

DANIEL PART 4

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We have been going through the Book of Daniel.

Last week we covered Daniel chapters 7 and 8.

Daniel 7 = 4 Beasts; Lion, Bear, Leopard and Terrible 4th Beast ... ? Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Islamic Empire with 10 associated nations ... forming the 10 horns.

It makes war against the Saints for 3½ years ... and prevailed against them.

Daniel 8 = The Ram and the He-Goat ... Iran (Persia) and Turkey (Greece/Javan) ... vying for power in the latter days.

Next (?) Iran launches a massive blitzkrieg attack across the Middle east.

Turkey retaliates.

There is likely to be much death and destruction. Also ... the whole area around the Persian Gulf is the centre of the world's oil production. Massive worldwide economic upheaval around the whole world ... a nightmare scenario?

Daniel 9:1-2 (NKJV)

1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—
2 in the first year of his reign (since the writing on the wall) I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet,

that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

See:

Jeremiah 25:8-13 (NKJV)

8 "Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words,

9 behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the Lord, "and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.

10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.

11 **And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.**

12 'Then it will come to pass, **when seventy years are completed**, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the Lord; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.

13 So I will bring on that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, *all that is written in this book*, which Jeremiah has prophesied concerning all the nations.

Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NKJV) (extract from a letter written to the captives in Babylon)

10 For thus says the Lord: **After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.**

11 **For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.**

12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

14 **I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity;** I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

Back to Daniel chapter 9.

Daniel 9:3-4 (NKJV)

3 **Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.**

4 **And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,**

Daniel doesn't just sit back as a spectator ... he takes action in prayer. He is not passive ... not Que Sera. A good illustration for you and me. The example of scripture is that God expects you and me ... to play our part ... and take action ... be part of the team.

Compare:

James 5:16-18 (NKJV)

16 **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

This applies to us all? Elijah was like us ... with weaknesses and with strengths. Elijah didn't just pay "lip service". Are our prayers empty ... powerless ... pointless ... just a duty?

God could do everything Himself ... couldn't He? Directly? He could just shout out the gospel from heaven ... but ... He doesn't ... He works through people ... they walk ... drive fly ... book halls ... write letters and articles. They go on the internet and on TV. God wants to see that we are interested in His plans. Not just passive spectators!

Daniel 9:4-19 (NKJV) Daniel's Fervent Prayer

4 And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,

5 we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.

6 Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land.

7 O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.

8 "O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You.

9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.

10 **We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets.**

11 **Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.**

12 And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem.

13 **"As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth.**

14 Therefore the Lord has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice.

15 And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly!

16 **"O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us.**

17 **Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate.**

18 **O my God, incline Your ear and hear;** open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we

do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies.

19 ***O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.***"

Whilst Daniel was pondering ... God sent an angel ... Gabriel ... to tell him about another 70 years ... a more important 70 that applies to his people in the future.

Daniel 9:20-23 (NKJV)

20 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God,

21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, ***the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.***

22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.

23 ***At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:***

Gabriel brings a fascinating prophecy. Daniel had been studying for 70 years. Gabriel brings a message of another 70.

Daniel 9:24 (NKJV)

24 "Seventy weeks* are determined For your people and for your holy city, (NIV "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people") To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins,

To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy,
And to anoint the Most Holy.

Daniel 9:25 (NKJV)

25 "Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;

The street shall be built again, and the wall,
Even in troublesome times.

*70 Shabua ... 70 x 7's ... 490 years

Verse 25 ... 7 x 7's plus 62 x 7's = 69 weeks
= 483 years + "Final 7"

From the decree to restore Jerusalem ... to Messiah = 483 years.

There are debates over which decree! There appears to be four altogether! Then debates over whether one year = 360 days ... or 365¼ days.

Depending which way you approach it ... you arrive at 26 or 27 AD when Messiah "officially appeared". Others arrive at Palm Sunday in 33 AD when Christ was publicly acclaimed as a King.

Daniel 9:26-27 (NKJV)

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off, (*crucified*) but not for Himself;
And the people of the prince who is to come
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. (About 70 AD)

The end of it shall be with a flood,

And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 **Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;**

(Shabua ... for final 7 ... ie 7 years)

But in the middle of the week

He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. (3½ years ... brings end to the sacrifices in the Temple/Sanctuary and sets up the Abomination of Desolation)

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,

Even until the consummation, which is determined,

Is poured out on the desolate."

It looks like this "Prince to come" is the Antichrist. He enters into a 7 year treaty (peace treaty) ... but then ... as a master of deception and intrigue ... he abandons the treaty ... he turns violent ... he backstabs ... and ushers in the final 3½ year Tribulation.

Jesus warns us to watch out for this event.

Matthew 24:15-17, 21-22 (NKJV)

15 **"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),**

16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

21 **For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

22 **And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.**

This is still ahead of us. Unlike anything that has ever happened before. Nothing can compare to this. The prophecy of Daniel is still relevant; not "old history".

Daniel 9:26 (NKJV)

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;
And the people of the prince who is to come
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary*.

The end of it shall be with a flood,
And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

*In 70 AD ... the city was destroyed ... under Titus ... but ... the people destroying it were not Roman by birth. Titus used local conscripts into the Roman army ... V ... X ... XII ... XV Legions ... basically people from Arabian/Syrian/Egyptian ... (not Roman or European) ... but Middle East ... (Islamic countries today).

This is very suggestive of an Islamic Antichrist ... not a German or an Italian.

Daniel 10:1 (NKJV) ... Message recorded through Chapters 11-12

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. *The message was true, but the appointed time was long**; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision.

*can be translated as:

(NASB) "the message was true and one of great conflict"
(NET) "This message was true and concerned a great war".

Daniel 10:2-3 (NKJV)

2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. (Not sure why Daniel was mourning ... perhaps because not too many chose to return to Jerusalem?)

3 I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

Daniel 10:4-9 (NKJV)

4 Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris,

5 I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz!

6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in colour, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.

8 Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigour was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength.

9 Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

Daniel 10:10-14 (NKJV)

10 Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands.

11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

14 **Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people (Jews?) in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."**

The angel had set out with Daniel's answer IMMEDIATELY! ... but it didn't arrive the same day. The angel was detained 21 days by the Prince of Persia ... a powerful spirit being ... who holds him back ... till Michael ... a Chief Prince (Jude 9: Archangel ... extra powerful angel) came to help.

It could be that some of our answers are delayed? The answer could be on its way ... but there is a delay like in the case of Daniel. But ... do we stay in faith ... or give up? At which point ... the angel goes back home??

Daniel 10:15 - 11:1 (NKJV)

15 When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.

16 And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, **"My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength.**

17 For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me."

18 Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me.

19 And he said, **"O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!"**

So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

20 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.

21 But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.

Chapter 11

1 "Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)

Daniel 11:2 (NKJV)

2 And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.

Daniel 11:2 starts a message that continues to the end of Chapter 12. No chapter breaks. You need to read chapters 10 + 11+ 12 to get the complete story. The prophecy is not for Daniel ... but for us.

See:

Chapter 11:40 ... "at the time of the end"

Chapter 11:1-3 ... the prophecy is up until the Resurrection

Chapter 12:4 ... "the time of the end"

Chapter 12:9 ... "the time of the end"

The angel started his message in verse 2 and runs basically until the end of the book.

Most commentators say all ... up to verse 32 is ancient history (some go as far as verse 35). If so ... then this portion is of limited value to us? Well over 2,000 years ago?? I suspect a lot more of it is for us today ... and yet future. I speculate that no later than verse 21 is where we get to what's yet future. So that verse 21 onwards ... gives us a very clear description of the end-time Antichrist and what he will be like and how he will behave (so we can watch out!)

I'm not sure there is a lot to be gained from too detailed an analysis of early verses ... but we can look out for two key figures as the prophecy unfolds ... the King of the North and the King of the South. They both feature right up to the end.

Daniel 11:2-4 (NKJV)

2 And now I will tell you the truth: **Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.**

3 **Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.**

4 **And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven,** but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; **for his kingdom shall be uprooted,** even for others besides these.

Persia ... then Greece. Probably a reference to Alexander The Great (died in 323 BC). Daniel was writing about 540-530 BC ... hence many liberal Bible Scholars attribute the book of Daniel to a later author! They forget (?) that the true author is God!

There is little point in examining the details of verses 4-20 ... but let's note two very important characters ... the King of the North and the King of the South ... referred to almost 20 times ... (and the Jews ... Daniel's people ... caught in the middle!).

Verses 4-20: Historically ... after Alexander's death ... his empire split into many parts. Two key elements ... King of the South: Egypt (Ptolemy) and the King of the North (Seleucus): Syria, including Turkey, modern-day Iraq, modern-day Iran and Pakistan. All of them today are Islamic!

The angel's message ... throughout chapters 11 and 12 is essentially about the relationship between the King of the North and the King of the South ... and what will happen to Daniel's people (Jews?) ... who will be caught right in the middle ... and it goes right up to the very end ... the Resurrection.

Daniel 11:5-20 (NKJV)

5 "Also **the king of the South** shall become strong, as well as one of his princes; and he shall gain power over him and have dominion. His dominion shall be a great dominion.

6 And at the end of some years they shall join forces, for the daughter of **the king of the South** shall go to **the king of the North** to make an agreement; but she shall not retain the power of her authority, and neither he nor his authority shall stand; but she shall be given up, with those who brought her, and with him who begot her, and with him who strengthened her in those times.

7 But from a branch of her roots one shall arise in his place, who shall come with an army, enter the fortress of **the king of the North**, and deal with them and prevail.

8 And he shall also carry their gods captive to Egypt, with their princes and their precious articles of silver and gold; and he shall continue more years than **the king of the North**.

9 "Also **the king of the North** shall come to the kingdom of **the king of the South**, but shall return to his own land.

10 However his sons shall stir up strife, and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one shall certainly come and overwhelm and pass through; then he shall return to his fortress and stir up strife.

11 "And **the king of the South** shall be moved with rage, and go out and fight with him, with **the king of the North**, who shall muster a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into the hand of his enemy.

12 When he has taken away the multitude, his heart will be lifted up; and he will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not prevail.

13 For **the king of the North** will return and muster a multitude

greater than the former, and shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment.

14 "Now in those times many shall rise up against **the king of the South**. Also, violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfilment of the vision, but they shall fall.

15 So **the king of the North** shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; and the forces of the South shall not withstand him. Even his choice troops shall have no strength to resist.

16 But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and no one shall stand against him. He shall stand in the Glorious Land with destruction in his power.

17 "He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do. And he shall give him the daughter of women to destroy it; but she shall not stand with him, or be for him.

18 After this he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many. But a ruler shall bring the reproach against them to an end; and with the reproach removed, he shall turn back on him.

19 Then he shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

20 "There shall arise in his place one who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom; but within a few days he shall be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle.

From now on ... I speculate the angel is discussing what is still future for us. What comes next is a good description of the end-time Antichrist.

Daniel 11:21-27 (NKJV)

21 **And in his place shall arise a vile person, (despicable person ... contemptible person) to whom they will not give the honour of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. (Treachery) (End-time Antichrist? Leader of Beast Empire?)**

22 With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant.

23 **And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully, (NASB: "Practice deception")** for he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people.

24 He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time.

25 "He shall stir up his power and his courage against **the king of the South** with a great army. And **the king of the South** shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for they shall devise plans against him.

26 Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain.

27 Both these kings' hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time.

Daniel 8:23-25 (NKJV)

23 "And in the latter time of their kingdom,
When the transgressors have reached their fullness,
A king shall arise,
Having fierce features,
Who understands sinister schemes.

24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power;
He shall destroy fearfully,
And shall prosper and thrive;
He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.

25 "Through his cunning
He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule;
And he shall exalt himself in his heart.
He shall destroy many in their prosperity.

He shall even rise against the Prince of princes;
But he shall be broken without human means.