

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 9) 27 July ..... Daniel 01 ..... Draw the Line
- 10) 03 August ..... Daniel 02-03 ..... Risk Everything for God
- 11) 10 August ..... Daniel 04-05 ..... Tell it Like it is
- 12) 17 August ..... Daniel 06 ..... Never Give Up on Prayer
- 13) 24 August ..... Daniel 07-08 ..... **Live to Win in the End**
- 14) 31 August ..... Daniel 09-12 ..... Be Ready for Tribulation

INTRODUCTION

- Daniel 1-6 portrayed Babylon’s current state of affairs
- Daniel 7-12 predominantly detailed visions concerning the future
- In chapters 7-8 Daniel foretold Israel’s destiny, and we are introduced to the “Son of Man” (Jesus Christ) & the “Ancient of Days” (God the Father)
- **Recall:**
  - ♦ Daniel & friends were 10x better than their peers ..... Dan 1:20
  - ♦ Daniel was able to revealed God to King Neb. .... Dan 2:28
  - ♦ 3 Amigos remained steadfast in their faith under fire ..... Dan 3
  - ♦ Daniel possessed a “spirit of the holy gods” ..... Dan 4:8-9
  - ♦ Daniel revealed God to King Belshazzar ..... Dan 5:21
  - ♦ Daniel had an “extraordinary spirit” ..... Dan 6:3
- **Food for Thought – Being so young, where did Daniel & his 3 friends get such a strong faith to survive & succeed in a wicked society?**
  - ♦ Since boys were not allowed into the Jewish temple complex till they were 13 years old, they wouldn’t have been exposed to formal religious instruction for more than a couple of years before they were taken captive while in their mid-teens
  - ♦ **So, they were grounded in God’s word more by their parents than by their place of worship. Their parents took God seriously**
    - ♦ *Train up a child in the way he should go* ..... Prov 22:6
    - ♦ *You shall teach My words to your children, while sitting and walking, every day and every night* ..... Deut 11:18-20
- Now, in these 2 chapters, we see Daniel receiving some “troubling” dreams and chatting with angels about their interpretations

Passage	Comments
Daniel 7:1-8	<p><b>Daniel’s Vision of the 4 Beasts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel has a dream and doesn’t know the interpretation</li> <li>• The 4 beasts here are the same kingdoms portrayed in Nebuchadnezzar’s earlier dream in 2:31-45. Each kingdom here gets progressively worse                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. v4. Lion with eagle’s wings → Babylon</li> <li>2. v5. Bear with 3 ribs in mouth → Medo-Persia</li> <li>3. v6. Leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads → Greece</li> <li>4. v7. “Dreadful” with iron teeth and 11 horns → Rome</li> </ol> </li> <li>• The 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom also seems to allude to the reign of the Antichrist (11<sup>th</sup> horn) during the 7-yr tribulation ..... Rev 13:5-6</li> </ul>
7:9-28	<p><b>God’s Kingdom Endures Forever</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v9, 13-14. The “Ancient of Days” (God the Father) grants the Son of Man (the Messiah) dominion over everything forever</li> <li>• The “little horn” points ultimately to the Antichrist in the end time who destroys nations .... Dan 11:36-37; 2Thes 2:3-12; Rev 13:5-6</li> <li>• The identity of who sat on the other thrones is unclear. Options include the Trinity, angels, or saints</li> <li>• v12. “...an extension of life was granted to them...” - Greek culture persisted throughout the Roman period</li> <li>• v13. From this point forward “son of man” would frequently allude to the Messiah, &amp; Jesus quotes it ..... Mat 24:30; 26:64</li> <li>• <b>v16. Daniel asked for the interpretation from an angel</b></li> <li>• vv21-25, The “little horn” waged war with the saints and overpowered them ..... cf Rev 11:7; 13:7</li> <li>• vv26-27. Saints are preserved &amp; prevail ..... cf Rev 12:14; 17:14</li> </ul>
8:1-14	<p><b>Vision of the Ram (Medo-Persia) and the Goat (Greece)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v8. Looking at world history with hindsight, upon the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC, his empire was divided among 4 generals, Seleucus, Ptolemy, Cassander, and Lysimachus. Their kingdoms are the 4 horns, which replaced the one big horn</li> <li>• v14. The holy place will be properly restored in literally, 2,300 evenings and mornings – <b>WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Since this time period of 2,300 days, years, etc., does not equate to any time period depicted in Revelation, it must refer to the historical period following Daniel’s time</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Most probable explanation is found in Gill’s commentary, where the time depicts when Judas Maccabees obtained victory over Nicanor and restored Jewish temple worship (c151 BC), 2,300 days after Antiochus set up the “abomination of desolation” of a pig being slaughtered upon the altar and he also outlawed the Jewish religion</li> </ul>
8:15-27	<p><b>Ram &amp; Goat Interpretation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv15-16. <b>Gabriel</b> received the command, possibly from Christ, to give the interpretation to Daniel</li> <li>• vv17-18. Daniel “sank into a deep sleep” – IOW, he passed out from the shock &amp; awe of the realization of the dream</li> <li>• v24. “He (Greece) will destroy mighty men and the holy people” – History records Alexander the Great slaughtering 80,000 Jews in 3 days and ransacked the Temple</li> <li>• v26. “<b>BUT, Therefore seal up the vision, for it refers to many days in the future</b>” (NIV) – Was this to be kept secret?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Since it was made known to us through this passage we can take “Seal up” to mean “Guard it” or “Record it” for posterity purposes so it can be validated later. <b>Isaiah 8:16</b> “<i>Bind up the testimony and seal up the law among my disciples</i>” (NIV)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Does God still give heavenly dreams and visions today?	<p>Simple answer is NO, since God is working differently today as noted in Hebrews 1:1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel received future earthly visions and dreams, not of Heaven, but of several heavenly characters (Ancient of Days, Son of Man, Gabriel, Michael, &amp; unnamed others)</li> <li>• Four biblical authors had visions of heaven—not near-death experiences – OT prophets <b>Isaiah</b> and <b>Ezekiel</b>, and NT Apostles, <b>Paul</b> and <b>John</b>. Two other biblical figures—<b>Micaiah</b> and <b>Stephen</b>—got glimpses of heaven, but what they saw was merely mentioned, not described (2 Chron 18:18; Acts 7:55)</li> <li>• Only three of these men later wrote about what they saw—and the details they gave were comparatively sparse (<i>Isaiah 6:1-4; Ezekiel 1, 10; Revelation 4-6</i>). All of them focused properly on God’s glory.</li> <li>• Paul was commanded not to describe what he saw about his motivational vision of Heaven</li> <li>• Remember: John 3:13, “<i>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man</i>” and John 1:18, “<i>No one has seen God at any time.</i>”</li> </ul> <p>For more details on this, see <a href="https://answersingenesis.org/reviews/books/are-visits-to-heaven-for-real/">https://answersingenesis.org/reviews/books/are-visits-to-heaven-for-real/</a></p>

CONCLUSION & APPLICATIONS

- The Bible contains about 2500 prophecies, and about 2000 have already been meticulously fulfilled. Approximately 500 are left to be fulfilled.
- Also, recall there are 365 Messianic prophecies
- Daniel’s historically accurate prophecies give strong credence to the Bible’s authenticity and reliability

**NEXT WEEK: Daniel 9-12.** Daniel shares some “troubling” visions for our day and age

