

Book of Daniel – Introduction

The Book of Daniel is a must read for those who study and want to learn the prophecies of the “End Times”. Did you know Prophetic teachers prescribes this Book along with the Book of Revelation as the best sources of the End Times information. You might take note of the copy of “**Timeline of End Time**” that will be displayed at the end of this introduction as it will help explain what will be covered in due time across the 12 chapters in Daniel.

Joel 2:1-2 is a fitting opening for our study: Blow a trumpet in Zion. And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble. For the day of the Lord is coming: Surely it is near. A day of darkness and gloom, A Day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, so there is a great and mighty people; There has never been anything like it, nor will there be again after it to the years of many generations.

For clarification I normally study and write from the New American Standard Bible, but I have come to use Perry Stones Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible NKJ version as a good reference

Daniel is a hard book along with the Book of Revelation for most to understand. But when something is hard it may mean for us to start a study to find out what it means. In the case of the Bible keep to the scriptures and from there follow good teachers of the Bible for your doctrine and understanding. You will find yourself in a sea of Theologians often of different understanding and that applies to this Book of Daniel also. I found that often Theologians see Daniel differently in a complete range as to being 1) a real book of the Bible compared to the writings of the other Books of the Prophets, such as Ezekiel, or 2) even as a fictional story within the Bible. However, you will realize when a line by line is studied, Daniel is introduced as himself within the verses. After all these years of reading the Bible, this Book has become a favorite, realizing the interest in prophecy that has been fueled by Hal Lindsey in the 1970’s thru David Wilkerson and eventually by current prophecy teachers as Perry Stone of the Omega Center International in Cleveland, TN.

You will see how this Bible Study plays out attempting to cover several Chapters each lesson for whatever time it might take. You will realize that we are in the Last of Days and few churches and Christians really understand what the future holds. You will want to read the Chapters in this Book in advance of following the summaries on the Chapters. Realize I am not a scholar of the Bible but just like you someone who chose to learn more about a specific subject matter and present it to my church on Wednesday night Bible studies. What is important is I have openly resolved myself to accept and look forward to the End of Time, the Rapture and Tribulation, the 1000-year Millennium, and the New Heaven on a New Earth. Eternal life is a real gift of God and I hope to still be here for the Rapture (The word Rapture does not appear in the scriptures of English Bibles, but does appear as an equivalent in Latin versions as the word “rapio” which is to seize or snatch as to remove from one place to another, further where it is corroborated by “caught up” as the Greek word “harpazo” translated to “rapturo” or “snatching away”. Rapture is a state or experience of being carried away or transported from one place to another).

To understand the Book of Daniel, realize that the first 6 chapters deal mainly with history (what is to come and how it reveals the future times) and the last 6 chapters deal mainly with prophecy. The first 6 are mainly written in third person and the last 6 in first person. The Old Testament is mainly written in Hebrew excepting for 2 Books, Daniel one of them which includes some Armenian from Chapter 2:4b to 7:28. There is prophecy completed after Daniels lifetime but within our current lifetime and then prophecy to be completed beyond our current lifetime. So, prophecy within this study starts with the 70 years of the Israelites exile to Babylon after the destruction of the first Temple, or Solomons Temple, in Jerusalem to the Last Days or End Time and then the Rapture of the Church and the 7-year Tribulation. The Book of Daniel is a companion to the Book of Revelation where it is referenced 18 times. Ezekiel is referenced 20 times and Isaih 24 times in Revelation showing how the prophets prophesied as to John's revelations in the Book of Revelation. The 2 books are often studied together because their prophecies concerning the End of Time dovetail completely with one exception: That is Daniel speaks of 1260, 1290, and 1335 days a discrepancy of 75 days for the Tribulation as referred to 1260 days in Revelation. There is an explanation for this that we will cover when we get to it in the Daniel study. Both John's first vision in the Book of Revelation (1:12-20) and Daniels last vision in the Book of Daniel (Chapters 10-12) are divine scenes where both describe the risen Christs vision.

This might be a proper place to refresh our minds on 1) why did God choose Israel to be His chosen people, and 2) why is there so much hatred toward Israel all across the Nations of the World?

First, God chose the nation of Israel to be the people through whom Jesus Christ would be born—the Savior from sin and death ([John 3:16](#)). God first promised the Messiah after Adam and Eve's fall into sin (Genesis chapter 3). God later confirmed that the Messiah would come from the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob ([Genesis 12:1-3](#)). Jesus Christ is the ultimate reason why God chose Israel to be His special people. God did not need to have a chosen people, but He decided to do it that way. Jesus had to come from some Nation of people, and God chose Israel.

However, God's reason for choosing the Nation of Israel was not solely for the purpose of producing the Messiah. God's desire for Israel was that they would go and teach others about Him. Israel was to be a Nation of priests, prophets, and missionaries to the world. God's intent was for Israel to be a distinct people, a Nation who pointed others towards God and His promised provision of a Redeemer, Messiah, and Savior. For the most part, Israel failed in this task. However, God's ultimate purpose for Israel—that of bringing the Messiah into the world—was fulfilled perfectly in the Person of Jesus Christ.

And second, Satan after the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden was loosed in the Nations through the lineage of Adam and Eve with his purpose of being better than God Himself, to cause mankind to rebuke God through sin. Thus because of the fall of mankind from Gods chosen lineage of Abraham and Sarah, Ishmael and Esau, stepbrothers of Isaac and Jacob respectively, led Nations which rejected God. When the chosen people entered the land given to them by God, they failed to follow Gods direction to rid the land of these heathen peoples.

Daniel's life is characterized in the verses by purpose, prayer, and prophecy. He was a devout believer in the Law of Moses and never faltered in even extreme circumstances which got him both the rewards of Leadership and the Punishment of being thrown into the Lion's Den. He survived across 4 dynasties of

leadership from Nebuchadnezzar II who exiled the Israelites to Babylon followed by Belshazzar to Darius I thru to the Persian period of King Cyrus II when the Israelites were allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. He was about 14 years old when the exile began and 80 + years of age overlapping the span of the period of this Book from approximately 605 BC to 538 BC. This Book contains the well-known scriptures associated with Daniel, along with his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego and the time they spent in the furnace, as well as Daniels interpretation of the writing on the wall. Jesus referred to Daniel “as spoken by a prophet” in Mathew 24:15 and Mark 13:14. Daniel is also cited by Ezekiel 14:14, 20 and 28:3 where he is referred to as a “righteous man”.

The Book of Daniel sets forth 4 prophecies as in dreams or visions, each showing the fight between the forces of good and evil on earth. These encompass from the time of Daniel to the final establishment of the eternal Kingdom of God on a New Earth. Inasmuch as the devil uses the powers, he has on earth in his attempt to prevent God’s plan and to kill the faithful followers of God, these visions present the political powers through which he has been most at work (**that is Governments like under which we live**). We must remember that the visions of Daniel are more than a dream, to be awakened from in the morning, but a true interaction between the Almighty God and his servant Daniel.

The first vision (Chapter 2) deals with political changes and the goal was to show King Nebuchadnezzar as to his role as a ruler of Babylon. This interpretation of his dream by Daniel, when not revealed by the 400+ soothsayers, priests, master astrologists of the Kings court, was to make known to him in verse 29 “what will take place in the future”.

The second vision (Chapter 7) complements the first vision and stresses the experience of God’s people during the dominion of powers given in that vision, and predicts in verses 14, 18, 26, and 27 the final victory of the Saints and God’s judgement upon their enemies through the Son of Man.

The third vision (Chapters 8 and 9) complements the second vision but stresses the devil’s attempts to destroy the religion of God’s people through a ram with 2 horns and a goat with an answer delivered by the Angel Gabriel.

The fourth vision (Chapters 10 and 12) summarizes the first three visions but gives more detail than any of the others including magnifying the first 2 visions. Its emphasis is on “what will happen to our people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future (**the end of days**)”, Chapter 10:14 with “the message was true and one of great conflict” in verse 1. An outline of history is given in Chapter 11:2-39 leading up to “the latter days” in Chapter 10:14 and the actions of “the time of the end” Chapter 12:1.

The 4 prophecies reach a climax when 1)the “God of Heaven” sets up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed (Chapter 2:44), 2)when the “Son of Man” receives everlasting dominion (Chapter 7:13 & 14), 3) when opposition to the “Prince of Princes” is broken without hand (**not by the hand of men but by the act of God**) (Chapter 8:25), and 4) when the faithful are saved forever from their enemies (Chapter 12:1).

The Bible contains 1817 prophecies in 8352 verses with 1239 in the Old Testament and 578 in the New Testament. It is estimated to contain 31% predictive prophesies. (Note: **predictive** is a statement of what

will happen in the future while **prophecy** is a prediction, especially one made by a prophet or under divine inspiration). At least 75% of prophecies have been fulfilled precisely as God said in scripture. Exercise care in equating these numbers as to being accurate but these are the most recognized. Bennie Hinn recently said there were 2500 prophecies in the Bible. There is no evidence of predictive prophecies in competing religions such as the Quran or Hinduism. Obviously, all of the prophecies of Jesus coming have been fulfilled. Probably the best example of a partially fulfilled prophecy is Jesus' quote of Isaiah's 61:1-2 which pointed toward the virgin birth of Jesus in which He declares the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy when He says "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me because the Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the afflicted, He has sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord, **and the day of vengeance of our God** ---". He proclaimed Himself as the fulfillment of the prophecy but stopped reading in the middle of the second verse. The first part of the verse was fulfilled by Christ but the second part concerning the day of vengeance of our God was not and will be fulfilled in the future.

So what are the significant prophecies that have or have not been fulfilled that affect our lives right now? First consider the Prophecy that Israel would come back to their land and become a Nation once again. That happened on May 14, 1948, when the Nation in one day was declared the Provisional Government of Israel which was named "Israel" by our United States of America President Truman. This date is supported in scripture to be the exact day it would happen. Other significant prophecies since then have been fulfilled including the naming of Jerusalem as the capital by President Trump on December 6, 2017, when he moved the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. **(Note: People always want to know the date that Jesus will return and Rapture the Church into heaven. The Bible says we will not know the date and time as with the Parable of the 10 Virgins and other Scriptures like the fig tree. We can know the season supported by Scriptures which is likely to be in the Fall around Rosh Hashanah that normally falls in September. The Scriptures are interpreted to say 2000 years after Christ's death on the cross for His second coming. That is also elusive as some say Christ was actually born between 6 BC to 4 BC and others say 1 AD. Then did He live 30 or 33 years with His ministry of 3 years on earth. Then there are the irregularities of the Calendar. The Gregorian Calendar has been changed many times by Popes and Kings adding or subtracting days and even months. The best Calendar is Gods Calendar which starts its Calendar at the birth of Adam as AME1 – more on this later. You can do the math and find out as many preachers say we are in the time of His return. Then there are the theologians that cannot agree as to whether the Rapture occurs before the 7-year Tribulation, or at Mid Tribulation as 3.5 years, or even at the end of the Tribulation. Most of us believe Scriptures support at the beginning of the Tribulation. Personally, I leave that with you as I already spent too much time equating what God does not want us to know and just know the Word and bring others to Christ).** There are meaningful scriptures from I Thess 5:1-6, Mat 24:3, Mat 24:29-36, Jer 24:1-10, Hosea 9:10, 2 Pet 3:8-13, Rev 20:1-6, Hosea 6:1-3, that together all point to the Second Coming of Jesus to occur within the life of the generation after Israel becomes a Nation again. If a generation is 80 years, or 100 years, or 120 years that would put the return between 2028 and 2068. So, the time is yet impending. **Going back to the beginning of time Gen 15:13-16 equates to 400 years with 4 generations. Verse 13 reads "Then the Lord said to Abram, 'Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for 400 years'". Verse 16 reads,**

“And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” The implication is that one generation equals 100 years in this passage. A generation of “life” could be 120 years, an example is Moses who died at the age of 120. Another verse that describes the life of mankind is Psalm 90:10, “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”

Something to ponder on the question as to the date of the second coming of Christ is two examples in scripture which outline a timeline for Gods actions on sinful mankind, 1) Noah was given a timeline on the flood of when this event would occur and transpire, and 2) before judgement fell upon Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot was given instructions on how to prepare and the time it would occur. I offer as a handout a Timeline of the End of Time from this year to the Eternal Heaven on a New Earth. This Timeline brings to mind the Shemitah and Jubilee cycles on which the scripture events are revealed.

In regard to the current war of Israel with Hamas, a major army of the Palestinians, many believe this is the war prophesied as the beginning of the Gog and Magog war which does not really occur until sometime before the Rapture.

This war could be and may likely be identified by scholars as the **Psalm 83 War**, A Song of Asaph. War as prophesied by Asaph, a worship leader in the Temple under King David, where he is calling down judgement and justice on an enemy. He is calling on God to bring His judgement upon all Nations that are listed below that have modern day equivalents to the Nations that surround Israel and having a continuous desire to wipe Israel off the map. Note to this moment the Hamas, Hezbollah, and Houthi rebel groups operating in Gaza, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen, all supplied by Iran, have participated in the fighting against Israel without their respective countries declaring war on Israel. The original countries of ancient times who occupy the today lands around Israel include **Edom** – Palestinians and Southern Jordanians; **Ishmaelites** – Saudi Arabia; **Moab** – Palestinians and Central Jordanians; **Hagrites** – Egyptians; **Gebal** – Hezbollah and northern Lebanon; **Ammon** – Palestinians and Northern Jordanians; **Amalek** – Arabs of the Sinai area; **Philistia** – Hamas and Gaza Strip; **Tyre** – Hezbollah and Southern Lebanon; and **Assyria** - Syrians and Northern Iraq. Noticeably absent from the Gog and Magog Nations as those noted by Asaph that surround modern day Israel include Russians, Ukrainians, Hungarians, Siberians, Yugoslavians, Croatians, Bosnians, Serbians, Slovenians, Bulgarians, Poles, Czechs, **Turkey**, Sweden, Finland, **Germany**, Ireland, Scotland, and others of the original Soviet Union ending in “ians”. Many believe that the Chinese are the only ones able to mobilize a two-million-man army to invade Israel. But with the close ties of the Chinese with the Russians as of today and probable in the future and understanding that they gain position and likeness with Russian aspirations, they may be likely to become a part of the Gog and Magog unification.

Why Palestine cannot claim any rights to land over Israel - The Palestinians have never had a Nation and thus it has never existed. It exists in the minds of particularly those peoples known as Palestinians with the sympathies of many Nations of the World which are uneducated as to the history of the Middle East and the scriptures of the Bible that show the divisions of the lands as recorded by God. Esau son of Isaac, who was the first son of Abraham, forfeited his birthright to Jacob, his brother, who is the lineage of Jesus. Of course, as unbelievers and demonstrated by people today who eradicate history and cause divisions,

they attempt to persuade people to many lies and to always have controversies under way. It is sad that the students at universities are not smart enough to sort out real truths and so wrong that major news outlets do not research and broadcast the truth.

The promises of God to the land of Israel exists all through the Bible. Scripture does not support a Nation of Palestine and nearly all of the Middle East was occupied by Great Britain after World War I. The Balfour Declaration after World War I established a national home for the Jewish people in their God given land and not to Palestinians. The enemies of Israel, home of God's chosen people, want to redefine Israel but it will exist forever until the second coming of Jesus when He rules over the 1000 Year Millennium.

Another major prophecy in Isaiah 17:1-3 and Jeremiah 49:23-27 also has not occurred and that is the complete **destruction of Damascus in Syria**. Not only will that city be destroyed but it will be destroyed in one mere evening. Damascus, called the "pearl of the East" for its beauty, is said to be the oldest capital occupied city in the world and according to some the 4th holiest city in Islam. Speculation is that the destruction will be by Israel using a nuclear weapon. With the many rebel groups opposing Israel it is likely that Israel will have had enough and therein respond against Hezbollah who being armed by the Iranians, have continued to fire missiles into Israel from the Syrian area. Heads up, "on February 28, 2024, Reuters reported on Pro-Iranian Lebanese television al Maydeen said a big explosion was heard in the Sayeda neighborhood of the Syrian capital of Damascus. It gave no details for the area of southern Damascus where Iranian backed militaries have a string of underground bases". The Syrian civil wars have been continuing for over 10 years with many attacks by the rebels on the Syrian military and Israel. Recently in March 2024 Israel bombed an ammunition depot in Damascus destroying a large section of Damascus and resulting in many dead and wounded. Then on April 1, 2024, an Israeli airstrike destroyed the Iranian consulate annex building adjacent to the Iranian Embassy in Damascus killing 16 people, including a senior Quds Force commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Brigadier General Mohammed Reza Zahedi and 7 other IRGC officers, including 3 top commanders. The result was Iran firing some missiles into Israeli air space without any real damage as Israel was able to shoot them down.

Also note that the Tribulation of 7 years does not begin until the peace treaty is signed with Israel, so the peace treaty might be signed right after the destruction of Damascus and the Gog and Magog War.

As a side thought, I have covered some of these prophecy events in my weekly presentations on my website "nofearoftruth.org" that I have maintained for the last several years, that could add some focus to prophecy as we will study in Daniel.

The War of Gog and Magog occurs sometime after Damascus is destroyed then followed and before the start of the Tribulation. Some call this the **Ezekiel War**. Realize all three events, the current **Psalms 83 War**, the destruction of Damascus, and the **Gog and Magog War** could all occur within a short time of just a few years as God causes a miraculous conclusion of the Gog and Magog War. And there must be 7 years to destroy all the weapons used in this war before the **Great Tribulation** begins. This war followed by the signing of a peace treaty with Israel is directed by Gog as he is identified as "him" in the scriptures, so he must be a person although some interpret him as a strong name for a Principality Spirit.

He is the Chief Prince of Meshech and Tubal and a descendant of Reuben, Jacob's 1st son. See a map of these Nations.

The battlefield of the war of Gog and Magog is on "the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste", Ezekiel 38:8. The purpose of the invasion is to "capture soil and seize plunder", Ezekiel 38:12-26, as well as to defeat the people of Israel. Remember that to this day in our generation Israel is the land of milk and honey and in recent years has discovered not only fresh water in abundance but also natural gas and oil that equates to the massive oil resources of even Saudi Arabia. The people of Israel worked the land of rock and rubble to where the soil is fertile, well-watered, and food products are grown to not only support the Israeli people but also by export to the many peoples of Europe. Israel has also developed the technology and resources to have the 4th largest military power in the world supported by the United States. In the air and in air defense they exceed the military power of any of the Muslim Nations as well as competing with Russia with a technological weapon not yet revealed to World Powers. They are a fierce foe to fight in an air war but have limitations of manpower to fight a ground war with few people against all the manpower of Gog and without support of other Nations of the free World who will not provide military manpower but possibly contribute with weapon resources.

The invading Nations are, in truth, being manipulated by God, pulled out of their lands with "hooks into your jaws" so that those Nations feel the Sovereign Lords fury, Ezekiel 38:4, 18. God drags these specific Nations to the "mountains of Israel" to "enter into judgement from Him" with "torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and brimstone", Ezekial 38:21-22. The confusion of the enemy is so strong that they end up killing each other. God explains His ultimate purpose for supernaturally obliterating the invading coalition: "I shall magnify Myself; sanctify Myself and make Myself known in the sight of many Nations; and they will know that I am the Lord", Ezekial 38: 23. **(Oh the value of the Old Testament.)**

Gods supernatural victory over the Gog and Magog invaders allows Him to reintroduce Himself to the world as filled with many unbelievers and declare, in no uncertain terms, that Yahweh is personally defending Israel. Should the people of the world doubt, they have only to look on Israel who will "go out and make fires with the weapons and burn them --- for 7 years", Ezekial 39:9. And as for the invaders corpses, "for 7 months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land" in the newly named "Valley of Hamon-Gog" by a newly built "town called Hamonah", Ezekial 39:11-12, 16. Remember in Revelation 14:19-20 says "And the Angel swung his sickle to the earth, and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses bridles for a distance of 200 miles" in the Valley of Armageddon, also known as Jezreel Valley. The Jezreel Valley is known in scripture for many battles including those of Saul and Gideon. Horses are noted and explained by some because of the rugged mountains and EMP and chemical warfare that may be employed. You have noted the return of Jews to Israel from distant lands has been occurring for many decades and increased in recent years, thus, to provide more Jews needed in the last days. The Prophetic Conference we went to recently indicated more and more Jews were leaving the United States and probably more so with the Palestinian uprising.

the "treading of the wine press" is a sign of Divine Judgement. A Mathew Henry commentary indicates "that the enemies of Christ and his church are not destroyed, until by their sin they are ripe for ruin, and

then he will spare them no longer. The wine press is the wrath of God, some terrible calamity, probably the sword, shedding the blood of the wicked. The patience of God towards sinners, is the greatest miracle in the world; but, though lasting, it will not be everlasting; and ripeness in sin is a sure proof of judgment at the hand of God". **(For information wine presses are seen and known all over Israel today hewn out of rock on hillsides.)**

The War of Armageddon – Same valley as Gog and Magog War (Some Theologians consider the War of Gog and Magog noted above as this War of Armageddon but for various reasons already discussed this cannot be so as the 1000 Year Millennium begins right after this battle).

The War of Armageddon is a massive invasion by a seemingly invincible army of the 10 Kings led by the Antichrist on an unprotected Israel **(remember there was a peace treaty which was broken by the Antichrist and Israel was basically undefended at the end of the Tribulation).**

Jesus on a white horse along with His army of Saints all mounted on white horses ends up surprising the invaders and shocking what is left of the world to defeat the devil, Antichrist, and false prophet and their armies. The devil is locked in a pit for 1000 years. There is another war at the end of the 1000-year Millennium when the devil is released from the pit, Rev 20:7-9. Satan directs this war and mobilizes the nations of the earth with the unbelievers born during the 1000 years, and who survived the Tribulation, (it is expected people born during the Millennium will live upwards of 900 years) and marches on Jerusalem. Some scholars call this another War of Gog and Magog. God has had enough, and He wipes out this army by calling down fire on them for destruction of the earth. God then makes a New Earth with a combined New Heaven on Earth including a New Jerusalem on Earth, conducts the White Throne and Bema Seat judgements for non-believers and believers, respectively, to thereafter provide eternal life to those that are sanctified and worship Him. The devil is thrown into the Lake of Fire and never again able to torment the believers of God.

I had the privilege of being in Israel for a week of vacation while working two times in Jordan during both the Palestinian uprising of 1988 and the Gulf War of 1990 with Saddam Hussein when he entered Kuwait. With a rental car and my late wife, I was able to visit nearly all of the major sites that were not off limits and guarded by the Israeli military. It was an indescribable feeling of walking where Christ walked and seeing actual sites described in the Bible. In time off from work with the rental car we visited the same kinds of sites in Jordan and toured Petra twice on foot where the Israelis will flee during the Tribulation. Specifically, we were able to visit the supposed sites where John the Baptist was beheaded and Mount Nebo where Moses was buried dedicated with a Church covering.

So with this as a backdrop we begin to do an overview of the 12 chapters of the Book of Daniel. And for those who may not have read the Left Behind series of Tim LaHaye and Jerry B Jenkins that is a very good scriptural source in the story form of the Rapture and the 7 years beyond. Joel Rosenberg is another great writer, although largely fiction, connects his stories of Biblical Scripture to world events wrapped around today and the end of time. Amazingly, he has written novels with stories that have actually come true after publication. He is a Russian Jew who emigrated from Russia to Israel when the Kremlin finally allowed the Jews to leave Russia. My next publication will include the Timeline for the "End of Time".

