

Has To Say About End Times

HOW WILL THE WORLD END?



FOUNDATIONS - MODULE 14B



"There are several prophets in the Old Testament, such as Isaiah and Ezekiel, that Biblical scholars refer to when studying prophecy. But the one who stands out in regards to prophesying the end times is Daniel.

Chapter 2 in the book of Daniel is critical to understanding all of the other prophecies in the Bible, because it provides a foundation for what the New Testament writers knew about end times.

In this module you will learn why Daniel's visions in Chapter 7, 9, and 11 & 12 are so prophetic, and how so much of what God revealed to him over 2,500 years ago has already been fulfilled."

Rick Carrol

Key Topics



01NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM







O3DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS VISION





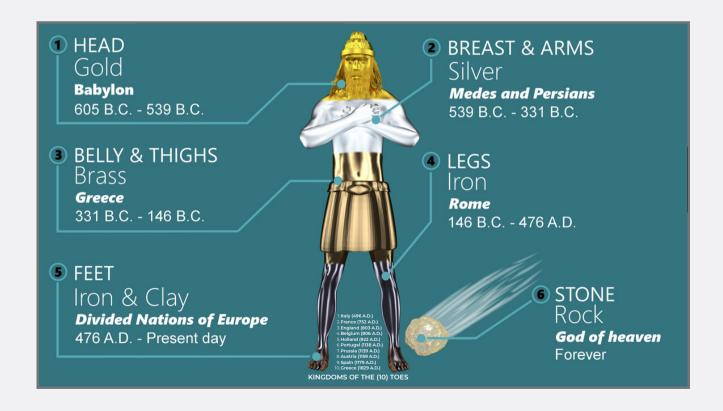
Daniel replied, 'There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed. While Your Majesty was sleeping, you dreamed about coming events. He who reveals secrets has shown you what is going to happen. And it is not because I am wiser than anyone else that I know the secret of your dream, but because God wants you to understand what was in your heart.'

DANIEL 2:27-30 (NLT)

01 Nebuchadnezzaris Dream

Daniel 2 - Daniel is summoned to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream:

"In your vision, Your Majesty, you saw standing before you a huge, shining statue of a man. It was a frightening sight. The head of the statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze, its legs were iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and baked clay. As you watched, a rock was cut from a mountain, but not by human hands. It struck the feet of iron and clay, smashing them to bits. The whole statue was crushed into small pieces of iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold. Then the wind blew them away without a trace, like chaff on a threshing floor. But the rock that knocked the statue down became a great mountain that covered the whole earth." Daniel 2:31–35 (NLT)



The meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream:

"But after your kingdom comes to an end, another kingdom, inferior to yours, will rise to take your place.

After that kingdom has fallen, yet a third kingdom, represented by bronze, will rise to rule the world.

Following that kingdom, there will be a fourth one, as strong as iron. That kingdom will smash and crush all previous empires, just as iron smashes and crushes everything it strikes.

The feet and toes you saw were a combination of iron and baked clay, showing that this kingdom will be divided. Like iron mixed with clay, it will have some of the strength of iron. But while some parts of it will be as strong as iron, other parts will be as weak as clay. This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other through intermarriage. But they will not hold together, just as iron and clay do not mix.

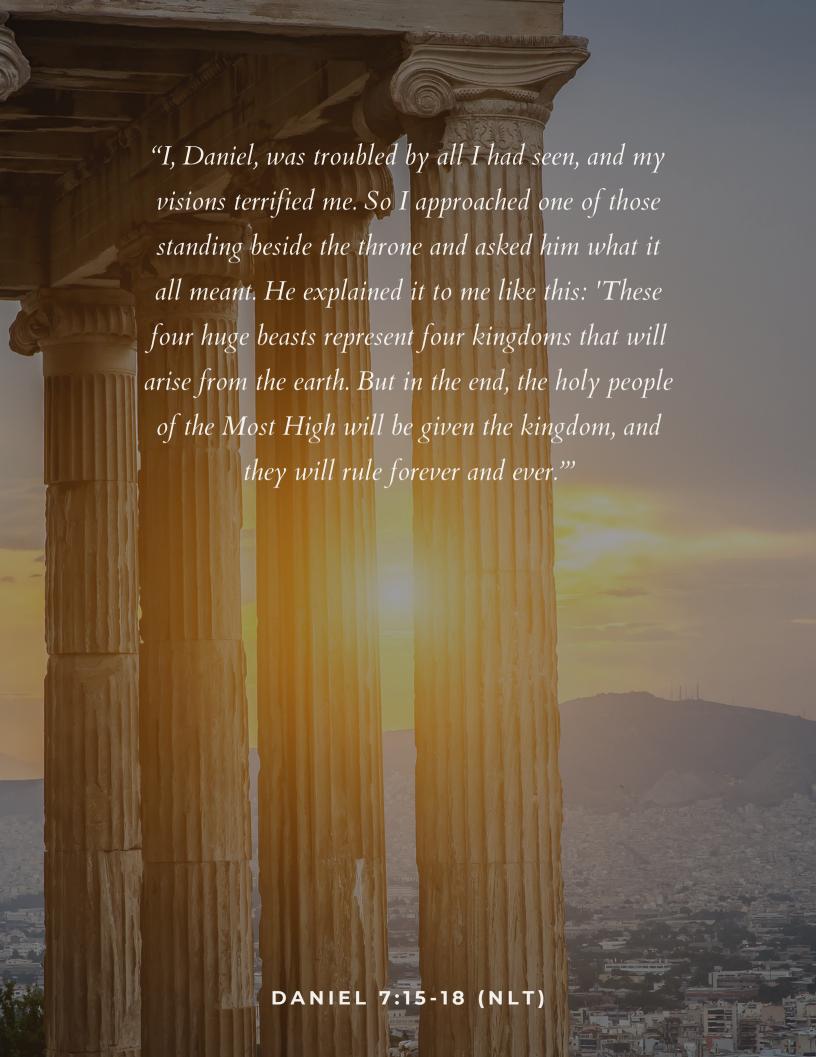
During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever."

Daniel 2:39-44 (NLT)





How does the unfolding of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, as interpreted by Daniel, illustrate the concept of human power and its limitations, and what lessons can you draw from it for your own life?





Daniel's Life (620-536 BC)

- Daniel was a young Jewish nobleman, taken into captivity around the age of 15 (in 605 BC)
- He spent 70 years in Babylon, where he served under 5 kings
 - Nebuchadnezzar
 - Evil-merodach
 - Belshazzar
 - Darius
 - Cyrus
- Daniel stayed behind in Babylon when the Jews were allowed to return to Judah (in 583 BC), and died two years later, at the age of 84 (in 536 BC).

Book of Daniel (written in Aramaic & Hebrew)

- Chapter 1 (605 BC) starts with the 70 years of Jewish exile in Babylon.
- Chapter 2 (602 BC) Daniel interprets King Nebuchadnezzar's dream (metal & clay statue).
- Chapter 3 (586 BC)- tells the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (who survived the fiery furnace, after refusing to bow down to the golden statue of Nebuchadnezzar).
- Chapter 4 (563 BC) Nebuchadnezzar dreams about a tree being cut down, and being driven away from people & losing his sanity (which happens) - until he repents a year later.
- Chapter 5 (548 BC) Many years later, during the reign of King Belshazzar, Daniel has the vision of the 4 beasts, but keeps it to himself. In 539 BC, Daniel interprets Belshazzar's dream of the handwriting on the wall, which foretells the takeover of the Persian King Darius.
- Chapter 6 (approx. 540 BC) Daniel is thrown into the Lion's den for not bowing down and worshipping King Darius.
- Chapter 7 the start of the prophecies (written in Aramaic to signal the intended audience the Babylonians); flashback to Daniel's first vision 15 years prior.
- Chapter 8 switches to Hebrew, signifying God's intentions to deal with His people. In this chapter Daniel has a vision about a ram (Medo-Persia) being struck down by a goat (Greece)
 200 years before the rise of Alexander the Great.
- Chapters 7-12 are Apocalyptic the word "apocalypse" means "uncovering the future" (pointing to Jesus coming).

Daniel's Vision of The Four Beasts

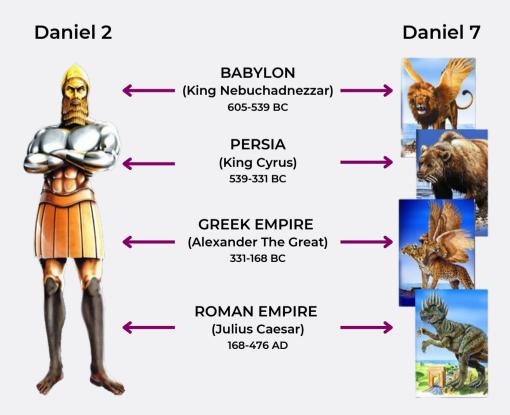
There are distinct parallels between King Nebuchadnezzar's dream (in chapter 2), and what God revealed to Daniel in a vision, detailed in Daniel 7:4-8 (NLT):

The first beast was like a <u>lion with eagles' wings</u>. As I watched, its wings were pulled off, and it was left standing with its two hind feet on the ground, like a human being. And it was given a human mind.

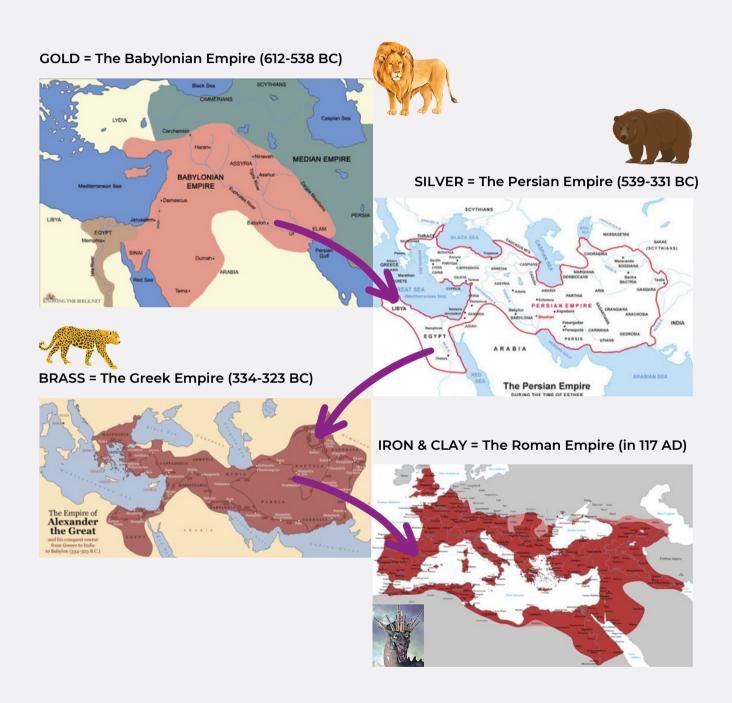
Then I saw a second beast, and it looked like a <u>bear</u>. It was rearing up on one side, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And I heard a voice saying to it, 'Get up! Devour the flesh of many people!'

Then the third of these strange beasts appeared, and it looked like a <u>leopard</u>. It had four bird's wings on its back, and it had four heads. Great authority was given to this beast.

Then in my vision that night, I saw a fourth beast--terrifying, dreadful, and very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with huge iron teeth and trampled their remains beneath its feet. It was <u>different from any of the other beasts</u>, and it had ten horns. As I was looking at the horns, suddenly another small horn appeared among them. Three of the first horns were torn out by the roots to make room for it. This little horn had eyes like human eyes and a mouth that was boasting arrogantly.



Within the next few hundred years, Daniel's prophecies are fulfilled, and we see a shift in power, from the Babylonians to the Romans Empire.



In Revelation 13, the beast (the Anti-Christ) is described as a Lion/Bear/Leopard, with horns - a culmination of all the beasts in Daniel 7.

The Abomination of Desolation - occurs halfway through the 7 years of Tribulation

"Then he said to me, 'This fourth beast is the fourth world power that will rule the earth. It will be different from all the others. It will devour the whole world, trampling and crushing everything in its path. Its ten horns are ten kings who will rule that empire. Then another king will arise, different from the other ten, who will subdue three of them. He will defy the Most High and oppress the holy people of the Most High. He will try to change their sacred festivals and laws, and they will be placed under his control for a time, times, and half a time." Daniel 7:23–25 (NLT)

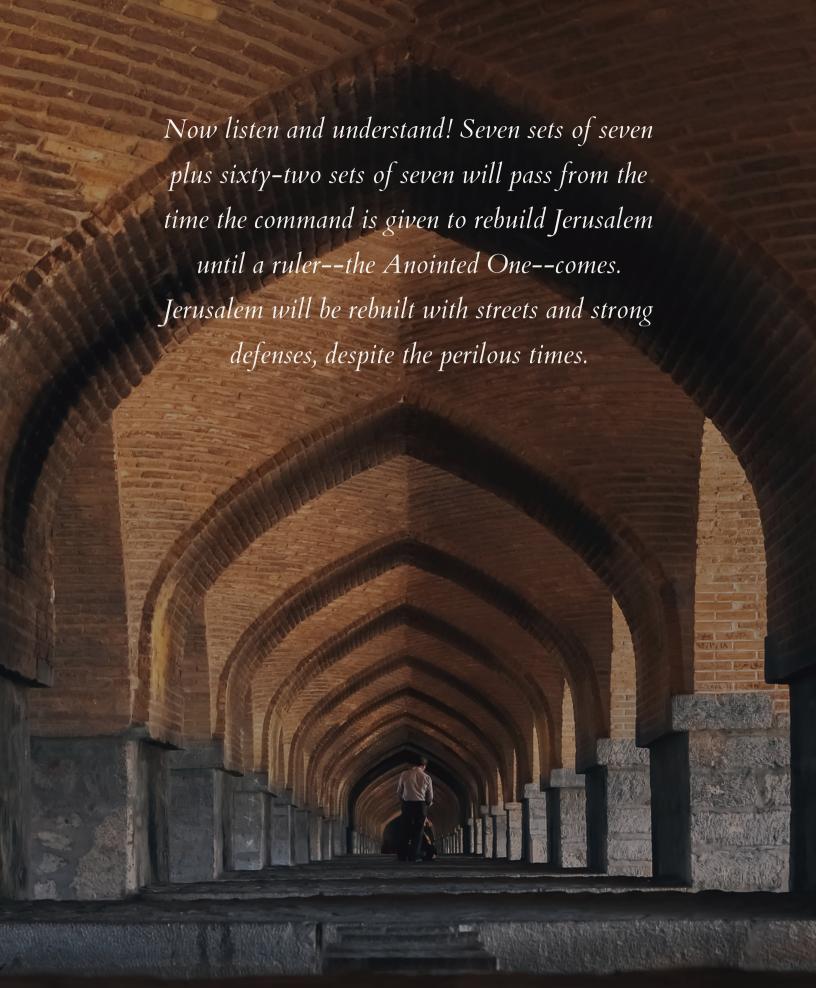
The Millennial Age - 1,000 years reign of Christ, before the Eternal State (eternity)

'But then the court will pass judgment, and all his power will be taken away and completely destroyed. Then the sovereignty, power, and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be given to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will last forever, and all rulers will serve and obey him.' Daniel 26–27 (NLT)





How does knowing the historical accuracy of the visions of Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel help to build trust in the visions of the future they had that are yet to come?



DANIEL 9:25 (NLT)

03 Daniel's 70 Weeks Vision

Daniel's vision in Chapter 9 is critical to understanding the end times.

- King Darius has just taken over (Daniel has not yet been thrown into the lion's den)
- Daniel reads the book of Jeremiah, and discovers that the Jews will be in captivity for 70 years.

"It was the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede, the son of Ahasuerus, who became king of the Babylonians. During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, learned from reading the word of the Lord, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years."

Daniel 9:1-2 (NLT)

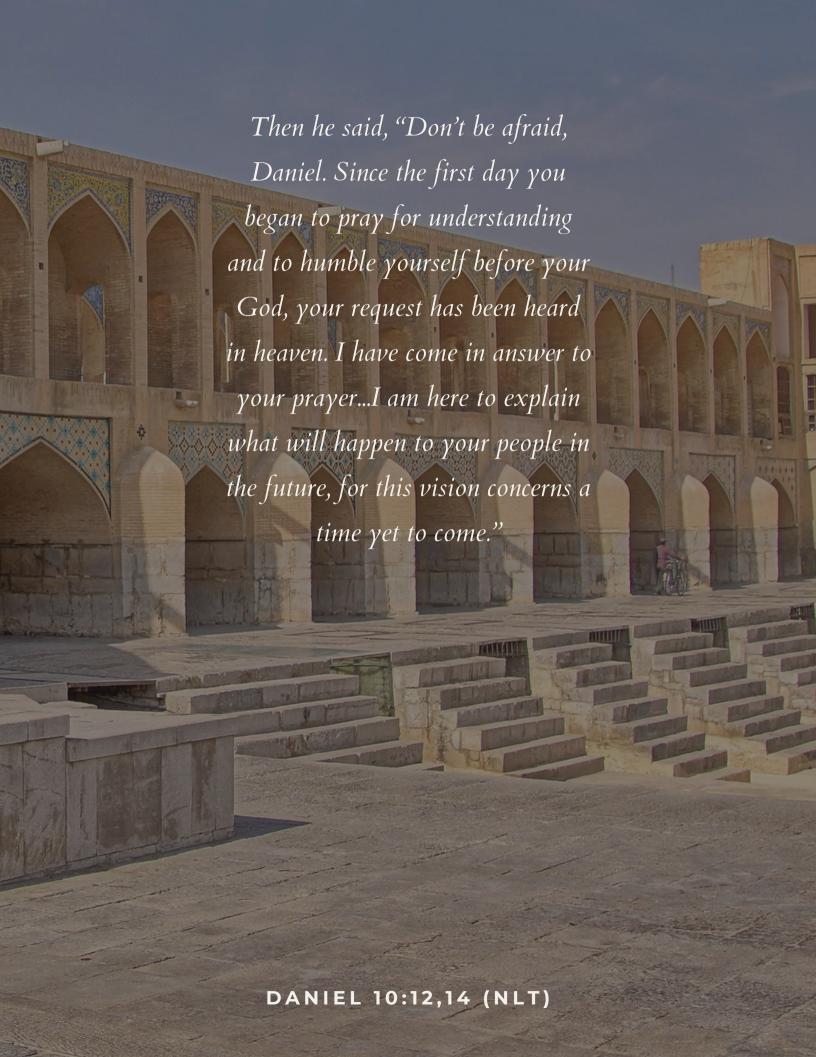
• As Daniel is praying and interceding for a shorter time in exile, God sends the Angel Gabriel to speak to him:

'A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times. After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.' Daniel 9:24–27 (NLT)

Weeks literally means units of 7. However, most Biblical scholars would say that the 7 designates years, not days or weeks. In this case, 70 units of 7 equals 490 years.

Gabriel's message to Daniel has a couple of meanings:

- Present meaning 608-538 BC, approximate Babylonian captivity = 70 years
 - 7 sets of 7 (49) plus 62 sets of 7 (434) = 483 years, according to the 360-day calendar used by the ancient Jews (which represents **476 years** on our solar calendar).
 - In 444 BC, King Artaxerxes of Persia commissioned Nehemiah to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:1–8).
 - The first unit of 49 years (seven "sevens") covers the time that it took to rebuild Jerusalem.
 - 476 years after 444 BC bring us to 33 AD which coincides with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1–9).
 - The prophecy in Daniel 9 specifies that, after the completion of the 483 years, "the Anointed One will be killed" (Daniel 9:26) which was fulfilled when Jesus was crucified.
- Future meaning the timeline for the 1st coming of Christ and the end times
 - Daniel 9:26 continues with a prediction that, after the Messiah is killed, "a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple."
 - The ruler who will come is a reference to the Antichrist, who apparently has some connection with Rome, since it was the Romans who destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD.
 - Daniel 9:27 refers to the 7 years of tribulation, as "The Ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven."
 - Half way through that 7-year tribulation, Daniel goes on to describe the "Abomination of Desolation" as the ruler "sets up a sacrilegious objects that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."



DANIEL'S FULFILLED PROPHECIES

DANIEL 2:32,37-38 / 7:4 The Kingdom of Babylon (605-539 BC) DANIEL 2:32.39 / 5:30-31 / 7:5 / The Medo-Persian Empire (539-331 BC) 8:3-4,6-7,20 / 11:1-2 Xerxes-Ahasuerus (486-465 BC) DANIEL 11:2 Decree to Rebuild Jerusalem (444 BC) DANIEL 9:25 Jerusalem Restored (396 BC) DANIEL 9:25 Alexander The Great (336-323 BC) DANIEL 8:5-8,21 / 11:3-20 DANIEL 2:32,39 / 7:6 / 8:21 / 11:3-20 The Kingdom of Greece (331-146 BC) Alexander's Kingdom Divided (323 BC) **DANIEL 8:8,20** Antiochus III The Great (223-187 BC) **DANIEL 11:10-20** Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 BC) DANIEL 8:9-12 / 11:21-35 The Roman Empire (146 BC-395 AD) DANIEL 2:33,40-43 / 7:7-8,23 Jesus' Triumphal Entry (33 AD) DANIEL 9:25 The Messiah's Crucifixion (33 AD) DANIEL 9:26

DANIEL'S FUTURE PROPHECIES

DANIEL 2:33,42-43 / 7:7-8

Resurrection of Rome

DANIEL 9:27 / 12:1-3

Tribulation

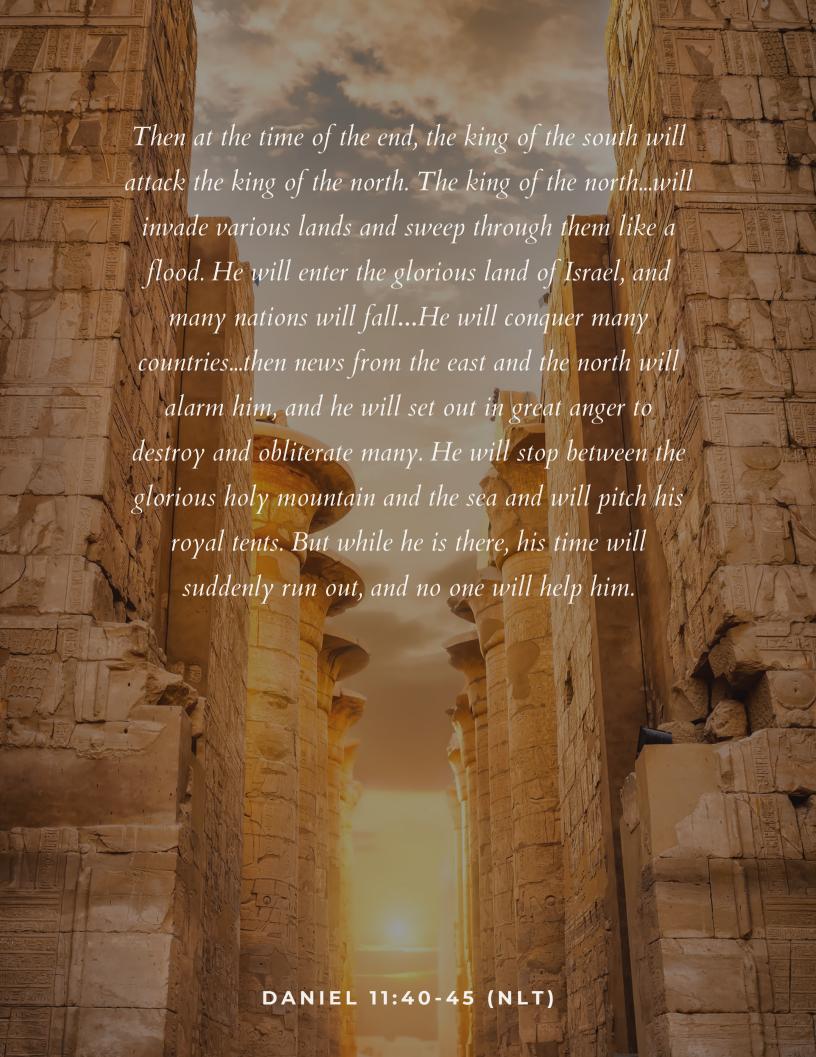
DANIEL 7:11-12 / 8:9-14,23-27 / 9:26-27 / 11:36-45

DANIEL 2:34-35,44-45 / 7:13-14

God's Eternal Kingdom



How does the concept of the '70 weeks' prophecy, with its intricate timeline and messianic implications, encourage you to contemplate the unfolding of God's plan?





The rise and fall of kingdoms was prophesied with precise detail in Daniel 11

4 Kings of Persia

- Cambyses (529-522 BC)
- Pseudo-Smerdis (522-521 BC)
- Darius I-The Great (521-486 BC)
- Xerxes-Ahasuerus of Esther (485-465 BC)

Now then, I will reveal the truth to you. Three more Persian kings will reign, to be succeeded by a fourth, far richer than the others. He will use his wealth to stir up everyone to fight against the kingdom of Greece." Daniel 11:2

The Mighty King - Alexander the Great (336-323 BC) from Greece

• He conquered the known world in 7-8 years, but he died before his son was born, so after his death the Greek Empire was divided among his 4 generals (Antigonus, Cassander, Ptolemy, and Seleucus).

'Then a mighty king will rise to power who will rule with great authority and accomplish everything he sets out to do. But at the height of his power, his kingdom will be broken apart and divided into four parts. It will not be ruled by the king's descendants, nor will the kingdom hold the authority it once had. For his empire will be uprooted and given to others." Daniel 11:3-4

King of the South - Ptolemy 1 from Egypt (323-285 BC)

- He was one of Alexander The Great's four Generals
- The official who became more powerful was Prince Seleucus I of Syria

"The king of the south will increase in power, but one of his own officials will become more powerful than he and will rule his kingdom with great strength." Daniel 11:5

King of the North - Antiochus II of Syria

- He divorced his wife Laodice to marry the daughter of Ptolemy II, the King of Egypt (Southern Kingdom) as part of a peace treaty in 253 BC, following the Second Syrian War.
- When Ptolemy II died 2 years later, Antiochus divorced Berenice (who was renamed Syra for Syria after their marriage) and remarried Laodice.

"Some years later an alliance will be formed between the king of the north and the king of the south. The daughter of the king of the south will be given in marriage to the king of the north to secure the alliance, but she will lose her influence over him, and so will her father. She will be abandoned along with her supporters." Daniel 11:6

King of the South - Ptolemy III of Egypt

- He invaded Syria in 246 BC in support of his disgraced sister Berenice, whose son was removed from the line of succession by his father's first wife Laodice, after the death of Antiochus II.
- After finding his sister and her child murdered in Antioch, Ptolemy continues his campaign through Syria and into Mesopotamia,
- The Laodicean War (Third Syrian War) ended abruptly when he was forced to return to Egypt following a revolt and famine in his homeland.

"But when one of her relatives becomes king of the south, he will raise an army and enter the fortress of the king of the north and defeat him." Daniel 11:7

King of the North - Antiochus III-The Great

- The grandson of Laodice, he came to power after the assassination of his brother Seleucus III.
- After winning the Fourth Syrian War he began to conquer lands in Asia Minor, all the way to India.
- After defeating Egypt at Sidon, he gave his daughter Cleopatra in marriage to Ptolemy V, to gain more power in Egypt (where Rome had influence).
- He then continued his expansion into Europe, but failed to garner support against the Romans.
- He was murdered while paying tribute at a Baal temple, after his kindgom had been reduced to Syria, Mesopotamia and western Iran.

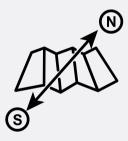
"Then the king of the north will come and lay siege to a fortified city and capture it. The best troops of the south will not be able to stand in the face of the onslaught. The king of the north will march onward unopposed; none will be able to stop him. He will pause in the glorious land of Israel, intent on destroying it. He will make plans to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will form an alliance with the king of the south. He will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom from within, but his plan will fail." Daniel 11:15,17

King of the North - Antiochus IV-Epiphanes (The Vile One)

- The son of Antiochus III, he served as hostage for his father in Rome from 189-175 BC, where he learned to admire Roman society.
- He gained control of the Syrian Kingdom, after ousting a usurper following the death of his brother, King Seleucus IV.
- After invading Jerusalem, he defiles the sanctuary by erecting a statue of Zeus in the Temple, and and all of the Jewish rites were forbidden on pain of death.
- His hellenistic policies and attempts to suppress Judaism brought on the Wars of the Maccabees.

"The next to come to power will be a despicable man who is not in line for royal succession. He will slip in when least expected and take over the kingdom by flattery and intrigue....The king of the north will then return home with great riches. On the way he will set himself against the people of the holy covenant, doing much damage before continuing his journey." Daniel 11:21,28

"His army will take over the Temple fortress, pollute the sanctuary, put a stop to the daily sacrifices, and set up the sacrilegious object that causes desecration." Daniel 11:31



This desecration of the Holy place is confusing for people, because Jesus also talks about the desolation that is yet to come, with the rise of the Antichrist in the end times.

"And some of the wise will fall victim to persecution. In this way, they will be refined and cleansed and made pure until the time of the end, for the appointed time is still to come." Daniel 11:35

The remainder of chapter 11 describes the Antichrist as a leader.

"The king will do as he pleases, exalting himself and claiming to be greater than every god, even blaspheming the God of gods. He will succeed, but only until the time of wrath is completed. For what has been determined will surely take place. He will have no respect for the gods of his ancestors, or for the god loved by women, or for any other god, for he will boast that he is greater than them all." Daniel 11:36-37

At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued. Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.

Daniel's final vision in Chapter 12 describes the events that are yet to come, during the end times:

• Rapture

"Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued. Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever." Daniel 12:1-3

Tribulation

"I heard what he said, but I did not understand what he meant. So I asked, 'How will all this finally end, my lord?' But he said, 'Go now, Daniel, for what I have said is kept secret and sealed until the time of the end. Many will be purified, cleansed, and refined by these trials. But the wicked will continue in their wickedness, and none of them will understand. Only those who are wise will know what it means. From the time the daily sacrifice is stopped and the sacrilegious object that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days. And blessed are those who wait and remain until the end of the 1,335 days!" Daniel 12:8–11





Knowing that Daniel 11 & 12 are the basis for the majority of the understanding we have for the tribulation and rapture, how does it affect your confidence in what the end will be like?



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That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision.

Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. He said, 'Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light. I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded."

DANIEL 2:19-23 (NLT)

"I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. I approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this. 'So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things..."

DANIEL 7:15-16 (NIV)

"While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill-while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice."

DANIEL 9:20-21 (NLT)

"He explained to me, 'Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding. The moment you began praying, a command was given. And now I am here to tell you what it was, for you are very precious to God. Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your vision."

DANIEL 9:22-23 (NLT)

"As for you, go your way until the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days, you will rise again to receive the inheritance set aside for you."

DANIEL 12:13 (NLT)