

Daniel 7-12

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Up to this point, the book of Daniel has been a historical record of events written in chronological order. In chapters seven through twelve, Daniel moved from that account into a description of his visions. These visions contain prophecies concerning the "End Times" or "Last Days" culminating in the Second Coming of the Lord. This lesson will be a very brief overview of these six chapters.

If you desire more explanation or commentary on this prophetic section of Scripture, you might be interested in Pastor Damian Kyle's verse-by-verse audio teaching, which can be accessed at www.blueletterbible.org in the Audio/Video Messages section.

BACKGROUND

Daniel's visions involve events that are detailed in the book of Revelation.

The Bible teaches that there will be a seven-year period called the Tribulation. The first three and a half years will be a time of relative prosperity. The final three and a half years will be a terrifying time of death and destruction. During the Tribulation, God who is loving, compassionate and merciful but also powerful and holy will pour out His judgment and wrath on a rebellious and sinful world. Many will come to know the Lord throughout the Tribulation. These are sometimes referred to as "Tribulation saints."

Throughout the Tribulation the Antichrist or "the beast", who will be indwelt by Satan himself, will come to power and rule the world. At the end of the Tribulation, Satan will be bound for one thousand years and the saints will reign with Jesus on the earth. This period is called the Millennium. Satan will be released and after a final rebellion, he will be cast into the lake of fire forever. There will be a White Throne Judgment, and those who have not received Jesus as Lord and Savior will also be cast into the lake of fire.

A new heaven and a new earth will be created, and all who have received the Lord will live with Him there forever.

Before the Great Tribulation however, "the church" (those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation), will be removed from the world and taken to be with the Lord. The Lord will descend from heaven. Christians who have died will be caught up in the clouds with the Christians who are still alive at this time. They will meet the Lord in the air and be taken to be with Him forever.

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(See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.) This is commonly called the Rapture of the Church.

EXAMINE

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.

The Lord wants to speak to you personally from His Scriptures!! Before you begin the remainder of the homework, read these chapters of Daniel slowly and carefully. Prayerfully ask the Lord to be your Teacher, and make a note of the things He shows you. You may want to ask Him to instruct you specifically in some of the following areas:

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- What do You want me to learn about You as God the Father, God the Son and/or God the Holy Spirit?
- Is there something for which to praise or thank You?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- How do You want the lessons I have learned to affect my life today?

EXPLORE

Chapter 7

1. Using the chart below, fill in everything you learn about each of the four beasts from verses 1-8, 11-12, and 17-26. Note: the beasts represent the same kingdoms as those in King Nebuchadnezzar's vision in chapter 2.

First Beast	
Second Beast	
Third Beast	

Fourth Beast	
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2. God is called the Ancient of Days in verses 9, 13 and 22. This name speaks of His eternal nature. What do you learn about Him from verses 9-10? Note: In his commentary, Thru the Bible with J. Vernon McGee, McGee said that white garments refer to God's holiness and righteousness, the pure wool to His wisdom and the fiery flame to His judgment.

3. Summarize verses 13-14. What additional information do you learn from the following verses?
 - Matthew 26:64

 - Luke 1:31-33

 - Revelation 11:15

Chapter 8

1. When does verse 1 say that Daniel received this prophetic vision? According to our modern calendar, this would have been 551 B.C. Although this chapter contains prophesies concerning the rule of the Medo-Persian and Greek Empires, the Babylonian Empire was still in power when Daniel received the vision and would remain so for fourteen more years. The Bible is filled with fulfilled prophesies. How does fulfilled prophesy increase your faith?

2. Summarize what you learn about the ram and the male goat from verses 3-8. According to verses 20-22, who are the ram and the goat?

3. What do verses 9-12 and 23-25 say about the "little horn"?

Note: Many prophecies in Scripture have both a *near* and a *far fulfillment*. A successor of Alexander the Great, a man named Antiochus Epiphanes, is generally believed to be the *near fulfillment* of the little horn. He was a notorious persecutor of the Jews. Most commentators believe that the Antichrist will be the *far fulfillment* of the little horn.

Chapter 9

1. Daniel was a student of the prophetic Scriptures and knew that the seventy years of Babylonian captivity were almost over. In verse 2, he referred to *the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet*. Daniel was likely thinking of the passages from Jeremiah listed below. What does each one say? How would you rate yourself in terms of being a "student of the Scriptures"? How could you grow in this area?

- Jeremiah 25:11-12
- Jeremiah 29:10-14

2. Daniel's prayer is recorded in verses 3-19. Write down portions of his prayer and explain what each says about Daniel's heart toward God and/or God's people. Finally, describe how you do or could include this aspect of prayer in your own prayer life. The first one is done for you.

Verse number	Daniel's prayer	What it says about Daniel	My prayer life
3	Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications	He was fervent and soberly sought God for direction for himself and his people	I set aside the first part of each day to pray for myself and to intercede for others

3. Read the prophecy found in verses 20-27. Many biblical scholars believe that verses 24-25 refer to Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Read the following passages and write what you learn about the fulfillment of this prophecy. Note: Most scholars believe that verses 26-27 speak of Jesus' Crucifixion and the coming of the Antichrist.

- Matthew 21:1-11
- Mark 11:1-10
- Luke 19:28-44
- John 12:12-16

Chapter 10

1. Compare Daniel's vision of the *man* with John's description of *the Son of Man* found in Revelation. Also, note how each man reacted to what he saw. Record what you learn in the chart below. Many believe Daniel's vision is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus.

Daniel 10:5-9	Revelation 1:12-17

2. Look at verses 12-13. What caused Michael to be delayed three weeks in responding to Daniel's prayer? When have you experienced a delay in answer to a prayer request? How does this incident from Daniel's life

encourage you? What do the following sections of Scripture teach you about warfare in the spiritual realm?

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
 - Ephesians 6:12
3. Summarize verses 14-21.

Chapter 11

1. The first thirty-five verses of this chapter give a detailed description of events that would occur many years after Daniel wrote about them. Each event has been corroborated by history. Verse 2 says, *And now I will tell you the truth*. What God reveals in His word is always completely true-- what He prophesies will always be fulfilled and what He promises will always come to pass. What does each of the following verses say?
- 1 Kings 8:56
 - Daniel 2:22
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20
 - 2 Timothy 3:16
2. Look at verse 35. This verse prophesies of the time when the Jews would be persecuted for refusing to submit to Antiochus' false religious system. Consider the quote below from The Bible Knowledge Commentary. How has your life been refined or purified by the example of a faithful Christian martyr?

Jews who refused to submit...were persecuted and martyred for their faith. The word **fall**...refers to severe suffering on the part of many and death for others...The suffering that the faithful endured served to purify and refine (many).

3. Verses 36-45 contain prophecies regarding the Antichrist. What do these verses say about him?

Chapter 12

1. This final chapter of the book of Daniel contains prophecies concerning the nation of Israel during the End Times. In verse 1, Michael told Daniel that *every one who is found written in the book* would be delivered. Look up the verses below and make a note of all you learn about this book and the names found in it. As a Christian, your name is written in this book!!
 - Luke 10:20
 - Revelation 3:5
 - Revelation 21:22-27
2. Verse 11 speaks of the *abomination of desolation*. The far fulfillment of this will occur when the Antichrist desecrates the temple. What do the following verses say about this event?
 - Daniel 9:27
 - Daniel 11:31
 - Matthew 24:15
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4
3. In verse 13, Michael told Daniel, *But you, go your way till the end*. What *way* is the Lord calling you to go at this point in your life?

4. As we conclude our study of the book of Daniel, comment on the following words from Pastor David Jeremiah:

Daniel's book has a theme of such simplicity that the most brilliant minds in the world have been unable to grasp it. It is just this: God is in charge.

ENJOY

Take time today to sit with the Lord and enjoy Him. Delight yourself in the God of your salvation! Bask in His love, rest in His protection, and take pleasure in a time of intimate fellowship with Him.

What have you learned from Him and about Him this week? How has this knowledge drawn you closer to Him? Make a note below. Now praise Him for who He is and thank Him for all He has done for you.