

SOUTHLAND CHURCH

THE BOOK OF
DANIEL

18 Day Devotional



foundations
daily devotional

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INTRODUCTION

Daniel is classified as a book of prophecy as Daniel himself was a prophet. In this book God reveals many things to His servant Daniel about the end of the age. God loves to speak to His children and in this case, He tells Daniel things that are to come to pass in the future. But this book is so much more than that. As we study this book we can see that throughout it we can see many attributes of God, especially His Sovereignty. As you read this book, ask the Lord to open your eyes to the Scripture and to give you understanding in His Word, seeking Him in prayer, through dependence on the Holy Spirit.

In Daniel 12:9, the Lord said that some things were to be *“closed up and sealed until the time of the end”*. As this *“time of the end”* unfolds biblical prophecy relating to the end times is slowly being unsealed to the people of God. As you read this devotional you must understand that not everything has been fully revealed but rather many things will be made known as we get closer and closer to Christ’s return. We must be open to the Holy Spirit giving us guidance and understanding on God’s timetable, as we seek to understand and apply His Word to our lives.

The book of Daniel was written by Daniel, a godly Jew who had been exiled to Babylon, as given to him by the Holy Spirit. Daniel’s ministry covered a period of about 70 years, beginning during the reign of King Jehoiakim and ending with the reign of Cyrus, King of Meso-Persia. The nation of Israel had lived in Canaan since the time of the conquest as led by Joshua. The Israelites were first ruled by Judges and then Kings but soon was divided into two kingdoms. The northern kingdom was known as Israel and the southern kingdom was known as Judah. The ten tribes of the northern kingdom were taken into captivity by Assyria (2 Kings 17:1-3, 6-8; 18:9-12) and about a hundred years later, King Nebuchadnezzar took the southern kingdom into captivity (2 Kings 23:27; 24-25). When we begin reading the book of Daniel we find Judah now under the rule of Babylon. This was to last for 70 years and then Judah would be released to return to the land and rebuild the temple.

As we read the book we learn much of the character of Daniel and we can see how this young Jewish captive was set on following Yahweh. He did not let the pagan culture of Babylon get into him. Daniel was thought to be around 17-20 years old when taken to Babylon therefore his entire adult life was spent in Babylon. Nevertheless, His life was a marvelous witness to the true God. He was brought to a high position in Babylon and never compromised his faith and devotion to the Lord, even in the face of death threats. Daniel was a seer; he received dreams and visions and could interpret dreams. Nothing is known of Daniel’s ancestry or childhood.

One of the key themes in the book of Daniel is kings and kingdoms. The Sovereignty of God is clearly seen in this book as we see Him raising up kings and kingdom for His purposes. God is Sovereign; He controls and directs history and the destiny of the nations of the earth. His Kingdom is eternal while the world’s kingdoms are temporal and will pass away.

We also see in this book how God is compassionate and merciful as He cares for His people even though they are being punished and disciplined by Him through captivity. This book reveals how the Lord divulges His plans to His servants and does not leave His people in the dark. Scholars agree that there is a strong connection between the Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation as they are both end times’ books. These books complement each other therefore Daniel is incomplete without Revelation and Revelation is incomplete without Daniel. This devotional is going to focus on the book of Daniel which we must remember is only a partial picture of what the Bible says about the end times.

DAY 1 **READ:** Daniel 1

The first chapter of Daniel introduces us to the Babylonian captivity. Notice how it was the Lord who gave the king of Judah into the hands of the king of Babylon (v. 2). Scripture is clear as to why the Lord allowed this (see Lev. 25:5-6; 26:34-35; 2 Chron. 36:15-21, Jer. 17:20-27, Ezek. 20:10-24). God gave Sabbaths as a sign to the children of Israel. They were commanded to keep the weekly Sabbath as well as Sabbaths for the land every seventh year – since these Sabbath’s had been violated for 490 years (equaling 70 missed Sabbath years); the Babylonian captivity would be for 70 years. In His mercy God provided plenty of warning for the people to return to His ways. The prophets preached a message of repentance and urged the people to turn back to the Lord, also foretelling the coming judgement. But the people would not listen to these prophets.

When we first meet Daniel he is a Jewish adolescent exile who is taken to Babylon. Some of the Hebrew captives, including Daniel, were brought to the Babylonian court to serve in the palace of the king (v. 3-7). Only the best and the brightest were chosen for such a duty - they were physically the finest but also intellectually strong. These men were to be trained for three years, no doubt to indoctrinate them with Babylonian philosophy which would more than likely include incantations, divination, mythology and the religion of Babylon. They were to be fed from the King’s provision and their names were changed from Hebrew to Babylonian names. It is significant to note that names were important in the Old Testament because they carried spiritual meanings. God often gave people names based on His purpose for them. Yet the name change of these men didn’t change their character as they did not allow Babylon to get into them.

Even though Daniel was being subjected to a wicked culture, verse eight tells us that Daniel resolved not to defile himself. This godly man made a deliberate decision of heart, mind and will to not belong to Babylon. Because of the Jewish dietary guidelines this young man knew that to eat of the king’s provisions would defile him. His convictions were strong; he wouldn’t compromise his standards. It was because of God’s compassion (v. 9) that Daniel found favor and was allowed to be tested, eating only vegetables and water for ten days. He ended up being healthier than the others (v. 15) and was allowed to continue eating this way.

God continues to show favor to Daniel as He gives him knowledge and understanding of all kinds (v. 17) including the ability to understand visions and dreams. The wisdom, knowledge, understanding and skill that he received from the true God would be needed in the years ahead. All that Daniel and his friends experienced was in preparation for what God had in store for them. Daniel continued working for the king throughout the entire Jewish captivity including the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius and Cyrus and was an overcomer in the midst of terrible times. We can take courage from his godly example!

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. We are living in an age that is quite similar to the Babylonian age and culture. We need divine strength to resist the temptation to compromise our Biblical standards. What does standing for truth look like in your life? Ask the Lord to help you and your family, and the church, stand strong for truth.
2. Like Daniel, we are to be in the world but not of the world. Ask the Lord to show you one area in your life where the world has a grip on you. This could be a very subtle thing. Give God time to speak to you about this. Then ask Him to show you how He wants you to live in this area.

3. The church is called to be a prophetic voice in the end times in the midst of a Babylonian culture. Like the prophets in the Old Testament who warned the people of coming judgement, the church is to play a similar role. In order for this to happen, first the church needs to be renewed. Pray for church renewal in Canada. Pray that many churches would put into practices the eight renewal practices and that the church would rise up and fulfill her role in this age.

DAY 2 **READ:** Daniel 2:1-11

This chapter begins with Nebuchadnezzar having a dream which troubled him so much that he could not sleep (v. 1). Throughout the Bible God spoke to people through dreams and visions as divine forms of communication. Here He speaks to a pagan King, Nebuchadnezzar, through a dream. God also spoke to Pharaoh (Gen. 41) and Abimelech (Gen. 20) through dreams as well as many others such as Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and in the New Testament, Joseph and Mary as well as the wise men. God still speaks through dreams today (Acts 2:16-21). The wise believer will test dreams or visions, by the Word of God, as to their source and authenticity. Nebuchadnezzar was disturbed by his dream so he called the wise men of Babylon to tell him what he had dreamed (v. 2) and the interpretation. These were magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers who basically got their interpretations from occultic sources which were strictly forbidden by God. These men asked the king to tell them his dream so they could interpret it (v. 4) but the king had another idea. He told them – YOU tell me the dream that I had and show me the interpretation or I will have you cut into pieces (v. 5). They pleaded with the king to tell them the dream (v. 7) but the king would not budge (v. 8). Nebuchadnezzar knew what he was doing, if the wise men could provide him with the dream then there would be confidence in the interpretation of the dream. We can see here how God was in control. It was God who gave the king the dream therefore it would only be through the Holy Spirit that anyone could know the dream and its interpretation. Since these wise men were not in contact with the Holy Spirit there is no way they could ever find out what the dream was, let alone the interpretation. They answered the king, “*there is not a man on earth who can do what the king asks, what the king asks is too difficult*” (v. 10, 11). Do you see how God is setting the stage for Daniel and his friends? God is up to something here!

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. In today’s society numerous people are desperate for some sort of guidance and many turn to the occult to find it, often unaware of what they are doing. This diverts people from getting true guidance from God, through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. The increase in Satanism, spiritism and the occult shows signs of the last days. Believers must repent of any occultic activity including movies and television shows that have occultic content as well as false religious philosophies, mysticism, witchcraft, channels, astrologers, psychics and so on. These are forbidden by the Word of God!
 - a. Take a moment and ask the Lord to show you any areas in your life where you have had any unconfessed involvement in the areas listed below.
 - b. Check off areas of involvement.
 - c. Pray a prayer, confessing this involvement as sin and admitting that these things are wrong.
 - d. Thank the Lord for His forgiveness, mercy and love.

e. Ask the Lord to show you what you can do today in order to flee from this sort of involvement in the future. For example, are there friends you need to avoid? What environments do you need to avoid? Are their movies or TV shows you need to stop watching or get rid of?

- Ouija Board/Magic Eight Ball
- Bloody Mary
- Occult Games
- Spells or Curses
- Superstitions
- Spirit Guides
- Fortune-telling/Tarot Cards/Palm Reading
- Out-of-Body Experience
- Mental Telepathy/Control
- Silva Mind Control
- Automatic Writing
- Jehovah’s Witness
- New Age
- Freemasonry
- Mormonism
- Yoga
- Levitation (floating)
- Witchcraft/Satanism/Wicca
- Hypnosis
- Horoscopes/Astrology
- Blood Pacts
- Trying to contact the dead
- Crystals/Good Luck Charms/artifacts
- Occult Movies / TV
- Satanic Music
- Mysticism
- Transcendental Meditation
- Church of Scientology
- Native American Spirit Worship
- Islam
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Water Witching
- Other involvement with books or activities associated with other religions/cults

2. Thank the Lord for still communicating to people through dreams and visions or by other divine means of communication. Praise Him for being an active, caring, loving God! Thank Him for His Word and that we can use it to learn more about Him and His ways!

DAY 3

 **READ:** Daniel 2:12-23

When the wise men told Nebuchadnezzar that they could not do what he had asked of them by giving him the dream and interpreting it, Nebuchadnezzar was furious (v. 12). He issued a hasty decree that all the wise men of Babylon were to be put to death. This would have included Daniel and his friends as they were included in the group to be executed even though it seems that they were not present at the original meeting of the wise men and the king. When Daniel received the news of the death decree he asked why the king issued such a harsh ruling (v. 15) and went to the king to ask for time so that he might interpret the dream for him (v. 16). This showed Daniel’s faith in the living God since at this point Daniel did not know the dream or its interpretation. Daniel knew that God knew all things so he and his friends fell to their knees in prayer as their lives were at stake (v. 18). I’m sure this wasn’t a half-hearted prayer meeting as these men’s lives were on the line! They pleaded for mercy (v. 18) regarding this mystery. The prayer meeting became a praise meeting as they received their answer through a vision given to Daniel. The emphasis of their praise was the Sovereignty of God. He is a God of wisdom and power (v. 20), He changes times and seasons (v. 21), He removes and sets up kings (v. 21), He gives wisdom, knowledge and understanding (v. 21-22), He reveals deep and secret things (v. 22), He knows what is in the darkness as light dwells with Him (v. 22). Daniel thanked and praised God showing his own humility. He did not take the glory for himself but gave all the glory to God, knowing that all revelation and insight comes from the Lord!



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Who do you turn to when there is a crisis in your life? Daniel’s crisis could not be fixed through human means but rather could only be fixed by God. If only we would live this way! Prayer is powerful yet often is overlooked as a method to handle problems. Ask the Lord to teach you the importance of prayer. Pray that you would learn to trust in the power of prayer and learn to rely on it.
2. Daniel did not pray alone but rather prayed with his friends. Corporate prayer and praise is a powerful spiritual weapon. As Southland we have several corporate prayer events where we unite together and pray – weekly corporate intercession in the prayer room, weekend intercession in the prayer room and prayer summits. Ask the Lord to show you how you can unite with the church in prayer in any of these areas. Who can you encourage to get involved in corporate prayer?

Daniel received divine revelation from the Lord in this passage. Divine revelation should not cause one to become puffed up in pride but rather to walk in humility before God. When we receive something from the Lord in prayer we are not to take the glory for ourselves as all revelation comes from the Lord! Pray that as a church we would grow in walking in humility and love. Pray that God would reveal to many people hidden areas of pride.

DAY 4

 **READ:** Daniel 2:24-49

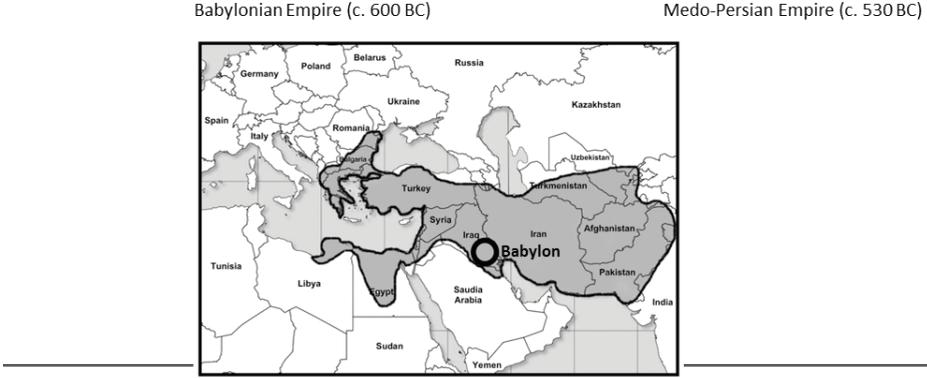
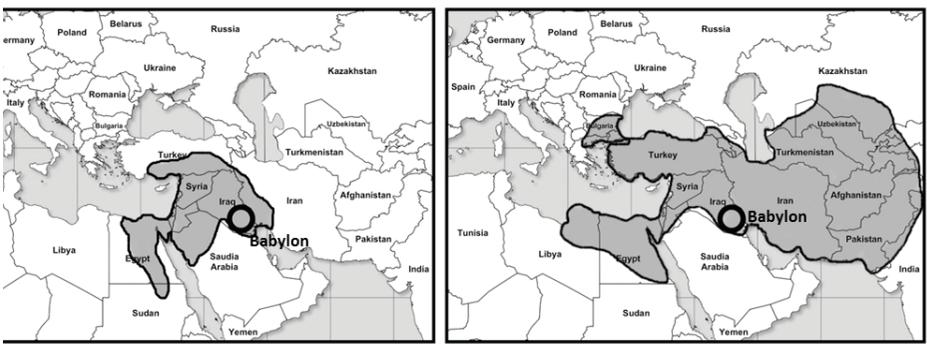
When Arioch takes Daniel to the king he says, “I have found a man who can tell the king what his dream means” (v. 25). Notice the humility of Daniel as he replies, “no man can explain to the king the mystery but there is a GOD who reveals mysteries” (v. 27-28). Daniel is exposing all the inadequacies of the wise men in Babylon who could not give an interpretation of the dream because they were not connected to the one True God! Daniel testifies that GOD reveals secrets because he knew that the dream was not revealed to him because of any wisdom he had but that it was revealed to him for Nebuchadnezzar’s sake, that the king would come to recognize the Sovereignty of God in the nations of the earth. It was also revealed for the preservation of Daniel and his friends, to keep them from getting executed. In verses 31-35 Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar the dream and then gives the interpretation (v. 36-45). The following chart is a summary of the dream and its interpretation.

Dream (v. 31-35)	Interpretation (v. 36-45)
Head – pure gold (v. 32)	The Kingdom of <u>Babylon</u> (v. 37-38 - <i>you are the head of gold</i>)
Chest/Arms – silver (v. 32)	The Kingdom of <u>Meso-Persia</u> (v. 39 – <i>after you</i>)
Belly/Thighs – bronze (v. 32)	The Kingdom of <u>Greece</u> (v. 39 – <i>next</i>)
Legs – iron (v. 33)	The Kingdom of the <u>Antichrist</u> - part 1 & 2 (v. 40-43 - <i>finally...breaks and smashes everything... crush and break all the others...divided kingdom...partly strong, partly brittle...people a mixture...not remain united...</i>)
Feet – partly iron, partly baked clay (v. 33)	

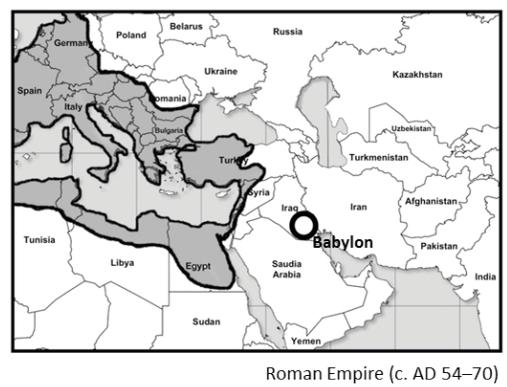
<p>Rock cut out – struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them (v. 34)</p>	<p>The Kingdom of <u>Christ/God</u> (v. 44-45 – <i>during the kingdom of the antichrist this kingdom will be set up, it will never be destroyed or be succeeded by anyone, it will crush all those kingdoms, bringing them to an end but it will endure forever. It breaks the iron, bronze, clay, silver and gold to pieces</i>)</p>
<p>The iron, clay, bronze, silver and gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. (v. 35)</p>	
<p>The rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth (v. 35)</p>	

In this chapter God gives wicked king Nebuchadnezzar a dream that reveals the future of his kingdom Babylon. This is an important reference point for understanding the dream; it is not supposed to be an exhaustive dream cataloguing all the kingdoms of the world that will ever be throughout all of human history. It is a Babylon-centric dream, given to the most powerful king to ever rule in Babylon. It's about four successive kingdoms which would conquer the historical territory of the Babylonian Empire, in the period of human history remaining before the Messiah returns to earth to set up God's kingdom (the 'rock' that became a 'huge mountain' v. 35) on the earth forever.

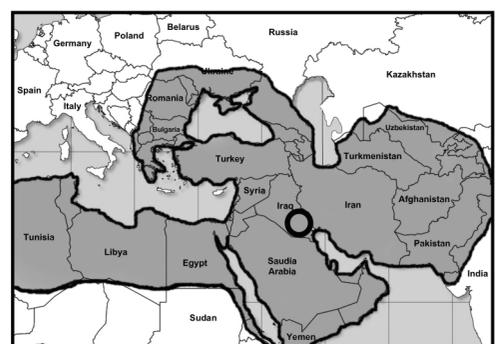
Figuring out the first three kingdoms is easy as scholars unanimously agree that they are the Babylonian, Persian and Greek empires of old. The Persians conquered the city of Babylon and the Babylonian empire in 539 BC, and the Greeks, under Alexander the Great, conquered the Persians and took the city of Babylon in 331 BC. Each successive empire swallowed up the one that came before it (see maps next page):



So who is the fourth empire? It is popularly assumed in Western evangelical circles that the fourth empire was the Roman empire but this assumption does not match the facts of geography or history. The Roman empire never conquered the city of Babylon nor did it ever rule the historical territory of the Babylonian empire. Yet Daniel 2:40 is clear that the fourth empire would have to 'crush all these,' speaking of the Babylonian, Persian and Greek Empires which came before it. Compare the above maps with a map of the Roman empire – notice that the Roman empire never conquered Babylon or the Babylonian, Persian and Greek empires:



So who is the fourth empire? Recall that the Bible is a Middle Eastern book, not a European or North American book (hard for us Westerners to comprehend sometimes). The fourth empire must be a Middle Eastern empire which conquered the city of Babylon and dominated the historical territories of the Babylonian, Persian and Greek empires – the Middle East. Only one empire *seems to fit* this criteria – the Islamic empire which ruled the Middle East from AD 632 – 1923:



The historical Islamic government or empire which began with the Rashidum Caliphate in 632 AD, shortly after the death of Muhammad the prophet of Islam, culminated in the Ottoman Empire. This empire came to an end in 1923 and is *likely* represented in the dream by the legs of iron on the statue.

What *could* all this mean for the future? Simply that the Antichrist empire will *likely* be another Middle Eastern empire which will hate the nation of Israel and dominate the Middle East in the time just before Jesus returns. Of course, such interpretations can only be confirmed with the unfolding of time. We need to hold such things somewhat loosely yet be serious observers of the times.

Daniel emphasizes that this revelation came from God and that He is telling the king what will take place in the future (v. 45). Nebuchadnezzar is overwhelmed and falls before Daniel, paying him honor! What a sight this must have been, for the king to bow before Daniel, a Jewish exile. Nebuchadnezzar recognizes that Daniel's God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries (v. 47). The king rewards Daniel and exalts him by giving him a high position and lavishing many gifts upon him (v. 48). Yet Daniel remembers his friends who had prayed with him (see v. 17-18) and shares his honor and glory with them. Their prayer in the night helped Daniel receive the vision from the Lord. Daniel requests that the king appoint his friends as administrators over Babylon, while Daniel remains at the royal court (v. 49).



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. In this passage we see the importance of being connected with the one True God. God is still at work today but many Christians miss out on what He is doing because they aren't connected to Him through the Word and prayer. Pray that believers would see the importance of spending time in the Word and grow in prayer and listening prayer. Pray that the Canadian Church would grow to understanding and applying these renewal principles in their personal lives.
2. Daniel knew that the interpretation of the dream came from the Lord and he knew that his friends' prayers were part of him receiving understanding. Pray for an increasing understanding of End Time's scriptures by the leaders of the church.
3. Many times in scripture we find that unbelievers are blessed by the presence of a believer. Daniel's godliness saved all the wise men from being killed. Ask the Lord to use you to bless those in your workplace, school or family. Pray that you would live as a good testimony of following God's ways and that those around you would see the difference and be blessed by your honesty and integrity.

DAY 5



READ: Daniel 3

As time goes by, Nebuchadnezzar forgets about the God of Daniel, whom he had exalted at the end of chapter two. In today's passage we find Nebuchadnezzar placing an idol image on the plain of Dura (v. 1). He then summons all of the officials to come and dedicate the image he had set up (v. 2). This was a large image towering ninety feet tall and nine feet wide (v. 1). The motive behind the setting up of the image was idolatrous worship (v. 5-6) revealing the heart of Nebuchadnezzar during this time of his life. As all gathered before Nebuchadnezzar and the idol the king's command was proclaimed. As soon as they heard the sound of music, all must fall down and worship the golden image the king had set up (v. 5-6). Along with the command to worship came the threat of death by burning if they did not obey (v. 6). This was not an option, it was absolutely compulsory! It was bow or burn! Nebuchadnezzar had set himself up as a god desiring worship which is due only to God. But Daniel's friends would not bow! In the middle of this mass idolatrous scene, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow to the king's image (v. 12). What a sight this must have been, three men standing alone in the midst of thousands. Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned them (v. 14). The king cannot afford to have three governors, let alone Jews, disobey his command and get away with it. Yet the Jews would not bow because they put their faith in the one true God, even if it meant disobeying the commands of Nebuchadnezzar. These men would submit to God's laws and suffer the consequences. Their response to the king shows their faith and love of God. They knew that God was able to save them from the fiery furnace (he had saved them from death

in chapter two) but even if God chose not to save them, they still would not worship the image (v. 17-18). These men would not yield to public pressure or peer pressure. They were willing to stand alone in the face of death. Once again we see Nebuchadnezzar's response of rage (v. 19) as he ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and the men were cast into it (v. 21). These men did not know whether God would deliver them or not as they went in. They knew He was able, but they did not know if He would. But live or die, their faith was in the living God, not a dead idol image. Even though the flames were so hot that the soldiers who threw them in were killed (v. 22), Nebuchadnezzar is seen leaping to his feet in amazement as he sees four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed (v. 25). He then commands them to come out of the furnace (v. 26) and finds that they are completely unharmed (v. 27). What a miracle! Nebuchadnezzar responds by giving praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (v. 28). This is the second time that Nebuchadnezzar receives revelation of the True God. He then makes a decree that if anyone speaks against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, they would be killed (v. 29). This acknowledges that there is no other god who can deliver and save like the One True God! The Jewish men are then promoted to higher positions in the province of Babylon (v. 30), showing how promotion comes from the Lord.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Satan has always wanted worship and tries to steal the worship that belongs to God. People were designed to worship; all will worship someone or something. Our culture exemplifies false worship mainly through entertainment and sometimes athletics. Ask the Lord to show you if either of these things has a grip on your life in a negative way. What does Jesus want to say to you about false worship in your life?
2. In the end times the antichrist will set up an image for all to bow down to or be killed (Rev. 13). Yet there will be a faithful remnant that will not bow. Some may be delivered supernaturally by God like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, others will be martyred. Either way, God is calling His people to be faithful unto death. Pray that the Lord would grow in His people an unwavering trust in Him, even in times of great persecution. Pray that believers would be strengthened to follow God's ways, trusting in Him and His Sovereignty. Pray that many would choose the path of counting the cost and giving up their own lives for the Kingdom, no matter what that will look like.
3. Only a personal love relationship with the true and living God will save you from falling into idol worship and compromising Biblical values in the end times. Pray that you, your family and the church would fall deeper in love with Jesus.

DAY 6



READ: Daniel 4:1-18

This chapter begins with Nebuchadnezzar praising God and with a salutation that contains many statements about God. Nebuchadnezzar states that God the Most High God is above all the gods of Babylon (v. 2) and that He shows signs and wonders which are great and mighty (v. 3). He concludes by saying that God's Kingdom is eternal and His dominion is for all generations (v. 3). This sets the stage for Nebuchadnezzar to receive another dream from the Lord. Things had been going pretty well for him, but now this new dream troubles him (v. 5), so he calls in all the wise men of Babylon so that they may interpret the dream (v. 6). He should have just gone to Daniel, since the wise men could not interpret the dream (v. 7). You would think that Nebuchadnezzar would have remembered the previous failure of the wise men and have gone straight to Daniel! They had failed before

and they will fail again because they are not in touch with the True Living God who gave the king the dream. Daniel knew the True God and therefore could interpret the dream. In verses 10-18 we are given the details of the dream. The king saw a great tree in the middle of the land; this tree was enormous (v. 10) and grew large and strong, touching the top of the sky (v. 11). There was beautiful fruit and leaves on the tree for all to eat. Beasts took shelter under it and the birds lived in its branches (v. 12). Suddenly the scene changed and he saw a messenger come down from heaven and shout, *“Cut the tree down, cut off the branches, shake off the leaves and scatter the fruit”* (v. 14). However, a stump was left in the ground and its roots in the earth (v. 15). In verse 16 the tree becomes personalized, as we see that the tree refers to a person whose mind will be changed from that of a man to that of an animal until seven times pass by for him. This verdict was given by messengers, holy ones, so that the living may know that the Most High is Sovereign over the kingdoms of men and that He gives them to anyone He wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men (v. 17). Nebuchadnezzar then asks Daniel to explain the dream because the spirit of the holy gods was in Daniel (v. 18). Once again the king acknowledges that Daniel is able to interpret dreams because he has a different spirit in him.

royal authority has been taken from him (v. 31-32). Immediately the king is driven away from people and begins to think and act like an animal. His hair grows, his nails grow – this is a picture of a man who becomes a beast! What a sight this must have been for the Babylonians. Daniel’s prophetic interpretation of the dream was accurate. For seven years the king was like a beast and then the king’s sanity was restored (v. 34). Nebuchadnezzar then praises the Lord (v. 34-35). Here we see that the king is repenting for his pride and that he recognizes God’s sovereignty. He praises the Lord for restoring him as king of the greatest empire on earth. The final phrase of this chapter is the key to the whole chapter, *“those who walk in pride he is able to humble”*. It was pride that lowered Nebuchadnezzar to his beastly state. A true understanding of the sovereignty of God is a good and proper foundation for genuine humility. We must humble ourselves before the Lord God of Heaven and Earth!

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Ask the Lord to show you 5-10 things that you can praise the Lord for today and then spend time praising and thanking Him for each one.
2. God is Sovereign over the kingdoms of this world and He is also sovereign over each person’s life. Ask the Lord to show you how He has been leading and guiding your life, even through your mistakes and bad choices. Ask Him if you are cooperating with His plans for your life or if you have some rearranging to do. What else does He want to say to you about this?
3. Daniel could interpret the dream because of his connection with God. Pray for a spirit of repentance so that the church would experience a greater presence of the Holy Spirit. Pray that many who come to Southland would feel the presence of the Holy Spirit here and be open and willing to walk with God as a result.

1. God is the Creator and He controls all the affairs of mankind! Those who lift themselves up in pride are working against God. Yet pride is present in most believers’ lives. We must repent of pride! Look at the following common areas of pride. Ask the Lord to show you which areas you struggle with. Repent of these things as sin and commit to praying regularly about growing in humility.
 - Struggling with admitting you are wrong
 - Feeling that your achievements are your own ‘self-made’ success
 - Striving for self-advancement
 - Boasting about accomplishments either outwardly (spoken) or inwardly (unspoken)
 - Seeking acknowledgement or praise of others
 - Grandiose thoughts about yourself
 - Feeling like you know everything
 - Controlling others
 - Inflexible, not wanting change unless you initiate it
 - Wanting to have your own way.
 - Making assumptions, tending to want to speak first and be heard
 - Struggling to listen to others
 - Thinking you are better than other people, whether unspoken or spoken.
 - Harboring grudges, not forgiving easily
 - Feeling self-righteous about wrongs that have been done to you
 - Being critical of others, judgmental
 - Other: _____
2. In this account we see that God gave Nebuchadnezzar time to repent. Every person and nation is given time to repent. This is the goodness of our God. Thank God for His love and patience. Thank Him for His mercy and grace towards the repentant. Thank Him that His judgements are fair and just.
3. The wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. God’s infinite wisdom transcends human wisdom and understanding. Pray that Christians would not rely on their own wisdom and ideas but rather that they would learn to hear God and listen in prayer for His strategies, seeking out His plans and using His wisdom in various circumstances.

DAY 7

 **READ:** Daniel 4:19-37

The Holy Spirit shows Daniel the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. This troubled Daniel (v. 19), in fact, Daniel was so troubled that the king recognized his dismay and told him not to let the dream trouble him (v. 19). Daniel replied by saying that he wished the dream was about the king’s enemies (v. 19). In the next few verses Daniel interprets the dream. The tree is Nebuchadnezzar himself (v. 22) and he would be driven away from the people and would live with the beasts and wild animals, eating grass, covered in dew but the king’s kingdom would be restored to him when he acknowledges God (v. 26). Daniel then calls the king to repent and do what is right (v. 27). Speaking these words must have required much courage on Daniel’s part! Verse 29-30 shows us that the king was given 12 months to repent but that he did not accept the counsel of Daniel as he makes the prideful statement, *“Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”* God’s grace and mercy give Nebuchadnezzar time to repent, but because he is not repentant, God’s judgment comes upon him. The king’s pride, self-exaltation and ego-centric statement show that he had forgotten that it was the Lord who had given him the kingdom, the power and the throne of Babylon. While the words were still in his mouth, a voice comes from heaven, telling him that his

DAY 8 **READ:** Daniel 5

At the start of chapter five we find Belshazzar as king, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, and the last king of Babylon. Some thirty years have passed between chapter four and chapter five of the book of Daniel. It has been over 65 years since the Jews were taken by the Babylonians, very close to the 70 years that were prophesied about their captivity. At this time Daniel is probably somewhere in his eighties and may have already retired from active service in the Babylonian court. Verse 1 tells us that Belshazzar puts on a great feast for the nobles. As the king drinks his wine he makes a command that will cost him his life. He demands that the gold and silver goblets from the temple in Jerusalem be used for the wine drinking festivities. These vessels had been dedicated for service in God's house and were not to be profaned. In due time God's plan was to have the temple in Jerusalem rebuilt and the goblets returned. God would not allow the Babylonians to use His sacred vessels to mock Him. The king had forgotten the lessons about pride learned by his grandfather. Therefore, as they filled their cups with wine and praised the false gods of Babylon, a finger of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall (v. 5). The king's face grew pale and his knees knocked together making his legs give way (v. 6). The party comes to a standstill. The king calls out for the enchanters, astrologers and diviners to be brought and offers a reward of prosperity, position and power to the one who could read and interpret the writing. You would have thought that the king would have learned from the history of his grandfather – these men could not read the writing let alone interpret it. They did not know the "Man" whose fingers were seen writing! This is the third time the wisdom of Babylon fails to interpret a message from God (see also Daniel 2 and 4). It was the queen who remembered history and Daniel's part in it and she tells the king to call for Daniel to help solve this riddle (v. 10-12). So Daniel is brought before the king (v. 13) and the king requests that he tell him what the riddle means, offering him a great reward (v. 14-16). The king admits that the wise men of Babylon were not able to read or interpret the writing on the wall. Daniel then tells the king that he can keep the gifts or give them to someone else but that he would read the writing for the king and tell him what it means for nothing (v. 17). Daniel then gives the king a bold rebuke. He reminds the king of his grandfather's kingdom of majesty, glory, honor and power and retells of the pride of Nebuchadnezzar which brought him down, driving him to insanity, living as a beast. He then connects these things to God's sovereignty over the kingdoms of this world (v. 19-21) and accuses Belshazzar of pride, saying to him, *"you have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven"*. This rebuke sets the stage for the interpretation of the writing on the wall. Daniel then reads and interprets the inscription:

Mene – God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end (in other words, your kingdom is finished)

Tekel – you have been weighed on the scales and found wanting (in other words, you have fallen short as a leader)

Peres – your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians (in other words, you are losing your kingdom)

Sure enough, that very night Belshazzar was slain and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom (v. 31).

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Daniel is given the ability to interpret the writing on the wall because of his reliance on God. Human wisdom and self-sufficiency is not God's way. As believers we

should have a profound sense of insufficiency, not due to low self-esteem, but due to having an utter dependence on God. Ask the Lord to reveal to you an area where you struggle with being self-sufficient. What does Jesus want to say to you about this today?

2. God is holy and His name is not to be profaned. This includes not only avoiding curses that use His name, but by being careful not to speak about Him in flippant or cheap ways that treat Him like a commodity. We are to revere God, love Him, and delight in Him - not talk about Him in a way that shows disrespect and an empty heart. Ask the Lord to show you how you are doing in this area. What does God want to say to you about this today?
3. The kingdoms of this world rise and fall but the kingdom of God will supersede all the kingdoms of the world. God's kingdom will never be replaced because it's an everlasting kingdom. Thank the Lord for the privilege of working and being part of His Kingdom. Ask Him to show you what He wants to tell you about your part to play in His Kingdom.

DAY 9 **READ:** Daniel 6

This chapter begins by introducing Darius the Mede as the ruler of the region, as Babylon has fallen to them. Having heard of the wisdom and understanding of Daniel, Darius decides to keep Daniel in a top position in the government (v. 3). In a time of complete change of government and administration, Daniel is providentially kept in his high position. This causes the other leaders to become jealous of him and so they set out to discredit this old Jewish man (v. 4). But Daniel is faultless as no error is found in him and his decisions regarding the kingdom. There is no dishonesty or poor character to be found in Daniel. No one can find ground for charges against him or any corruption in him as he is faithful, reliable, dependable and trustworthy. Because of these character qualities the only way they would be able to charge him would be through his obedience to God (v. 5). So these leaders appeal to Darius' pride, asking him to sign a decree concerning the matter of worship and prayer. They request that anyone who prays to any god or man other than Darius, during the next thirty days should be thrown into the lions' den (v. 7). King Darius puts the decree in writing (v. 9); it was now a law which is unalterable. The king was hasty, not thinking things through properly. But no decree would keep Daniel from spending time in prayer. He went home to his upstairs room and prayed, as was his usual routine (v. 10). Fear would not cause him to compromise so he continued life as usual and prayed. For Daniel, prayer was his daily habit; he had done this since his early years. He would disobey man's law and suffer the consequences in order to obey God's law. Daniel had conquered the fear of death so no death penalty would act to intimidate him. He was preserved from death in Daniel 2, he watched his friends preserved from death in Daniel 3, so he knew that God was able to deliver. The other leaders then gathered and caught Daniel in the act of praying and brought their accusation before the king (v. 13). The king was distressed by this news (v. 14) and was determined to rescue Daniel. However, because the edict could not be changed (v. 15), the king gave the order to throw Daniel into the lions' den (v. 16). The king said, *"May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"* What a remarkable statement from a pagan king! After Daniel was thrown into the den a stone was rolled over the mouth of the den which was sealed by the king's signet ring (v. 17). No one could now save Daniel but God. The king's sleepless night may have involved praying for God to deliver Daniel - why else would he hurry to the den and call to Daniel (v. 19-20)? The king was hoping for a reply! What faith! Why else would a king call out to a man that should be dead? Hungry lions would have ripped Daniel to shreds in minutes; it would take a miracle for Daniel to be alive. What joy must have filled the king's heart when

Daniel replied, *“O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and He shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in His sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king (v. 21).”* The king was overjoyed (v. 23) and commanded that the leaders who had falsely accused Daniel be thrown into the lions’ den along with their wives and children. Before they reached the floor the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones (v. 24). These lions were obviously hungry and wanted food, further proof of God’s hand in delivering Daniel. Darius then writes a new decree that all people must fear and revere the God of Daniel (v. 26-27). The faith and obedience of one man, Daniel, would have a profound effect on the entire nation! The chapter closes with a reference to Daniel prospering from Darius (the Mede) right through to the reign of Cyrus (the Persian).

dream in Daniel 4, the mind of a beast was given to a man.

The second beast looked like a bear but it was higher on one side than the other and it had three ribs in its mouth, between its teeth. It was told to get up and eat its fill of flesh (v. 5). A bear is not as majestic as a lion yet is it strong and able to crush all under its power.

The third beast looked like a leopard with four wings; it had four heads and was given authority to rule (v. 6). This shows that this kingdom will be divided into four.

The fourth beast was terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large teeth and crushed and devoured its victims, trampling whatever was left. It was different from the other beasts, it had ten horns. As Daniel pondered this, a little horn came up among the ten horns and three of the ten horns were uprooted. The little horn had eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully (v. 7-8). It is important to mention that this beast was different from the other beasts; it was terrible, fierce and seemed to be exceedingly strong, devouring everything under it.

There was definitely some uncertainty about the vision that Daniel received from God. What was the interpretation? What did the vision mean? God would give the interpretation to Daniel, in due time. For now God gave him pieces to a puzzle. We will learn the interpretation of this vision later in the chapter.

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. The fear of man often manifests itself in people pleasing and is very common among believers today. This can cause great pain as attempting to please everyone is impossible. Do you struggle trying to get others to like or approve of you or affirm you? Do you crave recognition from your boss or your family? When we do this we put them as judge over us instead of God, which is a form of idolatry. Ask the Lord to help you minimize your focus on what other people think of you. Ask Him to help you maximize your focus on what He thinks of you. Pray that you would learn the subtle ways that you struggle with people pleasing and break free from this burden.
2. Daniel knew the importance of spending time in daily prayer as he made this a spiritual discipline in his life. No law would change this as He desired to walk in God’s ways. Pray that believers would grow in seeing the importance of prayer and spending regular time in prayer and listening prayer. Pray that the church would grow deeper in prayer both personally and corporately.
3. We see in Daniel that there are many different governmental leaders, but few who act humbly. Pray for our regional, provincial and federal leaders – to walk humbly before God.

1. Daniel wrote the dream down (v. 1)! Here we see journaling in Scripture! It is vital to keep accurate records of what God is showing us so that we can go back and put the pieces together as God continues to reveal things to us. God often reveals things in bits and pieces as we continue seeking Him. Sometimes we may not “get it” for months or even years. Does God ever give things to you in listening prayer that you struggle with understanding? Are you willing to keep at it and collect the bits and pieces through journaling? What does God want to say to you about these things today?
2. Pray that you would learn to endure in prayer and listening prayer, which means that you will not give up when you don’t get an immediate answer but that you would be faithful in continuing to seek the Lord. Ask God to show you what this looks like in your prayer life and for a couple topics to keep pursuing Him on.
3. God is the giver of prophetic visions and insight therefore we should be seeking Him! Some Christians get very excited about spiritual gifts and forget that it is the Giver and not the gift that should be sought. Have you ever struggled with this? Ask the Lord to grow you in seeking the Giver! Pray that the church would grow in seeing the gifts of the spirit as tools that God has given us and not as signs of spiritual maturity. Pray that the church would be balanced in using the gifts wisely while pursuing deeper relationship with God.

DAY 10

DAY 11

 **READ:** Daniel 7:1-8

 **READ:** Daniel 7:9-14

The first six chapters of the book of Daniel deal with historical accounts of Daniel and his friends as exiles. The next six chapters focus on visions that Daniel received concerning the world’s kingdoms, many of which point to the end times, the coming of the Antichrist and the final establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth. Daniel has proved himself as an accurate interpreter and now the Lord is going to give Daniel revelation of the mysteries of God. The first six chapters are easy to date since there are references to kings and rulers but the last six chapters are more difficult.

These verses contain a vision of God, the Ancient of Days. Daniel sees that His clothing is white as snow and the hair of His head is white like wool. His throne is flaming with fire and its wheels all ablaze (v. 9). A river of fire is flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attend him, millions stand before him. The court is seated and the books are opened (v 10). Daniel is receiving a vision of the final judgement of the

The seventh chapter of Daniel takes place in the first year of the reign of Belshazzar. This means that the book of Daniel is not in chronological order as the death of Belshazzar was in chapter five as part of the writing on the wall account. In chapter seven Daniel sees a dream/vision of four winds of heaven stirring up a Great Sea (v. 2), which was probably the Mediterranean Sea. He saw four beasts come up out of the sea, each different from the other (v. 3).

The first beast was like a lion with wings of an eagle. The wings were torn off and it stood upright on its hind legs and the mind of man was given to it (v. 4). In nature, the lion is the king of the animals of the field and the eagle is the king of the birds of the air. In this dream Daniel sees the mind of a man given to the beast, whereas in Nebuchadnezzar’s

nations. It begins with a vision of heaven with elements depicting the glory of God. There are multitudes of saints present as the books are opened and judgment is made.

As Daniel watched the little horn spoke boastful words and eventually was slain and thrown into the blazing fire (v. 11). He makes mention of the other beasts having been stripped of their authority but being allowed to live for a period of time (v. 12). This language unmistakably refers to the judgement of the little horn which is destroyed by blazing fire. What Daniel is seeing here points to the Antichrist (little horn) being thrown into the lake of fire (see Rev. 19:20-21) and the rest of the earth's kingdoms having their authority taken away.

As Daniel continues to watch he sees the Messiah (one like the son of man) coming with the clouds of Heaven. Christ approaches the Father and is led into His presence (v. 13). Jesus was given authority, glory and sovereign power cumulating in all nations and peoples worshipping him in every language. Christ's dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away and will never be destroyed (v. 14). Here we see Jesus, in contrast to the beasts, standing as King over all creation. Christ's Kingdom is an eternal kingdom whereas the beast kingdoms are temporal. The Kingdom of Christ will never be destroyed and He will be worshipped by people from every tribe, nation and language (see Rev. 5:9). He is the Victor. In Daniel 2 Jesus is seen as the Rock who smashed the kingdoms of this world. God is confirming this, in the appointed time all the kingdoms of this world will fall and He will reign forever. Hallelujah!

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. In this passage we clearly see God as judge. There is comfort in knowing that He is a righteous and fair judge and He will not let evil go unpunished. Although we may not always fully understand His ways, we can trust them. Thank God for these things! What are 5-10 other things you can thank Him for today?
2. Many believers are scared of the End times and the Antichrist. Although this will be the most terrible time in human history we can trust that God will defeat the Antichrist who will be completely destroyed. Ask the Lord to reveal to you any worries or fears that you have about the end times. List them in your journal. Then ask Jesus what He wants to say to you about each of these worries/fears.
3. Pray for believers to grow in trusting God's plans and purposes in the end times. Pray that the church would be ready for any persecution that is coming and that has come. Pray that believers would hold loosely onto this life and focus on eternity!
4. Jesus is the true ruler of the earth and will be worshipped by all. He is King of kings and Lord of lords! His dominion will last forever and His Kingdom will not be destroyed! Thank the Lord for these truths! Pray for many to be brought into His Kingdom. Pray that many will see the truth and give their lives over to Jesus.

DAY 12

 **READ:** Daniel 7:15-28

The effect of the dream grieved Daniel (v. 15) and he was greatly troubled. So Daniel approached one of the beings standing before the throne and asked him about the vision and he responded with the interpretation of the vision (v. 16).

The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth (v. 17). Theologians agree about the identification of the beast-kingdoms even though these kingdoms are not specifically named in the chapter. The lion correlates to the Babylonian Empire, the bear

with the Meso-Persian Empire and the Leopard with the Greek Empire. The final beast, which was different from the rest, troubled Daniel the most. His inquiring mind wanted to know the true meaning of this beast (v. 19) and about the ten horns (v. 20). This beast was terrifying with iron teeth and bronze claws which he used to crush and devour his victims leaving them trampled underfoot. The little horn was waging war against the saints and was defeating them (v. 21) until God pronounced judgement in favour of the saints and the time came for Christ to possess the Kingdom (v. 22).

Finally, Daniel is then given an explanation in answer to his questions. The ten horns represent ten kingdoms which will be taken over by the little horn that defeats three of them (v. 24). This little horn represents the Antichrist, who will speak blasphemy against God and will persecute Christians for a period of three and a half years (v. 25). But God will intervene as judge and the Antichrist will be destroyed (v. 26). The climactic event will be when Jesus is given dominion over the whole earth with His kingdom being everlasting and all serving and obeying Him (v. 27). This is the Blessed Hope that we have as believers!

Verse 28 concludes with Daniel revealing that this vision deeply troubled him. Think about this for a moment - Daniel is one of the only Bible characters where we see no actual moral flaws. He was one of the godliest men to ever walk the earth. He knew Jesus intimately and had deep visions of heaven, of God (the Ancient of Days - Dan 7) and Jesus even came to visit Him (Daniel 10). He was incredibly close to God and God miraculously saved Him from the grip of death on two occasions (Daniel 2 and Daniel 6) as well as miraculously saving his friends from the fiery furnace (Daniel 3). I would venture to bet that Daniel is about as good as it gets when it comes to walking with Jesus and trusting in Him. Yet look at his response to the visions he received of the Antichrist Empire in this chapter. He was anxious, alarmed (some versions say troubled in spirit, disturbed and deeply troubled, v. 15, 28). The end times should stir something up in us, not an unhealthy fear of death but a healthy fear because many will be killed and persecuted. This should grab us emotionally because God cares about each person who will be tortured and martyred and we should too! If we are emotionally dead to the end times and have no concern that is just as big of a warning sign as having unhealthy fear of death or persecution.

Daniel 7 summary and comparison to Daniel 2:

Kingdom	Daniel 7	Daniel 2
Babylon	Lion (v. 4)	Head of gold (v. 37-38)
Meso-Persia	Bear (v. 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised up on one side represents the Persian side would be stronger than the Median side • 3 ribs <i>likely</i> represent Babylon, Lydia and Egypt's triple alliance against them which failed 	Chest and arms of silver (v. 39)
Greece	Leopard (v. 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Four heads <i>likely</i> represent how after the death of Alexander the Great the Greek Empire was ruled by his four generals (Ptolemaic, Seleucid, Cassandrian, Lysimachean) 	Belly and thighs of bronze (v. 39)

Islamic Caliphate	Fourth Beast (v. 7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ten horns <i>likely</i> represent ten kings who come from this kingdom and form the revived Islamic Caliphate (v. 24) 	Legs of iron (v. 40-43)
Probably A Revived Middle Eastern Empire/ Antichrist	Little horn (v. 8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will arise from the fourth beast Will subdue/conqueror three of the ten kings (3 horns uprooted (v. 24) Will wage war against the saints (v. 25) Will try to change the times and the laws (v. 25) Will blaspheme God and have power over the saints for 3 ½ years (v. 25) Will lose his power and be completely destroyed (v. 26) 	Feet of iron and clay (v. 40-43)
Messiah	Son of Man (v. 13-14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The saints will be given the kingdoms (v. 27) Christ will reign forever, all rules will worship and obey Him (v. 27) 	Rock (v. 44-45)

In order to have a complete view of the End times one must compare the prophecies in Daniel with the prophecies in Revelation and other End times' passages of Scripture. Please remember that Daniel is receiving a partial vision of the End times. The prudent student of the Scriptures studies all End times prophecies and seeks God's guidance and wise counsel in fitting the pieces together. This will require much prayer and waiting on the Lord for Him to unlock and reveal these prophecies. As stated in the introduction to this devotional, our focus is on the book of Daniel - not a complete study of the end times.

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

- The kingdoms of this world all rise and fall according to the Sovereignty of God. Nothing happens on this earth without God's knowledge or permission. Thank the Lord for these truths. Pray that many will come to understand and live out these truths.
- As believers we must prepare for opposition, pressure and persecution. To prepare we must seek the Lord through studying His Word and through prayer. Cry out in prayer for understanding of things pertaining to the End times. Pray that the Canadian Church would wake up and be renewed so that she would be ready for the tough times ahead. Pray that Southland would rise up to lead many as they begin to see the times that we are living in.
- Our hope is in the return of our King, Jesus Christ. He will crush the Kingdoms of this world; judge the antichrist, the wicked and establish His Kingdom on the earth. We must stay focused on our KING! Pray that believers would keep their primary focus on Jesus and follow His leadership. Pray that they would grow in relationship with Him and live their lives in such a way that others would want to join the Christ's Kingdom.

DAY 13

 **READ:** Daniel 8

In the vision of Daniel 8 the Lord singles out two kingdoms and gives Daniel further and fuller details concerning them. It is important to note that God gives Daniel this vision before either of these kingdoms were superpowers. Daniel is receiving a prophetic vision of the future. The two kingdoms represented by the ram and the goat are the Meso-Persian and the Greek kingdoms (v. 20-21). Two years had passed since Daniel's vision in chapter 7 and now God is giving Daniel a few more bits and pieces about these kingdoms. Daniel sees a ram with two long horns, one of which was longer than the other but the shorter one grew up later (v. 3). The ram charged toward the west, north and south. No animal could stand against him and he became great (v. 4). Verse 20 clearly tells us that the ram is the kings of Meso-Persia and the vision shows the areas where they would rule. Once again the kingdoms of this world are represented by beasts that are fighting with each other. History shows us that after the Babylonian captivity the Meso-Persians did rule and King Cyrus invited the Jews to return to Judah and rebuild the temple.

The goat which appears in verse 5 had a prominent horn between his eyes and came from the west, coming towards the ram, charging at him with great rage (v. 6). It attacked the ram furiously, shattering the two horns, rendering the ram powerless and trampling it to the ground (v. 7). The goat became very great but at the height of its power his horn was broken off and four prominent horns grew up (v. 8). Verses 21-22 describe this as the Greek empire and history tells us that the large horn represented Alexander the Great who died at a young age and was replaced by his four generals, likely represented by the four horns that replaced the large one. These four kingdoms (Ptolemaic, Seleucid, Cassandrian and Lysimachean) would not have the same power as Alexander.

Out of one of the goat's four horns another horn started to grow until it reached the host of the heavens. History shows this king was likely Antiochus IV Epiphanies who ruled the Seleucid Empire and caused astounding devastation, including persecution of Jews (v. 23, 25). He killed thousands of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, robbed the temple of its treasures, as well as prohibited Jewish worship (v. 11). He put regulations in place such as NO Sabbath, NO Holy days, and NO circumcision and to top it off, he sacrificed pigs (a detestable animal to Jews) on the altar, an abominable act! Antiochus attempted to destroy the Jewish faith and had great power over Israel (the Beautiful Land) setting himself up to be equal with God (Prince of the host).

Antiochus IV Epiphanies is undoubtedly one of the greatest prototypes of the Antichrist in the entire Bible. These prophecies of Antiochus IV Epiphanies have both a historical and a future fulfillment. It is commonly believed by a wide range of scholars and Bible commentators that the events carried out by Antiochus IV Epiphanies in history will be mirrored to a degree by the Antichrist in the last days; since Gabriel tells Daniel that this vision is for the "time of the end" (v. 16-19).

Similarities between Antiochus IV Epiphanies and the Antichrist:

- Both referred to using the symbolism of a "little horn" (Daniel 7:8; 8:9)
- Both are great persecutors of God's people (Daniel 7:25; 8:24)
- Both are pictured as 'stern faced' (Daniel 8:23) or having an "imposing look (Daniel 7:20)
- Both exalt themselves (Daniel 7:25; 8:25)
- Both have great power from Satan (Rev. 13:4, Dan. 11:39; 8:24)
- Both will be destroyers of men (Rev. 13:15; 8:24)
- Both are master deceivers (2 Thess. 2:9, Rev. 13:14, Dan. 8:23, 25)
- Both are defined as proud and arrogant (Dan. 7:8, 11, 25; 8:25)
- Both will use false peace to achieve their aims (Dan 9:26; 8:25; 11:21, 24).

Daniel was exhausted by the vision (v. 18) and lay ill for several days (v. 27). The vision of the Jews being terrorized obviously disturbed him as he saw the evils that were coming for his people. Yet Daniel was not paralyzed by fear but rather he got up and continued with his daily routines. He was appalled by the vision and couldn't understand it but he composed himself and attended to his duties showing trust and faith in God.

JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. A pre-incarnate Jesus stands before Daniel (v. 15) and directs the angel Gabriel to explain the vision to him. This shows how Jesus is working and active, giving commands and leading. God gave Daniel this vision and now is giving him the interpretation. Ask the Lord to show you 3-5 ways where He has been leading and directing in your life to get you to where you are today. Thank Him for His leadership in your life personally and then for leading the church and the nations of the world.
2. Even though we may not understand some parts of biblical prophecy, it will be unsealed in the "time of the end". This means that things which have not been previously understood will be unveiled to those who are seeking the Lord with soft hearts. Pray for your heart to be open to understanding God's interpretations of Biblical prophecy. Pray for the leaders of the church to receive revelation and understanding of passages of the Bible that have been sealed until the time of the end. Ask the Lord to unseal these prophecies and give the interpretations to the Church.
3. Even though the Antichrist will be powerful he will be destroyed, but not by human power (v. 25). Thank Jesus for being the ultimate ruler and conqueror of the earth. His Kingdom is everlasting and He will defeat the Antichrist and Satan! He is the only True King of the world! Thank Him for this! Thank Him for defeating death on the cross and for saving you from your sins. He is worthy of our worship and allegiance! He is a good God!

DAY 14

 **READ:** Daniel 9:1-19

It is the first year of the rule of Darius the Mede when Daniel realizes that according to the Word of the Lord, given to Jeremiah the prophet, the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years (Jer. 25:8-14). Daniel had been studying the prophecies of times past and was seeking the Lord for understanding. There had already been a change of governments from the Babylonians to the Meso-Persians and Daniel knew that the seventy years were almost over. Daniel's understanding of the Scriptures becomes the foundation of his prayer in verses 4-19. After comprehending the events of his day, Daniel sought the Lord with prayer, fasting, sackcloth and ashes - which symbolizes mourning, humility and repentance. Daniel approaches God with deep sorrow and repentance for the sins of his people, beginning his prayer on the covenant (v. 4). The prophet knew that God keeps His covenants and this would be no exception. Daniel is praying Deuteronomy 7:9, he is praying the Word, he knows the promises God has given the people. We then see Daniel's confession (v. 5-6), his prayer revealing the true heart of an intercessor as he identifies himself with the sins of the people and shares their punishment although he himself was a righteous man. Daniel confesses the sins of the nation - we have sinned (v. 5, 8, 15, 16); we have done wrong (v. 5, 15); we have acted wickedly and rebelled (v. 5, 9); we have failed to listen to the prophets (v. 6); we have failed to obey the Lord (v. 10, 11); we have failed to walk in His laws (v. 10); we have failed to turn from our sins and give attention to the truth (v. 13). As a result of this sin God scattered the nation (v. 7); judgments were

poured out (v. 11, 12) and disaster was brought upon them (v. 13, 14). But Daniel prays for mercy and forgiveness (v. 9) and asks the Lord to turn away from His anger and wrath (v. 16) and to look with favour upon the desolate sanctuary (v. 17, 18) and to be merciful (v. 18). Daniel does not petition based on his own righteousness but based on the merciful character of God (v. 18). He is pleading not for his own sake, but for God's sake, for His city and His people who bear His name (v. 19). Daniel weaves throughout his prayer the moral attributes of God and he appeals to God's righteousness (v. 7, 14) and His mercy (v. 18) and pleads for His forgiveness. The prayer is focused on the character of God. This man knew God, he knew God's Word and he knew what was on God's heart.

JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Daniel was keenly aware of the holiness and righteousness of God and he knew the importance of repentance, not just for himself but on behalf of his people/nation. This causes him to confess the sins of the nation. Ask the Lord to show you 3-5 sins of our nation that you can confess today. Plead for the Lord to be merciful and to raise up many renewed churches in our nation. Pray that more believers would commit to regularly fasting and praying for our nation.
2. Just like Daniel was a student of the Word, Christians are called to study their Bibles and be aware of the signs of the times. Pray for believers to see the importance of spending time in the Word, learning the truths of Scripture and applying them to their lives. Pray for a hunger for the Word among believers and a deep love of the Scriptures.
3. The Word gives us content for our prayers as prayer is to be founded on the Word of God. Pray for believers to grow in prayer and listening prayer and to learn how to pray the truths of the Word of God. Pray for insight as they listen in prayer and seek God's direction for their lives. Ask the Lord what else He wants to show you today that you can pray for.

DAY 15

 **READ:** Daniel 9:20-27

The Word and prayer were David's foundation. As he was praying, fasting and confessing his own sin and the sins of his people, Daniel received a great revelation from the Lord as Gabriel appeared to him (v. 21). The Bible only talks about Gabriel four times: 1) when he visits Daniel in chapter 8 2) when he visits Daniel in chapter 9 3) when he visits Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist and, 4) when he visits Mary, the virgin mother of Jesus. This is a big deal! Gabriel is bringing big news! Daniel is about to receive insight and understanding (v. 22) in response to his prayers (v. 23). Gabriel then describes the seventy weeks prophecy. In verses 24-27 we have one of the most amazing and remarkable prophecies in the Word of God!

Verse 24 says, *"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy (NIV).* The Hebrew word for week simply means seven. This tells us that this prophecy covers a period of 490 years (70 x 7 = 490). God has marked off a specific unit of time for certain things to be fulfilled for the children of Israel and Jerusalem. God is showing Daniel His plan for the atonement and reconciliation that would come through the Messiah. This would partially be fulfilled at Christ's first coming but would be fully completed at His second coming.

Verse 25 reads, *“From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble”* (NIV). In Hebrew, 7 sevens equals 49 years ($7 \times 7 = 49$) and 62 sevens equals 434 years ($7 \times 62 = 434$) for a total of 483 years ($49 + 434 = 483$). When Daniel received this prophecy Jerusalem was nothing but a pile of rubble because the Babylonians had destroyed it. This prophecy stated that the time from the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the coming of Jesus would be 483 years. Both the Bible and history tell us that Cyrus the Persian decreed that Jerusalem be restored and rebuilt (2 Chron. 36:20-23; Isa. 44:28; 45: 1, 13). The most likely event that signified the coming of the Anointed One was Jesus’ baptism, which is the only dated event in the entire New Testament (Luke 3:1-25, 21-23). Jesus baptism was the start of His public ministry, where He steps onto the national stage and begins His ministry which is the coming Daniel prophesied. Daniel predicted that 483 years after the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, Jesus would begin His earthly ministry. The Jews should have known this and should not have missed Jesus first coming! History shows that this prophecy was fulfilled, right down to the very year.

Verse 26 says, *“After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed”* (NIV). This verse prophesies the death of Jesus, the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (which happened in 70AD) and it speaks of the End times! What an action filled verse! It also gives us a link to the ethnic identity of the Antichrist. The *“ruler who will come”* refers to the Antichrist and the *“people”* of this coming ruler are the ones who destroyed the temple in 70AD. It is widely known that it was the Romans who destroyed the temple in Jerusalem but we must not make quick conclusions. In Hebrew, the word used in this verse for *“people”* means an ethnic denotation and does not refer to a kingdom or empire. This verse is referring to a people group, not a nation; it’s talking about a race or a bloodline, not an empire. This gives us insight into the future Antichrist Empire. There is overwhelming evidence that the people who destroyed the temple in Jerusalem back in 70 AD as part of the Roman military were the ancestors of the Muslim people that dominate the entire region of the Middle East. This is consistent with the Islamic Caliphate we saw in Daniel’s visions in chapter two and seven. Daniel is receiving more pieces of information about the ethnicity of the future Antichrist. But again, we hold this loosely, waiting for the future to unfold.

Daniel then goes on to describe End times’ events. **Verse 27** says, *“He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him”* (NIV). This verse teaches that the Antichrist will make a seven year covenant between Israel and the surrounding nations and that for the second half of the tribulation (the 2nd half of the week is the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation) he will set up an abomination somewhere in the temple. This abomination is spoken of four times by Daniel (8:13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11), twice in the Gospels (Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14) and is also described without using the name three more times in Scripture (2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:11-18; 14:9-11). Jesus says the abomination will be a literal event we are able to see, it will be obvious and we should be watching for it (Matt. 24:15a) and that that last half of the Great Tribulation will be triggered by the Abomination of Desolation (v. Matt 24:17-21). We are warned in Revelation 14:9-10 not to worship this idol.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. The moment that Daniel began praying God sent an answer; his prayer achieved results. One of the reasons Daniel got results was because he knew God’s purposes from the Scriptures and prayed accordingly. Today we have the added benefit of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to help us pray according to God’s will. What is one area in your life that needs prayer? Spend some time listening to God about this – what does He want to tell you about it. Then pray according to what He shows you.
2. God always had a plan for dealing with sin and for reconciling humanity to Himself, through Jesus Christ and His death on the cross. Sin had severed the relationship between God and man but there was hope, a Messiah would come! What good news! Ask the Lord to show you where you would be today without Him. Then praise and thank Him for reconciling you to Him and for the life and freedom that He has bought with His blood, for you.
3. Today’s passage tells of the coming evil of the Antichrist but it also speaks of hope as this too will end as God and His people will ultimately be victorious. Thank the Lord for the final victory that transpires at the end of the age. Praise Jesus for being the victor. Ask Him to show you what your part is to play in ushering in His return.

DAY 16



READ: Daniel 10

The first verse of this chapter tells us that Daniel received a revelation concerning a Great War and that he received understanding of this revelation through a vision. Chapter 10-12 describes the interpretation that was given to Daniel about this Great War. It is now the third year of King Cyrus of Persia’s reign making Daniel about 90 years of age. The revelation distressed Daniel, bringing him to a place of prayer and fasting. For three weeks Daniel ate no choice food, no meat or wine and used no lotions (v. 3). This type of fast has often been called a “Daniel Fast”; it is not total abstinence from food but partial abstinence. We can see that for Daniel, fasting was an ingredient of his prayer life and a response to the distress that he felt from the revelation he received. Fasting was Daniel’s response to the troubling revelation as he sought understanding of the End times.

Next we read of a person who looked similar to the Ancient of Days spoken of in Daniel 7. The pre-incarnate Jesus was appearing to Daniel as he stands by a riverside (v. 5-6). His appearance was so amazing that it overwhelmed the men that were with Daniel. They ran away and hid (v. 7), leaving Daniel alone. The effect that the presence of Jesus had on Daniel left him without strength, he went pale and was helpless (v. 8). A similar effect happens to Ezekiel and John when they had visions of Jesus (Ezek. 1:28; Rev.1:17). What does this tell of the greatness and splendor of our King? Have we lost the significance of what a true encounter with Him would be like? Daniel was helpless before his King and as he listened he fell into a deep sleep (v. 9).

A hand touches Daniel (v. 10) and a voice tells him to consider carefully the words he is about to hear (v. 11). There are different ideas as to the identity of the hand that touched Daniel. Some believe that this is a continuation of the previous section and that it is Jesus who touches him and describes what caused His delay in arriving with the message. Others struggle with believing that Jesus would be resisted for 21 days by the prince of Persia and therefore believe that Jesus must have appeared with an angel like He did back in Daniel 8:15-16 and it was the angel that was delayed in battle. Either way, an important fact is that God responded to Daniel’s heartfelt prayers and fasting. From the

very first day Daniel sought the Lord in prayer and fasting, his prayer had been heard (v. 12). Daniel now gains insight into what was happening in the spirit realm, coinciding with his prayer and fasting. The prince of the kingdom of Persia resisted the messenger for 21 days (v. 13), exactly the same number of days that Daniel was fasting and praying for an interpretation! It was Michael, one of God's chief angels who came to help in the battle (v. 13). The prince of Persia represents some sort of demonic being that had been assigned to the Meso-Persian Empire to influence it. This was a powerful demonic being because it could prevent the messenger from getting through to Daniel. Michael, an archangel with authority and power comes to help this messenger break through to Daniel. Finally, with Michael's help, the messenger can deliver the message to Daniel. The message was about what will happen to Daniel's people in the future, in the End times (v. 14).

Daniel again is overwhelmed (v. 15) with anguish because of the vision, so much so that he could barely breathe (v. 17). He is then given strength and told to not be afraid (v. 19). Daniel is told that Persia is not the only empire with a demonic being assigned to it (v. 20). The messenger speaks of the demonic "*prince of Greece*" who will come and will also need to be opposed. The chapter concludes with the messenger revealing that Michael, the prince of the Jews, an archangel, is also helping with this battle.

JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Over years of maturing Daniel had learned to live a spiritually disciplined life. Fasting, prayer and Bible reading were part of his everyday life. This can be tough for a lot of Christians. Ask the Lord to increase your faithfulness and endurance in walking with Him in a disciplined way. Ask Him to show you what practical steps you can take to be more disciplined in your walk with Him.
2. Daniel was told three times that he was greatly loved (see Daniel 9:23; 10:11, 19). God valued Daniel and loved him deeply. The relationship that Daniel had with the Lord went well beyond surface spiritual activities, they loved each other. Ask the Lord to grow in you a deeper love relationship with Him. Pray that He would fill you with His love and that you would be filled with love for Him and others. Ask Him to fill the church with a greater understanding of His love.
3. In today's passage we can clearly see that there is spiritual warfare taking place against the purposes of God and the people of God. No wonder Daniel was burdened in prayer, intercession and mourning. Yet even in this spiritual battle, Satan can only go as far as God permits him. Thank God for His sovereignty over the entire universe, including the devil and his angels. Pray that the church would see the part that they have to play in fighting spiritual battles. Ask Him to increase your burden to pray and intercede for His purposes to be fulfilled in and through the church.

DAY 17

 **READ:** Daniel 11

The messenger from the previous chapter now explains the events concerning the immediate future of the Meso-Persian Empire and its fall to Alexander the Great (v. 2-3). We saw in Daniel 8 that Alexander's premature death would result in his empire being broken up among four successors which is reemphasized here in verse 4. What follows in verses 5-20 is the very detailed description of the historical clashes between the two most significant dynasties of Alexander's former empire – the Seleucid Empire of the North and the Ptolemaic Dynasty in the South.

In verses 21-35 we are told of the career of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the little horn of Daniel 8, the eighth ruler of the Seleucid Empire. The ongoing clash between the Seleucid Empire in the north and the Ptolemaic empire in the south continues to be a major emphasis of the unfolding story. *With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him (v. 25).* Verses 33-35 conclude the discussion of Antiochus's persecution of the Jews which powerfully foreshadows the perseverance that will be required in the last days.

Verse 35 marks the end of the discussion of Antiochus and transitions to the end times Antichrist. Here we see that the Antichrist will do as he pleases. He is self-exalting and arrogant and will speak blasphemies against virtually every god and most specifically, against Yahweh (v. 36). Lastly we see that he will prosper in all that he does until the "*indignation is finished*" when Jesus brings his blasphemies to a swift end. Verses 37-39 are potent declarations concerning the Antichrist's beliefs; the Antichrist: 1) rejects the God of his fathers (the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), 2) rejects the desire of women (probably the Messiah), 3) rejects every other god, 4) affirms and honors gods of forces. This likely speaks of a non-Jewish pagan world leader who rejects the Father and the Son, who has military power and who worships a god of war.

The Antichrist will invade Israel (the beautiful land) as well as many other countries but Edom, Moab and the sons of Ammon will be delivered from his hand (v. 41). These three ancient nations seem to point to the contemporary kingdom of Jordan. After entering Israel, the Antichrist will conquer the three nations of Egypt, Libya and Cush/Northern Sudan (v. 42-43). The ancient Christians believed that these three nations correspond to the three horns that will first be uprooted by the Antichrist according to Daniel 7:8.

Sometime in the midst of the Antichrist's conquests, "*rumors*" from the North and the East upset him greatly (v. 44). We cannot know for sure but we may assume that this refers to the movements of large armies, perhaps from Russia in the North and China in the East. Finally, the Antichrist will "*pitch his royal tents*" in the land of Israel where we are told he will "*come to his end and no one will help him*" (v. 45).

This prophecy tells us several characteristics of the Antichrist. He will be a northern leader from the general region of Turkey, Syria or Iraq (the ancient Seleucid Empire) and will fight and be victorious against a southern leader who will emerge in Egypt. After this, seven other nations will support the Antichrist and his emerging empire. This revived empire was prophesied in Daniel 2 as the feet of clay and in Daniel 7 as the ten horns. The final Antichrist Empire will crush the people of God throughout the region and in much of the earth before completely being destroyed by Jesus.

JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Antiochus IV Epiphanes hated and persecuted the Jews in his attempt to destroy them, so did Adolf Hitler. Yet the Jewish people still remain today because of God's purposes for them. Pray for the nation of Israel – Biblical prophecy tells us that there is more persecution coming for this nation. Pray that they will accept Jesus as the Messiah and turn to Him. Pray that they would fulfill the purposes that God still has for them.
2. Daniel writes of the End times as being a time of great distress and tribulation on a scale that has never been experienced before. How should we live in view of such things to come? How do we prepare? Ask the Lord to show you how you can prepare yourself and your family for the coming persecution. Pray for the church to be renewed and revived, standing solidly on the foundation of Christ.

3. The Antichrist will be given power for a limited time and then the true King of Kings will return and set up His Kingdom on earth. God's Word is 100% accurate and so we know of the terrible times to come but we also know of the great hope of the second coming of Christ. Pray for many Christians to feel this hope and pray for Christ's return. Pray for many to turn to Jesus in the last days. Pray that you would live a life surrendered to Christ, willing to count the cost and follow Him until either you die or until He returns.

DAY 18

 **READ:** Daniel 12

As the book of Daniel concludes the first few verses of chapter 12 make it very clear that this prophecy is about the end times (v. 1-2). As terrible as the time of trouble is there will also be deliverance at the time of the end. This will come when Jesus returns to earth. The time of trouble will be like something that the world has never seen before, a horrible period of time at the end of this age, the Great Tribulation. The deliverance will be for the faithful remnant, those whose names are found written in the book (v. 1). Saints will be delivered through the great tribulation, not from it. Some may lose their life as martyrs; others will endure until Christ's return. Verse 2 refers to the resurrection of the dead – some will awake to everlasting life and others to everlasting shame and contempt. The messenger then tells Daniel that the revelations are to be sealed up (v. 4).

Daniel then notices two others standing before him on the bank of the stream (v. 5), one of whom then asks Jesus, "*How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled (v. 6)?*" The reply was, "*it will be for a time, times and half a time, when the power of the holy people has been finally broken all these things will be completed (v. 7).*" This is a similar time frame as was given in Daniel 7:25; 9:27. It is a reference to the last 3 ½ years of Daniel's 70th week, when the nation of Israel is finally broken – many believe that this will be when the people of Israel acknowledge the sin of rejecting Jesus as their Messiah and cry out for Him to return.

Daniel heard but didn't understand (v. 8) and asks about the outcome. However, he is told that the words are sealed until the time of the end (v. 9) and that it is not for him to understand but rather it is for the final generation. This final generation will receive insight and revelation into the prophecies of Scripture as it is gradually opened up to the diligent studier of God's Word in the End times. In verse 10, we are told that many will purify themselves and be made spotless through this Great Tribulation. The purpose of the purification process is for believers to be made ready for the wedding supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9). But the wicked will continue to act wickedly and won't understand (v. 10).

The chapter then concludes with two different time frames – 1290 days and 1335 days. These are both different than the before-mentioned 3 ½ years which works out to only 1260 days. What is going on here? Counting 1290 days from when the daily sacrifice is taken away and the abomination of desolation is set up (which marks the beginning of the Great Tribulation) something will happen. Jesus will return after 1260 days so that leaves us with 30 extra days. It is believed that this 30 day period *could be* when the nations will be judged by Jesus. This passage also speaks of 1335 days and speaks of a special blessing for those who make it that far. This is an additional 45 days from the 1290 days which *could* mark the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom under the rulership of Christ. Anyone who makes it this far is truly blessed! So in these three time periods we *may* see many different events - including the coming of the Lord, the rapture of the living Church, the first resurrection of the dead, the judgement of the nations and the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.

In the final verse of the book, Daniel is given encouragement. By now Daniel is over 90 years old and is promised rest in the presence of the Lord at the end of the days. Daniel will be given his allotted place and will be rewarded for his faithfulness and endurance. The end of days refers to the end of all the terrible days mentioned in the book of Daniel. May we follow in the steps of Daniel, a righteous man, a wise man who had the purposes of God in his heart. He was a true prophet of God and prayer warrior who was loved by God and who loved God intimately.

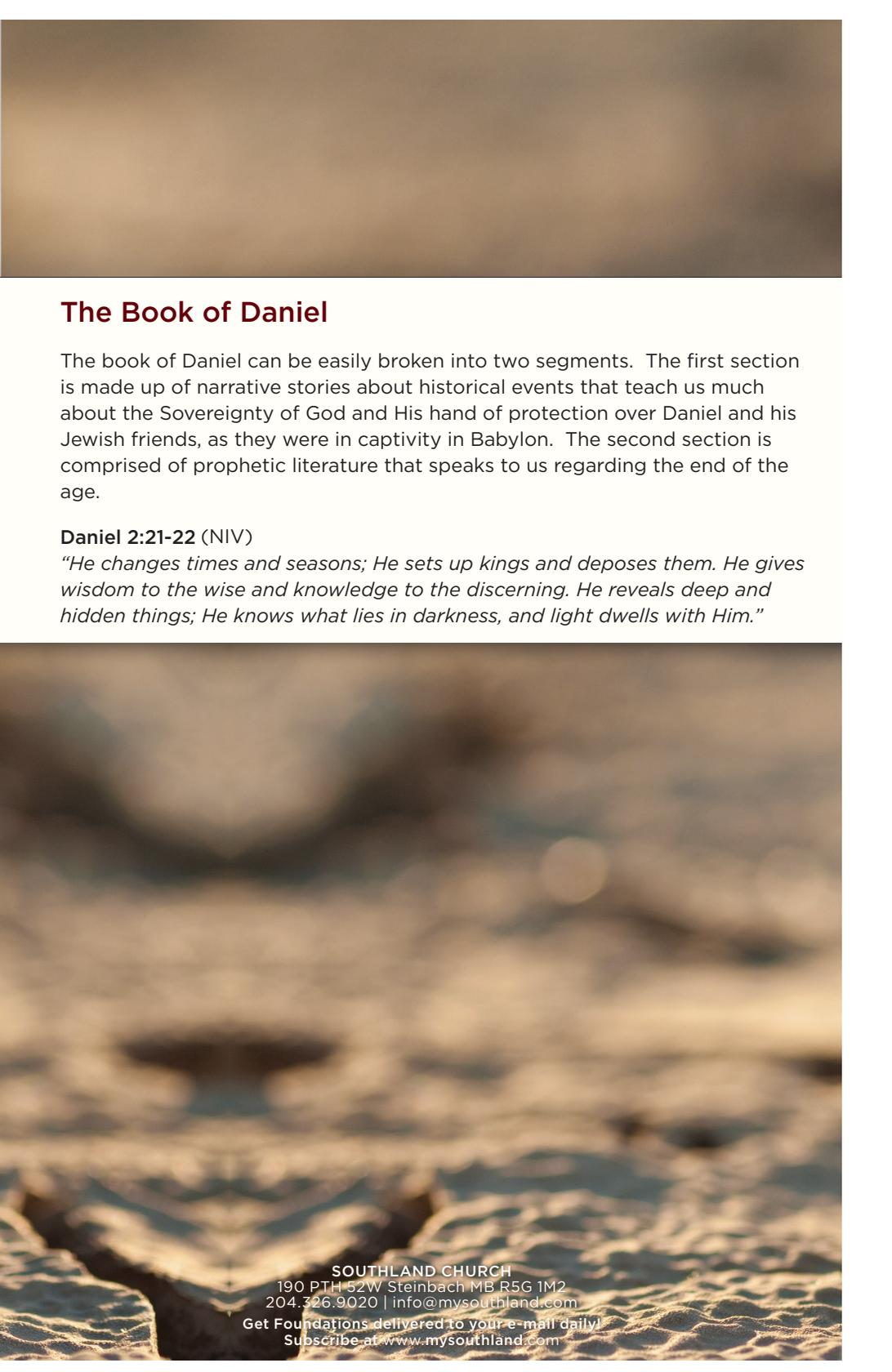
As we get closer and closer to the end times we can be sure that God does not change. He is just and He loves – one is not sacrificed for the other. Daniel received many terrifying visions of the End times but also received deep revelations of God's love (see Dan. 10:10).

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Now that you have finished reading the book of Daniel, how do you feel about the End times? What are your worries and fears about the End times? Take these fears to God and ask Him to speak to you about them. Is there anything practical that you can do about them?
2. God calls us to endure in faithfulness. Ask the Lord to show you 2-3 areas where He has been growing you in faithful endurance. Thank Him and praise Him for this valuable training!
3. There will be no neutral ground or grey areas in the end times; there will be only the righteous and the wicked. Pray for believers who are not living lives that are fully committed to Christ. Pray for the global church to experience renewal and grow in wholehearted love and devotion to God.

FINAL REMARKS

Our commentary on the book of Daniel is completed but not exhaustive. Our God is inexhaustible and so is His Word. The book of Daniel is an amazing book that reveals many things to us about God and the End times. God chose the period of the Jewish exile to tell His servant Daniel many of things that were to come. God still reveals His purposes and plans to His people. As we move closer to the time of the end of the age the messages that were sealed in the book of Daniel are becoming unsealed as God is beginning to prepare His people for the tribulation. Those who are servants of the Lord ought to give themselves to the study of His Word and cry out to Him in prayer through dependence on the Holy Spirit to understand and to obey. In order to endure until the end, we must grow in trusting the sovereignty of God. He controls and directs history and the destiny of the nations of the earth. He reveals His purposes and His plans to His servants who are faithfully seeking Him. As believers we are called to faithfully prepare through experiencing ongoing personal renewal, spending time in the Word and in prayer and ministering in and out of the church through evangelism, discipleship and missions.



The Book of Daniel

The book of Daniel can be easily broken into two segments. The first section is made up of narrative stories about historical events that teach us much about the Sovereignty of God and His hand of protection over Daniel and his Jewish friends, as they were in captivity in Babylon. The second section is comprised of prophetic literature that speaks to us regarding the end of the age.

Daniel 2:21-22 (NIV)

“He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him.”