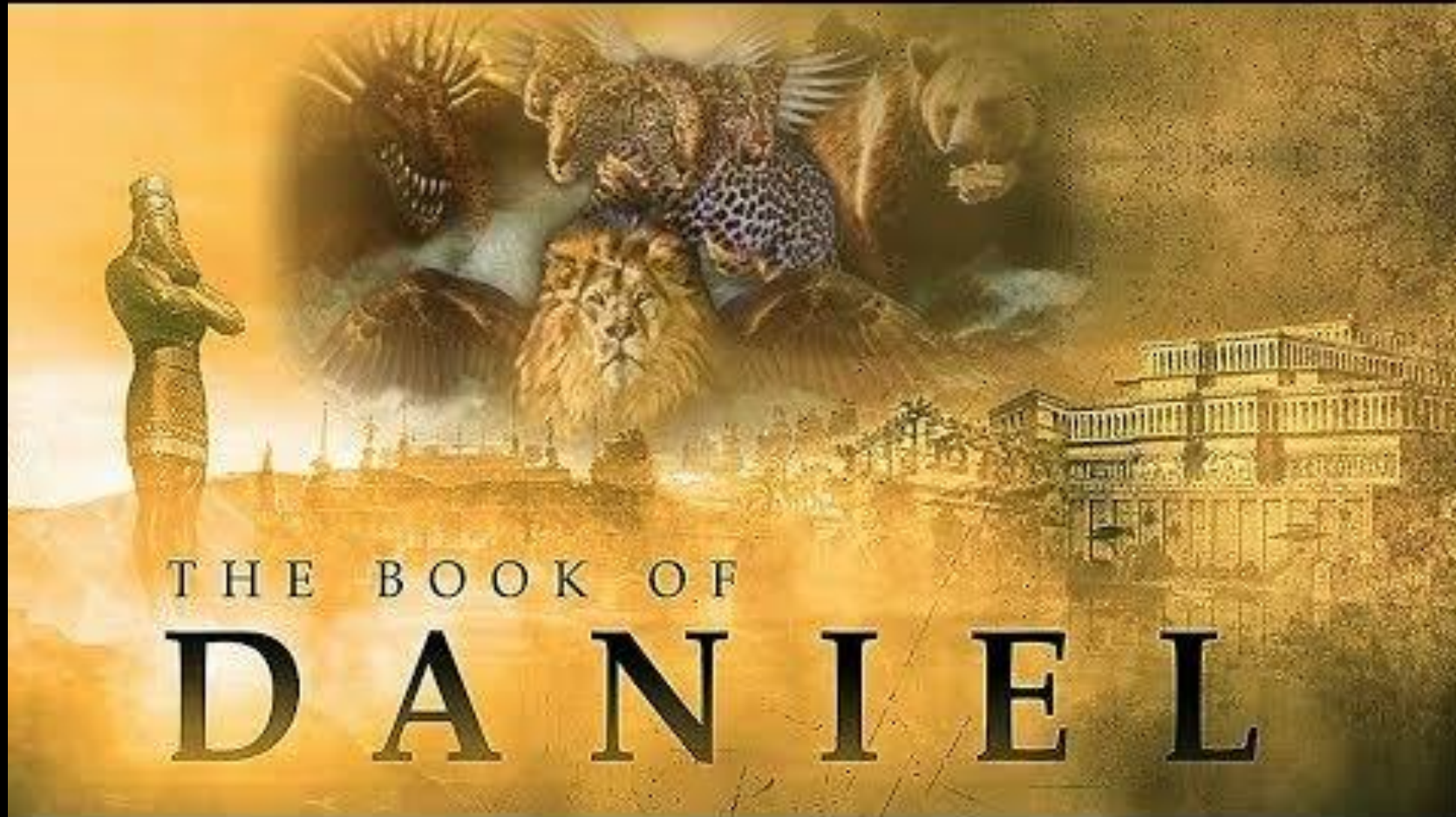
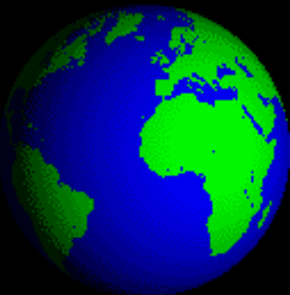


Introduction to the book of Daniel



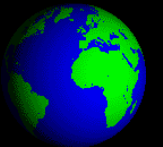
Past > Present > Future



www.prophecylive.org



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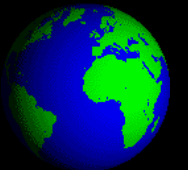


Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and
Satan is primarily over

“WORSHIP”

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark

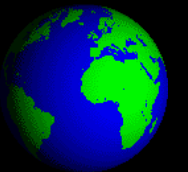
Sanctuary



**And let them
make me a
sanctuary;
that I may dwell
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Immune Boosters

Not everyone realizes when their immune system is out of whack especially if they're just used to feeling crappy!

5 signs your immune system could use a boost:

1. You get sick a lot and your colds tend to linger
2. You're always tired even after adequate rest
3. Eczema and other dry skin problems
4. Chronic digestion issues
5. You have a lot of allergies

What causes a weakened immune system?

Research shows that the immune system is shaped more by lifestyle factors than genes.

Factors of a compromised immune system: Lack of sleep, High stress levels, Sedentary lifestyle, Standard American Diet, etc...

7 plants - God's Pharmacy for a healthy immune system:

1. Ginger - high antioxidant content.
2. Garlic - Alliin boosts immunity & reduces inflammation.
3. Turmeric - Curcumin activates T cells & pathogen fighting cells.
4. Beets - healthy gut: high in fibre & feeds healthy gut bacteria.
5. Oranges, Strawberries, Kiwis – rich in vitamin C.
6. Mushrooms: > Vit D & beta-glucans activate killer cell function.
7. Oatmeal - > Zinc & helps T cells & killer cells function correctly.

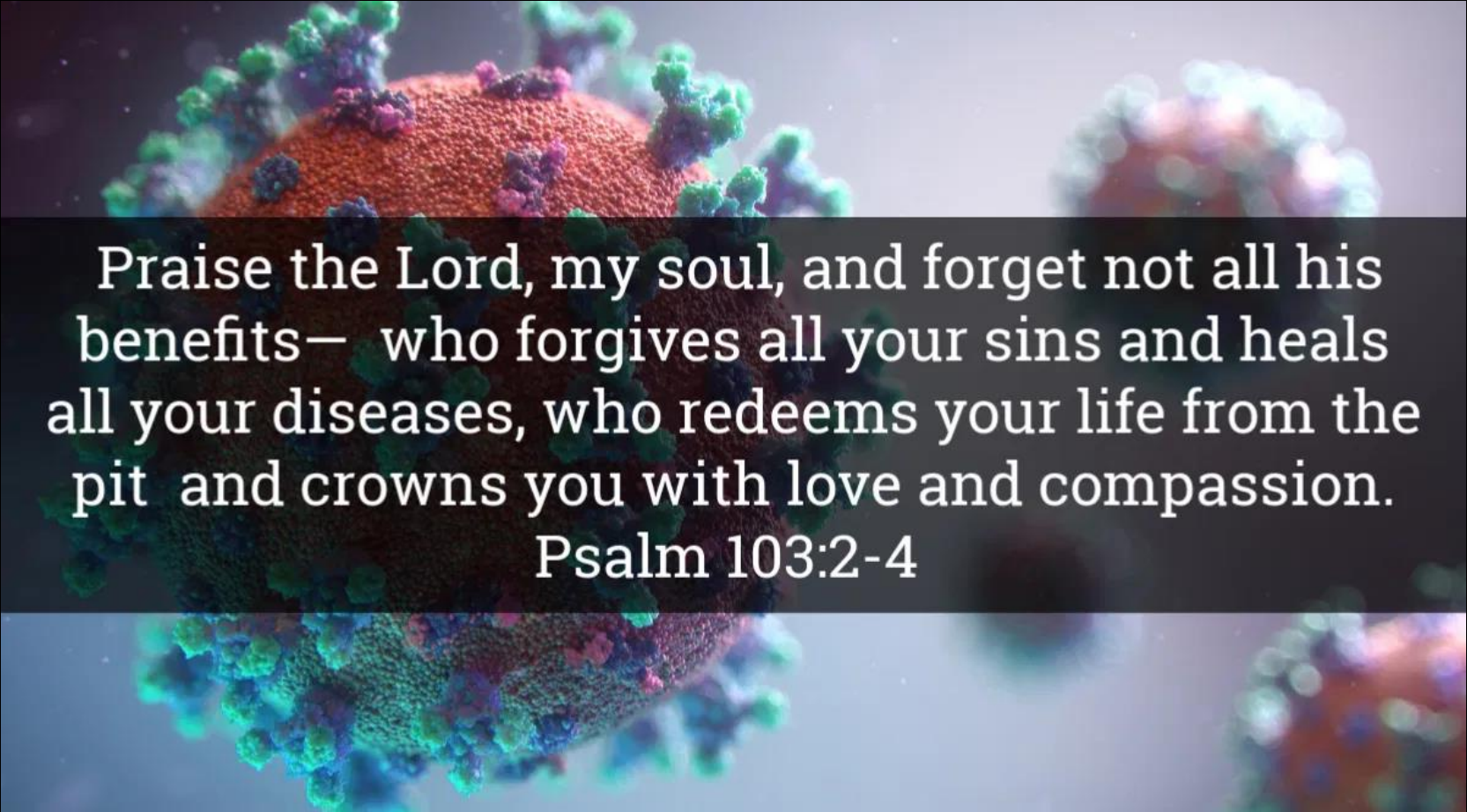
IMMUNITY FOODS



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we Can!



Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his
benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals
all your diseases, who redeems your life from the
pit and crowns you with love and compassion.

Psalm 103:2-4



Some Prophecy Update...

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United Arab Emirates

UAE cuts working week to four-and-a-half days and moves weekend

'National working week' aimed at improving work-life balance and economic competitiveness



Construction workers in Dubai. Moving to a Saturday-Sunday weekend will bring the UAE into line with most of the non-Arab world. Photograph: Karim Sahib/AFP/Getty Images

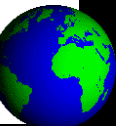
Agence France-Presse in Dubai

Tue 7 Dec 2021 10.42 GMT

The “national working week” will be mandatory for government bodies from 1 January and bucks the regional norm of a full day-off on Friday for Muslim prayers.

While becoming the only Gulf state not to have a Friday-Saturday weekend, the move will bring the resource-rich and ambitious UAE into line with the non-Arab world.

Under the new timetable, the public sector weekend starts at noon on Fridays and ends on Sunday. Friday prayers at mosques will be held after 1.15pm all year round.



Some Prophecy Update...

Pope asks pontifical council to begin planning Holy Year 2025

Dec 28, 2021

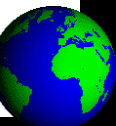
by [Cindy Wooden](#), [Catholic News Service](#)



Holy Year 2025 coordination assigned to New Evangelization

The Holy See Press Office announces today (26 December 2021) that Pope Francis has entrusted Holy Year 2025 preparations to the Pontifical Council for Promoting the **New Evangelization**.

A holy year or jubilee is a time of pilgrimage, prayer, repentance and acts of mercy, based on the Old Testament tradition of a jubilee year of rest, forgiveness and renewal. Holy years also are a time when Catholics visit designated churches and shrines, recite special prayers, go to confession and receive Communion to receive a plenary indulgence, which is a remission of the **temporal punishment due for one's sins**.



Some Prophecy Update...

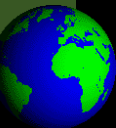
<https://www.therenewal2022.org/>



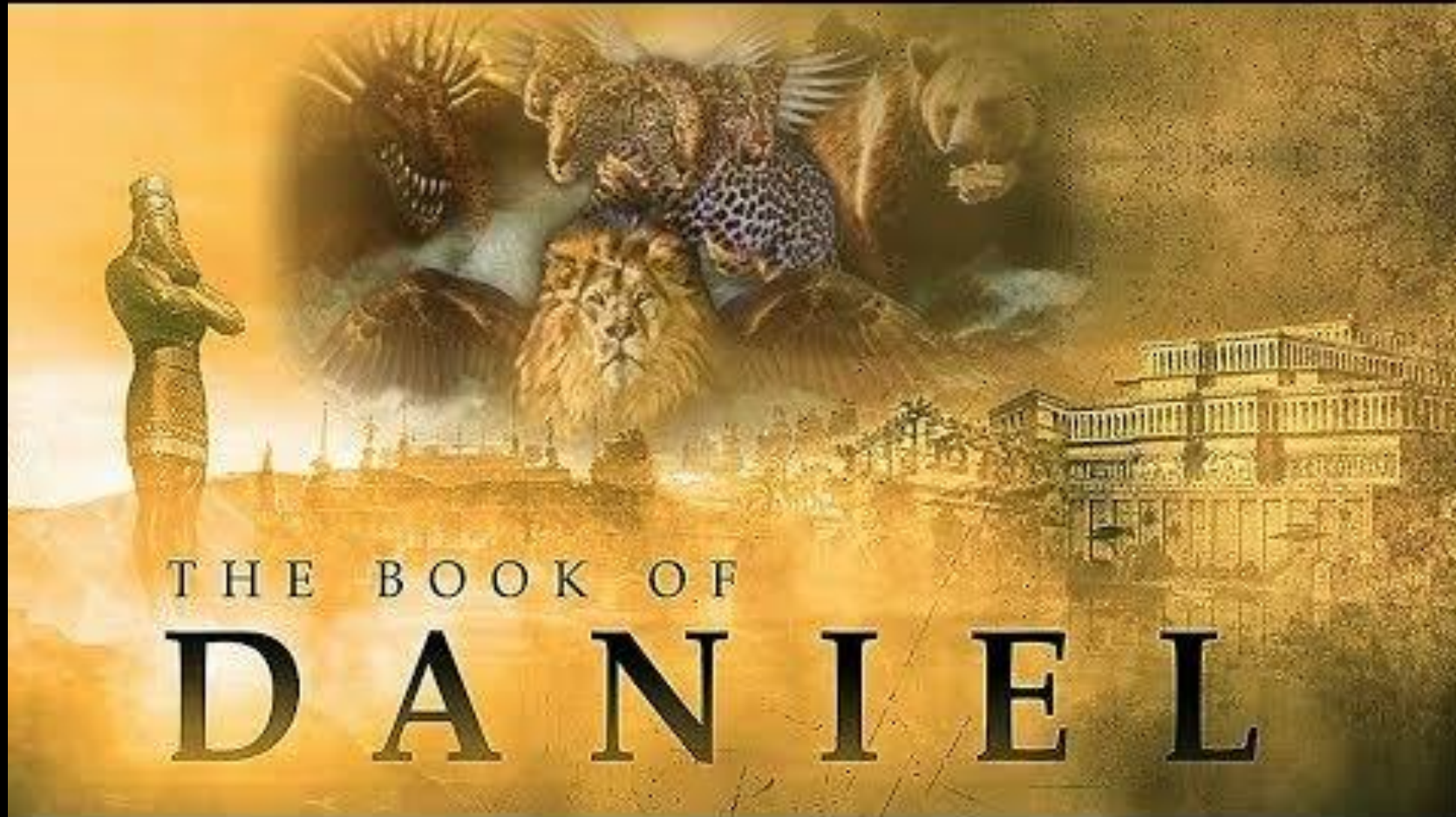
January 8, 2022 will mark the historic faith-based heritage event called **THE RENEWAL: Restoring America's Founding Covenant**, at the Strawberry Festival Amphitheatre in Plant City, Florida.

This is not a political event.

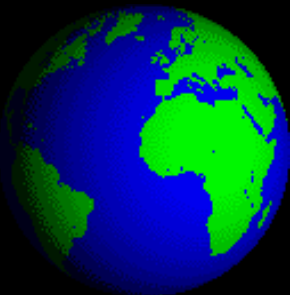
We cannot solve spiritual problems by natural means such as military might, elected officials or even human governments. **God made a covenant with Israel but America made a covenant with God, which we have broken.** God is sovereign over all as stated in **Daniel 2:21**, "*He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.*" The **Renewal** is a spiritual solution to the current state of affairs in our land. Re-covenanting and reconciliation combine to be the next Biblical step in the five-step renewal process (**Repentance, Reconciliation, Restoration, Revival, Reformation**) for the faithful Remnant to usher in the mercy of our Lord.



Introduction to the book of Daniel



Past > Present > Future



Introduction

As the nineteenth century disappeared into the twentieth, a sense of optimism pervaded the West. Through science and technology, humanity was advancing toward a golden age, a future of wonderful possibilities when war, pestilence, poverty, and hunger would finally be ended.

* That was the hope, anyway.

Of course, the twentieth century proved this hope not only wrong but foolish and naïve.

This helps explain why, when we entered the twenty-first century, it was with no great sense of optimism about a better future.

From a worldly perspective, the world still seems in pretty dismal shape and, worse, holds little prospect of improvement. Humans seem just as inclined toward greed, oppression, violence, conquest, exploitation, and self-destruction now as our ancestors were in ages past. Meanwhile, many of our great technological advances, though sometimes serving humanity well, have aided us in our greed, oppression, violence, conquest, exploitation, and self-destruction.



Daniel, Prophet of the End

None of this should be surprising, of course, not with texts like *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"* (Jeremiah 17:9) or *"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."* (Matthew 24:7).

And yet, amid all this despair and calamity, we have the book of Daniel, our study for such a time as this, a book that's especially relevant for us who are living in the *ayt qatz*, **"the time of the end"** (Daniel 12:9).

And that's because in the sacred pages of Daniel we have powerful, rational, faith-affirming evidence not only for our belief in God but in the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross, as well as the promise of His return and all that His return entails.



Daniel, Prophet of the End (cont'd)

Think about it. All through Daniel (chapters 2, 7, 8, 11), we have been given, from various angles, the following sequence of empires: **Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, Rome, and God's eternal kingdom after the Second Coming.** From our perspective today, living when we do, we can see that all the worldly kingdoms have come and gone as predicted. Or, in the case of Rome, it came and remains, at least for now, just as Daniel wrote. It is depicted in the feet and toes of Daniel 2:33, Daniel 2:41, and is manifested in the still-divided **nations of Europe as well as the Roman church itself.** Thus, we have an affirmation of biblical prophecy as broad and as solid as the history of the world that someone living in the time of Babylon, or Greece, or even in the earlier days of Rome, could not have had. Living where we are on the prophetic time scale, we also can see that Daniel was correct about all these kingdoms; thus, we have even more reasons to trust him regarding the only one yet to come: **God's eternal kingdom**, after the Second Coming.

THE END TIMES

A GUIDE TO BIBLE PROPHECY
AND THE LAST DAYS



Daniel, Prophet of the End (*cont'd*)

Yes, the book of Daniel remains a powerful, faith-affirming document, especially for the Remnant (Seventh-day Adventists), who find within its pages texts seminal to our church, especially [Daniel 8:14](#): *“And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed”*. **This text is parallel to [Daniel 7:22](#), [Daniel 7:26-27](#)**, which shows that after the great heavenly judgment, given “in favour of the saints of the Most High”, God’s eternal kingdom will be established. **In contrast to the fleeting, earthly empires, it will last forever.** And yet, alongside the “big-picture”, we see just how close Christ can be to us, individually. From King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream to Daniel’s deliverance from the lions’ den, the book shows us God’s immanence, or His nearness to us; as Daniel told wicked King Belshazzar, He is the God “who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways” ([Daniel 5:23](#)).



From Reading to Understanding

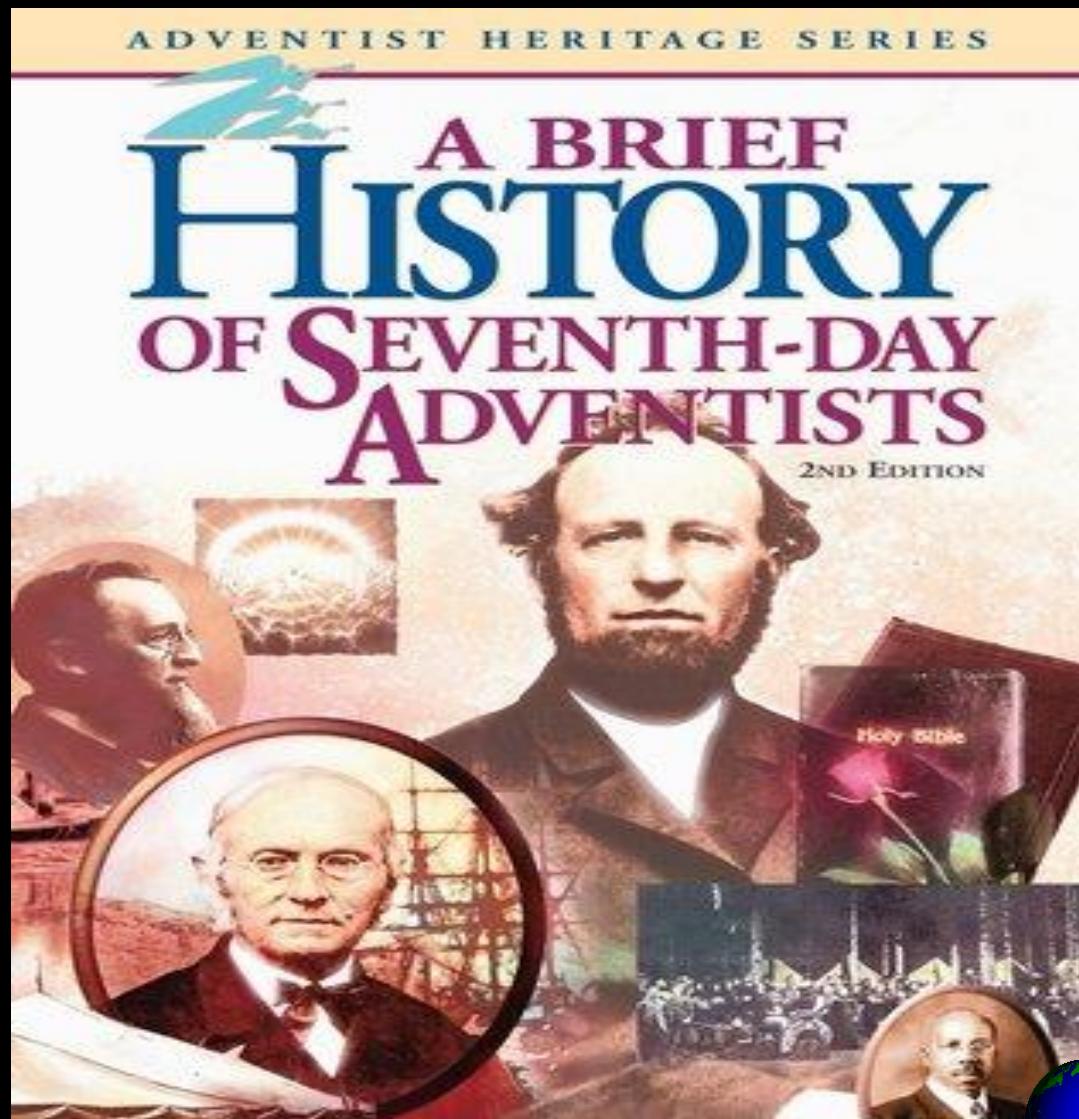
In short, the book of Daniel, our study for the next many weeks, remains what it was when penned thousands of years ago: a powerful revelation of the love and character of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Read for This Study: [Luke 24:25-27](#); [2 Peter 3:11-13](#); [Jonah 3:3-10](#); [Numbers 14:34](#); [Daniel 9:23](#); [Daniel 10:11-12](#).

Let's examine a Text: *“And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?”* ([Acts 8:30](#)).

The Remnant (Seventh-day Adventists) was born from within the pages of the book of Daniel, our study for these end times that we live in.

As we begin, we should keep the following points in mind as a template to help guide us through our study.



From Reading to Understanding (cont'd)

First: we should always remember that Christ is the centre of Daniel, as He is of the entire Bible.

Second: Daniel is organized in a way that shows literary beauty and helps us to understand its major focus.

Third: we need to understand the difference between classical and apocalyptic prophecies. This will help us distinguish between the prophecies of Daniel and those of others such as Isaiah, Amos, and Jeremiah.

Fourth: as we study the time prophecies of Daniel, we should understand that the prophetic outlines of Daniel span long periods of time and are measured according to the year-day principle.

Fifth: we shall emphasize that the book of Daniel not only conveys prophetic information but is profoundly relevant to our personal life today.

DANIEL 2		DANIEL 7	DANIEL 8	DANIEL 11, 12
GOLD	BABYLON	LION	NONE	NONE
SILVER	MEDO-PERSIA	BEAR	RAM WITH TWO HORNS	FOUR KINGS (Verse 2)
BRASS	GREECE	LEOPARD	HE GOAT	MIGHTY KING (Verses 3-13)
IRON	ROME	MERGE BEAST	LITTLE HORN FROM FOUR HORNS	KING OF THE NORTH (Verses 14-35)
IRON AND CLAY	DIVIDED KINGDOMS 1260 YEARS	TEN HORNS LITTLE HORN	LITTLE HORN GREAT WAXED	KING OF THE NORTH (Verses 36-39)
STONE CUT OUT WITHOUT MAN'S HANDS	INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT	JUDGMENT SCENE	CLEANSING OF HEAVENLY SANCTUARY	TIME OF THE END (Verses 40-45)
STONE FILLS WHOLE EARTH	CHRIST'S KINGDOM	KINGDOM GIVEN TO SAINTS	EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT	MICHAEL STANDS UP (Chapter 12:1-3)



Christ – The Centre of Daniel

Read [Luke 24:25-27](#); [John 5:39](#); [2 Corinthians 1:19-20](#)
to see the way Christ is the centre of the Scriptures!

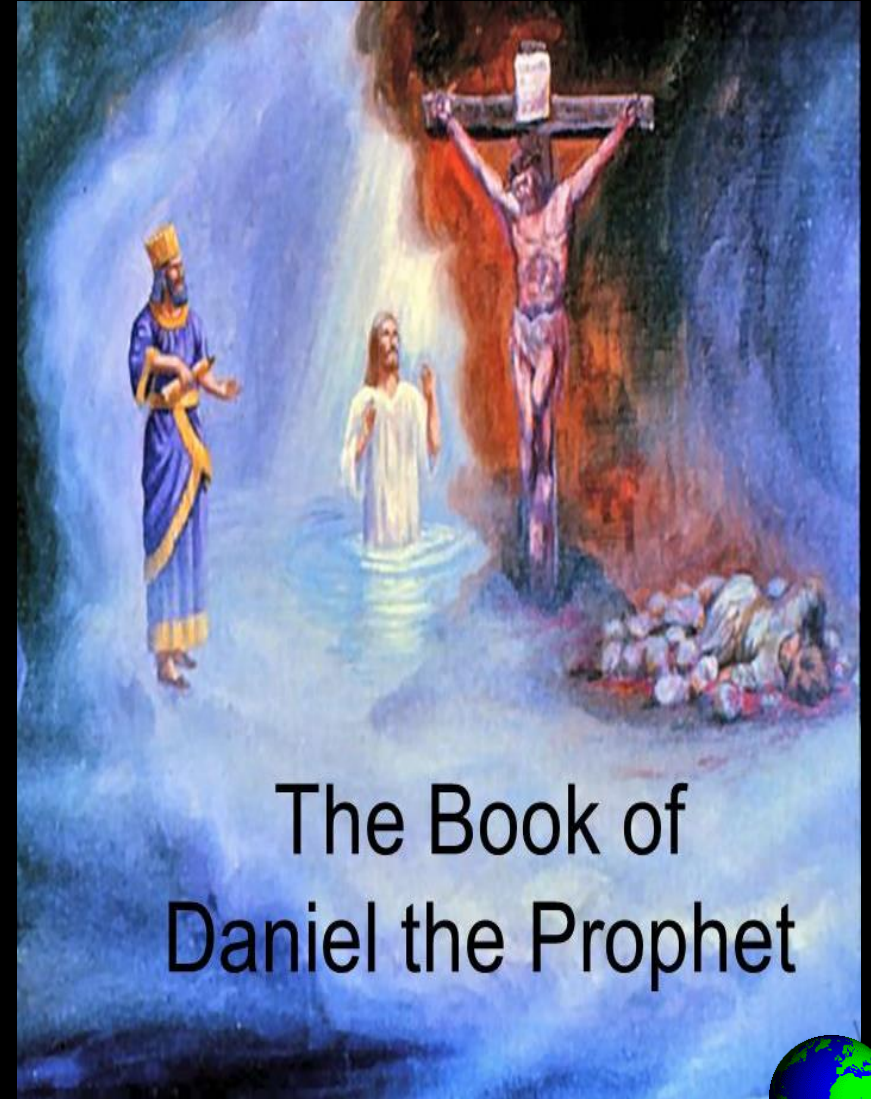
There is no question that Jesus is central to the Scriptures, and this includes Daniel as well.

For example:

Chapter 1 shows: although in a limited and imperfect way, that Daniel's experience is analogous to that of Christ, who left heaven to live in this sinful world and confront the powers of darkness. Moreover, Daniel and his companions are endowed from above with Christ-like wisdom to face the challenges of the Babylonian culture.

Chapter 2 describes: the figure of the end-time (eschatological) stone to indicate that the kingdom of Christ will eventually replace all the kingdoms of the world.

Chapter 3 reveals: Christ walking with His faithful servants within a furnace of fire.



Christ – The Centre of Daniel (cont'd)

Chapter 4 shows: God removing Nebuchadnezzar from his kingdom for a period of time so that the king could understand that “Heaven rules” ([Daniel 4:26](#)).

The expression “Heaven rules” reminds us that Christ, as “the Son of Man” ([Daniel 7:13](#)), receives the dominion and the kingdom, as depicted in [Daniel 7](#).

Chapter 5 shows: the demise of King Belshazzar and the fall of Babylon to the Persians during a night of revelry and debauchery. This foreshadows the defeat of Satan and the obliteration of end-time Babylon by Christ and His angels.

Chapter 6 shows: the plot against Daniel in ways that resemble the false accusations voiced against Jesus by the chief priests. Moreover, as King Darius unsuccessfully tries to spare Daniel, Pilate unsuccessfully tries to spare Jesus ([Matthew 27:17-24](#)).

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

The Times

of the

Gentiles

606 BC
Babylonian
Empire

538 BC
Medo-Persian
Empire

333 BC
Grecian
Empire

63 BC
Rome
(not named)

Approximately where we are,
today

Christ



Christ – The Centre of Daniel (cont'd)

Chapter 7 depicts: Christ as the Son of man receiving the kingdom and reigning over His people.

Chapter 8 shows: Christ as a priest of the heavenly sanctuary.

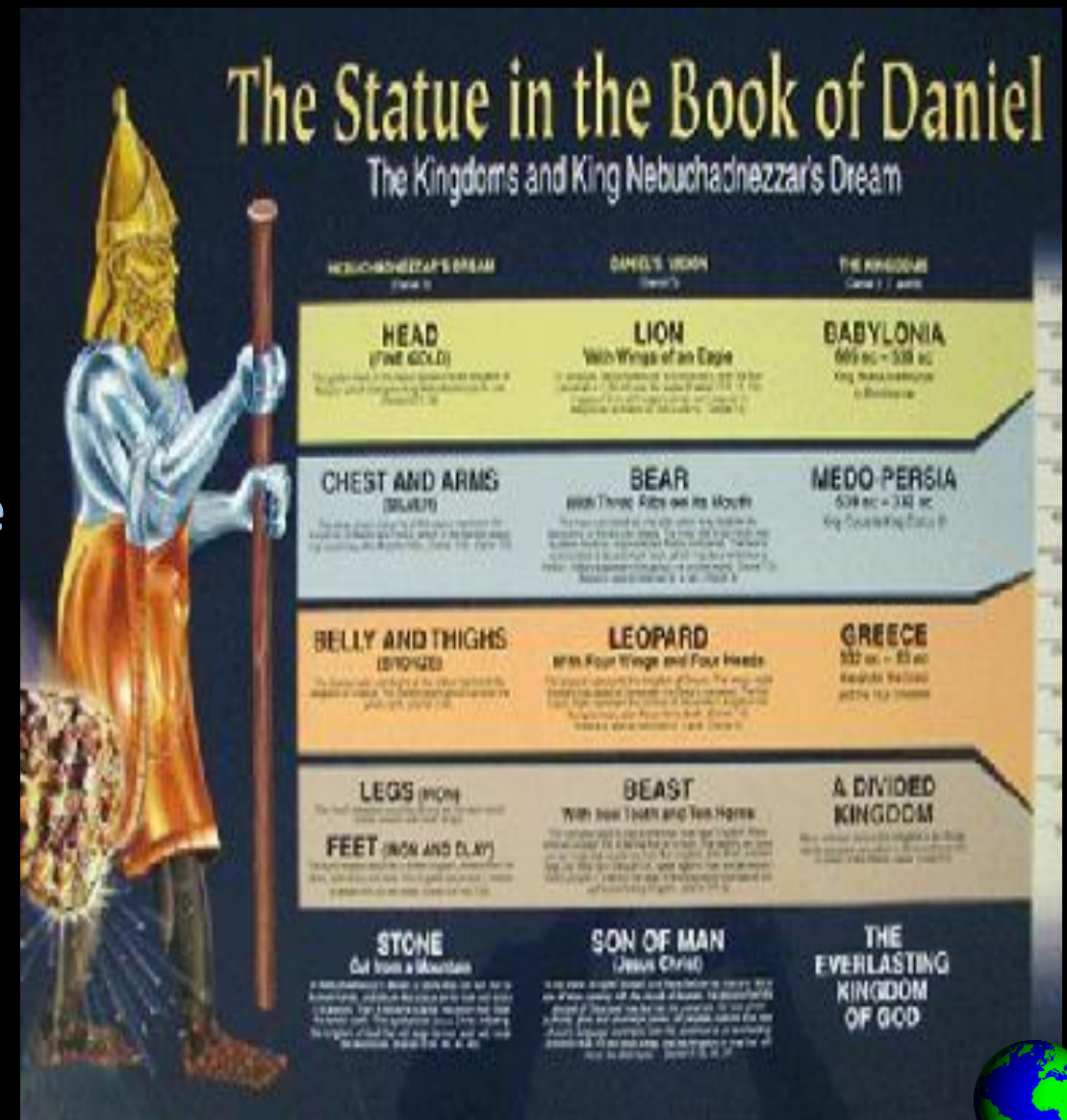
Chapter 9 portrays: Christ as the sacrificial victim whose death reconfirms the covenant between God and His people.

Chapters 10-12 present: Christ as Michael, the commander-in-chief, who fights the forces of evil and victoriously rescues God's people, even from the power of death.

So let us bear in mind that Christ is central to Daniel. At every chapter of the book there is some experience or idea that points to Christ.

Amid struggles, trials, or even times of great happiness and prosperity, how can we learn to keep Christ at the centre of our lives?

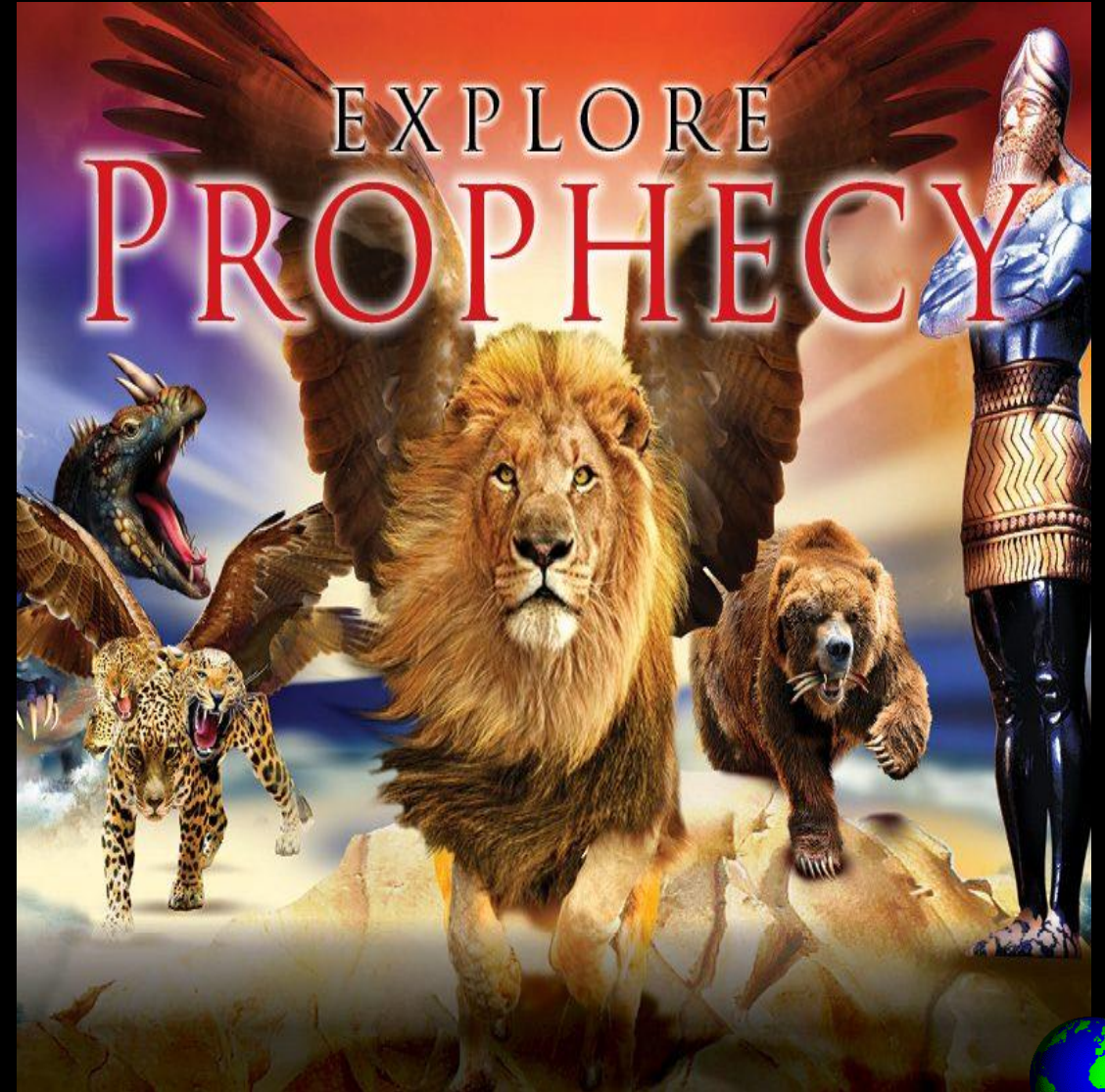
Why is it so important that we do so?



The Structure of Daniel

The arrangement of the Aramaic section of Daniel, chapters 2-7 (parts of Daniel were written in Hebrew and other parts in Aramaic), reveals the following structure, which helps reinforce a central message of that section, and of the book:

1. **Nebuchadnezzar's vision of four kingdoms** (*Daniel chapter 2*)
2. **God delivers Daniel's companions from the fiery furnace** (*Daniel chapter 3*)
3. **Judgment upon Nebuchadnezzar** (*Daniel chapter 4*)
4. **Judgment upon Belshazzar** (*Daniel chapter 5*)
5. **God delivers Daniel from the den of lions** (*Daniel chapter 6*)
6. **Daniel's vision of four kingdoms** (*Daniel chapter 7*)

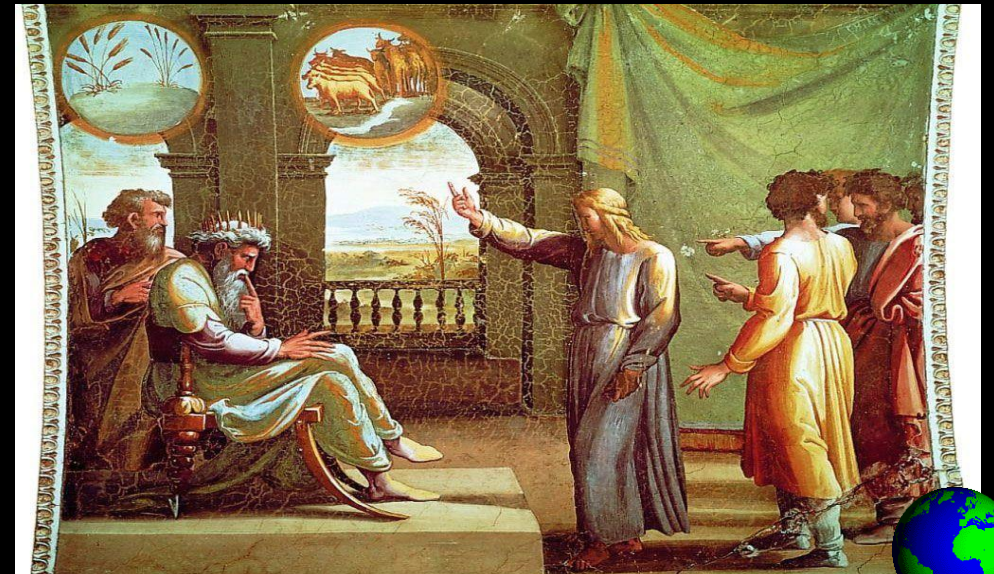
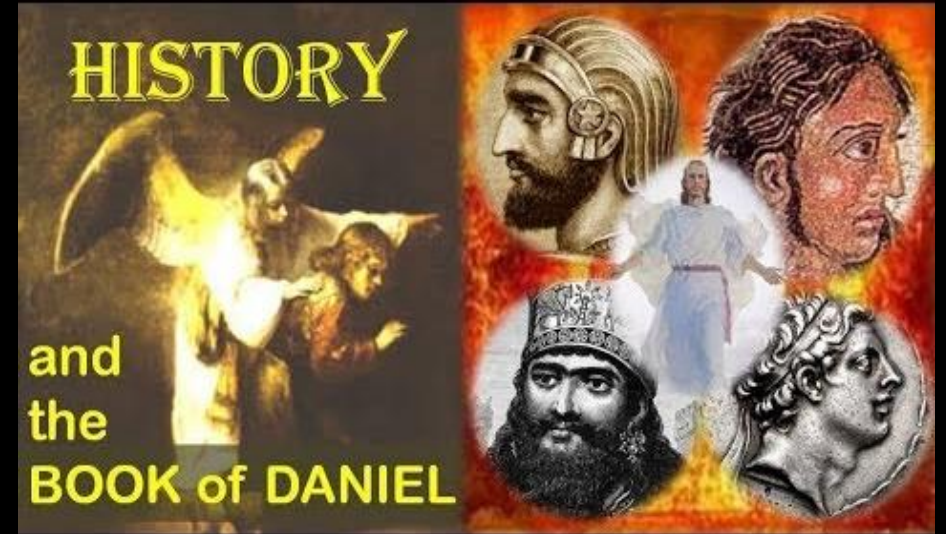


The Structure of Daniel (cont'd)

This kind of literary arrangement serves to highlight the main point by placing it at the centre of the structure, which in this case consists of 3 and 4 above ([Daniel chapters 4 and 5](#)):

God removes the kingdom from Nebuchadnezzar (temporarily) and from Belshazzar (permanently). Therefore, the emphasis of chapters 2-7 is on God's sovereignty over the kings of the earth as He establishes and removes them.

One of the most effective ways of conveying a message and making a point clear is by repetition. For example, God gives Pharaoh two dreams about the immediate future of Egypt ([Genesis 41:1-7](#)). In the first dream, seven fat cows are devoured by seven thin cows. In the second dream, seven ears of healthy grain are devoured by seven thin and blighted ears. Both dreams make the same point: seven years of prosperity will be followed by seven years of scarcity.



The Structure of Daniel (cont'd)

In the book of Daniel, God also uses repetition. There are four prophetic cycles, which are repetitions of an overall basic structure. In the end, this structure shows us the ultimate sovereignty of God. Although each major prophetic outline conveys a distinct perspective, together they cover the same historical period, extending from the time of the prophet to the end, as the following diagram shows:

Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8, 9	Daniel 10-12
Babylon	Babylon		
Media-Persia	Media-Persia	Media-Persia	Media-Persia
Greece	Greece	Greece	Greece
Rome	Rome	Rome	Rome
God's Kingdom is Established	Heavenly Judgment that Leads to New Earth	Purification of the Sanctuary	Michael Stands Up

What great hope do these texts present regarding our long-term prospects?

[Daniel 2:44](#), [Psalms 9:7-12](#), [2 Peter 3:11-13](#).

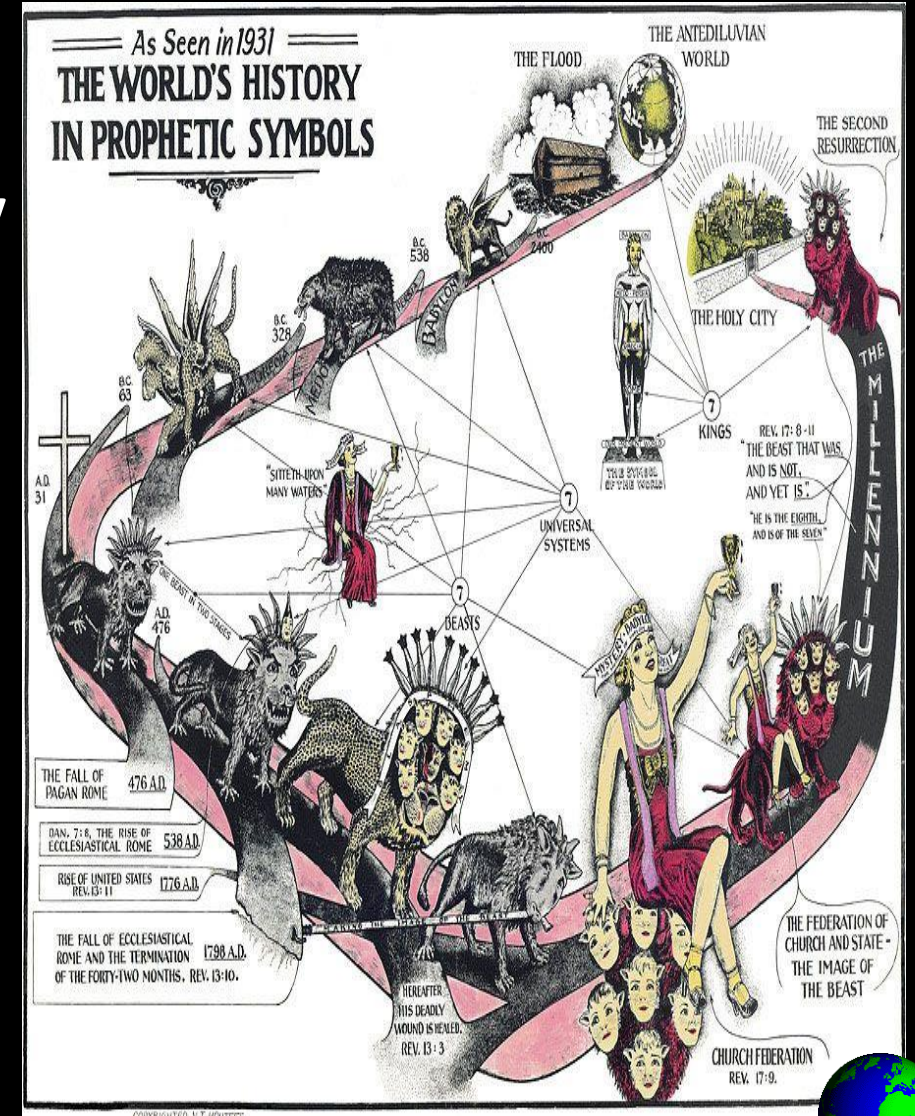


Apocalyptic Prophecies in Daniel

The prophetic visions recorded in the book of Daniel are of a different nature than most prophetic messages delivered by other Old Testament prophets. Daniel's prophecies belong to the category of *apocalyptic prophecy*, whereas most of the other Old Testament prophecies belong to the category of *classical prophecy*. An understanding of the basic difference between these prophetic genres is crucial for a correct understanding of biblical prophecy.

***Apocalyptic prophecies* display some peculiar features that differentiate them from the so-called classical prophecies:**

Visions and dreams: In apocalyptic prophecy God uses mainly dreams and visions to convey His message to the prophet. In classical prophecy, the prophet receives “the Word of the Lord”, — which can include visions — an expression that occurs with slight variations about 1600 times in the classical prophets.

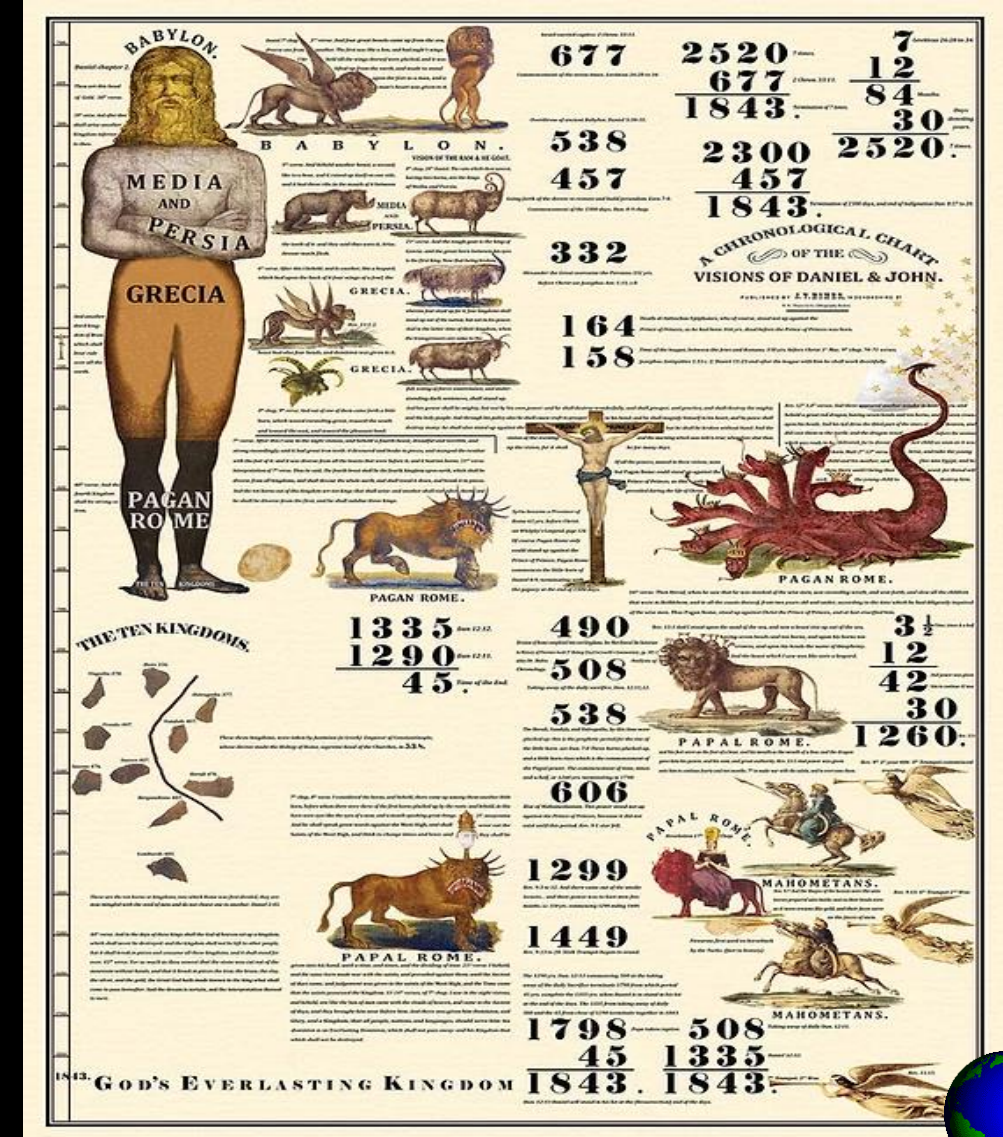


Apocalyptic Prophecies in Daniel (cont'd)

Composite symbolism: While in classical prophecy there is a limited amount of symbolism, mainly involving symbols that are true to life; in apocalyptic prophecy God shows symbols and imagery beyond the world of human reality, such as hybrid animals or monsters with wings and horns.

Divine sovereignty and unconditionality: In contrast to classical prophecies, whose fulfilment is often dependent on human response in the context of God's covenant with Israel, apocalyptic prophecies are unconditional. In apocalyptic prophecy God reveals the rise and fall of world empires from Daniel's day to the end of time. This kind of prophecy rests on God's foreknowledge and sovereignty and will happen regardless of human choices.

- Read [Jonah 3:3-10](#). Is this a classical or apocalyptic prophecy?



Apocalyptic Prophecies in Daniel (cont'd)

Knowing about broad prophetic genres such as classical and apocalyptic prophecy can be of great benefit.

First, these genres show that God uses a variety of approaches to communicate prophetic truth ([Hebrews 1:1](#)).

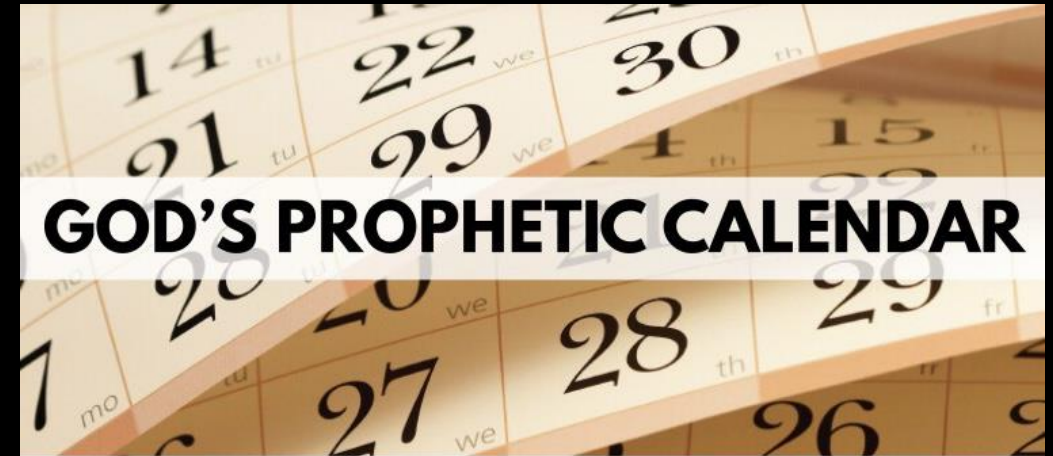
Second, such knowledge helps us better appreciate the beauty and complexity of the Bible.

Third, this knowledge also helps us to interpret biblical prophecies in ways that are consistent with the testimony of the entire Bible and rightly explain “the word of truth” ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)).

On the basis of passages such as [Hosea 3:4-5](#); [Amos 8:11](#); and [Zechariah 9:1](#): some Christians today expect the final events of world history to unfold in the Middle East.

What is wrong with this interpretation?

How can knowing the difference between apocalyptic and classical prophecies help us clarify this matter?



God's Timescale

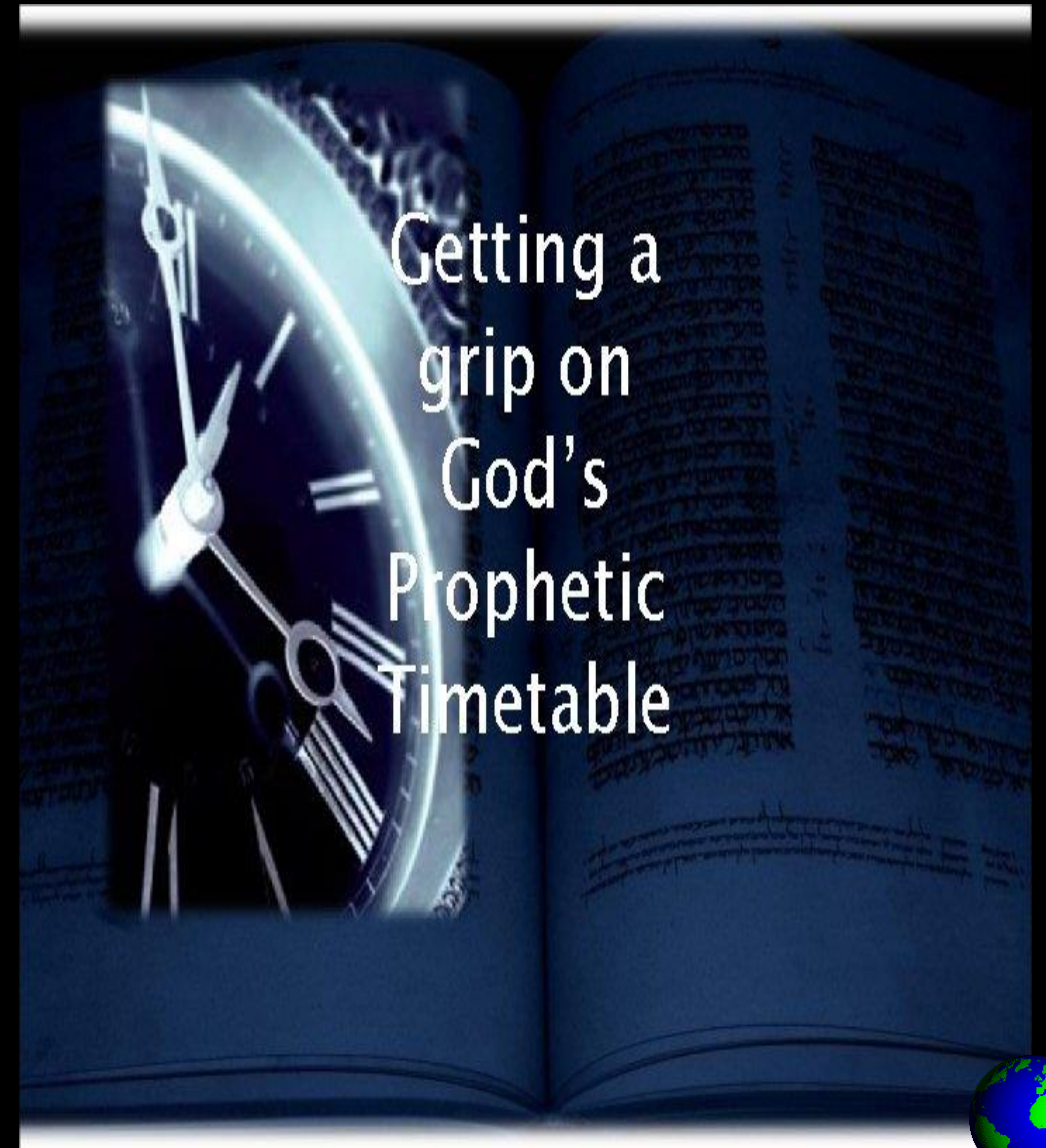
Another important concept that we need to keep in mind as we study the book of Daniel is the historicist approach to apocalyptic prophecies. **This approach, also known as historicism, can be better understood if compared with the opposing views of preterism, futurism, and idealism.**

Preterism: tends to view the prophetic events announced in Daniel as having occurred in the past.

Futurism: contends that the same prophecies still await a future fulfilment.

Idealism: in turn, holds that apocalyptic prophecies are symbols of general spiritual realities without any specific historical referents.

Historicism: in contrast, holds that in apocalyptic prophecy God reveals an unbroken sequence of history from the time of the prophet to the end of time.



God's Timescale (cont'd)

As we study the book of Daniel, we will see that each major vision in the book ([Daniel chapters 2, 7, 8, 11](#)) repeats this historical outline from different perspectives and with new details.

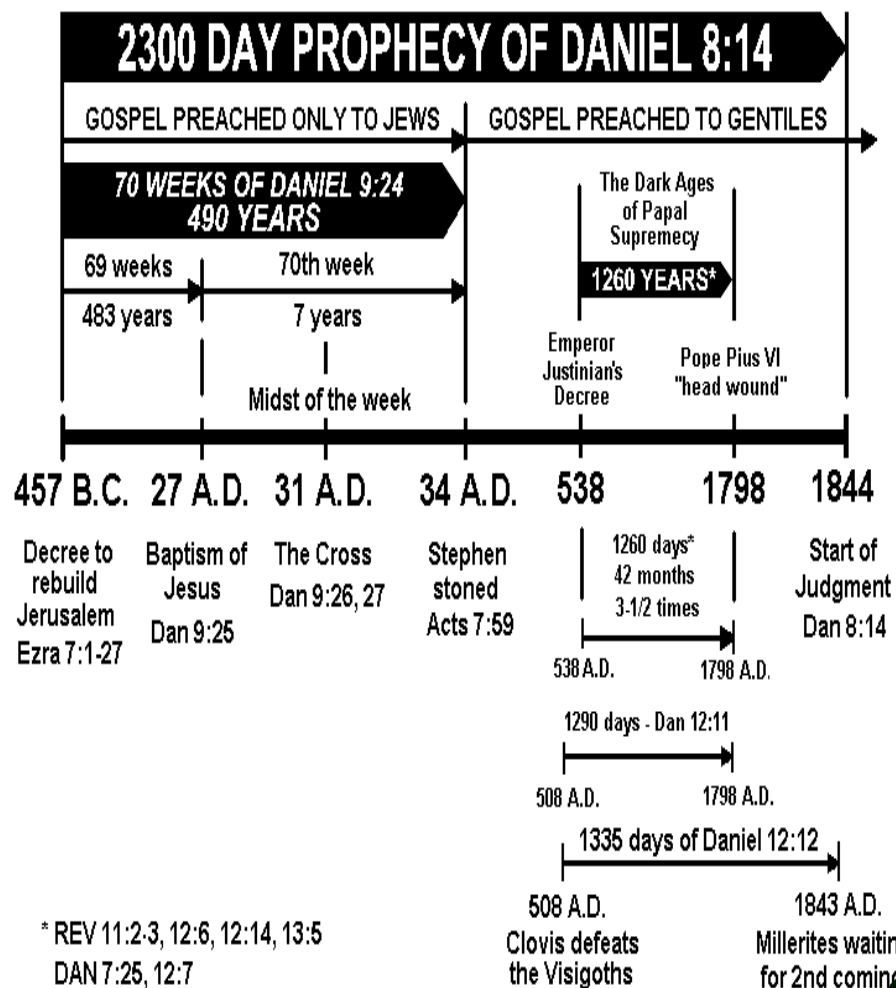
The Adventist pioneers, including Ellen G. White, understood the biblical prophecies of Daniel and Revelation from a historicist perspective.

Read [Numbers 14:34](#) and [Ezekiel 4:5-6](#).

In prophetic language what does a “day” usually represent?

As we study the book of Daniel, we should also keep in mind that prophetic time is measured according to the year-day principle. That is, a day in prophecy usually equals one year in actual historical time. Thus, for example, the prophecy of the 2,300 evenings and mornings should be understood as referring to 2,300 years ([Daniel 8:14](#)). Likewise, the prophecy of the 70 weeks should be understood to be 490 years ([Daniel 9:24-27](#)).

THE BIBLE'S LONGEST MOST AMAZING PROPHECY



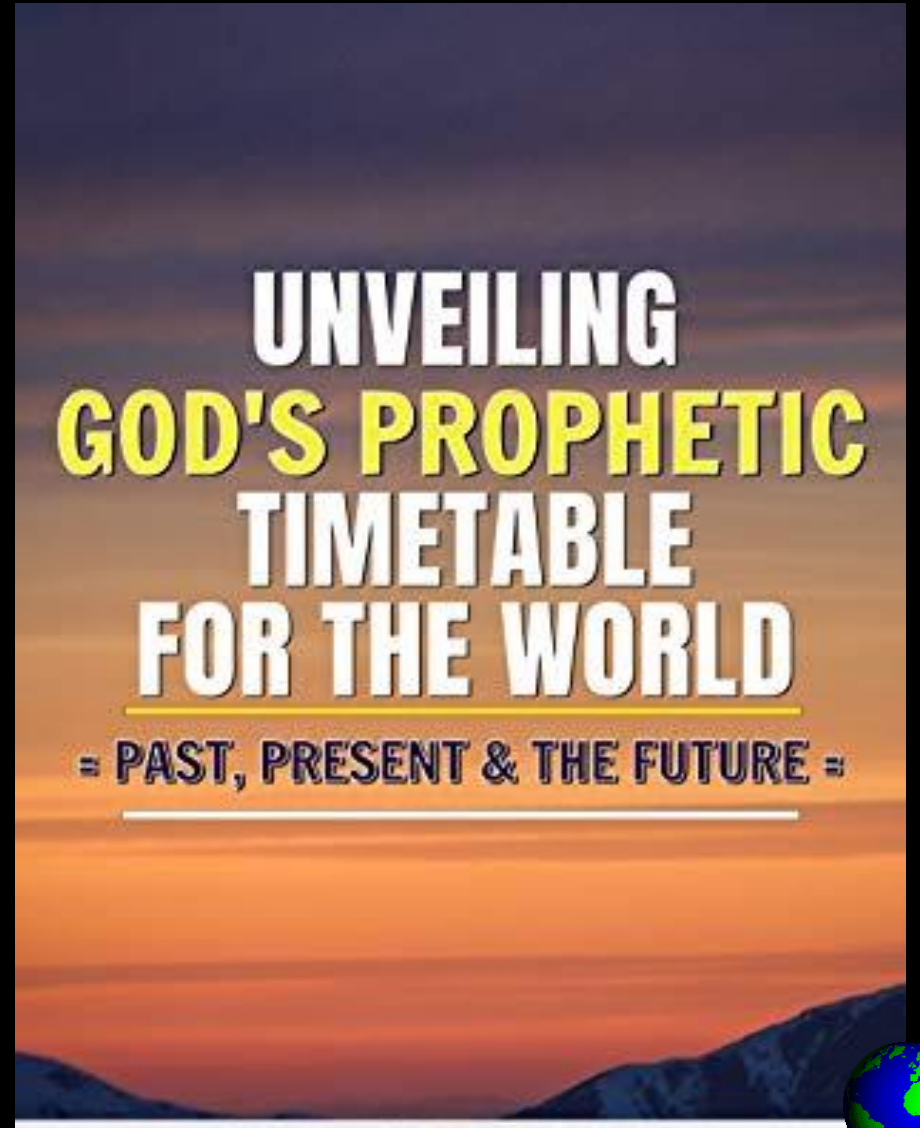
God's Timescale (cont'd)

This time scale seems to be correct for these obvious reasons:

- (1) Since the visions are symbolic, the times indicated must also be symbolic.
- (2) As the events depicted in the visions unfold over long periods of time, even to the "time of the end" in some cases, the time spans related to these prophecies should be interpreted accordingly.
- (3) The year-day principle is confirmed by the book of Daniel. A clear example comes from the 70-week prophecy, which extended from the days of King Artaxerxes to the coming of Jesus as the Messiah. So the most obvious and correct way to make sense of the prophetic time periods given in the book of Daniel is to interpret them according to the year-day principle.

Some of these time prophecies cover hundreds, even thousands of years.

What should this teach us about patience?



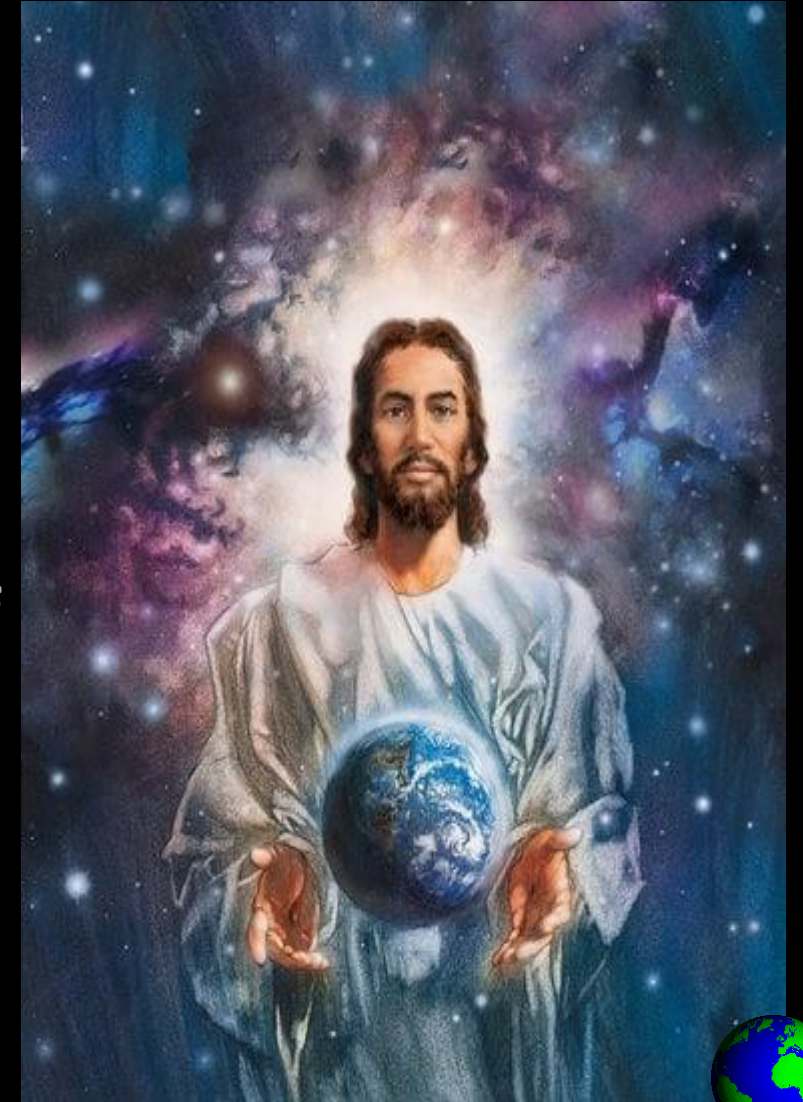
Contemporary Relevance of Daniel

Although written more than 2,500 years ago, the book of Daniel remains profoundly relevant for God's people in the 21st century. **We shall note three areas in which Daniel can be relevant for us.**

1. God stands sovereign over our lives:

Even when things go wrong, God stands sovereign and works through the whims of human actions to provide the best for His children. **The experience of Daniel in Babylon resembles that of Joseph in Egypt and Esther in Persia.** These three — young people were captives in foreign countries and under the overwhelming power of pagan nations.

To the casual observer they may have seemed weak and God-forsaken. However, the Lord strengthened them and used them in powerful ways. **When facing trials, sufferings, and opposition, we can look back to what God did for Daniel, Joseph, and Esther.** We can rest assured that the Lord remains our Lord, and He has not abandoned us even amid our trials and temptations.

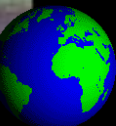
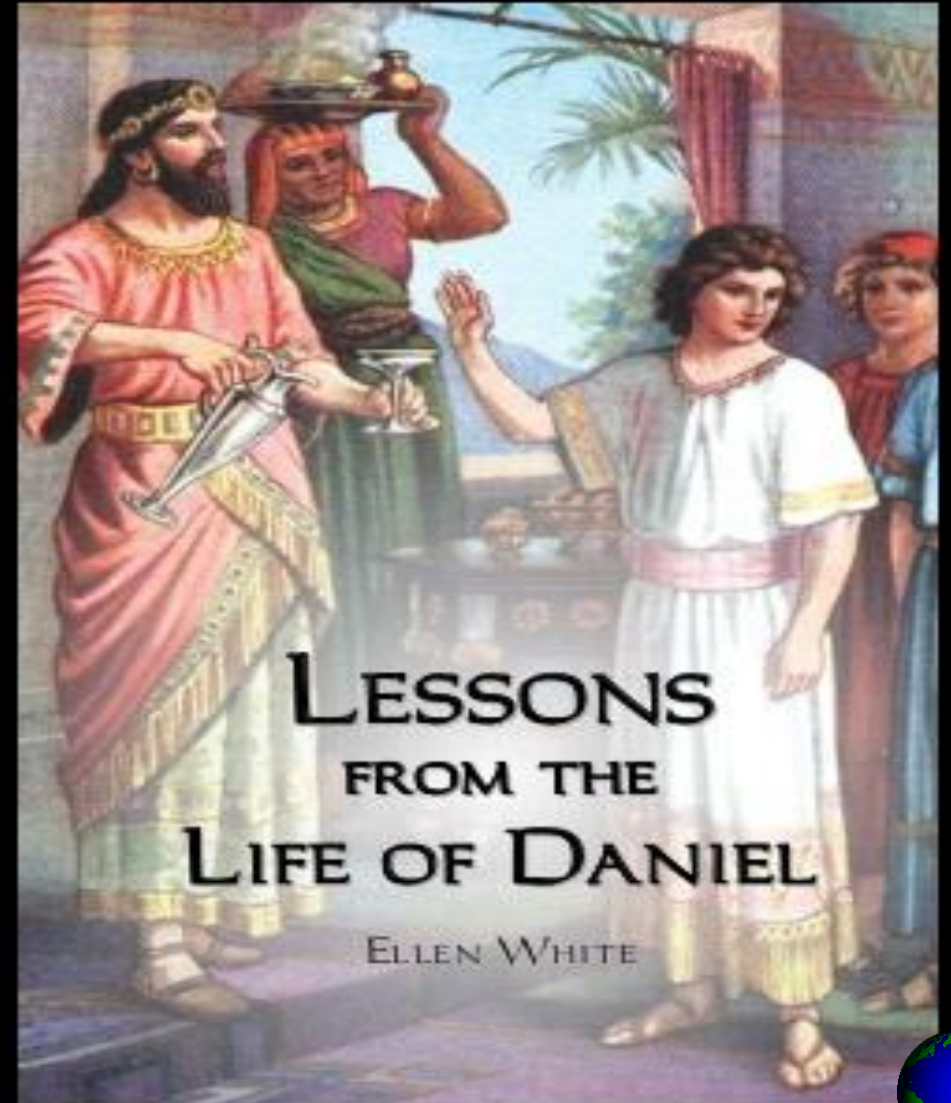


Contemporary Relevance of Daniel (cont'd)

2. God steers the course of history:

At times we feel troubled by a confused and aimless world that is full of sin and violence. But the message of Daniel is that God stands in control. In every single chapter of Daniel, the message is hammered home that God steers the flow of history.

As Ellen G. White says: “In the annals of human history the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as dependent on the will and prowess of man. The shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, behind, above, and through all the play and counterplay of human interests and power and passions, the agencies of the all-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will”. — Education, p. 173.



Contemporary Relevance of Daniel (cont'd)

3. God provides a role model for His end-time people:

Daniel and his friends serve as role models for life in a society that holds a worldview often at odds with that of the Bible. When pressed to compromise their faith and make concessions to the Babylonian system in areas that would deny their commitment to the Lord, they remain faithful to the Word of God. Their experience of faithfulness and absolute commitment to the Lord provides encouragement when we face opposition and even persecution for the sake of the gospel. At the same time, Daniel shows that it is possible to make a contribution to the state and society and remain committed to the Lord.

Read [Daniel 9:23](#); [Daniel 10:11-12](#); and [Matthew 10:29-31](#).

What do these verses say about God's interest in our personal struggles?



Contemporary Relevance of Daniel (cont'd)

“The Bible was designed to be a guide to all who wish to become acquainted with the will of their Maker. God gave to men the sure word of prophecy; angels and even Christ Himself came to make known to Daniel and John the things that must shortly come to pass.

Those important matters that concern our salvation were not left involved in mystery.

They were not revealed in such a way as to perplex and mislead the honest seeker after truth.

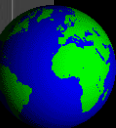
Said the Lord by the prophet Habakkuk:

And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. - [Habakkuk 2:2](#).



I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NONE LIKE ME,
DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING,
AND FROM ANCIENT TIMES THE THINGS THAT ARE
NOT YET DONE, SAYING, MY COUNSEL SHALL
STAND, AND I WILL DO ALL MY PLEASURE:

~ ISAIAH 46:9-10 ~



Contemporary Relevance of Daniel (cont'd)

The word of God is plain to all who study it with a prayerful heart. Every truly honest soul will come to the light of truth. 'Light is sown for the righteous'. [Psalm 97:11](#). And no church can advance in holiness unless its members are earnestly seeking for truth as for hid treasure". — Ellen G. White, [The Great Controversy](#), pages 521, 522.

"Study the history of Daniel and his fellows. Though living where they were, met on every side by the temptation to indulge self, they honoured and glorified God in the daily life. They determined to avoid all evil. They refused to place themselves in the enemy's path. And with rich blessings God rewarded their steadfast loyalty". — Ellen G. White, [Manuscript Releases \[No. 224\]](#), vol. 4, pages 169, 170.

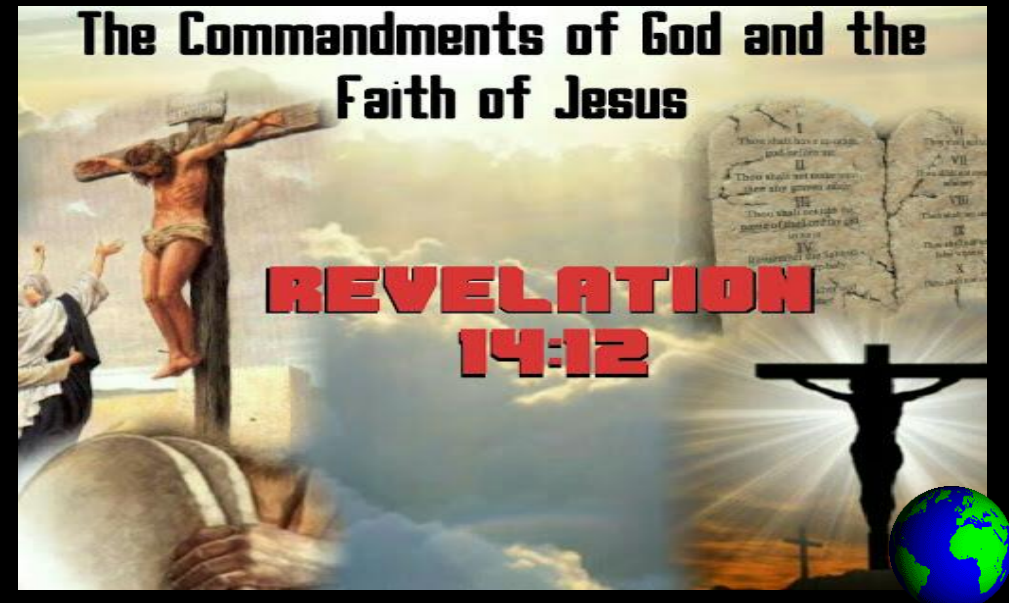
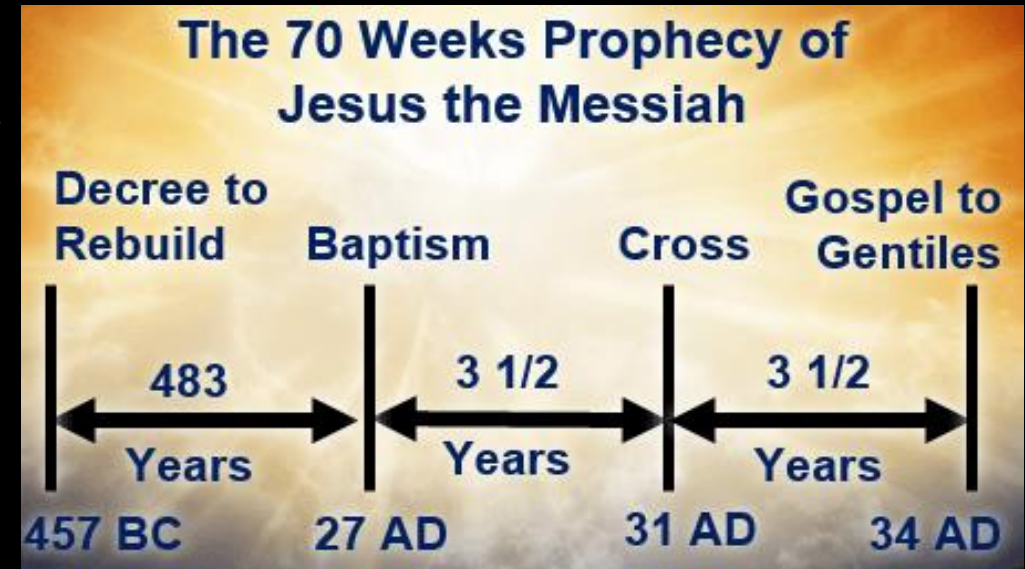


Contemporary Relevance of Daniel (cont'd)

As we study the book of Daniel, one powerful point will come through. God is not only sovereign over all the nations but also intimately acquainted with each of us, at even the deepest level. For example, as we will see in Daniel chapter 2, He was able to give a pagan king a dream. To be able to get into someone's mind while that person is sleeping and implant a dream reveals a closeness that we cannot even begin to fathom.

At the same time, as we will see, the nature of the dream reveals that God is ultimately in control even of the world's vast empires and knows how everything is going to end.

What comfort and hope can we draw from these depictions of reality? At the same time, how does it make you feel to know that the Lord is so close that He knows your very thoughts? In this context, why does the promise of the Cross become so important?



Living like Jesus in the Middle of Babylon

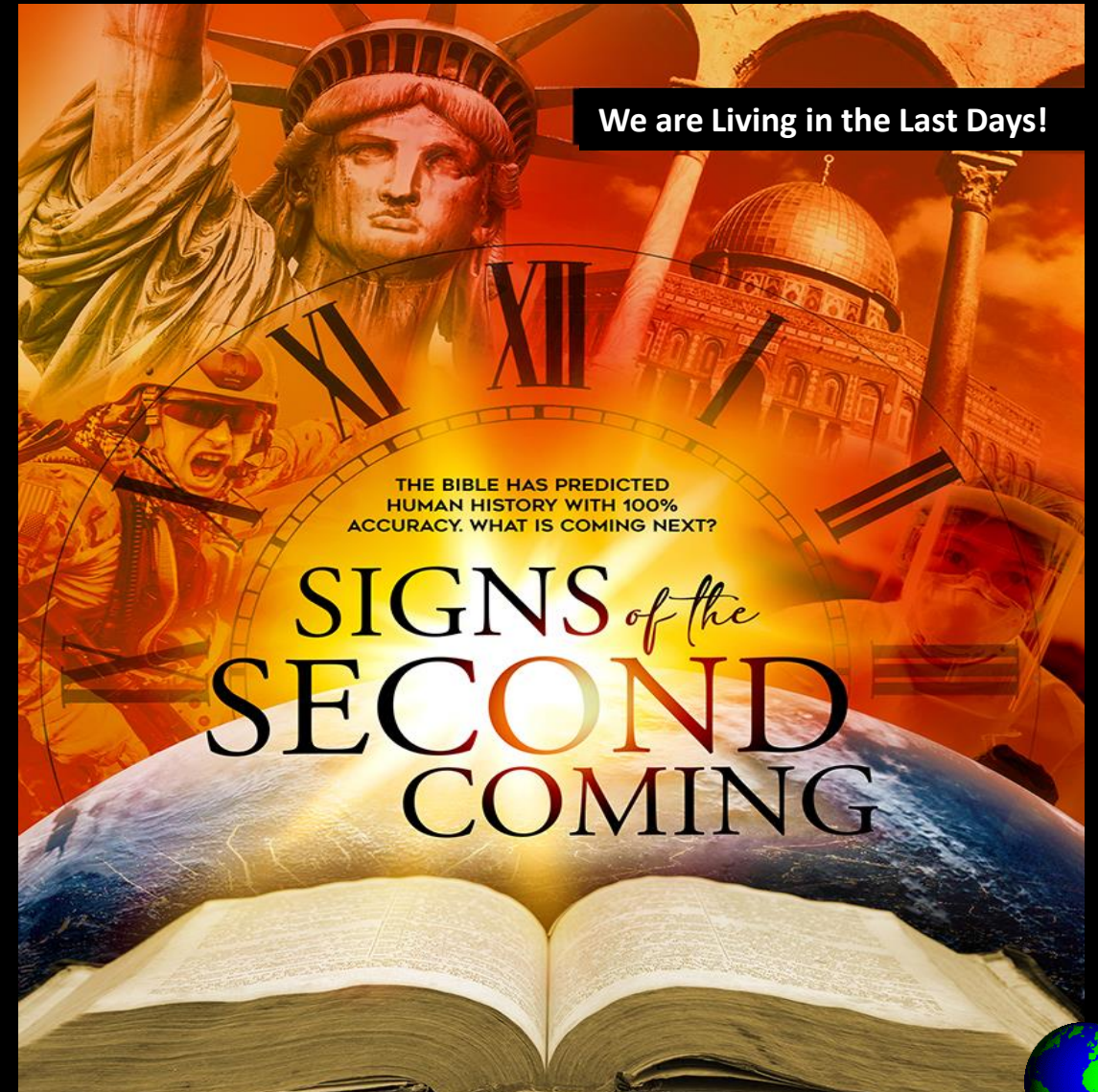
As God's Remnant we believe that in the last days there will be a showdown between spiritual Babylon and those who have the seal of God, who reflect the character of Jesus. While Daniel had his haters, it amazes one how he seemed to thrive and even found favour among the leaders of Babylon and Persia. Daniel was not one to compromise his standards.

The life of Daniel shows us that it is possible to live a life of uncompromising integrity and still get along with those of different beliefs and lifestyles.

Years later Paul wrote:

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;



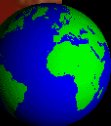
We are Living in the Last Days!

Living like Jesus in the Middle of Babylon (cont'd)

We can't wait for heaven to live a righteous life, have to live it here. **God's grace empowers us to reflect Christ's character in this evil world.** Daniel is an example of how we can be like Jesus in the midst of corruption. Let's take a look:

Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation. – Daniel 2:24

When Daniel received the vision the king had dreamed his first thought was to save the lives of the wicked wise men. Jesus always put the salvation of others first, and so did Daniel. **The wise men in Daniel's day were preserved by the integrity of Daniel.**



Living like Jesus in the Middle of Babylon (cont'd)

In Genesis 12:3 God said all the families of the earth (not just believers) would be blessed by the Messiah.

Likewise even the unbelievers of Daniel's day were blessed by Daniel's integrity.

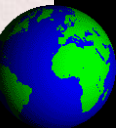
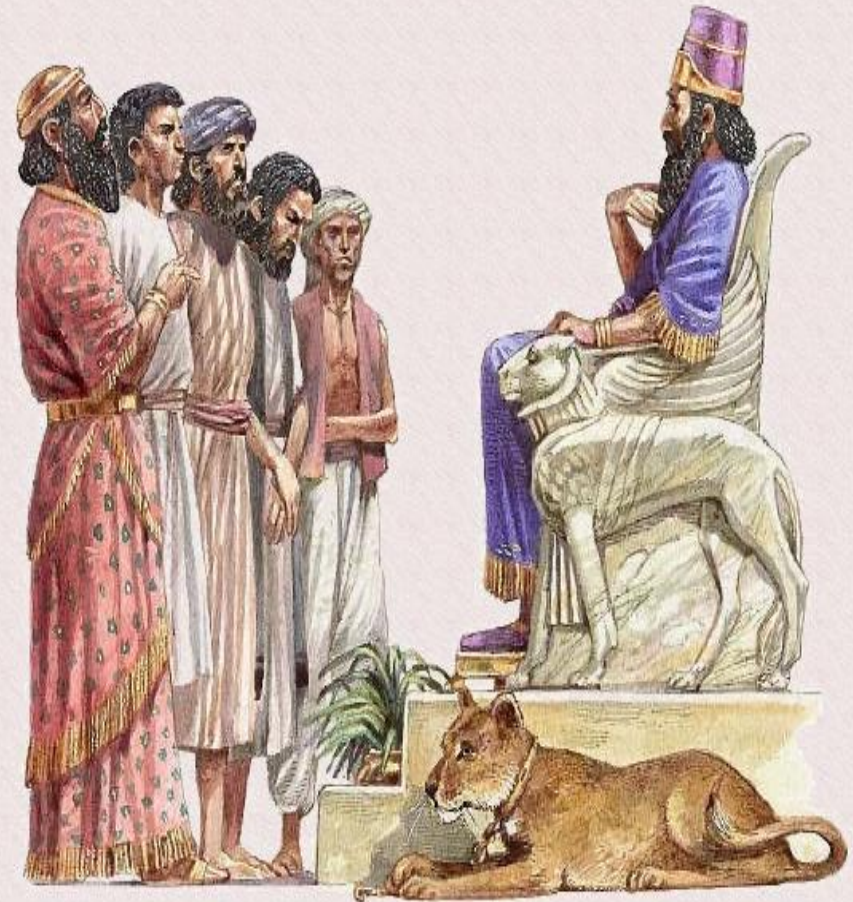
In the last days I believe men and women of God will be a blessing to the evil world around them.

One would marvel at Daniel's humility.

In [Daniel 1:20](#), Daniel and his friends were found to be ten times wiser than the other wise men, but look at what Daniel says when he tells the king his dream.

But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart. – [Daniel 2:30](#).

Nebuchadnezzar found them ten times better than the rest of their workmates



Living like Jesus in the Middle of Babylon (cont'd)

Daniel did not claim to have any special wisdom and neither did Jesus. Jesus always pointed the people to the Scriptures instead of spouting off like a know-it-all. Daniel did not claim to have any special abilities and neither did Jesus.

Look at what Jesus says about Himself:

John 5:19 - Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

Look at what Jesus says about others who believe:

John 14:12 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.



Living like Jesus in the Middle of Babylon (cont'd)

Daniel lived a life of uncompromising integrity in the midst of Babylon and Persia. **Amidst his haters he more than survived, he thrived and found favour even among wicked rulers.** Some blame corruption in the workplace for being passed over for promotions, but God promoted Daniel right in the heart of all the corruption.

God can promote you too anytime anywhere.

Jesus lived a life of uncompromising integrity in the heart of the Roman Empire and a corrupt religious system.

He too had His haters but He too found favour “with both God and man” and was able to tell His Father:

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. – John 17:4

Daniel lived a life of uncompromising integrity and thrived among all the corruption of Babylon. Jesus lived a life of uncompromising integrity and thrived amid pagan Rome and a religious system that left a lot to be desired. So today, in the midst of spiritual Babylon, by God's grace, we can live a life of uncompromising integrity and make friends along the way if we will depend fully on our Father God just as Daniel and Jesus did.



Summary of the book of Daniel

The focal point of the book of Daniel is the climax of earth's history, when time blends into eternity and the transient kingdoms of this world become the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Looking forward to that grand event, however, the angel of prophecy cautions Daniel that those who live for God and look with longing hearts for the establishment of His righteous reign on earth must pass through a period of gross apostasy and bitter persecution. Through the nations of earth Satan will oppose God's purpose and oppress His faithful people.

A careful study of the books of Daniel and the Revelation is most important in our time. Note the following:



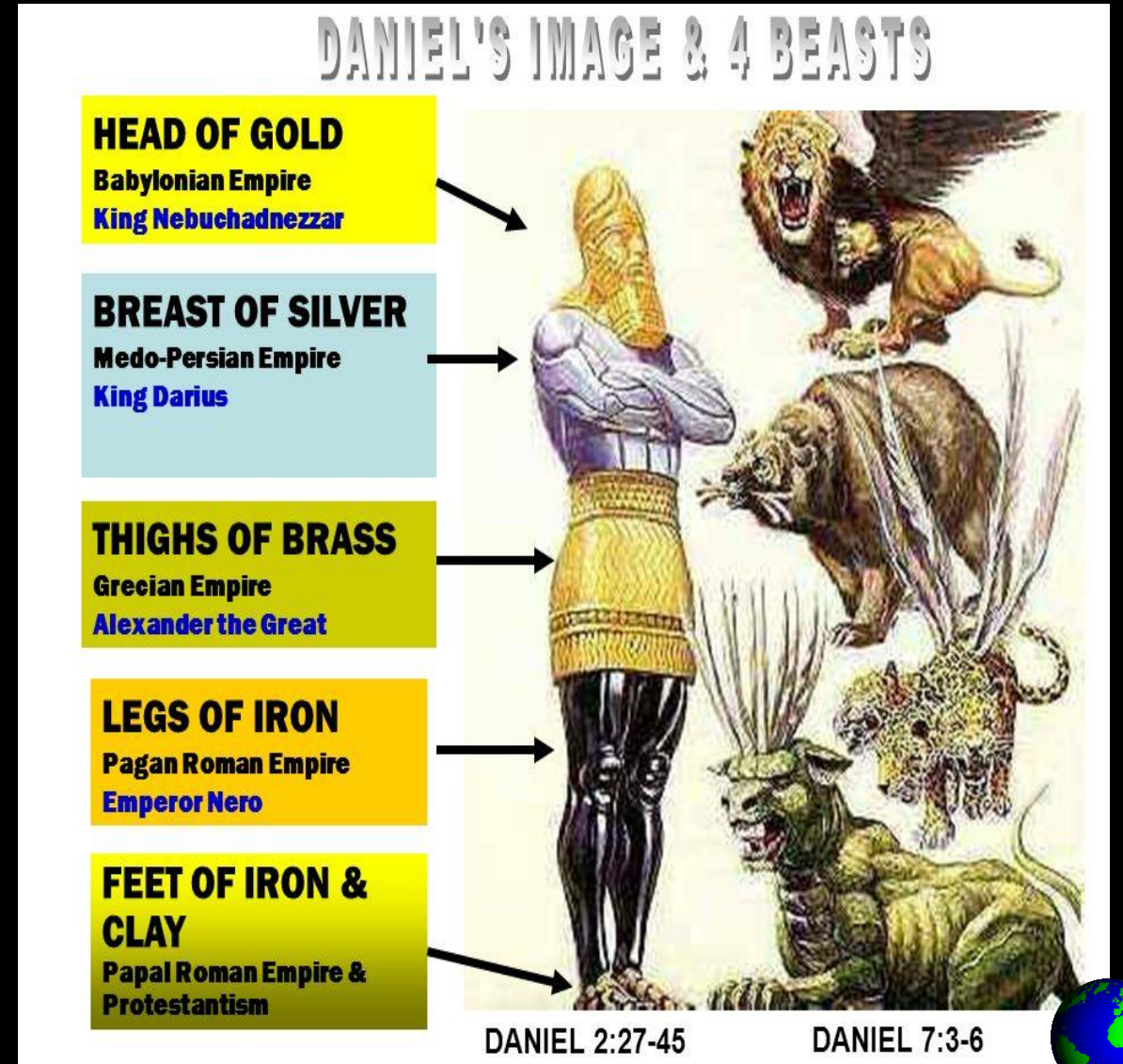
Summary of the book of Daniel (cont'd)

Because the book of Daniel was written long ago when the Jews were still God's chosen people, its words, expressions, and concepts may often seem unfamiliar.

Furthermore, much of it reflects a historical situation that is more or less strange to us, and many of its predictions have already met their fulfilment in the great empires of antiquity and down through the centuries since the fall of Rome.

Historical perspective is helpful in seeing the various predictions in relation to each other. To provide such a perspective, the introductions to some lessons are somewhat longer than usual.

These introductions are intended to provide a helpful background for the study of the respective lessons.



Summary of the book of Daniel (cont'd)

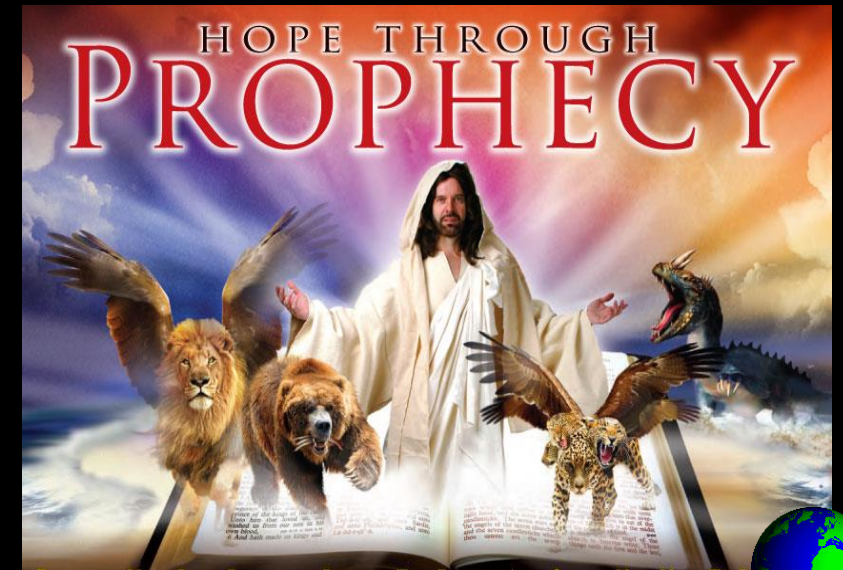
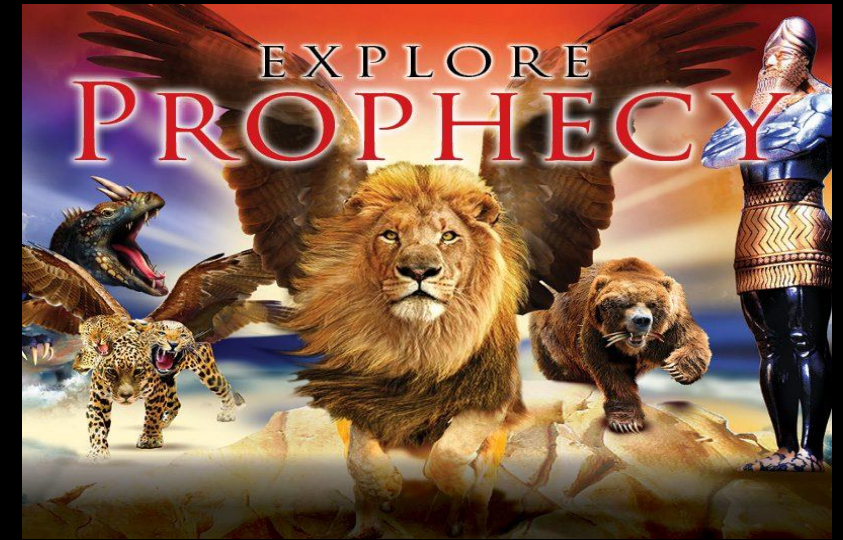
The first six chapters of Daniel are largely a narrative of Daniel's experiences during the Babylonian exile. This narrative presents God at work behind the scenes of history to accomplish His beneficent purpose for His people and for this world.

The last six chapters report a series of visions concerning future events from Daniel's day down to the close of time.

Chapters 1 to 4 focus on the historical section of Daniel, with a backward glance at God's purpose for His people Israel and a forward glance at His purpose for them upon their return from exile.

Chapters 5 and 6 present a composite summary of all of the information Gabriel imparted to Daniel, without attempting (in these two lessons) to interpret it.

Chapters 7 through 12 turn to the New Testament for the interpretation and application of the prophecies of Daniel given by Christ and the various New Testament writers.

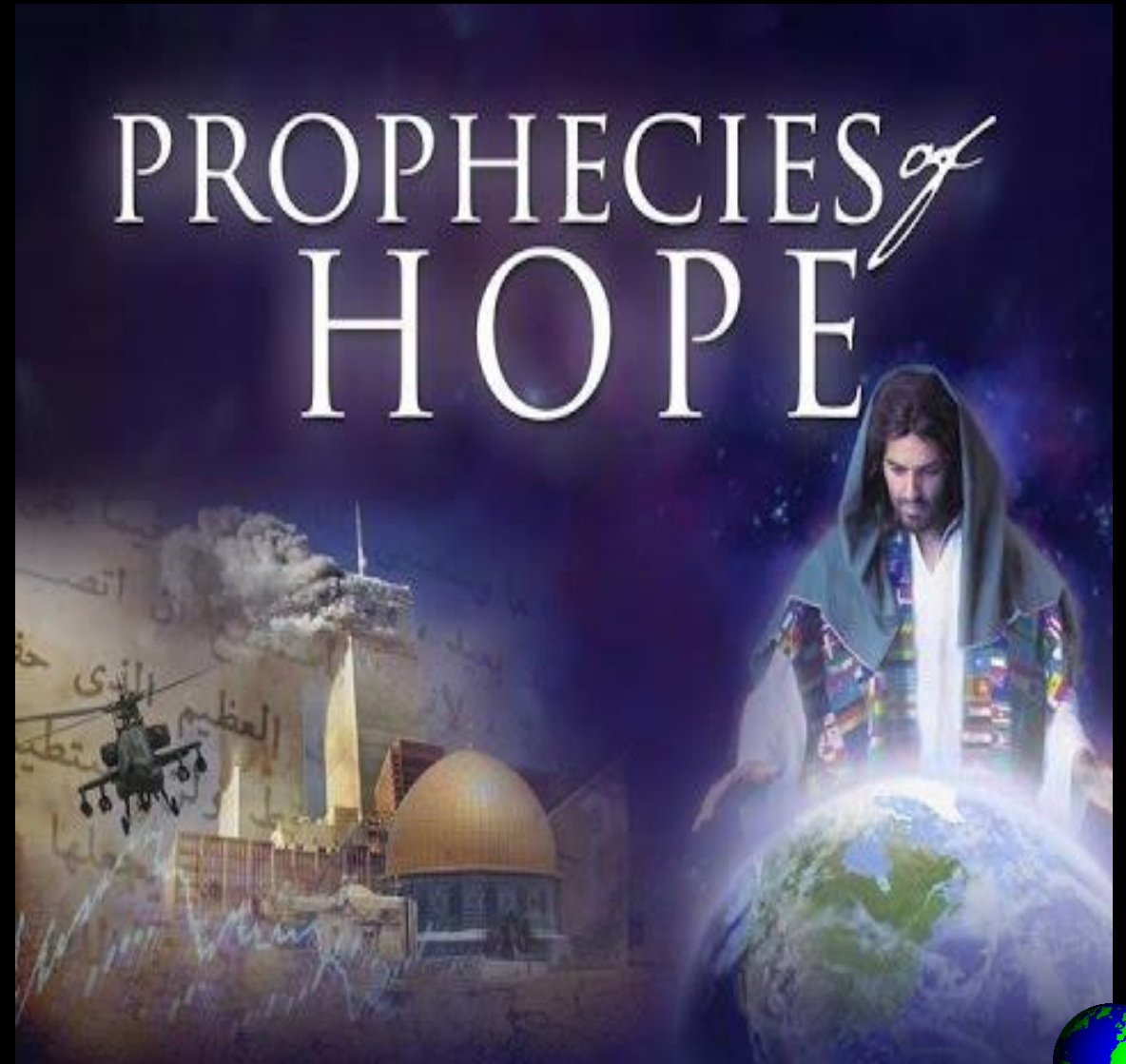


Conclusion – Application for today

"As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies recorded by Daniel demand our special attention, as they relate to the very time in which we are living." — Prophets and Kings, page 547.

"The light that Daniel received from God was given especially for these last days. The visions he saw, . . . are now in process of fulfilment, and all the events foretold will soon come to pass. . . . "When we as a people understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival." — Testimonies to Ministers, page 113.

"We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Many of the prophecies are about to be fulfilled in quick succession." — Testimonies to Ministers, page 116.

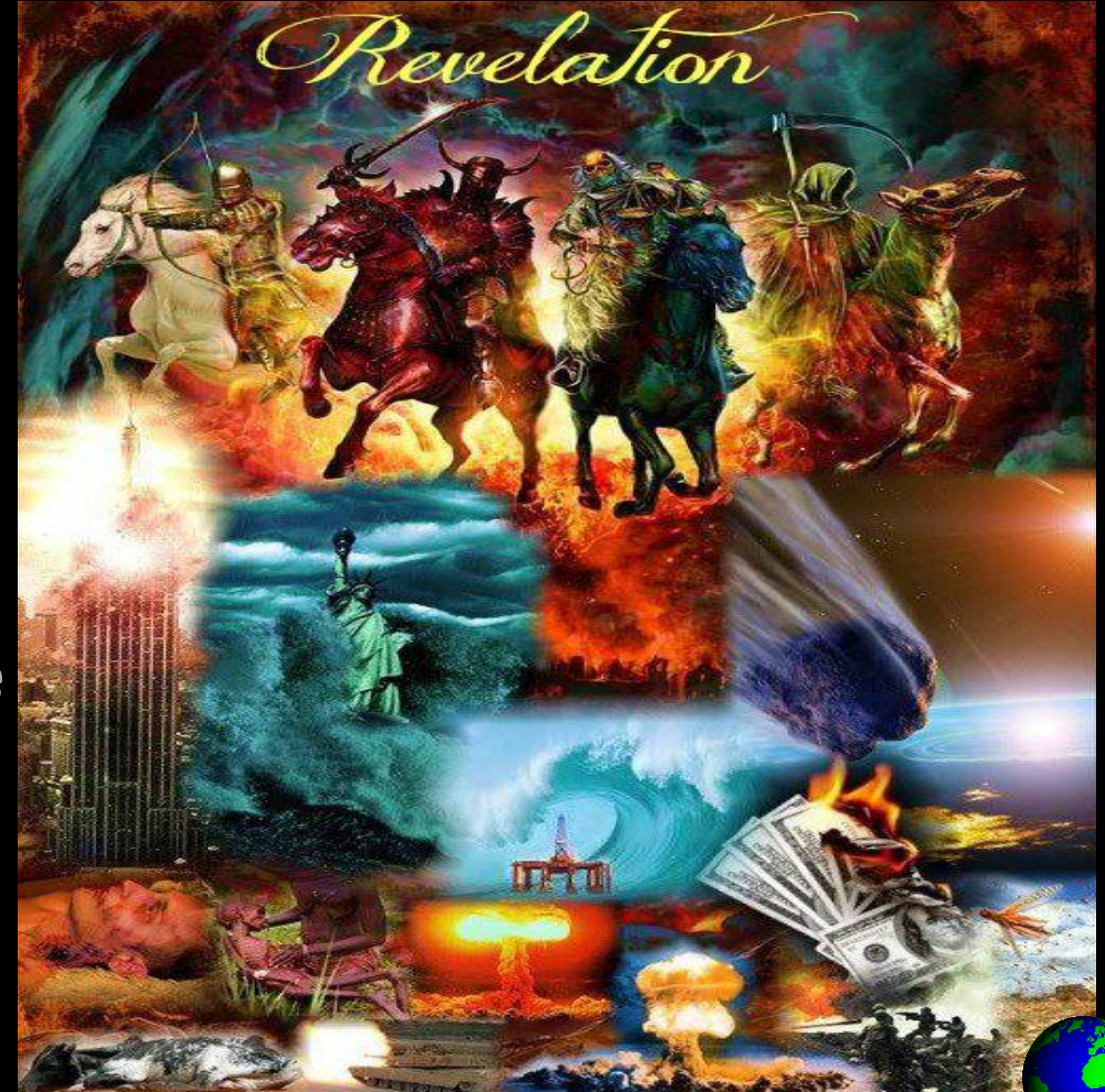


Conclusion – Application for today (cont'd)

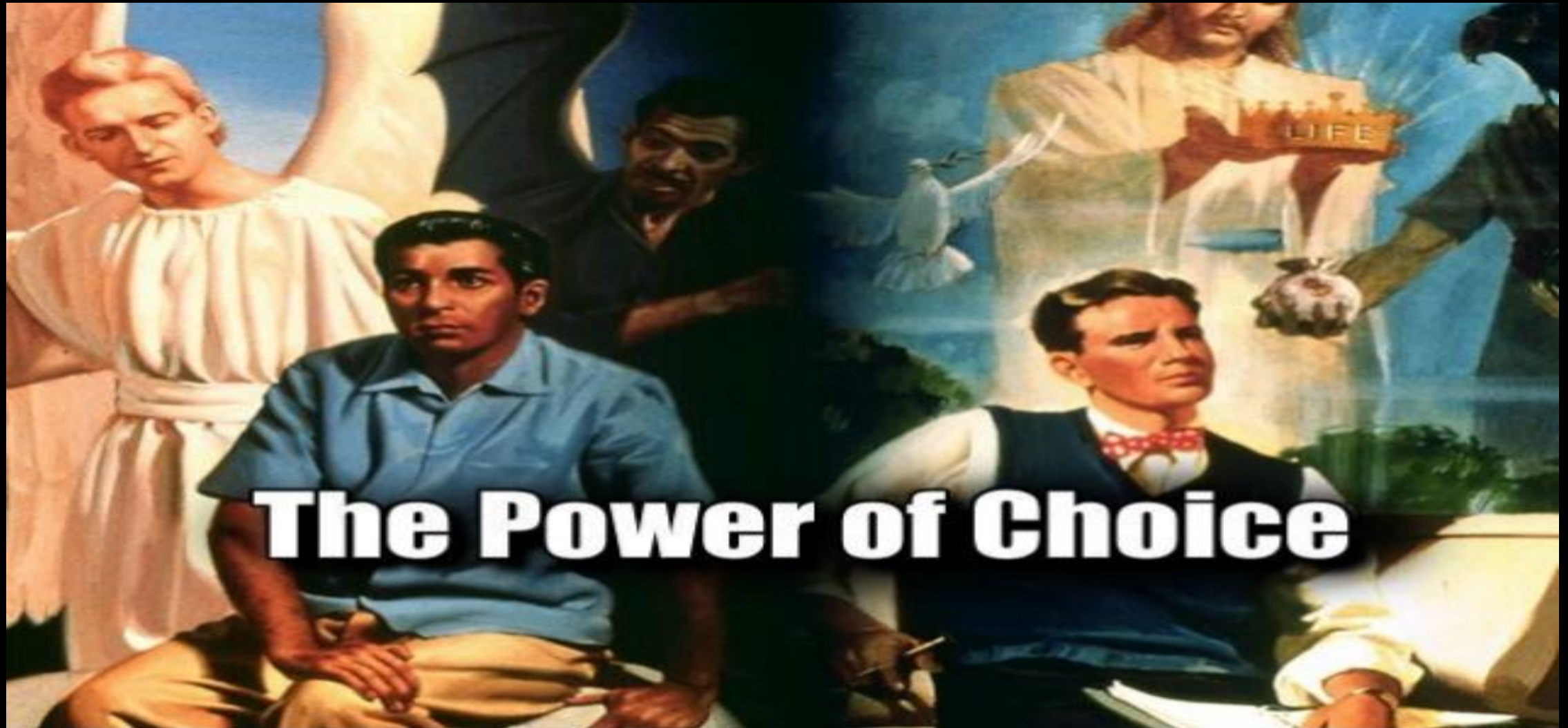
It would be impossible to compress within the limited space all of twelve chapters, all that might be said about the book of Daniel.

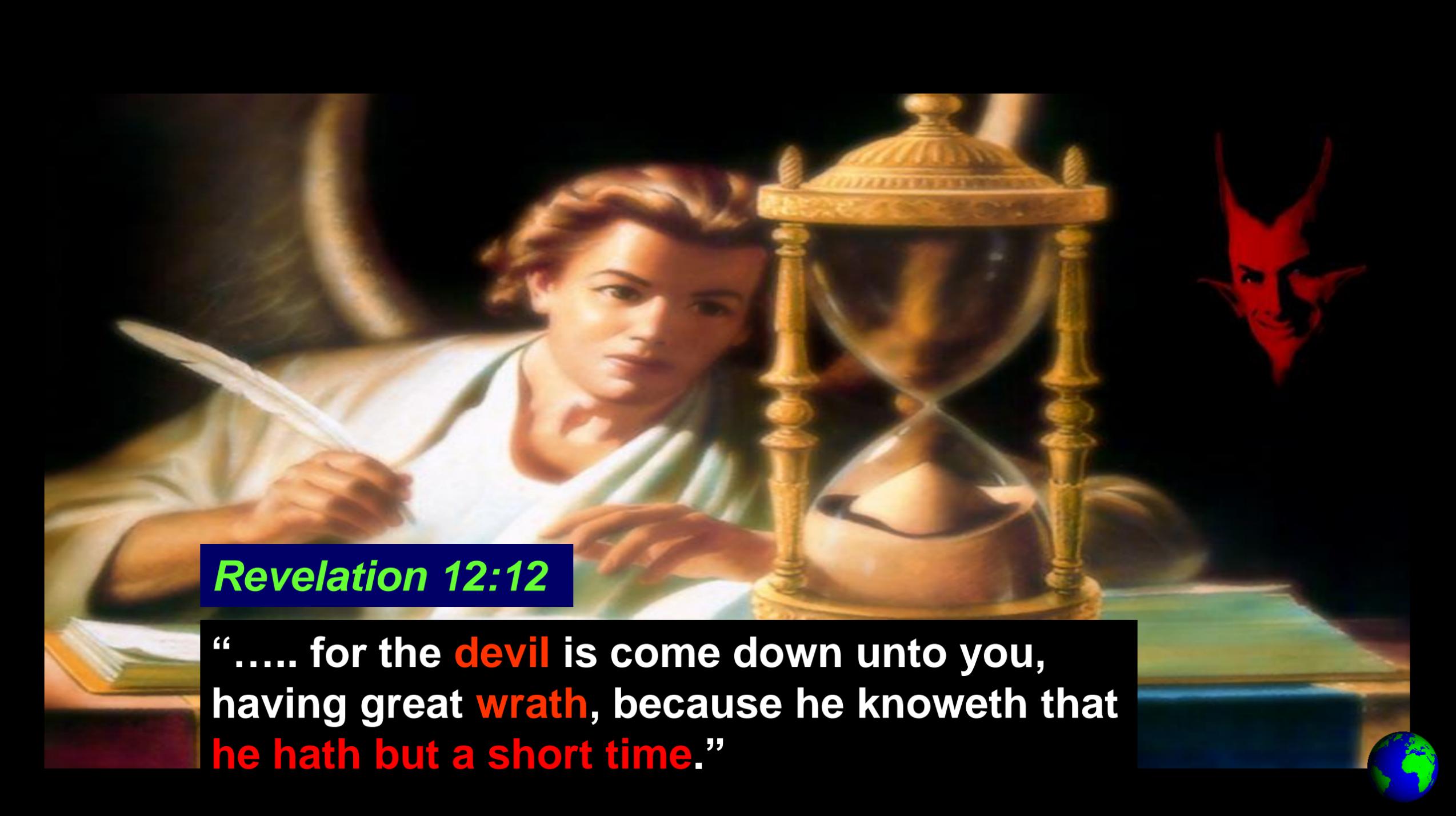
Those who wish a more complete understanding of its message for God's people today will find a variety of references listed for enrichment.

"We need to study the working out of God's purpose in the history of nations and in the revelation of things to come, **that we may estimate at their true value things seen and things unseen**; that we may learn what is the true aim of life; **that, viewing the things of time in the light of eternity, we may put them to their truest and noblest use**. Thus, learning here the principles of His kingdom and becoming its subjects and citizens, **we may be prepared at His coming to enter with Him into its possession.**" — Education, p184.



God has given all:



An angel with a halo is shown writing in a book with a quill pen. Next to the angel is a large, ornate hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dark, dramatic environment.

Revelation 12:12

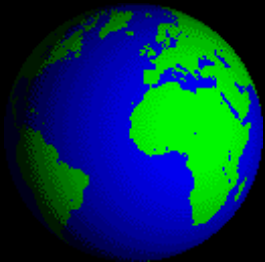
“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you,
having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that
he hath but a short time.”



Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –
Revelation 3:20





THE END



ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?