

Jesus & The End Times

Lesson 4 – The Book of Daniel as it Relates to End Times

1. The historical background of Daniel

- A. Israel became a divided kingdom after King Solomon: Israel to the North & Judah to the South
- B. The Kingdom of Israel lasted 250 years and was destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 BC
- C. The Kingdom of Judah lasted 400 years and was eventually destroyed with the fall of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586BC.
- D. Even though Jerusalem fell in 586BC, people were captured and deported years before the city fell.

Ezekiel 40:1 (NLT)

“On April 28, during the twenty-fifth year of our captivity—fourteen years after the fall of Jerusalem—the LORD took hold of me.”

- E. Local people were deported and immersed into foreign cultures.
- F. Daniel and his friends were some of the captives taken to the Babylonian empire to serve the king.
- G. The nation was destroyed because of disobedience yet the Lord promised to restore them after 70 years.

Deuteronomy 30:1-5 (NLT)

“In the future, when you experience all these blessings and curses I have listed for you, and when you are living among the nations to which the Lord your God has exiled you, take to heart all these instructions. If at that time you and your children return to the Lord your God, and if you obey with all your heart and all your soul all the commands I have given you today, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes. He will have mercy on you and gather you back from all the nations where he has scattered you. Even though you are banished to the ends of the earth, the Lord your God will gather you from there and bring you back again. The Lord your God will return you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will possess that land again.”

2. God elevates Daniel and his friends to positions of influence

Daniel 1:3-5

Daniel 1:3-5 (NLT)

“Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah’s royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives. “Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men,” he said. “Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon.” The king assigned them a daily ration of food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for three years, and then they would enter the royal service.”

A. God always leaves a witness. God always has people who represent Kingdom influence even in a godless culture.

3. Daniel Interprets a futuristic dream

Daniel 2:1-5

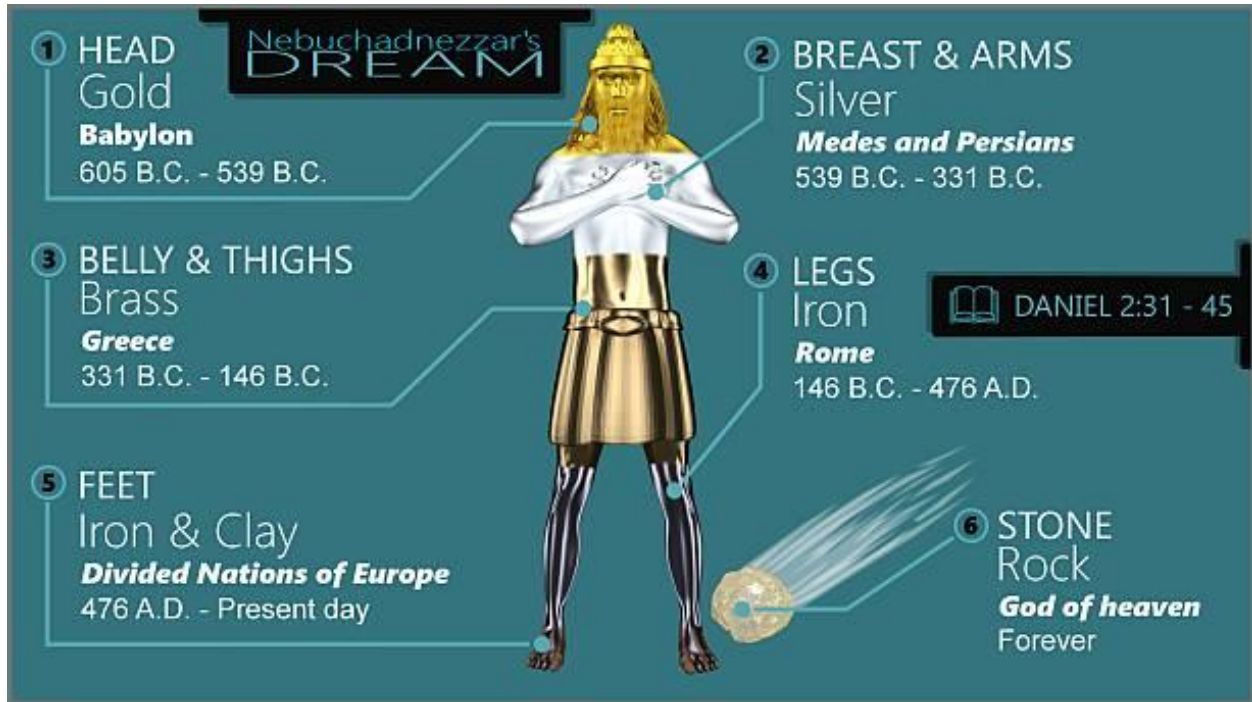
Daniel 2:1-5 (NLT)

“One night during the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn’t sleep. He called in his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, and he demanded that they tell him what he had dreamed. As they stood before the king, he said, “I have had a dream that deeply troubles me, and I must know what it means.” Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, “Long live the king! Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means.” But the king said to the astrologers, “I am serious about this. If you don’t tell me what my dream was and what it means, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be turned into heaps of rubble!”

Daniel 2:27-28 (NLT)

“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.”

4. Understanding the statue of nations



4. Daniel 9 – Understanding the 70 weeks

Daniel 9:24-27

- 70 Weeks equals = 490 years
- 1 week = 7 years.
- 1 day = 1 year

Daniel 9:24-27 (NLT)

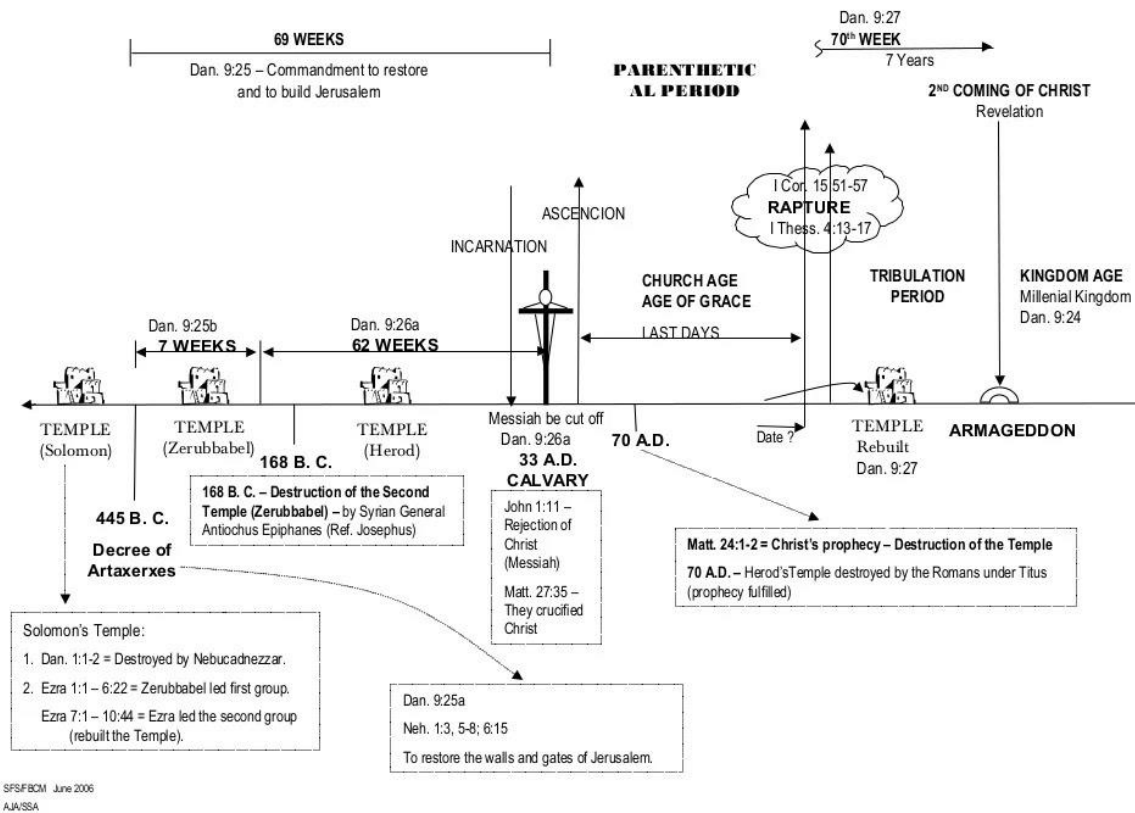
“A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. Now listen and understand! 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."

Luke 19:41-44 (NLT)

"But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognize it when God visited you."

SEVENTY WEEKS (Daniel 9:24-27)



6. The 70 “weeks” of Daniel include a gap between the 69th “week” and 70th “week”

Daniel 9:26 (NLT)

“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.”

- In the text, the fact that the Messiah will be cut off (rejection and crucifixion) AFTER the 69th weeks but before the 70th week requires a gap of time.
- Also, the destruction of the rebuilt city and temple takes place decades AFTER the conclusion of the 69th week.

- The six prophecies concerning Israel found in Daniel 9:24 have not yet been fulfilled and, therefore, must be yet future requiring a gap prior to the 70th week as God has “set them aside” for now.

Matthew 23:37-39 (NLT)

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. And now, look, your house is abandoned and desolate. For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

7. What is described for the 70th week in Daniel 9:27 has not yet been fulfilled

- There has been no seven-year covenant
- There has been no violation of that covenant after 3 1/2 years
- No Antichrist figure has committed abominations in the temple or been destroyed after doing so

8. Jesus Himself refers to the abomination of desolation as being yet future

Matthew 24:15

Matthew 24:15 (NLT)

“The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.” (Reader, pay attention!).”

9. The 70 “weeks” of Daniel will be completed by the 7 years of Tribulation

Daniel 9:24

- A. This 70th week is a period of seven years between the rapture and Christ’s Second Coming**

- B. This 70th week provides the exact framework for all the events found in Revelation 6-19**
- C. This 70th week concerns God's chosen nation of Israel and their coming King – it is suspiciously silent regarding the church**
- D. This 70th week will begin with a covenant between a prince and Israel promising to restore them to their land in false fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant and deceiving many into thinking he is God**
- E. This prince will break his covenant after 3 1/2 years (in contrast to God Who keeps His covenants) and "cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease"**
- F. The breaking of this covenant marks the beginning of unparalleled "desolation" and persecution for the Jewish people**
- G. The end of this final seven-year period will conclude the entire series of 70 weeks and usher in the great blessings promised to Israel in Daniel 9:24**