



What Was Daniel Talking About?

# Outline

1. So What? Why Does it Matter Anyway?
2. Postmillennialism
3. Amillennialism
4. Premillennialism
5. **What's Daniel Talking About?**
6. When Are, or Rather Were, the 'Last Days'?
7. Coming(s) of Christ / Which Generation?
8. Israel?
9. Olivet Discourse
10. Revelation
11. So What is Going to Happen?
12. How Then Should We Live?



# Setting

---

- **Written during the beginning of the Restoration Era - return from captivity to coming of Jesus**
- **Exile / Restoration / Intertestamental Period – Time of God’s amazing Providence in preparing the world for Messiah**
- **Includes Restoration Covenant - New Covenant in embryo**
- **General ignorance of this period results in loss of context in understanding the gospels**
  - **Many New Testament topics/issues spring from this period**
  - **As a result, many attribute to the future events that have occurred in the past**

# Restoration Covenant

---

- **Addresses how Jews were to behave within the new Oikumene**

- Oikumene - known civilized world
- Word used in New Testament for 'World'

Matt 24:14 - "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the *world* as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Col 1:6 - which has come to you, as it has also in all the *world*, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

- **Change in law/administration**

- No longer Hebrew king, but now foreign emperors and their reps – God will now watch over and provide for His people through empires
- New land of God – Oikumene
- New holy land/city – movement from Palestine to whole world
- God's Providence in this period prepared the world for Messiah

**This is the covenant that was the immediate context of Jesus' work**

# Books of Bible Addressing

---

## Prophesied About

- Jeremiah
- Ezekiel
- Isaiah
- **Daniel**

## Written During

- Esther
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

**Haggai 2:7 – and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory, says the LORD of Hosts**

# Daniel

---

- **Daniel was second Joseph. In God's Providence**
  - **Drug to foreign nation as a slave**
  - **Converted the ruler**
  - **Wound up ruling the nation**
  - **Prepared a place for brothers 20 years later**
  - **A ruler later arose who did not know him**

# Approaches to Interpreting Daniel

---

- **Church Historical (aka Anti-Papal Approach)**
  - Protestant Reformers (except Calvin, a Preterist)
  - Saw Daniel and Revelation predicting history of Europe down to their day
    - Identified Papacy as everything bad in Bible – Little Horn of Daniel 7, Abomination of Desolation, Man of Sin, the Beast, the Great Whore, Antichrist
    - Only a few Protestants and Catholics today, Seventh Day Adventists
- **Antichrist\* Myth**
  - French Revolution shocked many Protestants into realizing there were worse evils than Roman Catholic Church (already in decline)
  - Rolled all bad personages in Bible into one bad personage

\* Biblically no personage called Antichrist. Term only occurs in John's epistles, referring to those who deny that Jesus is Messiah come in the flesh

# Approaches to Interpreting Daniel

---

- **Dispensational**
  - Though flawed, stood for conservative faithfulness in face of full liberal theological onslaught
  - Takes Antichrist Myth Approach and puts it on steroids
  - Everything possible wrenched from its historical context and forced into end times framework
- **Skeptical**
  - Do not accept historical veracity of Dan 1-6, or that Daniel received prophetic visions of Dan 7-12
  - Daniel a work of fiction – pseudepigrapha (like Apocrypha)
    - Written by Jews during times of Antiochus Epiphanes
  - Numerous good refutations, but key one is that Jesus and Paul believed Daniel a true prophet of God in the context of his historical setting

# Approaches to Interpreting Daniel

---

- **Covenant Historical**
  - **Written during dawning of Restoration Covenant**
  - **No historical parentheses gaps, no thousand-year leaps into the future**
  - **Preterism**
  - **Did not really take firm hold until after the French Revolution**
- **First three approaches (Church Historical, Antichrist Myth, and Dispensational) demonstrate an inherent cultural bigotry – perceived decline of Western Civilization (Europe/America) seen as sure sign of the last days**
  - **Relegates all other groups of the world to status of irrelevance**

# Daniel's Prophetic Visions

## Daniel 2 (Statue)

**Gold Head**

**Babylon (606-536)  
Nebuchadnezzar**

**Silver Breast and Arms**

**Medo-Persia (532-332)  
Cyrus**

**Bronze Belly and Thighs**

**Greece (331-167)  
Alexander and Generals**

**Iron Legs, Iron and Clay Feet**

**Rome (63 BC – 476 AD)  
Augustus**

## Daniel 7 (Beasts)

**Lion**

**with eagle  
wings**

**Bear**

**with three ribs  
in its mouth**

**Leopard**

**with four  
wings, heads**

**Terrible Beast**

**with iron teeth,  
ten horns**

## Daniel 8 (Beasts)

**Horned Ram**

**He-Goat**

**With four  
horns**

**Temple language - Gold (Holy of Holies), Silver (Holy Place), Bronze (Outer Court) –  
each succeeding kingdom becomes larger, more expansive**

# Messianic Kingdom Prophecies in Dan 2

**Dan 2:28** - "But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar *what will be in the latter days*. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:

**Dan 2:34-35,44** - "*You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.* <sup>35</sup> "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. *And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.* <sup>44</sup> "*And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed*; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, *and it shall stand forever.*

- **Latter days** refers to the last days of the old covenant
- **Similar language** we see in Isa 2:2-4 and Micah 4:1-5
- **Image** represents God's Kingdom during Restoration Era
  - Revealed by God as what He is doing
  - Hebrews (Daniel, etc.) elevated to being chief advisers of empire
  - Gold, silver, bronze, iron (Solomon's Temple) materials from Tabernacle/Temple
  - Progressive in extent, strength, and duration

# Messianic Kingdom Prophecies in Dan 2

- “Stone cut out without hands”
  - Altar of true worship (Ex 20:25)
    - Altar is a miniature holy mountain (a place one ascends to meet with God)
    - Altar of true worship would grow to become a mountain
  - Replaces man image, becoming new altar/temple
    - God is our rock (too many to list)
    - Great rock struck and brought forth water (Ex 17:6, I Cor 10:4)
    - Hides Moses as God passed by (Ex 33)
    - Jesus and His Body become that new temple
  - And stone that struck image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth
    - Occurs during Kingdom of iron and clay

**Dan 2:44** - "And in *the days of these kings* the God of heaven *will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed*; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and *it shall stand forever*."

# Daniel's Prophetic Visions

## Daniel 2 (Statue)

**Gold Head**

**Babylon (606-536)  
Nebudchadnezzar**

**Silver Breast and Arms**

**Medo-Persia (532-332)  
Cyrus**

**Bronze Belly and Thighs**

**Greece (331-167)  
Alexander**

**Iron Legs, Iron and Clay Feet**

**Rome (63 BC – 476 AD)  
Augustus**

## Daniel 7 (Beasts)

**Lion**

**with eagle wings**

**Bear**

**with three ribs  
in its mouth**

**Leopard**

**with four  
wings, heads**

**Terrible Beast**

**with iron teeth,  
ten horns**

## Daniel 8 (Beasts)

**Horned Ram**

**He-Goat**

**With four  
horns**

**Temple language - Gold (Holy of Holies), Silver (Holy Place), Bronze (Outer Court) –  
each succeeding kingdom becomes larger, more expansive**

# Messianic Kingdom Prophecies in Dan 7

**Da 7:9-14** - "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; <sup>10</sup> A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. <sup>11</sup> "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. <sup>12</sup> "As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. <sup>13</sup> "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

- **Four beasts rise up from sea – In prophetic language land is Israel, sea is Gentiles**
- **Four beasts are also one beast – cumulative (Matches Sea Beast in Rev 13)**
- **Four beasts are the Oikumene – “land around the land”**
- **Dan 2 - 4 metals represented 4 empires, followed by 5<sup>th</sup> – God’s everlasting kingdom**
- **Now 4 beasts as 4 empires followed by 5<sup>th</sup> – kingdom of the Most High**

# Messianic Kingdom Prophecies in Dan 7

- Empires and their kings are like beasts. Jews are men, like Adam to rule over the beasts – to tame and train them
  - Daniel teaches us that the duty of God's people is to teach and serve, but to never compromise with worldly kingdom
- Each beast goes bad, abandoning calling and attacking God's people. Then replaced by new guardian beast
- Ancient of Days sets up throne and judges the beasts (same as Rev 4,5)
  - Dominion of beasts taken away

**Dan 7:14 - Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.**

**Again, as in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Messiah and His people enthroned during reign of fourth beast**

# Ascension

**Dan 7:13 - I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.**

- **Notice direction, He was coming to, not from Ancient of Days – this is the Ascension**
  - **This is when He is awarded dominion and everlasting kingdom**
- **New Testament verses speaking to Ascension and Messiah at right hand of God**

**Matt 22:44**

**Acts 2:33-36**

**Eph 2:5-6**

**Matt 28:18**

**Acts 5:31**

**Eph 4:8-12**

**Mark 14:62**

**Acts 7:55-56**

**Col 3:1**

**Mark 16:19**

**Acts 21:34-36**

**Heb 1:3**

**Luke 24:50,51**

**Rom 8:34**

**Heb 10:12**

**John 6:62**

**Eph 1:3**

**Acts 1:9**

**Eph 1:20-23**

**Ascension, and its implications, far more important than generally considered**

# Messianic Kingdom Prophecies in Dan 9

**Dan 9:24-27** - "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. <sup>25</sup> "Know therefore and understand, That *from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks*; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. <sup>26</sup> "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. <sup>27</sup> Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

- Daniel reads Jeremiah's prophecy and realizes they are coming to the end of 70 years (605 – 535 B.C.)
- Gabriel reveals to Daniel that 70 years are to be followed by 70 weeks of years, then comes Messiah

# Messianic Kingdom Prophecies in Dan 9

- **To be accomplished by end of seventy weeks:**
  1. **Finish the transgression (To complete the apostasy)**
  2. **Make an end of sins (To seal purifications)**
  3. **Make reconciliation for iniquity (To cover for liability)**
  4. **Bring in everlasting righteousness**
  5. **Seal up vision and prophecy**
  6. **Anoint the Most Holy**
- **Seven weeks (49 years) from Cyrus's decree to end of Nehemiah – prophecy of Jerusalem's rebuilding fulfilled**
  - **Decree of Cyrus (Ezra 1:2-4; II Chron 36:21-23; Jer 29:10; Isa 44:28, 45:13)**
- **After 62 weeks anointed One cut off, accomplishing the things listed above**

**The point again is that all these things were accomplished in Jesus' first advent**

# Conclusion

---

- **Daniel very clearly prophesies covenantal history from time of exile to time of setting up of Messiah's everlasting kingdom**
  - **Very precise prophesies about Gentile kings/kingdoms is because God is ruling, protecting, and providing for His covenant people through these Gentile empires**
- **Time clues within each of the prophecies makes it clear that events leading to setting up of Messiah's everlasting kingdom happened in first century**
  - **Yahweh then transitioned from ruling His covenant people through Gentile empires to the Kingdom of His Son, Jesus the Messiah**
  - **Provides some insight into Paul's statement in Rom 11:25**

**Rom 11:25 - For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**