confuse my mind and mess up my computer. I'm pretty sure of that, but until they manifest themselves, it's like mosquitoes. When there's a mosquito, I kill it. I don't spend my life going around looking for mosquitoes.

So, there's this whole new thing from Daniel chapter 10 of spiritual warfare people, who don't actually do anything except going around and binding the forces somewhere there or there. And it gives you a sense of great power, after all, my goodness, I'm up in the heavens fighting the big demonic. I leave that to Michael, the Archangel, etc. The battles up there, God will take care of it. The battles down here is my responsibility. That's chapter 10.

And then in chapter 11, it's very hard to read. It speaks of all kinds of kings coming up, here, there and honestly, I don't know how to interpret them, but I just keep saying king of the north, king of the south, king of the north, king of the south. I see that many times. So, I see that kings in Syria, that part where Alexander's generals had made a huge empire in Syria, and another huge empire in Egypt and these two are vying for power and poor Israel is stuck in the middle. And then again, we see in Daniel 11 when you read it, you try to get the details you go crazy.

Daniel 11:31. People will say, “No, PC (Paul Choo), you should say such things”. I'm just being frank with you. There are some things you just have to accept that one day God will show it to you and you say, “Ah, got it”. But until that day comes don't pretend. Daniel 11:31, talking about that evil man.

Daniel 11:31:

Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress and shall take away the regular burnt offering and they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.

Is this Antiochus Epiphanes being predicted? Or is this Antichrist coming again to mess up the Third Temple? I don't know. Is this Antiochus Epiphanes messing up the second temple or the Antichrist going to mess up the next temple that will one day maybe be rebuilt in Jerusalem. I don't know, maybe both. Just that I know that before the coming of Christ, that was a terrible guy, Antiochus Epiphanes. Before the second coming of Christ, there'll be another one called not Antiochus, Antichrist, fairly similar name.

Finally, we come to get Daniel chapter 12 and I'm going to show you some verses. Probably not even struck you when you read it but it's very critical.

In Daniel 12:2,

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Now you and I will say that's resurrection. What's the big deal? Why are you telling us about this? I'm telling you about this because Jews didn't understand this. It's a revelation to them. They knew when they died, they went to this dark place, Sheol, and they don't know what happens after that. When in Song of Solomon, people talking about the good, the bad, they all go to the same place, if you're good man, you do your best, if you're a bad man, you all go to the same place. As far as the Jews were concerned. That's their understanding. They went to this place and not quite sure what's going to happen next. But here it says, - let's read it again - **those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt.** You're going get up from the dust. Resurrection.

And then, we look at the last verse, Daniel 12:13.

But go your way till the end. (last verse of the entire book. Just go your way)

You shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.

Study Daniel. Don't be troubled with all these things. Kingdoms come, kingdoms go, you will go to the dust. One day, you will rise, you stand in your place. You will find your allotted place in the Kingdom that I told you about. The rock would come, smash the whole idol of Nebuchadnezzar, smash it down and then eternal Kingdom will be built.

That was the dream. Nebuchadnezzar saw this golden thing and one day a rock carved from a mountain without hands, smashes all that kingdoms: Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek, Roman; all smashed and then a new Kingdom will come up. Everlasting Kingdom. And you know what? Daniel? You will stand there.

I find people today so troubled by what's happening in this world. They really have trouble like politics. They get all involved and heated up about how the people rule, how the rulers are not being right. And they feel like their whole life is engaged in fighting for righteous kingdom. I think Daniel was very troubled. He had served four kings, terrible guys. He's very troubled. He saw the insights and he saw the dirt and the junk and God says to him, (just read it) "Go your way until the end (last verse) and you shall rest, you shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days". You know what, at the end of days, Daniel, I told you, the Rock will come and smash every kingdom, that the beast that came out the field, the lion, the bear, all look so fierce to you. You know what? One day it's gone, Daniel and you will take your allotted place in God's eternal Kingdom. That's the book of Daniel. People worry about when, how He will come. Pre-tribulation, post tribulation, all kinds of stuff. He told Daniel, "Relax, you'll be there". To you Christians who are so troubled by the world around you, you will be troubled. In this life, you shall have struggles: with the sweat of your brow, you will eat your bread. This is life on Earth. They would be joy in your heart, peace in your heart, especially if you know where you will go for eternity.

What's the book of Daniel put here for? It's about kingdoms. It's not about you trying to be the next soothsayer and predicting exactly where the US will fit in, where England will fit in, where China will fit in, into Daniel's prophecy. Waste your time. Worst still, Christian, waste your time, trying to make righteous kingdoms on Earth, waste your time. Why didn't you just help people to find that allotted place in God's kingdom? Have peace on Earth because whatever happens now, I have a place allotted for me and I will stand there. Get it? I'm a citizen of the eternal Kingdom. Is this how you read Daniel? Is this why Daniel is placed there, or is it for curiosity so you can argue with somebody about what the Antichrist would look like, how many teeth he would have or whatever. It is about you, just having peace, standing strong in the midst of all the turmoil of this world, still doing God's will, as Daniel did, serving as best he could. What else could he do to change a corrupt king, etc? Even as Prime Minister, he is troubled, he can't do much. What about you? Just be thankful that you will have a kingdom and your job is to enrol as many into the citizenship of Heaven. Not be troubled by the present or curious about when and how and all that. Know that you will be there. People ask me are you pre-tribulation, post-tribulation, whatever, rapture, I said, "You know what? I'll be there, I'll be there for sure". That's all I need to know. I don't need to be troubled by the rest. I have a passport; I have a kingdom and I'll be there.

Let me end by Daniel 12:9 for the curious people. Daniel 12:9.

[He said, go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.](#)

What does that say to you and me? You think you can be so smart. The words are shut up until the end of the time, when you get there, you will look back and say, "Wow, all the predictions so perfect, why didn't I see it?" Because they were shut up then, they were sealed until the end of the time. And here we go with all the brilliant scholars wasting their PhDs, figuring out all of the things they don't need. Our job is not to figure out these things. Our job is to make disciples of all nations. May God bless you with peace in the midst of troubles, troubled nations, that you may lead thousands of

people into the eternal Kingdom of God. That is the book of Daniel. That's why it is a wonderful part of the beautiful book. God bless you.