

Daniel – Chapter 1

This is the final chapter of the book of Daniel. I pray that those who have studied this book will rely on God in their lives just as Daniel did.

- ***At That time***

The phrase "At that time" has a sense of ongoing continuity such that the phrase might be rendered "during that time" the time that is, of the end when this willful king Daniel writes about in chapter 11:36-45 rules earth and blasphemes the God of heaven.

Daniel 12:1 "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.

- ***Two angelic princes***

Two angelic named created beings Michael and Gabriel, appear to have definite defined jobs. Gabriel is always on a Messianic mission, such as giving to Daniel the exact day the Messiah will present Himself as King and appearing to Mary to tell her that she will be bearing the Son of the Most High.

- ***Michael the warrior***

Michael is named four times in scripture (Dan 10, Dan 12, Jude9, Rev 12) always in contention with another angel named Lucifer the fallen, now named Satan, which means adversary. He is a military commander assigned to protect Israel.

- ***Jesus owns but Satan has possession***

Amid all the turmoil we read about in the news we tend to forget that Satan is called the "prince of this world" (John 12:31, John 14:30, John 16:11) It is like the owner of the house finding squatters occupying the premises and having made a big mess of the house. God, at the beginning of creation gave Adam the rights to live on and control the earth, but he gave that away by sinning. Adam mortgaged the house to Satan and gave control of the property to him. By Jesus' death and resurrection He paid off the debt of sin and now fully owns the property again.

This is another reason why Jesus had to become a man, because only a man, a pure and perfect man, the God-man Jesus paid off the mortgage and once again man can be the rightful owner. This payment was not done with perishable gold or silver, but with the innocent blood of Jesus Christ. Soon now He will return and evict the squatter, but not without a big fight in which we are in a sense participants in and yet in another, caught in the crossfire.

- ***Jesus did not dispute Satan's right to the nations of Earth***

When Jesus was tempted by Satan, the tempter showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time and offered them to Jesus. Now if I offered to sell you the Golden Gate Bridge you'd laugh, knowing full well that it is not mine. However, Jesus did not dispute Satan's right to give control over the kingdoms of earth, because indeed Satan had that right and still has control over the children of darkness. He has no more control over the children of light than the Chinese government has control over an American citizen living in the USA. If that American goes to the land of China, then that government indeed has control over him. If we sin, that is like going into Satan's territory and only the might of Jesus can bring us back out from under Satan's influence.

Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

Ephesians 5:9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

- ***Unprecedented time of trouble***

There are now an estimated 70,000 nuclear warheads on this planet. This and all the other technology of destruction certainly could wreak such destruction and chaos on this planet as never possible before in

the history of mankind. Humanity, since the dawn of the nuclear age has the means to make man extinct on this earth. But for the direct intervention of God, there would be no survivors. There have been extremely bloody wars throughout history, but now in our time, for the first time, the technology exists that could effect the total extinction of all life on this entire planet.

Matthew 24:21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again.

Mark 13:19 because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now--and never to be equaled again.

- ***Israel, the focus of the trouble***

Daniel here and also in Jeremiah tell us that Israel will be at the focus of that unequalled trouble. The daily news about the events there show us that we are living in the days leading up to this final cataclysm.

Jeremiah 30:7 How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

- ***Two-thirds of Israel perishes***

With all the world at enmity with God's people, two out of three Jews will be killed and those that remain will in total desperation call on the Lord who will save them by returning in triumph. Satan can read all this and is moving his forces to prevent Jesus from coming back. Zechariah 13:8 In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.

Zechariah 13:9 This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'"

- ***War in heaven and on earth***

At that time, the final war on earth is a reflection of the war in the spiritual realm where Michael and his angels will engage Satan and throw him out of heaven once and for all.

Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

Revelation 12:8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.

Revelation 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

- ***A physical resurrection***

The concept of resurrection is present in the Old Testament, but is not a key element. We are told that there is such a thing, but not given much detail.

Daniel 12:2 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.

- ***Job yearns for resurrection***

Job knew about the fact of a physical resurrection and longed for it. He knew that he would be resurrected at the time when his Redeemer "stands upon the Earth". The "at that time" of Daniel 12:2 is the time Job will be resurrected. However nowhere are we given all that much detailed revelation on the subject in the Old Testament as we are given in the new.

Job 19:25 I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

Job 19:26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;

Job 19:27 I myself will see him with my own eyes-- I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Only after Jesus' coming are we given much more insight on the who, what and how of this important subject. Through Paul, the Holy Spirit gives a whole chapter of information on this. (1Cor15).

- ***Many, but not all resurrected***

Notice it says many, not all will be resurrected, and of that number, some to life everlasting life and some to everlasting contempt. So the question arises:

What happens to the ones not resurrected? The answer lies in the phrase in verse 1 " At this time" there will be a resurrection wherein only a certain group participates in. At other points in time, other groups are or were resurrected.

- the word --> everlasting

ʿowlam, o-lawm'; or olam, o-lawm'; properly concealed, i.e. the vanishing point; generally time out of mind (past or future), i.e. (practical) eternity; frequent adverb (especially with prepositional prefix) always :- always (-s), ancient (time), any more, continuance, eternal, (for, [n-]) ever (-lasting, -more, of old), lasting, long (time), (of) old (time), perpetual, at any time, (beginning of the) world (+ without end).

- The word --> contempt

dera'own, der-aw-one'; or dera'own, day-raw-one'; from an unused root (meaning to repulse); an object of aversion :- abhorring, contempt.

- ***Different groups resurrected at different times***

Shortly after the time of Jesus being raised back to life a number of saints came back to life also. If we classify resurrections in their chronological order then Jesus was first, then second these saints and after this, centuries later a third resurrection, the one that Daniel writes about here and after that a fourth resurrection at the end of another thousand years after the time Daniel writes about here.

Matthew 27:52 The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

Matthew 27:53 They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

- ***First does not mean first time***

The Bible tells us about a first resurrection and those who participate in that will not see what is called the second death. We assume that first and second are related to timing, but the first and last have more to do with certain groups being raised to life and the timing is not necessarily a single fixed time. Here scripture is very specific about who it is that is a participant in the first resurrection, namely those who were murdered because of their faith in Jesus. It narrows the group even further to those murdered during the Tribulation.

Revelation 20:4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 20:5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

- ***Two groups are resurrected***

Daniel tells us here that there are two groups of people resurrected; 1) those given everlasting life and 2) Those raised to everlasting shame and contempt. Those partaking of resurrections are no longer subject to time and thinking of first and second resurrection in terms of time is meaningless.

- ***Those who are wise***

Those who bring others to Christ, who is righteousness, are deemed wise and their wisdom will shine forth for all to see for all eternity.

Daniel 12:3 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.

- **The word -->shine**

zahar, zaw-har'; a primitive root; to gleam; figurative to enlighten (by caution) :- admonish, shine, teach, (give) warn (-ing).

- ***A sealed and unsealed books***

Daniel is told here to specifically seal the book until the time of the end and John, writing the book of revelation is specifically told not to seal his book. Much of what Daniel wrote is now clear because it is history to us, whereas Revelation is still mostly future. As the prophecies of scripture are getting close to fulfillment we can understand what was

written about so long ago. The restoration of a physical nation of Israel was an enigma to most theologians and scholars until it actually took place on May 14 1948.

Daniel 12:4 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."

- ***Travel and communications***

In the two or three generations up until our present time, travel, communication and information have exploded. Our planet has become a village wherein I can talk to someone across the street as easily as to someone in a distant part of the world. Jetliners travel distances in hours that took months and years in Daniel's day.

- ***Human knowledge explosion***

Computers and the Internet have made information available on a vast scale to anyone in our modern society. Information scientists tell us that the sum total of knowledge doubles every ten years. This knowledge also extends to the Biblical sphere. As these events foretold happen we begin to understand what was written, whereas before there might have been a lot of guesswork. These are all signs Daniel gives here that we really are rapidly approaching what Daniel here calls " the time of the end" .

- ***Daniel sees three persons***

This vision is taking place at the River Tigris. At the beginning there is only one heavenly being, the Angel Gabriel, engaged with Daniel. Now he is joined by two others, one on the other bank of the river and one on or above the water thereof. Some hold that this was Jesus Himself, which is not to be excluded, but from the text itself it certain that He was the authoritative one.

- ***Daniel given the time duration***

Again and again God wants us to know the time duration of the period of trouble. When we know that something terrible will come to an end after a specific time, it is possible to have hope. And again we encounter the same language pointing to a limited time of unparalleled terror on this planet.

Daniel 12:5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream.

Daniel 12:6 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? "

Daniel 12:7 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.

- ***The writers of scripture did not always understand***

Daniel, like the other writers of scripture did not necessarily always understand what the Holy Spirit was causing them to write or what they were experiencing. He even asked about it and was told again that what he was writing was not for his benefit and understanding, but for those who would be alive at the time when these things would take place.

Daniel 12:8 I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, " O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things? "

Daniel 12:9 He said, " Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.

- ***The wicked and the righteous shall take their course***

Daniel here, as well as John in Revelation tells us that things are going to go this way, The wicked at that time will choose continued wickedness and the righteous will continue to choose righteousness

Daniel 12:10 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.

Revelation 22:10 Then he told me, " Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.

Revelation 22:11 Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy."

- ***1260 days and 1290 days***

Here we have an interval of thirty days about which speculative books have been written. The fact is that we are not told what happens in that extra 30 days.

Daniel 12:11 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.

- ***More fodder for guesswork***

Again books of guesswork exist written in scholarly language purporting to tell us what happens in those 75 days after the 70th week officially ends. All we do know that it is associated with blessing for those who endure through those extra 75 days.

Daniel 12:12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.

At first I thought to bring some of the more popular and reasonable conjectures, but this is a study of what is actually written in the Bible, not someone's guesses about what is not there.

- ***Daniel is promised to be resurrected***

At the end, the time he has been writing, about Daniel will arise to be given his place in the plan and wisdom of God.

Daniel 12:13 But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

Personally, after I arrive in the dimensions beyond time and space, after having worshiped the Father and the Son for a good long time -- if there is such a thing as time - I'll go and seek out Daniel early among the saints in scripture and tell him the inspiration I have received from his exemplary life as a true person of faith. Other than Jesus Himself of course, Daniel is the one person in the Bible whom I personally esteem higher than any other.

- ***Asking for details***

I'll ask him to fill in some of the details, such as where he was when his friends were thrown into the fiery furnace and how the lions in the den acted when they were prevented from eating him. I'll want to join in conversations with Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel in order to learn more of what life was like back then and their friendship during Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation and restoration.

- ***Everything written will be accomplished***

Jesus said that everything in scripture must be fulfilled, and that includes all things we have studied in this series.

- ***Be daring in faith***

My prayer for us is that we will be daring in our faith, just as Daniel was, and when the trials come, be able to trust and rely upon and love the same God that Daniel did during his long and fruitful sojourn on this Earth.