

THE SECOND COMING

An Overview of the Book of Daniel | Daniel 1-9 | 11.29.2020

Romans 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Daniel 1:3-5 *Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, ⁴ young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. ⁵ And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.*

Daniel and his friends faced tremendous pressure to conform to the Babylonian culture.

1. Their names were changed to names that promoted and honored the gods of the Babylons.
 - Daniel = "God is my judge" changed to "Whom Bel favors."
 - Hananiah = "Beloved of the Lord" changed to "Illumined by the Sun God."
 - Mishael = "Who is as God" changed to "Who is like Venus."
 - Azariah = "The Lord is my Help" changed to "The servant of Nego."
2. Their nation was defeated, causing many teens to identify with the winners and the popular.
3. They were uprooted from their family & friends and placed in a strange environment.
4. They were a small minority in Babylon.
5. They were young, and peer-pressure would cause them to be easily molded.
6. They were placed under elite teachers who would systematically challenge their beliefs.
7. God had seemingly failed them; why serve a God who does not care?

Though under significant intimidation, Daniel and his friends kept their hearts on GOD!

Daniel 1:17 *As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.*

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream | Daniel 2

1. The head of gold represents Babylon.
2. The chest/arms of silver represent Medes/Persian.
3. The belly/things of bronze represent Greece
4. The legs of iron represent Rome.
5. Feet iron and clay "possibly" represents the kingdom of the Anti-Christ.
6. Stone cut out without hands represents the eternal kingdom of Christ!

Though we cannot confirm what is meant by the “feet of iron and clay,” we can confirm the big picture of Daniel’s message that kingdoms come and go, but **God’s kingdom will come. Christ will rule on His throne forever!**

Note the conviction and courage of the Jewish captives and their sound theology of suffering.

Daniel 3:17-19 *If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

¹⁹ *Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.*

Daniel 7 takes us back years earlier to when Daniel himself had a dream of the four beasts. **(Chapter 7-8 occur in between Daniel 4-5.)**

- **Lion** with eagle wings
- **Bear** with ribs in his teeth
- **Leopard** with 4 wings and 4 heads
- **Troubling beasts** unlike any other with iron teeth and 10 horns

Various kingdoms are represented to establish once again the promise of an eternal kingdom that is coming. ***Daniel 7:13-14*** *“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. 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.***

12.06.20 | Daniel 9:24-27

Daniel 9:22-27 *And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. ²³ At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: ²⁴“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. ²⁵“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. ²⁶“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. ²⁷Then 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.”*