

PREPARATION FOR LESSON: read chapters 7-12; re-read chapter 2**BACKGROUND** Same as lesson 35

Daniel wrote this book to show whether we study history or prophecy - the past or the future - we see **God is in control**. To believe these chapters we have to believe: God knows the future; God is involved in world events; God is the author of Scripture.

INTRODUCTION**The content of Daniel is Jewish**

It is only about empires that exist when Israel is on the map as a nation - from time of Daniel to God's kingdom. Empires (kingdoms) between 70 - 1948 AD are not mentioned because Israel was off the map. Two future kingdoms are mentioned because Israel is back on the map.

The writing style of Daniel is Jewish - picture language and repetition

Many different pictures are used to describe the same 6 empires. Sometimes it looks at the big picture with all six. Sometimes it zooms in with details about only 1-2 empires. Other times it presents the kingdoms from different points of view.

Four Kingdoms from Past History 605 BC to 476 AD

Babylon - 70 years from 605 - 539 BC *Medo-Persia* - 200 years from 539 - 331 BC
Greece - 250 years from 331 - 63 BC *Rome* - 500 years from 63 BC - 476 AD

Two Kingdoms in the Future

Satan's Kingdom - 7 years
God's Kingdom - 1000 years

The main purpose of God's Kingdom is to keep the promises He made to the Jews as a people and nation. In grace and mercy, God will also include us Gentile believers to participate in the kingdom. God's Kingdom cannot come until there are a series of kingdoms that affect the nation of Israel.

EXPLANATIONS

Chapter 2 **Image** represents 4 kingdoms of the past and one kingdom in the future; the **stone** represents God's kingdom. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, a future global kingdom (Satan's kingdom)
 When God's Kingdom comes, He will destroy the world kingdom that is in power

Chapter 7 **Animals** represent the 5 same kingdoms as the image; the **throne** represents God's kingdom
 The **lion** with wings is Babylon in its strength and swiftness.
 The **bear** with 3 ribs in its mouth is Medo-Persia capturing 3 other areas.
 The **leopard** with wings is Alexander the Great in his agility and swiftness.
 The **4 heads** of the leopard represent the dividing of the Greek empire to Alexander's 4 generals.
 The **little horn** represents a future world leader (Anti-christ).
 • vs. 8 Intelligent (eyes of a man); speaks boastfully
 • vs. 21 Will wage war against the Jews and defeat them for 3½ years
 • vs. 25 Will speak against the Most High; the Jews will be handed over to him for 3½ years

Chapters 2 and 7 give two viewpoints about world empires.

Humanity says world empires are valuable and to be desired like valuable metals.

God says world empires are savage and brutal like wild animals.

Chapter 8 **Ram** is Medo-Persia; **goat** is Alexander the Great

The **little horn** is one of the last Greek kings in Syria, Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 BC.

- vs. 23 a stern faced king
- vss. 9, 24 will attack Israel and destroy the Jews
- vs. 11 will demand worship
- vss. 13, 14 will cause desolation of Jewish temple for 1150 days

Chapter 9 Daniel is told that God's program (clock) for Jerusalem and the Jews, involves **490** years 9:24
 1 **seven** is 7 years of 360 days each; **70 sevens** is 490 years



EXPLANATIONS

Chapter 9 continued

- vs. 24 Within 490 years: The Jews as a nation will believe in Jesus as their Messiah; final payment for sin will have been made so their national sin can be forgiven; all of God's promises to the Jews will be fulfilled; Jesus will establish His kingdom; Jesus will be the center of worship.
- vs. 25 From the command to rebuild Jerusalem (445 BC) to the coming of their Messiah, there will be 483 years. In the 1st century, when Jewish leadership told the Jewish people that Jesus was **not** their Messiah, God's Jewish clock temporarily stopped.
- vs. 26 Jesus will be crucified; a specific people will destroy the city and Temple
(the Romans under Titus in 70 AD).
- vs. 27 Later, a **ruler** will come and make a treaty with the Jews; the treaty will let them rebuild their Temple. The moment the world leader (Anti-christ) makes the 7-year treaty, God's clock for the Jews will start up. These are the 7 years that are left from the 490 years. After 3½ years, the world leader will break his treaty and not allow the Jews to worship in their Temple.

Chapter 11 Greek kings of the north and south rule from Syria (Seleucids) and Egypt (Ptolemies) during the Greek empire.

- vs. 21 The contemptible person is Antiochus Epiphanes, the same as the little horn of chapter 8.
- vss. 36-45 The king is the future world leader (Anti-christ), the same as the little horn of chapter 7.

Chapter 12:1 Satan's kingdom

At the time of Satan's man, (the world leader), Michael, the archangel will come to the defense of Israel. He is needed because there it will be the greatest time of suffering the Jews have ever known. It will also bring the greatest time of spiritual insight and belief they have ever known. When Satan's man comes to his end, the surviving Jews will be delivered.

APPLICATION:

Chapters 2 and 7-12 are chapters of prophecy. They use different pictures, but they all talk about the same empires. They show that God was active in the affairs and activities of nations in the past. And the same is true in our day.

God lets nations grow. He then gives them information, opportunity and time to choose how they will develop, how they will use their power and how they will treat their own people as well as nations around them.

He will warn them if they abuse their power. He will rebuke them if they become proud.

God will give them time, but if they do not respond, He will bring another nation to either weaken or destroy them. And the pattern will repeat.

I am sure that Daniel felt like the world of his day was totally out of control. And certainly we feel like the world of our day is out of control. Daniel reminds us – yes, it **IS** out of the control of human hands, but not out of God's hands. This is why we need God – in our nation and in our own lives.

History is HIS-story, God's story. In the end, God will have the final victory. **GOD IS IN CONTROL.**

Blessed be the name of God forever and ever...

He removes kings and sets up kings...He knows what is in the darkness and the light dwells with Him. 2:20-22

