

...a verse by verse study

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

# Chronological Order

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1	Babylonian Captivity	606 B.C.
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	604 B.C.
3	Nebuchadnezzar's Image	587 B.C.
4	Nebuchadnezzar's Pride	570-563 B.C.
7	The vision of the 4 beasts	552 B.C.
8	Ram and He-goat vision	550 B.C.
5	Babylon falls to Persians	539 B.C.
6	The Lions' Den	539 B.C.
9	Vision of seventy weeks	537 B.C.
10 -	12 Closing visions	536 B.C.

# Kings of the Persian Empire



In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

- Critics try to argue that there is no Babylonian record of someone called 'Daniel'
  - Therefore 'Daniel' must have been written much later
- What they don't tell is that there are records of a Belteshazzer!
  - Any Babylonian record would have 'Belteshazzer' not 'Daniel'!
  - Professor Robert D Wilson highlights ample evidence that a man by this name did indeed hold a high public office during this period in Babylon

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

- Daniel states that what is about to be revealed is true!
  - Heb: מוֹלֵהְ eh'meth: sure/assured/faithful
- The fulfilment was to be yet future
  - The last three chapters of the book of Daniel span human history from the time of Daniel to the time when Jesus will return to establish his kingdom and reign on the throne of David.

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing and had understanding of the vision.

- God is not the author of confusion! 1 Cor 14:33
- He gives us prophecy that we might understand!

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Revelation 1:1

- Revelation = Unveiling
- God gave this in order that we would know!
- We are not to be in darkness 1 Thes 5:4
- This book is intended to be understood

Why, seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty, do they that know him not see his days?

Job 24:1

- Time is in God's hand; so His own should see the 'signs of the times' and thereby discern the world around us.
- We have a God who is outside time, and knows the future before it happens, and had revealed it in His Word
- How sad that so many Christians are often so ignorant about the future.

<sup>2</sup> In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.

- Daniel doesn't tell us why he was mourning, but it was no doubt to do with his people and their future (cf Chapter 9)
- Certainly, that which was revealed to him (and is explained in the following chapters) specifically relates to Israel and their future.

I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

- Fasting is not going on hunger-strike until God hears!
- Fasting is about 'spiritual tenderness', not a 'knee jerk' reaction to a problem that occurs.
- Jesus fasted as a matter of course, and was therefore ready to face whatever confronted Him (cf Matt 17:21)

And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel;

- Hiddekel is another name for the Tigris
  - the river approx 20 miles east of Babylon.
- Remember, that by now Daniel has officially retired so had no need to be in the city.

# Hiddekel (Tigris)



#### THE BOOK OF GENESIS

And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.

Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz:

- ...now we are told of Daniel's vision.
- Clothing in scripture is an identifier! See Rev 12 /17
  - What are YOU clothed with?
- Linen in scripture is associated with righteousness/man (cf. Rev 19:8);
- Gold is associated with kings
- Here we have a 'righteous man' who is 'a king'!
  - That somewhat limits our options!

6 His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

- We are not told why Daniel saw this vision, but it is the last vision he sees, and without doubt the greatest of them all.
- Who is this 'certain man'?
- A 'Super Angel'?
- Or 'Christophany'?
  - an Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Revelation 1:10

- 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;
- And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Revelation 1:14-15

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Revelation 1:16

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Revelation 1:17

6 His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves

- Similar to when Jesus appeared to Paul on the Damascus road
  - See Acts 9:7 / Acts 22:9

8 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great ∨ision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.

- As it was for Paul, John, and Isaiah, coming face to face with God exposes our own weakness and spiritual poverty like never before.
- All the 'good' that we possess is turned to filthy rags in the presence of a holy God, and like Isaiah, all we can say is 'Woe is me! For I am undone' (Isaiah 6:5).

...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.

- Notice what Daniel says here:
- "I heard the <u>voice</u> of His words"
- Any who have read scripture have heard His words
- What must it be like to hear <u>voice</u> of His words?!
- 'Deep sleep' x7 (Judges 4:21 / Psalm 76:6 / Prov 10:5 / Dan 8:18 / Dan 10:9 / Jonah 1:5 /Jonah 1:6)
  - ◘७७० râdam, always seems to be of the Lord.

10 And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.

- 'an hand' not 'His hand'.
- This is not the same 'person' as in the vision.
- The vision has now ended and Daniel is back in the real world, by the side of the river,
- Now an angel touches him and gets him up
  - well, half-way up!

And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling

- After what Daniel has been through it must have been very comforting to hear these words 'o man greatly beloved'.
- The angel now tells Daniel to stand up properly!
- This angel, as with Gabriel in chapter 9, had been specifically sent to Daniel.

12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

**Daniel 12:1** 

• It is almost amusing that whenever angels appear in scripture they say 'fear not'!

12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

**Daniel 12:1** 

- As we saw in the last chapter, Gabriel flew swiftly to answer Daniel's prayer;
- Here we see that God had heard Daniel's prayer from the first day he started to fast and pray
  - 21 days ago.
- Do we need to keep praying then?

### Spiritual Warfare

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds
 Corinthians 10:4

 The spiritual warfare we are engaged in is not just resolved by 'a single prayer', but requires persistent faithful petition, a sustained attack on the enemy's position.

### Spiritual Warfare

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. James 5:16-18

• The reason for the necessary persistence in prayer will become clear in the next verse.

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

- This is a glimpse into the unseen spiritual realm that is continually taking place even though we are not often aware of it.
- The prince of the kingdom of Persia is not Cyrus, or any other Persian ruler, but the satanic spiritual power behind the kingdom.

#### The Spiritual World

- We see this alluded to in Isaiah 14 where the passage starts by addressing the king of Babylon, but then goes far beyond the human king of Babylon to the spiritual power behind him
  - in that particular case, to Satan himself.
- The same is true in Ezekiel 28 when the king of Tyre is the initial focus, but soon the passage shifts to address the one pulling the strings in the spiritual realm.

# Angels

- Created beings:
- Saw world created:
- Have Bodies:
- Perform miracles
- Entertained unawares:
- Guardian Angels
- Engage in warfare
- Desire to learn:

Eph 1:20-21; Col 1:16

Job 38:4-10

1 Cor 15:38-40, 44;

Luke 20:27-36

Gen 19:11

Heb 13:2 Gen 18; Judg 13

Matt 18:10

2 Kgs 6 / 19; Isa 37:36

1 Pet 1:12

# Ministry Assignments

Announcing Christ Daniel 9

• Birth Lk 2:8-14

Temptation Mt 4:1-11

Resurrection
 Lk 22:39-46

Ascension Acts 1:10-11

• Return Mt 13:39; 24:31

## Fallen Angels

- One Third rebelled Rev 12
- Lucifer led the rebellion Ezek 28:11-18
  - "Anointed Cherub"
  - -"He was perfect & in Eden"
  - -"until iniquity was found in thee"
  - -Five "I will's" [pride!] Isa 14:12-17
- 'Left first estate' oiketerion 2 Cor 5:2, Jude 1:6
- Ultimately cast out Rev 12:9; 12:4
- Hell was made for them Matt 25:41

#### Demons

- Distinct from angels: desperately seek embodiment
- Knowledgable: they know their destiny
   Matt 8:29
- OT: Lev 17:7; Deut 32:17; 2 Chr 11:15; Ps 106:36-37; Isa 13:21; 34:14
- NT: Matt 12:45,43; Mark 1:23-27; Lukek 4:33;
   1 Tim 4:1; Rev 16:14; 1 Cor 10:20-21

## The Spiritual World

- Very often we overlook the influence in our lives of the spiritual realm,
  - but we shouldn't!
- Paul warned us:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [i.e. heavenly] places.

Ephesians 6:12

- This is not an occasional wrestling, but an everyday event.
- The battle is ultimately for the souls of men,
- The battle ground is the mind,
- The Mind is where Satan's most unassailable strongholds are erected.
- Paul says that we should be:

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ

2 Corinthians 10:5

- Spiritual warfare is about mind control
- If Satan can manipulate our thoughts, causing doubt, fear, discouragement, envy, lust, hatred and the like, he gains a foothold that becomes a foundation for him to build his stronghold upon.
- If on the other hand we are not conformed to this world, but are transformed by the [continual] renewing of our mind, we will <u>not</u> be subject to Satan but will know what is 'that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God' (cf Rom 12:2).

- This is why Paul says we should set our affections (thoughts) on the things above, not on things of the earth (Col 3:2).
- Peter said: "Wherefore gird up the loins of <u>your</u> <u>mind</u>, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;" (1 Peter 1:13).
- In other words, be careful what you think about and dwell on, be in control of your thought life and don't allow it to be overrun by emotions and passions
- "hang in there until the Day of Christ, when by His grace, the struggle will finally be over".

• For now, we are to:

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.... Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Ephesians 6:11,14-18

- As Chuck Missler points out, you need the armour in place before the battle commences!
  - It is no use trying to put the armour on when you realise you are under attack!
- Roman soldiers would repair their armour between the battles
  - a good lesson for us to take on board!
- Fellowship, reading the Word, prayer, communion. All of these do wonders for our spiritual armour.

- Typically Roman soldiers had no armour for the back
- As believers enlisted in God's army (2 Tim 2:4) we shouldn't retreat (backslide/turn our backs on the enemy) either.
  - It is worth noting that we are often at our most vulnerable when we are on our way home after 'a battle', when the pressure is off and no one is watching any more.
    - We may have just had a great victory, preached a good sermon, led a great Bible study, witnessed to a friend or colleague, been at a powerful prayer meeting or worship time; but the enemy will be lurking and ready to pounce on the way home. One of his favourite tools is discouragement 'no one cares', 'what's the use', 'they don't appreciate me', 'after all that effort I've made no difference'....etc

- Although Daniel may not have understood what was going on in the spiritual realm, he was faithful in prayer.
- As a result Michael the Archangel (there is only one Archangel), is able to come and assist the other angel in getting through to Daniel.
- What would have happened if Daniel had given up praying after, say, the 20th day, rather than persisting in prayer?

# 'Prayer is God's way of enlisting us in what He is doing'

Chuck Missler

Marin Marin Marine

"If the highest function of angelic hosts is praise, it follows logically that the highest function of the human spirit must also be praise...[praising God] decentralises self.

The worship and praise of God demands a shift of centre from self to God. One cannot praise without relinquishing occupation with self....Praise produces forgetfulness of self – and forgetfulness of self is health..." (p117-118)

"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." (Luke 9:24).

"There are other reasons why praise is of such supreme importance and why so much larger a portion of the Word is given to praise than to prayer.

For some reason, Satan fears praise even more than prayer" (page 119) (cf 2 Chron 20).

"God gave to king David such a revelation of the importance and power of praise upon earth that, following the heavenly pattern, he set aside and dedicated an army of four thousand Levites whose sole occupation was to praise the Lord" (1 Chron 23:5) (page 121)

"In Psalm 22:3 we are told that God "inhabits the praises" of His people. This means that wherever there is adoration, reverence, and acceptable worship and praise, there He identifies and openly manifests His presence. And His presence always expels Satan.

Satan cannot operate in the divine presence"(page 120)

14 Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.

- The angel now gives Daniel the outline of the message he is about to deliver
  - which we will see in chapters 11 and 12
- Once again, it is regarding 'thy people' i.e. the Jews

<sup>15</sup> And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb.

- Daniel hasn't been back up very long, and now he's down again with his face toward the ground!
  - It is amazing how much Daniel saw, observed and recorded that we are now the beneficiaries of; and bear in mind that he is about 85 years old by now.

16 And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.

- Is seems the vision Daniel refers to, given the context, is the vision of Jesus he had just had.
- The Hebrew word for vision is 'Marah' and means mirror/looking glass/vision.
- The word for sorrows is 'tsiyr' which means pressed or crushed as in a hinge.

#### A Broken Vessel

- Daniel is saying, 'I have seen myself as I am, and I am crushed'.
- When we come face to face with Jesus, we see ourselves as we really are in contrast to His perfection.
- The same is true when we look into His Word
- It reveals to us who we really are in the light of who God is.

# A Mirror & A Model



#### A Mirror & A Model

- The Laver was made out of the mirrors the Children of Israel had taken out of Egypt.
- The Laver is analogous to the Word of God.
- It cleanses by the washing of water but also reflects our true selves back to us.

- That is why so many are opposed to the Bible.
- It tells the truth about the human condition;
- It shows we are not evolving and getting better,
- We are actually fallen from grace and in need of a Saviour!

# Symbolic Purging

 As with Isaiah, this angelic being touches Daniel on the lips

Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

**Isaiah 6:6-7** 

17 For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me.

- Daniel, of whom no sin is recorded, is under no illusion.
- How can one who is unholy talk freely with one who is holy?

18 Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,

- It is interesting that Daniel is powerless in this spiritual experience until he is strengthened by one like the 'son of man'.
- We too are powerless in any spiritual conflict unless we draw our strength form the Son of Man.
- Paul urged Timothy "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (1 Tim 2:1).

19 And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

- There is a sense of compassion in the angel's reply:
  - 'Don't look at yourself the way you see things, but know how God sees you – a man who is greatly beloved'.

#### True Peace

- The word 'peace' is 'shalom' in Hebrew,
- It comes from the root 'la shalem' meaning 'to pay / to fill / to fulfil.
- Real peace can only come because Jesus died
  - to pay for our sin,
  - fulfil the law of Moses and
  - fill us with His Holt Spirit.
    - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27).
- Such words of comfort cannot fail to strengthen us, regardless of the circumstances.

Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.

- It's as if the angel wants to underline to Daniel just how difficult it has been getting to him...
- and how hard it is going to be to get back!

- Clearly from this Daniel 10:20 we see that there are spiritual / angelic powers over nations / empires (cf Isaiah 14 / Ezekiel 28)
- This has led some to assume that these are the 'strongholds' that are spoken about in 2 Corinthians 10:4;
- ...and if we pray hard enough against these 'strongholds', we can bring them crashing down.

## The Spiritual Deception

- This idea is then taken one step further and it is proposed that that the principalities and powers mentioned in Ephesians 6 are different orders of these fallen angelic beings that reign over nations, cities, towns etc. and exert spiritual control over those areas.
- Thus, you will find many Christian books about 'territorial spirits' and how we can 'do battle' with them.
- It was the acceptance of this kind of teaching that led to the numerous prayer-walks and marches that we witnessed during the late 80's and early 90's.

## The Spiritual Deception

- It was said that if a big enough assault were launched against these territorial spirits, we could 'bring them down' i.e. defeat them and destroy their influence.
  - This teaching went hand in hand with the view still being promoted today (under the guise of Purpose Driven, Emerging, Mission Shaped, Alpha, etc.) that the church will destroy all the evil in the world and bring about the kingdom of God on earth.
- 'Kingdom Now', 'Dominion Theology'
   'Restorationism' are some of the more popular names give to this idea that the Church will rule world for Jesus Christ

## The Spiritual Deception

- Sadly, because some of these ideas have been drawn from 'a Bible verse' or passage – albeit taken out of context - many Christians have been unwittingly caught up in deception and delusion that has actually brought them into bondage by the message that purported to offer them victory.
- Many prominent Christian authors promote these ideas (that also deny the Rapture & 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming)
  - Recommend "Making War in the Heavenlies" by Pastor Bill Randles
    - 2nd hand copies on Amazon are available for less than £5

- Ephesians 6 <u>does</u> list differing ranks of spiritual beings
- They <u>may</u> have authority over nations, cities, towns, etc.
- But NOWHERE in the Bible is the Church told to attack and 'bring down' these fallen angels.
  - The only occasion in scripture where one of these 'principalities' is seen to be removed, is in this verse (Daniel 10:20). And far from improving the spiritual climate, we find that an even stronger principality comes in his place, namely the 'Prince of Greece'.
- Sadly, many who engage in this 'spiritual warfare' go as far as openly taunting these angelic beings.

<sup>21</sup> But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

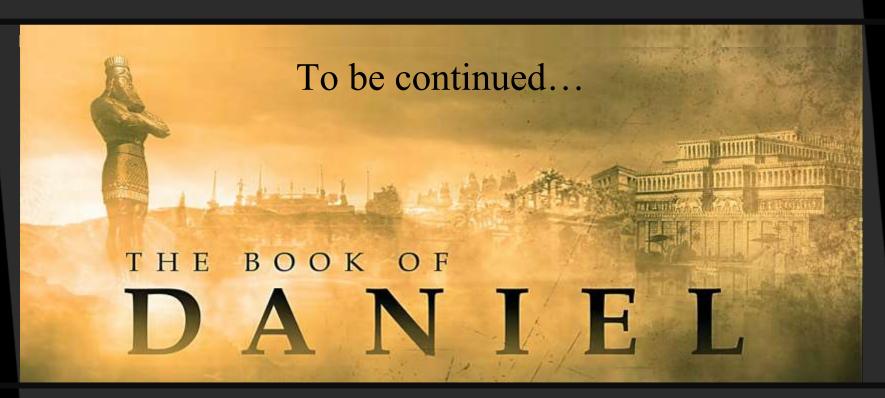
- Has the angel already read what is going to happen?
- Did he get a sneak preview before the 'film' was released?
- Why else would this angel say that what he is about to tell Daniel is noted in the 'established and faithful writing'.

- David said: "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." (Ps 119:89)
- In Revelation we read: "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world" (Rev 17:8)
- For the names to be <u>in the book</u> from the foundation of the world, the <u>book itself must have</u> <u>existed</u> from that time.
- Therefore, could it be that the angel is actually reading the written Word of God and relaying it to Daniel in advance?! ...

- Michael is always seen to be fighting on behalf of Israel.
- Thus it would seem that Israel, i.e. God's land that He has entrusted to the Jews, is the only place in the world that <u>has a godly angel</u> protecting it.
- This is stark contrast to the rest of the world, which is under the sway of the wicked one (1 John 5:19).
- As we move into the next chapter we will find out what the angel was actually sent to tell Daniel...







...a verse by verse study

