

6. THE OLD TESTAMENT ON THE END-TIMES

Daniel

Daniel, whose name means "God is judge," ministered between 605 BC and 535 BC, from the time the Jews were deported to Babylon until Zerubbabel returned to Jerusalem to begin building the temple. The first half of the book is historical and contains things that happened to Daniel. The second half is prophetic and contains Daniel's visions of future events.

Daniel 2:31-45

2:36-38, Head of gold : Babylonian empire

2:39, Breast and arms of silver : Medo-Persian empire

2:39, Belly and thighs of brass : Grecian empire

2:40, Legs of iron : Roman empire

2:41-43, Feet of iron and clay : Revised Rome, 10 nations that will arise from region that was part of the former Roman empire, who are loosely connected

2:44-45, Stone : Kingdom of the Messiah

Daniel was about 72 years old when we have his prophetic record of Daniel chapters 7-12.

Daniel 7:1-28

7:2, the four winds represent various forces which play upon the sea. The sea, or waters, using Bible typology, represents large multitudes of peoples, or nations and tongues (see Revelation 7:1; Revelation 17:15).

7:3-7 describe the four beasts that rose from the sea - from among the peoples. The four beasts represent four kings and kingdoms (7:17,23).

7:4, lion with eagles wings, made into a man. Historically representing the Babylonian empire. Nebuchadnezzar went through this (Daniel 4:27-37)

7:5, historically representing the Medo-Persian empire

7:6, historically representing the Grecian empire with Alexander the Great

7:7, historically representing the Roman empire. This fourth kingdom will be more powerful than the previous three (7:19)

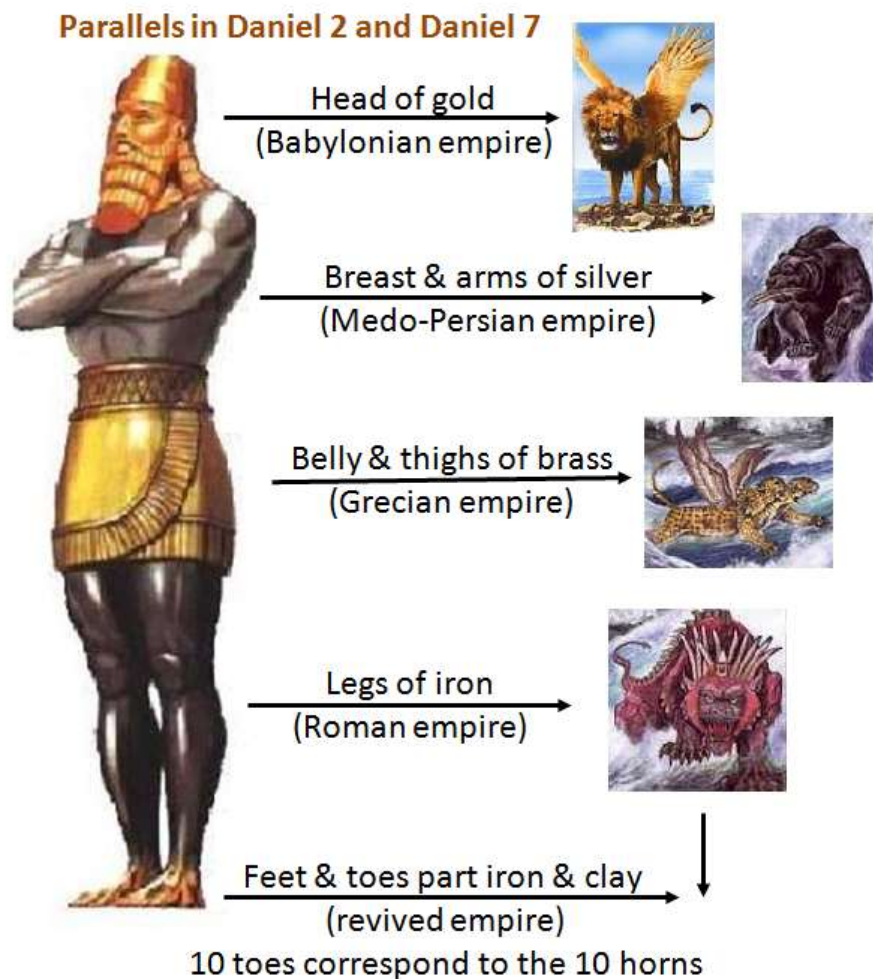
7:24, Daniel then focuses on the 10 horns that will arise out of the 4th kingdom. Horns represent power, strength, dominion and in this passage represent the leaders of the kingdoms. Ten horns represent ten kings who emerge from the fourth kingdom, the Roman empire. They come out of the head of the fourth beast (7:20). The ten horns of Daniel 7 are the ten toes of Daniel 2.

7:24, another horn (leader) arises after these 10 horns (leaders) and he will take control of three of the horns (leaders) from the first 10 horns.

7:25, this leader is the Anti-Christ and he will speak against the Most High (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12), wear out (afflict) the saints (Jewish people, Israel), and change times and laws that are in his control for 3 1/2 years. This horn had eyes, representing remarkable insight and wisdom, could speak great things being a great orator who could influence people, and who had great charisma than the others (7:20). This horn spoke great words (7:11).

7:21, this horn makes war with the saints, the Jewish people, nation of Israel and seems to prevail, until God Himself intervenes and destroys this horn (referred to as the beast in 7:11) and sends him to the burning flame (7:11) to be destroyed (7:26).

7:13,14,18,22,26,27, Having destroyed this horn (the Anti-Christ) the Son of Man will set up His Kingdom and the saints of the most High shall administer the Kingdom forever and ever.



Daniel 8:1-27

8:3-4,20, The ram with two horns represent the Medo-Persian kingdom. As one horn became longer at a later time, so Media was initially the stronger country, but then Persia, under Cyrus, eventually became dominant. Its empire extended to the west (Babylonia, Syria and Asia Minor), north (Armenia), and south (Egypt and Ethiopia).

8:5-8,21, The He-goat represents the Grecian empire led by their first king Alexander the great that overthrew the Medo-Persian empire. When he was at his peak, Alexander the Great died at the age of 33.

8:8,22, Once Alexander the Great died, four kingdoms were formed out of his empire, which today would be: Greece, Turkey, Syria, and Egypt. All these 4 countries were also part of the former Roman Empire which succeeded the Grecian empire.

8:9-12,23-25, Out of one of these will come forth a "little horn", the Anti-Christ. This will happen in "the latter time of their kingdom" (8:23) meaning towards the end times. He gets rid of the daily sacrifice and desecrates the sanctuary. Antiochus Epiphanes (171-164 BC), did devastate the Jews and desecrated the temple historically. However, it would not be a fulfillment of this prophecy as, this will happen in "the latter time of their kingdom", and because of what is further explained in chapter 9.

8:13-14,26, For 2,300 mornings and evenings, which is 1,150 full days, the daily sacrifices will be stopped. 3 1/2 years is about 1,260 days (or 1,275 days). So it appears that during the great tribulation for 3 1/2 years, the daily sacrifices will be stopped for 1,150 days.

Daniel 9:20-27

9:24, Gabriel reveals that there will be seventy "sevens" decreed for the Jews and the city of Jerusalem. The term "sevens" is used in Genesis 29:27-28 to mean seven years. This period will eventually result in the following:

To finish (put an end to) the transgression,

To make an end of sins - bring an end to sin and rebellion

To make reconciliation for iniquity - make atonement for all sin

To bring in everlasting righteousness - establish righteousness in Israel and Jerusalem

To seal up vision and prophecy - or confirm the prophetic word

To anoint the Most Holy - or anoint the Holy of Holies, that is to cleanse the Temple of all uncleanness, sacrilege, anoint and establish the Temple (the Millennial temple).

9:25-27, Daniel first referred to a 69 week period. Daniel prophesied that after 483 years (69 weeks, each week = 7 years) from the time of the issuing of the decree by Cyrus to rebuild Jerusalem the Messiah would come, be rejected and die (Daniel 9:24-26). This was fulfilled exactly as he foretold. And then in Daniel 9:27, Daniel referred to another period (a week).

9:27 This period of time is also called "Daniels's Seventieth Week" (Daniel 9:27). In history, the first 69 weeks involve Israel (Daniel 9:24) and it follows that the seventieth or final week must also involve Israel. In between the 69th week (the 483 years) and 70th week (last 7 years) we have the Church age. The Church was born after the Messiah was crucified and resurrected and

will continue on the earth till the beginning of the 70th week. In this last week we have "he" the Anti-Christ setting up a "covenant" a false peace treaty with many, but in the middle of the week, he will cause the sacrifice to stop (same as in Daniel 8:13-14,26).

Daniel 11:1-45

11:2-20, describes detailed maneuvers of historic and future kings including Cyrus, Alexander the Great, the line of Ptolemy from Egypt, called the South, and the line of Seleucus from Syria, called the North. These two kingdoms are featured since between them lies the "Beautiful Land" of Israel. God's prophecies deal primarily with his people and those things that affect them.

11:21-35, the prophecy deals with a particular "contemptible person," who was most certainly Antiochus Epiphanes, one of Israel's most despicable enemies.

11:21-45 Future End Time fulfillment : also describes characteristics and actions of antichrist as well as also seen in Daniel 7:8, 8:9, and 9:26 as having the same self-exalting characteristics and the same manner of destruction.

Daniel 12:1-13

12:1, continues for chapter 11. The antichrist is on the scene, destroying many of God's people. But Israel's prince, Michael arises to deliver them from this time of Israel's greatest distress, otherwise known as the great tribulation.

12:2-3, describe the reward of those who are wise and righteous and verse

12:4, shows that Daniel's book will aid them in their knowledge during end times. Some of the signs of the "time of the end" would be increased knowledge and travel.

12:5-7, depicts a man clothed in linen similar to that in Revelation 10:1-6, where the angel announced that there would be no further delay in completing the events of the tribulation. Then begins the time, times and a half, which term is also used in Daniel 7:25 and Revelation 12:14. This is restated in Revelation 12:6 as 42 months, or 3-1/2 years. Daniel 9:25-27 indicate that this period occurs in the second half of the "week" of years, again, equal to 3-1/2 years. These three and a half years are what is referred to in Matthew 24:21 and Revelation 7:14 as the great tribulation.

12:8-9, Daniel is curious about the meaning of all of this, but the angel implies that we need to be content with what God has made clear and not try to force anything else. God reveals only what is necessary, and does not go beyond merely to satisfy man's curiosity.

12:10, we see a refining process similar to Daniel 11:35. Zechariah 13:8,9 indicates that 1/3 of the Jews will be refined.

12:11, introduces another time period that begins when the restored Jewish temple ceremonies are taken away by Antichrist and the abomination of desolation is set up. The 1290 days allows for 3-1/2 years, or 1260 days plus an additional 30 days. There is nothing explicit here or elsewhere in scripture concerning this additional 30 days. It may be for the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25:31-46.

12:12 adds another unexplained 45 days, perhaps the time required to build the millennial temple, set up the new government, establish Israel's new boundaries, and so forth.

12:13, indicates that Daniel will be resurrected at the end time to participate in the blessings of the millennium.