

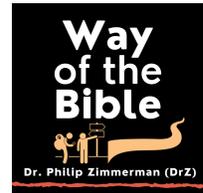
SHOWNOTES

Podcast Episode: 4th of 8 in Mini-Series 8

Episode #060
Time of the End | Daniel

Mini-Series 8

Major and Minor Prophets
Isaiah to Malachi



Welcome to Episode #060 of Way of the Bible podcast. This is our fourth of eight episodes in our mini-series entitled, Major and Minor Prophets | Isaiah to Malachi. On this episode we're going to look at the book of Daniel that is packed with prophetic passages that have caused many scholars for thousands of years to spend lifetimes unpacking what is written. Daniel is the starting points for most who study eschatology, the Day of the LORD, the coming judgment of the earth in Righteousness, the time of the end.

On our last three episodes we've looked at the Major prophetic books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, and Ezekiel. What we've learned from these books is Israel, both the northern kingdom and southern kingdoms, failed miserably to fulfill what God told through Moses in **Exodus 19:5-6** – *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.* We'll see in Daniel, as in the previous prophetic books, God will fulfill his purpose for Israel in a new kingdom coming.

Daniel was in the first wave of captives take to Babylon and lived in Babylon until the reign of the Medo/Persian empires King Cyrus. The book of Daniel is twelve chapters long and holds within it the framework of prophecy on which all other prophetic texts are placed.

In short, the book of Daniel reveals while the exiled remnant of Israel may go back to their own land after 70 years as Jeremiah prophesied, it is going to be a long time before they control their own destiny. There is coming a succession of gentile nations that will rule over them and the promised land until there arises a final global world leader. The LORD will destroy this final global ruler along with all wickedness in the world and return the people of Israel to their rightful possession. They will be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation ruled by David their prince, with King Jesus ruling the world in righteousness from his mountain top temple near Jerusalem. So let's get started.

The first six chapters of Daniel are narrative and extend from his capture thru the reign of Cyrus the Persian. In these chapters I'm going to focus on the response of leaders of the greatest empire on earth at that time to the character and faithfulness of Jews acting in obedience to the covenant and to their God.

Chapters 7 through 12 are filled with prophecy concerning the time of the end. I'll highlight these prophecies but save detailed interpretation for future mini-series.

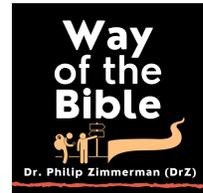
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The book opens with the account of Daniel's capture with the first of the exiles in the third year of king Jehoiakim of Judah. Daniel was included in a special "royals and nobility" youth class to be protected from slaughter. To be selected into this class the youths had to be, *without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace* (Dan. 1:4). They were to be taught the literature and the language of the Chaldeans for service to the king.

In Chapter 1, we learn Daniel has three companions Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah all of the tribe of Judah. The chief eunuch gave them new Babylonian names, Beletshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respectively. Of the four, Daniel soon rises as an observant, respectful, tactful, and determined leader. While unsuccessful to convince the chief eunuch, he presented a reasonable proposition to the steward serving Daniel and his companions that they be allowed to eat only vegetables and drink water rather than the apportioned royal food and wine. The steward agreed to the proposition and after a ten day trial, Daniel and the three looked much healthier than those eating the kings food and wine. The dietary request was continued.

It's also in Chapter 1 we learn Daniel and his companions were on a mission by God. **Daniel 1:17** – *As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.* How much learning did God give them? When tested by Nebuchadnezzar three years later he found them ten times better in every matter of wisdom and understanding than all other magicians and enchanters in the kingdom.

Nebuchadnezzar eventually puts these four undefiled Israelites as the top rulers over his entire kingdom. And for good reason, they were honest, respectful, God fearing, and the best times ten at what each position required. They were hated by those on ladders to the top below them.

Chapter 2 is a key prophetic passage identifying the nations that will rule over Jerusalem until the end of time. King Nebuchadnezzar has a disturbing dream, let's call it a nightmare. It has him thoroughly confused and worried. Nebuchadnezzar is ruling the world with no threats of invasion. Yet, something about this dream makes him think it's all about to come crashing down. This is no time for false interpretation.

The next day he commands the kingdoms magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to appear before him and tell him his dream. They say tell us your dream and

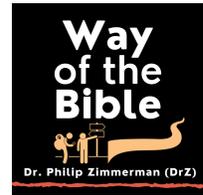
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we'll interpret. He replies to them, NO you tell me my dream and I'll let you interpret it with great rewards. And if you do not I'll have you all torn limb from limb and your houses destroyed. They try to reason with the king no one has ever asked such a thing, and that no one can tell him his dream but the gods who do not dwell with the flesh.

The seriousness of Nebuchadnezzar's condition is immediately seen as he orders his royal guard to go out and destroy all the wise men of the kingdom. Word reaches Daniel they're on the list. Daniel hurries to the king and asks for an appointment time to provide the interpretation, and a time is set.

Daniel and his companions join him in prayer to God to reveal to Daniel the dream so they don't have to die with the other wise men of Babylon. During the night Daniel is provided a vision of the dream and awakens blessing God.

Daniel 2:20-23 – *“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. 21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; 22 he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. 23 To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter.”* Notice how Daniel say's, “you have made known to us,” he was counting his prayer partners as true partners in the matter. You'll see where this goes in a moment.

Daniel then went to see the man assigned to destroy the wise men of Babylon and told him not to carry out the order, rather bring him to the king as he had his interpretation. Daniel was brought before Nebuchadnezzar who asked Daniel if he could both tell him his dream and give the interpretation. This is how Daniel responded.

Daniel 2:27-30 – *“No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: 29 To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. 30 But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.*

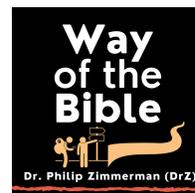
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Notice the reason Daniel made for the giving of the interpretation – “so that the king would know the thoughts of his mind.” God was letting his chosen ruler of the world see to the end what God started through him. And as the book continues more details of that ending are provided which result in the LORD’s return to judge the entire world and establish his kingdom on earth at ground zero – Jerusalem!

Daniel goes on to provide the interpretation. **Daniel 2:36-45** – “You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. 32 The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. 36 “This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. 37 You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, 38 and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold. 39 Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40 And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. 41 And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. 44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, 45 just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

I’ll cover the prophetic interpretation of this passage on a full mini-series on the book of Revelation. For now, the image represents the gentile powers that will rule over Israel until

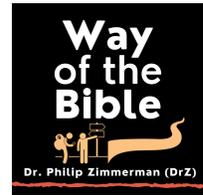
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Israel is restored. The head of gold represents Babylon, the chest and arms of silver represent Medo/Persia. The waist and thighs of brass represent Greece, the legs of iron represent the Roman Empire, and the ten toes of iron mixed with clay represent the world government that emerges out of the divided eastern and western Roman Empire at the time of the judgment.

At the hearing of Daniel's interpretation King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and paid homage to Daniel saying, **Daniel 2:47** – *“Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.”* Nebuchadnezzar then gave Daniel many gifts, made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect among all the wise men of Babylon. At Daniel's request, the King appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. Daniel made sure his prayer partners shared in the reward.

You would think King Nebuchadnezzar would be a little humble before God, but instead he has erected a ninety foot high and nine foot wide gold image of himself. He gathers all the officials of the provinces to join him at a dedication and orders all people everywhere to fall down and worship the golden image as soon as they hear the sound of all kinds of musical instruments. Some likely jealous Chaldeans told the king that there were certain Jews who paid no attention to his statue or participated in worshiping the image; namely Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Nebuchadnezzar had them brought to him and demanded they worship the image or be bound and thrown into a fiery furnace taunting – *“who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands.”* (Dan. 3:15). The three answered the king. **Daniel 3:16-18** – *“O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”*

These three were not about to commit apostasy against the LORD by worshiping other gods. And they willing to die obeying God while hoping God would deliver them, but even if not, they would not bend their knee in idolatry.

They're thrown tightly bound into the fire and the guards doing the tossing fell in as well due to the intensity of the flames. Then Nebuchadnezzar notices four people walking around in the flames, one looking like the son of the gods. He orders the three to come out and they do without a single or even the smell of smoke.

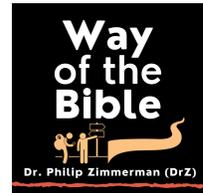
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The king in his amazement responds. **Daniel 3:28-30** – *“Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.” 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon. Clearly, obedience to God in the face of persecution has positive consequences.*

Daniel Chapter 4 is text written by Nebuchadnezzar himself. **Daniel 4:1-3** – *King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! 2 It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me. 3 How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation. In this chapter, Nebuchadnezzar tells of God's testing of him and how the test turned out.*

Nebuchadnezzar has another dream and asks all the wise men of Babylon to interpret it but they are unable. Daniel arrives and Nebuchadnezzar tells him his dream after saying, **Daniel 4:9** – *“O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation. Nebuchadnezzar said he saw a massive tree in the midst of the earth with beautiful leaves, abundant fruit as food for all, with the beast of the fields resting in its' shade, the birds of the heavens living in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it. Then he saw a heavenly being say to chop it down but to leave its stump. **Daniel 4:15-17** – *But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. 16 Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. 17 The sentence is by the 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.’ 18 This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you.”**

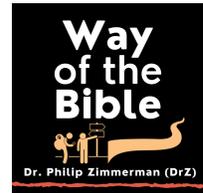
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Daniel initially hesitates so Nebuchadnezzar encourages him to tell. Daniel says the tree represents the king and that his greatness reaches to the heavens and his dominion to the ends of the earth. And that it is a decree of the most high that he be taken down and driven from men and dwell among the beasts of the field and eat grass like an ox for seven years. Until he knows that the Most High rules the kingdoms of man and gives it to who he will. Daniel encourages the king to break of his sins and practice righteousness by showing mercy to the oppressed, and perhaps his prosperity would be lengthened. A year later while on the balcony of his palace Nebuchadnezzar credits himself with the glory of his majesty, and while the words were still in his mouth a voice from heaven pronounced the initiation of his exile for seven years until he knows the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. For seven years he ate like an ox, was exposed to the elements, his hair grew like eagles wings and his nails were like bird claws.

Daniel 4:34-37 – *At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?” 36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.*

Chapter 5 concerns Nebuchadnezzar's grandson Belshazzar throwing a huge feast for 1000 of his lords. He had the sacred golden vessels from the temple of the LORD taken out of storage and used them to toast the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. The fingers of a hand appeared and wrote on the wall behind the lampstand in full view of Belshazzar. He was terrified and asked the wise men what it meant but they were clueless. The queen came forward and said, **Daniel 5:11-12** – *There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers, 12 because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar.*

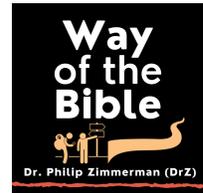
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Daniel was summoned, offered great rewards, and asked to interpret the writing. Daniel told the king he could keep his gifts and give the rewards to someone else. He noted how Nebuchadnezzar his father was proud and was humbled by God, but Belshazzar hadn't learned the lesson. So because he took the sacred vessels from the temple and used them to toast other gods, that very night his kingdom was going to be taken from him. Belshazzar was killed that night and Darius the Mede received the kingdom at age 62. Babylon was captured by the Medes and Persians that night without a fight.

Chapter 6 is the account of Daniel being thrown into the lions den. King Darius was planning to set Daniel over his whole kingdom because of the excellent spirit in him. The other high officials conspired against Daniel and had the king sign into law an edict that if any man worshiped any god or man for thirty days other than worshiping Darius, he would be thrown into the lions den. The day the king signed it, Daniel knew and went to his window to pray toward Jerusalem as was his normal practice three times a day. The officials took him to Darius and demanded he be thrown to the lions. Darius tried all that day to let Daniel go, but by evening he had no choice but to throw Daniel in. That night the king fasted with no diversions and sleep was impossible. The next morning he went to the lions den and cried out in a tone of anguish, **Daniel 6:20-22** – *“O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”* 21 Then Daniel said to the king, *“O king, live forever! 22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.”*

Overjoyed the king had Daniel removed and promptly had thrown the condemning officials and their wives and children into the lions den where they were crushed by the lions even before hitting the floor. Darius then wrote an open letter to the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth. **Daniel 6:25-28** – *Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. 27 He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.”* The chapter ends with, 6:28 So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Chapter 7 opens the door to prophetic visions that continue to the end of the book. The opening vision of four beasts in Chapter 7 give a brief synopsis of history to the end of time. Daniel had seen in a dream visions of the four winds of heaven stirring up the great

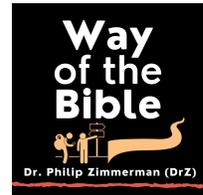
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sea (symbolic of the nations). And four beasts different from each other emerged from the sea. The first was like a lion and had eagles wings which were plucked off, and the mind of a man was given to it (symbolic of Babylon). The second was like a bear raised up on one side with three ribs in its mouth (symbolic of Medo/Persia). The third was like a leopard with four wings on its back and four heads (symbolic of Greece). The fourth beast is different from the rest and is not given an animal avatar and it's description is most graphic. **Daniel 7:7-8** – *After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.* This fourth beast fits with the legs of iron of the image Nebuchadnezzar dreamed - head of gold (Babylon), silver chest and arms (Medo/Persia), bronze waist and thighs (Greece), legs of iron with ten toes of iron mixed with clay (Roman Empire synthesizing into a new kingdom of ten toes). What comes next affirms all this will come to pass before Israel's coming global kingdom is established.

Daniel 7:9-14 – *“As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. 10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. 11 “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. The Son of Man Is Given Dominion 13 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And 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 one that shall not be destroyed.*

No matter where you're listening to this podcast at this moment, now would be the time to give a big shout out of Glory and Hallelujah to the LAMB!! The LAMB wins, the LAMB wins, the LAMB wins... I know when your favorite sports team wins the big game your radio broadcaster is yelling. For me that team is LSU and everytime the big win comes the radio announcer is shouting LSU WINS, LSU WINS, LSU WINS until his breath runs out.

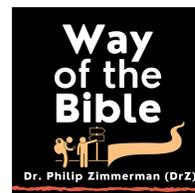
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Back to Daniel. Daniel is alarmed by the vision and asked one of those standing by him in his vision to give the interpretation of the four beasts. The response to Daniel was, **Daniel 7:17-18** – *These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.'*

Then Daniel wanted to know about the fourth beast. After recounting what he saw Daniel notes, **Daniel 7:21-22** – *As I looked, this horn [a little horn with eyes that spoke great things] made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.*

The one Daniel was addressing responded. **Daniel 7:23-27** – *Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. 25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time [3 ½ years]. 26 But the court shall sit in judgment and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. 27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. I'm not worn out with shouting, so excuse me while I take a break for some more glory hallelujah's...*

Chapter 8 concerns the Daniel's vision of a ram and a goat. In the vision the ram Daniel saw had two horns charging westward, northward, and southward with no beast who could stand before it and no one to rescue from its power and it became great. He then saw a ram with a conspicuous horn between its eyes that struck the ram breaking off its two horns. The ram was cast down and trampled on. Then when made great the ram's big horn broke off and four conspicuous horns emerged toward the four winds. Then out of one of the horns a little horn emerged and would take away the daily sacrifice in the temple for 2300 days and nights. We'll see when this 2300 days was fulfilled soon.

The angel Gabriel shows up and provides the interpretation. The ram with two horns was Medo/Persia and the goat was Greece, from which four kingdoms would arise. Then in the midst of his description Gabriel looks to a king who will arise in the last day. **Daniel**

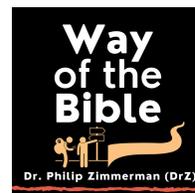
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8:23-26 – *And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. 24 His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. 25 By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand. 26 The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.”* This is describing the deceiver known by many as Anti-Christ, who gets his power from Lucifer, satan, the devil himself.

Daniel felt sick after this vision. He had a few days of rest and then went back to work but couldn't shake what he saw. So He did what we should all do when we find ourselves in his situation. Daniel 9 opens with Daniel praying a prayer of repentant confession for he and his people, for God's mercy, for the LORD's name sake, and for the people called by his name. And in the midst of the prayer, Gabriel again showed up to give Daniel insight about the time table he'd been shown.

Daniel 9:24-27 – *“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, 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. 25 Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. 26 And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. 27 And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”*

Let me summarize two biggies here. We know from Nehemiah 2:1-8 the exact day king Artaxerxes issued the degree to rebuild Jerusalem. According to the prophecy, after 7 weeks plus 62 weeks (69 weeks of years), an anointed one shall be cut off and have nothing. The math with calendar differences taken into account (300 day vs. 365 day calendars) gives the date of the anointed one's appearance. It happens to be the exact day we know from history when Jesus' rode into Jerusalem on a donkey in what is call his

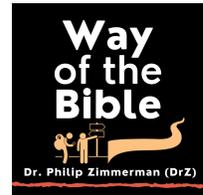
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triumphal entry on what we call palm Sunday. Four days later he was cut off and had nothing. The counting of the 70 weeks stop here at 69 for a GAP before the seventieth week is initiated.

The second biggie is the prince who is to come. The people of this prince (Romans) leveled Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD. The prince himself is the Anti-Christ who will emerge out of the Roman Empire and make a seven-year covenant of peace with Israel and the world (the 70th week of Daniel). In the middle of the covenant week (3 ½ years), he'll break the peace, declare himself to be god, erect an image of himself in a new temple in Jerusalem, and literal hell on earth will last another 3 ½ years.

Daniel then had a word revealed to him of a great conflict and he understood the vision. He mourned and fasted from delicacies, meat, and wine for three weeks. At the end of three weeks Daniel has a glorious vision. **Daniel 10:5-6** – *I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. 6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.* Daniel collapses for lack and strength and fear, and then the man he saw touched him, gave him strength and stood him up. And told Daniel of something going on behind the veil. **Daniel 10:12-14** – *Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."* What we are told here is that there are very powerful spiritual kings ruling over the nations. In this case this messenger to Daniel had to be helped by the angel Michael to get freed from the kings of Persia.

Paul's warns us we are in a battle of heavenly proportions in **Ephesian 6:12** – *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

It's a fierce heavenly battle as the one visiting Daniel told him. **Daniel 10:20-21** – *Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will*

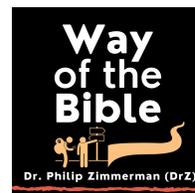
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tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

The one visiting Daniel accurately describes historically recorded events of the four kings who ruled after Alexander the Great died and his empire was divided. When you read Chapter 11 you'll understand little unless you are well versed in the ancient history of this region. This chapter describes the history occurring around and through the promised land where the remnant of Israel returned.

You may remember from Nehemiah and Ezra, the Jews rebuilt their temple and reinstated the daily sacrifices. In 11:31 it says of one of the kings shall stop the daily sacrifices and put in the temple the abomination that makes desolate. We know the king and the day this occurred. 2300 days later, to the day, at the time of the Macabees, sacrifices in the temple were once again instituted. Fulfilling to the day, the prophecy we looked at in Chapter 8 concerning the 2300 days. All these prophecies we're covering are going to be fulfilled at the appointed time. Read Chapter 11 and underline everywhere it says "at the time appointed" and you'll have the chills realizing God sees everything in time at the same time. And knows to the day "appointed" times.

Starting in verse 36 of Chapter 11, we get more information on the coming prince, global leader, anti-christ. **Daniel 11:36-44** – *“And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. 37 He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all. 38 He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. 39 He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price. 40 “At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. 41 He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites. 42 He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train. 44 But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury*

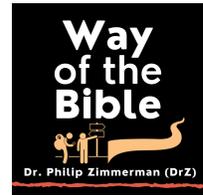
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to destroy and devote many to destruction. 45 And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him. Much more here than we can cover. The one note I'll make is the anti-Christ is going to come to an end as he's trying to destroy Israel.

We'll end with a reading of the short Chapter 12 of Daniel, the time of the end. **Daniel 12:1-13** – *“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 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. 3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” 5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. 6 And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, “How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?” 7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished. 8 I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?” 9 He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. 11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. 13 But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.”*

At the end of time there will be a war like no other. Everyone of Israel whose name is found written in the book shall survive. Then comes the resurrection of many of the dead. Some are raised to everlasting life and some raised to everlasting contempt. Daniel is told to seal up his vision till the time of the end. The 1290 days represents the 3 ½ years of conflict. We'll cover the significance of the 1335 days in another mini-series.

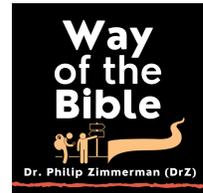
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And that ends the book of Daniel. What we've learned is Daniel and his companions, were gifted by God with learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. They were resolute in their obedience to the covenantal commands and did not bow down to any other gods. This is significant as these were Jews in the royal palace and within the provinces of Babylon who were running the empire while their fellow Jews in captivity continued to live in rebellion against God as evidenced in the book of Ezekiel. Is there blessings of God for obedience; I think the answer would have to be without hesitation – ABSOLUTELY!!

Their obedience produced their miraculous deliverance by God from certain death in the fire and the lion's den. And these miraculous deliveries had the pagan kings praising God and writing edicts to their people in their empires everywhere to honor the God of Daniel and his companions.

Interpretations of Nebuchadnezzar's visions shown to Daniel by God, and the interpretations of Daniel's visions by messengers of God are the framework for all prophetic studies in eschatology or the end times. They are coming and the days will be fulfilled at the appointed times exactly as prophesied – to the day.

A key takeaway given to King Nebuchadnezzar we can all remember, especially in the times in which we live. **Daniel 4:17** – “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.”

Be of great cheer, thank and worship God. For we were not left as orphans, but have the Holy Spirit who has sealed us for the day of our redemption. One day, and it may be sooner than later, the LORD Jesus Christ is going to return to claim his bride and transport believers out of here and into his heavenly presence before the end begins. We'll be watching these end times events from heavenly bleachers. On the last day of the great battle, Jesus himself will descend along his heavenly army, that includes us in upgraded eternal bodies, visibly appear and destroy with the breath of his mouth the anti-christ and all the armies waring against Israel.

The heavens and earth will get a make-over, and the Millennial kingdom under Jesus Christ ruling the entire world will begin. Glory hallelujah how I can't wait for that day!! But until that day, we're still here which means there is something God still has in store for us to discover or do before he calls us home on our “appointed day.”

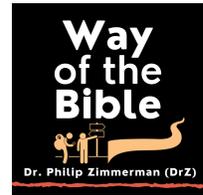
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On our next episode we'll look at the first six books of the minor prophets, Hosea to Michah. We'll see these all tie into and add addition information to what we've already covered in the major prophets.

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