

DANIEL PART 1

JAMIE MCNAB

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We are going to review Daniel ... chapter by chapter and verse by verse.

We've referred to it often in our Prophecy Series ... especially chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 ... but will now go through the entire book and get it all in context.

We have been through the book once before in 2007! Almost 10 years ago and worth a re-visit.

Daniel is a key book ... a key prophecy ... and fundamental to understanding the Book of Revelation. There are some very specific prophecies we can look out for and we'll dwell in some of those when we get to them.

A little bit of the background. Some "Liberal" Bible scholars don't even believe there was a Prophet called Daniel ... they believe the book was written hundreds of years after the main events by an anonymous author/s.

However ... in Matthew 24:15 Jesus said, "... when you see the Abomination of Desolation, spoken of by Daniel the Prophet, standing in the Holy Place ...".

So ... Jesus believed Daniel was real!! So can we.

Also ... Daniel was an outstanding man.

Ezekiel 14:12-14 (NKJV)

12 The word of the Lord came again to me, saying:

13 "Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it.

14 Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness," says the Lord God.

Ezekiel 14:19-20 (NKJV)

19 "Or if I send a pestilence into that land and pour out My fury on it in blood, and cut off from it man and beast,

20 even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live," says the Lord God, "they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness."

The book starts with Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon ... laying siege to Jerusalem circa 605 BC. He takes a great deal of treasure and many people captive ... back to Babylon. Daniel was among them ... possibly of Royal Lineage. He was about 16 years old ... and continued to serve in Babylon ... then in the Persian Empire for around 70 years. God singles him out as a man who is extremely righteous.

Daniel 1:1-7 (NKJV)

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, (NASB: ... "chief of his officials" ... not necessarily a physical eunuch [those in charge of the King's harem ... very likely were

eunuchs]. Same term used of Potiphar [whose wife propositioned Joseph]) to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles,

4 young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.

5 And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king. *(They have to be properly trained and prepared)*

6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

7 To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

Daniel 1:8-16 (NKJV)

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs/officers that he might not defile himself. *(Some food might not have been Kosher? There might be boar ... or pigs ... or camels ... and strange creatures from the ocean. Most of it ... including the wine was probably offered to Babylonian gods. This took courage to ask ... as this was the king's food ... and he was a captive from a subjugated nation)*

9 Now God had brought Daniel into the favour and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.

10 And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king."

11 So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. (*Daniel was courteous ... wise ... let's put it to the test*)

13 Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants."

14 So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies.

16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

Daniel 1:17-21 (NKJV)

17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom*; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king.

20 And in all matters of wisdom* and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus. (*Which was 70 years later*)

* God gave wisdom. He still gives wisdom. We have access to wisdom the way the world doesn't. Cp.

James 1:2-8 (NKJV)

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

5 **If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

6 **But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.**

7 **For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;**

8 **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**

1 Corinthians 12:4-8 (NKJV)

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

8 **for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,**

Back to Daniel.

Daniel 2:1-13 (NKJV)

1 Now **in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams;** and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him.

2 Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

3 And the king said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream."

4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation."

5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap."

6 However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honour. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation."

7 They answered again and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation."

8 The king answered and said, "I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm:

9 if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation."

10 The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, "There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean."

11 It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

12 For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

13 So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

Nebuchadnezzar wants proof ... tell him both the dream and the meaning!! They couldn't and so he started executing the wise men.

Daniel 2:14-23 (NKJV)

14 Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon;

15 he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, "Why is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel.

16 So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.

17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,

18 that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. *(United prayer!)*

19 Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

20 Daniel answered and said:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
For wisdom and might are His.

21 And 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.

22 He reveals deep and secret things;
He knows what is in the darkness,
And light dwells with Him.

23 "I thank You and praise You,
O God of my fathers;
You have given me wisdom and might,
And have now made known to me what we asked of You,
For You have made known to us the king's demand."

Daniel 2:24-36 (NKJV)

24 Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation."

25 Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation."

26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?"

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king.

28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. (*Latter Days ... NRSV: "at the end of days". Although it is recorded in the Book of Daniel for that time ... it is relevant to us today ... to you and me*) Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:

29 As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. (*NET: "... while you were in your bed your thoughts turned to future things"*)

30 But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

31 "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendour was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

32 **This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,**

33 **its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.**

34 **You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.**

35 **Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**

36 "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

Daniel 2:37-49 (NKJV)

37 **You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;**

38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—**you are this head of gold.**

39 **But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. (As pictured in the prophecy)**

40 **And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.**

41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.

43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

44 **And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.**

45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.

47 **The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.”**

48 **Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.**

49 Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but **Daniel sat in the gate of the king.**

We have covered the image in detail previously.

GOLD = BABYLON

SILVER = MEDO-PERSIA

BRONZE = GREECE

IRON = ? At least 2 major options:

The most popular view is that this Iron empire = Rome (Came after Greece). Hippolytus identified it as Rome circa 200 AD. Most have followed suit for the last 1,800 years ... leading most Bible students today ...to look to Rome ... Holy Roman Empire ... or the Vatican ... or Western Europe. Perhaps Germany leading 10 nations in Europe. A very popular idea. Certainly a view that most of us have grown up with.

However ... verse 40 ... uses the phrase, "break in pieces" = deqaq = crush ... pulverise ... shatter.

Rome never conquered Persia. It didn't crush Greece ... it defeated the Greek armies. All it looked for was allegiance and to pay your taxes to us. They admired Greece ... its culture ... its language etc.

So. On Biblical evidence ... Rome doesn't fit the 4th empire.

But! Islam does!! Starting in the 600s ... Islam swept across North Africa ... the Middle East ... towards India ... conquering Persia (in a decade or two ... which Rome had been fighting for centuries) ... Islam conquered Turkey ... Greece ... Spain ... and into Austria at one point.

And ISLAM CRUSHED ... religion ... culture ... government ... education ... even the alphabet was changed in many countries. In 1453 Islam conquered Constantinople (Istanbul) ... the then capital of the Roman Empire. Clean sweep!! They got it all. That's DEQAQ!

Some estimate that the Islamic Jihad killed 270 million in its 1400 years ... and more to come.

This will go right up to Jesus' return ... His parousia. To be replaced by God's Kingdom on this earth. Not some nebulous thing in people's hearts.

A curious Feature? Verse 43 ... "they will mingle with the seed of men". NET: " ... so people will be mixed with one another"

The original language for "mingle/mixed" is Arab. So ... if you left the original translation ... "so people will be Arab". Islam has its birth place in Arabia. Interesting?

For us today ... options ... watch Europe/Rome ... but maybe also watch Islam? Later chapters point towards Iran and Turkey?

Daniel 3:1 (NKJV)

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. (*Statue ... possibly an obelisk? 90' x 9'*)

Daniel 3:2-7 (NKJV)

2 And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

3 So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,

5 that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;

6 **and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."**

7 So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, **all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.** *(A type of antichrist ... worship the image ... or die?)*

Daniel 3:8-18 (NKJV)

8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.

9 They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever!

10 You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image;

11 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

12 **There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."**

13 **Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.**

14 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, **"Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?"**

15 Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But **if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"**

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

17 If that is the case, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.**

18 **But if not,** *(does that mean that God wont deliver them?? Another view is: Even if you don't throw us in ... we still won't serve your stupid gods. Whether you throw us in or not ... forget it!!!)* **let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."**

Nebuchadnezzar checks the facts. He gives them a second chance. Whether he throws them into the fiery furnace or not ... they wont bow down and worship. Faith or commitment?

Daniel 3:19-25 (NKJV)

19 **Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. (He completely "lost it". Why?) He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.**

20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valour who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 **Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. (Like a brick dome built of hardened bricks. Opening on the top ... with a ramp up to it. A door in the side to allow ashes to be removed?)**

22 Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counsellors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?"

They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

25 "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

Daniel 3:26-30 (NKJV)

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.

27 And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counsellors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

28 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this."

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

These 3 young men were a good example of not compromising. It could be in the future that people will face compromise to take the mark of The Beast and worship His Image ... or face death.