

Daniel 7-12

March 9, 2008 - Skip MacMillan

Amos 3:7

"The book of Daniel, written as the Exile was fading into the historical past, was the greatest prophetic declaration of the sovereignty of God" -Bullock.

"The book of Daniel is a bridge that, like no other prophetic book, connects the two realms of Israel's history, the realm of tragic failure and the realm of incredible restoration" -Bullock.

The end times: Hal Lindsey pointed to Gorbachev; then it was the year 2000; the Mayans pointed to 2012 - 4 years and 287 days left; Nostradamus, comet impacting the earth.

"The possibility that an asteroid will strike the Earth on Sunday, April 13, 2036 has reverberated across the globe, with the world's citizens wondering what anyone is doing about it with the UN at least two years away from version 1 of an anti-asteroid plan."

The Big Picture

Daniel's Dreams and Vision, chapters 7-12

Spanning centuries, Daniel and Babylonians to Romans, Jesus Christ and to the very end.

Involving: God (Trinity) and angels (Gabriel and Michael) and Satan (Prince of Persia).

Building up to the Incarnation, Redemption, Atonement, Resurrection, Ascension and the Second Coming.

Chapter 7: 4 Kingdoms (Babylonian, Medes/Persians, Greece and Rome), Ancient of Days (7:9-10), Son of Man (7:13-14).

Chapter 8: 2 Kingdoms (Medes/Persians and Greece) Alexander the Great (Daniel 8:5-8), Antiochus Epiphanes (Daniel 8:9-14).

Chapters 9-12: First advent of Christ Jesus - dating His arrival, Great War, Greece, Rome, God's people, and the very end.

7 main points drawn from the visions:

1. World rulers and empires
2. World religions
3. World wars
4. Times of great distress
5. One Deliverer and Savior, Jesus Christ
6. The resurrection from the dead for all humanity, some to heaven and some to hell
7. Eternal destiny, some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt

The Spiritual's influence on the material (Daniel 8:24-25) (see also Daniel 2:34, 45).

"He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people. He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power."

An Example: Daniel 8:9-14 - Antiochus Epiphanes (God revealed, nick-named Epimanes - the mad).

There was Alexander the Great, Seleucid - one of the four generals, Seleucid's son Antiochus. He reigned 7 years, 2,300 evenings and mornings = under 7 years, fulfilling Daniel 8:13.

"... set about to Hellenize Judea. He plundered the Temple (I Maccabees 1:21-24) and compelled Jews to adopt Greek culture and religion. He instituted laws of conformity forbidding ritual circumci-

sion and observance of the Sabbath and Holy days under the penalty of death. By his order sacrifices to the gods were to be made in every Judean town. Each month Seleucid soldiers searched Jewish homes to discover whether or not any Jews possessed a copy of the Torah or had circumcised their children. In 167 BCE, following an uncompromising policy of suppression of Judaism, he caused the erection of a pagan altar to Zeus Olympus on the altar of burnt-offering at the Temple" - Bibarch.com.

He stormed into Jerusalem in 171-164 BC, killed 40,000 Jews, enslaved 40,000 and slaughtered a pig on the altar in the Temple of God.

After his death in 164 BC the Temple was re-consecrated, fulfilling Daniel 8:14.

There is more to an Antiochus, Nero, Hitler, Mussolini, Darfur, Sudan, and similar people.

They are raised and are brought down by powers beyond their own.

There was/is panic on the side of evil as time approached for Christ's arrival.

The battle intensified, evil ramped up its efforts, deepened the darkness, cruelty and deception.

What is happening on earth is representative as to what is happening in the heavens.

Images of God the Son in the book of Daniel

Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:9-10, 13, 22).

"As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened."

"Ancient of Days" or Ancient One = God the Father.

1. Applied to the LORD three times in the vision of Daniel (7:9, 13 and 22).
2. Provides a sense of the eternality of God, as the everlasting One, with "days past reckoning" -Easton Bible Dictionary.

White garment = His glorious splendor / other-than-ness

Hair like lamb's wool = white, old age, wisdom

His throne = authority and sovereignty, Ezekiel 1, Isaiah 6

Wheels = mobility, His omnipresence

Fire - purity and power, Psalm 97:1-3

Thousands upon thousands stood before Him = celestial host, that attend to and fight alongside the divine warrior (Num. 10:36, Deut. 33:2; Psalm 68:17)

God's Sovereignty

"The sovereignty of God as the supreme ruler is in this way poignantly asserted. The fate of the world depends not on the result of a battle among the gods, as Canaanite mythology would have it, but by the unilateral judgment of God alone."

"... forces of evil on earth may appear to have dominion on earth, but the fate of the world is determined in another realm by a God who is wholly transcendent and yet every ready to intervene in human history" -Seow.

The Rock (Daniel 2:44-45)

"This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands--a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces."

Cornerstone: Isaiah 28:16; capstone: Mark 12:10; "He alone is my Rock and my salvation" (Psalm 62:2).

"... a rock that makes them fall and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame" (Romans 9:33, 1 Peter 2:4-8).

Prince of Host (Daniel 8:11), "Prince of Princes" (8:25), "Prince of Peace," Isaiah 9:6
"God exalted Him to His own right hand as Prince and Savior that He might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel" (Acts 5:31).

Anointed One (Daniel 9:25, 26; Psalm 2:2)

Acts 4:26 - "The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against His Anointed One." The name "Christ" means "anointed one".

Son of Man

Several references to God the Son in the form of a man.

"... one who looked like a man" (8:15); "Looks like a man" (Daniel 10:16-18), "A man" (Daniel 12:6-7).

Daniel 7:13-14 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

Son of Man = God the Son, Jesus Christ.

1. This name "provide(s) a hint as to how God's response to the terrible threat posed by evil power would come. God's solution would be mediated through the divine presence in human form" -Seow.

2. Most common title Christ used of Himself, seen 43 times as a distinct title for Christ (New Testament). In Daniel it is a descriptive phrase, not a title; Christ is the one who identified it as a title. Jesus is saying the Son of Man prophesied about in 7:13-14 is here; I am He.

Stephen in dying said, "I see the Son of man standing on the right hand of God".

In the Old Testament it is used twice, Psalm 80:17 and Daniel 7:13.

3. This name emphasizes the true humanity of Christ; weakness and frailty. Jesus had a true body (Hebrews 2:14; Luke 24:39) and a rational soul. He was the perfect man (Easton's Bible Dictionary).

4. In Hebrew it is not Ben-ish or Adam, son of a hero or man generically, but Ben enosh, "Son of man," frail and abject, marking the humiliation and exaltation as man (see Phil. 2 and Matt 26:64) -Fausset

Yet "the one who appears incapable of saving will, in fact, save!" -Seow.

Additional Points:

a. As human, Christ was our real representative head for all humanity, the Second Adam. The first Adam led us into sin and death, the Second Adam brings redemption, forgiveness and life.

b. Jesus physically bled and died for those who believe on Him, making atonement.

c. Supported by John 1 and Philippians 2. They say Christ took on human flesh, to dwell among us and to redeem us.

5. The struggle for some would be whether Christ was human at all.

If the miracles did not cause you to struggle with Christ's humanity then His resurrection would.

Jesus was emphasizing again and again, "I am fully man" by His constant use of this title. Hypostatic Union, God/Man.

Other parallels in the New Testament: Mark 13:26, Revelation 1:7, 13-16; 19:11-16, "coming on the clouds of heaven".

"At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory" (Mark 13:26).

Authority - Matthew 28:18

Glory and sovereign power - Colossians 1, Hebrews 1

All peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped Him - Psalm 72:11, 102:22, Rev. 15:4

His dominion is an everlasting dominion - said of the LORD throughout the Bible

His Kingdom will never be destroyed - Isaiah 16:5, Daniel 2:44; Hebrews 12:28; Rev. 11:15

This is no angelic being, but the second person of the Trinity, the Son of God, Jesus Christ

A Man (Daniel 10:5-6)

I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude. Ezekiel 1:25-28; Revelation 1:13-15

Overview

- Increased Messianic visions (Daniel, Isaiah and other prophets) all saying God the Son is on His way.
- Foretelling what events will precede the Messiah.
- God's plan is established and will be fulfilled; we are all living in this greater story.
- God the Son, the Rock, Anointed One, the Son of Man is coming, first advent and a second, Rev. 19.
- Christ declared Himself the fulfillment of all the prophecies told by the prophets long ago, Luke 4.
- The Hope - Daniel 12.

The Book, "everyone whose name is found written in the book (of life)" (Daniel 12:1), (also Daniel 7:10).

Exodus 32:32-33, Psalm 69:28, Luke 10:20, Revelation 13:8, 17:8, 20:15, 32; 21:27.

The book/s records all our deeds and we are judged on those deeds, the Book of Life lists everyone's name who is God's son or daughter. It is Christ's redemption and atonement on the Cross that pens our names in the Book of Life; believe on Him.

Resurrection

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

Old Testament: Genesis 22:5, Job 19:25-26, Isaiah 26:19; Hosea 13:14; Psalm 16:9-10.

New Testament: John 5:28-29, 14:1ff; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:23; 1 Thess. 4:16; Rev. 20:4-6.

"I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?" (Hosea 13:14).

Resurrected into glory and be glorified by the hand of God.

Because Christ resurrected, so shall we.

Eternal Bliss and Inheritance

"You will be delivered" (12:1).

"... some to everlasting life, others to shame and ever lasting contempt" (12:2).

"... at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance" (12:13).

Heaven (Revelation 21:3-4)

"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Christ is preparing a place for those who believe in Him.

Daniel

"what will the outcome of all this be?" (12:8).

Struggling to understand the visions; 8: 15, 27, 12:8.

God's response: "Go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance" (12:13).

Our role is to continue walking with God, to rest in God's sovereignty, struggle to understand prophecies but in the end we are to go on with our lives, speak and live the gospel to those around us.

Our rest:

God is fighting our battle, He is the King, He is our warrior, He is our defense ahead and behind.

God will raise us up from the grave.

God has in store for us an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade - kept in heaven for you (1 Peter 1:10-12).

As you do you are shining like the brightness of heaven and like the stars for ever and ever; "you are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

Matthew 25:31-36 and 2 Timothy 4:7-8.