

I. SEC: Introduction To The Book Of Daniel

Let us start in the book of Daniel. The book of Daniel, probably more than any other book in the Bible, when you mention its name, everybody automatically begins to think of future events. Probably outside the book of Revelation, these two books really do go hand in hand. There are no greater two books in the Bible that really lay out the prophecies that deal with the end times. You take those two books together, and they really supplement each other. They are incredible books to try to lay out all the material.

They are really something that if you are ever going to truly get into the Bible in your life, you are going to have to do. Daniel supplies many of the missing elements that help put the whole prophecy concept together. Yet, at the same time, as you read through the book of Daniel and study it, you will find places like Daniel 12:9 and Daniel 12:4, where Daniel is told not to write what he sees, that the book is sealed up. God did not want to reveal everything until, obviously, the Tribulation Period. When God gets into it, there are things both in the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation that He will open up and show that He is not showing now. That makes it unfortunate for us because there is no way we can always get all of the material together when we do not have those missing keys. But you can still get a lot of the material, as you will see.

II. SEC: Daniel's Historical Context And The Devil's Plan

From a historical standpoint, Daniel, and the name Daniel means "God is my judge." His life and ministry, as I said last week, span between Jeremiah and Ezekiel. He fits into that time period that spans the entire captivity. You will find that Daniel, at the end of Ezekiel's reign, takes that time and really for the whole 70 years of captivity, he spans that time after the two great prophets of Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

You will find that he is deported to Babylon in the first attack. Remember last week I told you that Nebuchadnezzar comes down three times and attacks Jerusalem. Daniel goes down in the first attack in 606 B.C. Something you need to understand here is that Daniel is only about 12 or 14 years old when his captivity takes place. You cannot know for sure how old he is, but he is very, very young. Most men who go through and lay out those genealogies put him at about 12 to 14, certainly no older than 16 years old, when he is deported to Babylon.

The Bible says in Daniel 1:3, and we are going to read some of that here in just a little bit, I am just giving you some background, that Daniel was part of the king's seed. He is connected with the line of Christ. You are going to find that he is of the royal line that gets deported to Babylon because Nebuchadnezzar wants to bleed out the kingly line. Part of the devil's plan was to take the line from which Christ is going to come, bring it down into Babylon, and over the captivity, mix that kingly seed with all of the different devil concepts and demonic concepts of Babylon, therefore canceling out the first coming of Christ.

Do not forget, the first prophecy in your Bible in Genesis 3:15 had to do with two seeds. One of them is the kingly line, the other one is the unkingly line. One of them is God's line, the other one is the devil's line. Here now, as in other places through the Bible, we simply see that the devil's plan is to bring the very cream of the crop, the king's seed of the nation of Israel, down to Babylon and there, during that captivity, bleed out that bloodline and stop the line of Christ.

III. SEC: The Structure Of The Book Of Daniel

I have given you a breakdown of every book that we have come through, and you know our goal here is that as we come through every book of the Bible, we want first of all to teach you to the point where you really understand the concepts if you truly want to sit down and learn the Bible. Secondly, down the line, as our church grows, there will be men and women who will come in and say, "Hey, Bob, I want to learn the Bible." Well, we will have the material already ready that you can begin to go through because it is material in such a fashion that will give you everything you need to really lay out and put together the Bible so you can study it and get an understanding of it.

This book of the Bible is no different, but the breakdown again is very simple. There are two prophecies foretold in the book of Daniel, and that is how the book splits.

- In Daniel 1-7, you find the history of the Gentile nations given in a prophecy. In that first part of the book, the first seven chapters, God deals with the Gentile nations and foretells where this world is going to go with the Gentile nations.
- In Daniel 8-12, you are going to find that the emphasis is going to be on the restoration of the nation of Israel. You are going to find that now He turns His attention to the nation of Israel, the Jews, and talks at great length about the Second Coming of Christ, the Tribulation Period, and how the nation of Israel gets restored.

IV. SEC: Daniel As A Type Of The Holy Spirit

Daniel is an interesting man. There are three men in the Bible that really picture the Trinity.

1. The first man who pictures God the Father is Abraham. The Bible tells us about Abraham in Romans 4. Romans 4:16 tells us that Abraham is the father of us all. In that spiritual sense, Abraham is a picture of God the Father. The Jews look at him as the father of their nation. We look at him in a spiritual sense, knowing what the Bible says that salvation is of the Jew, that it all starts with Abraham. So when Paul was writing the book of Romans, he was making reference to that, saying that Abraham, in a spiritual sense, it all starts with the Jew. The Jew starts with Abraham. So Abraham is the father in a spiritual sense of us all.
2. Then you have Joseph. Joseph in the Bible is the greatest type of the Lord Jesus Christ. In over 152 places in the book of Genesis and other places, you will find him referenced or

areas of his life referenced to things of Christ to show you the correlation between the two. When you go back to Genesis 41:43, you will find that the Bible clearly says that Joseph rides in the second chariot behind Pharaoh. God the Father, God the Son, the second spot.

3. Then we have Daniel. If you have not guessed it already, Daniel is a picture and a type of the Holy Spirit of God. Daniel interprets dreams. Daniel gives interpretation of things. When the king cannot understand what is being written or what is being said or what he dreams, it is Daniel that comes in and interprets that for him. He is a picture of the Holy Spirit of God because that is what the Holy Spirit of God does in your life and in my life. It interprets for us. It shows us exactly what the Bible is saying. So when you come to Daniel 5:7, it is no wonder that you find Daniel is elevated to the third position in the kingdom. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

We see that the book of Daniel is an incredible book with many, many different concepts that we are going to try to give you an understanding of this morning.

V. SEC: The Practical Application Of Daniel

From an inspirational standpoint, most of God's people, and I have found this true all my life, get so caught up with prophecy. Prophecy is exciting. Everybody likes to think about the end times, but until it may be today, and then we do not want to think about it anymore. But everybody likes to think about the Rapture, the Tribulation Period, the Antichrist. Get into prophecy! We are living in a day and age where right now, over in the Middle East, we are seeing biblical prophecies being fulfilled. It is an exciting time. It is a time where you can actually take your Bible, if you know what you are doing, and get a play-by-play of what is taking place in the Middle East and in America. It is like going to a game and having the playbooks in your hand that tell you exactly what plays all the coaches are sending in. That is what the Bible does for you in the day and age that we live in.

It is unfortunate that that is what Daniel is noted for, because one of the most practical books in the Bible for your everyday life, one of the most practical books in the Bible for what you and I have to deal with in our lives today, is the book of Daniel. I do not know of another book as concise and laid out as you are going to see the book of Daniel is. I am going to try to do a hard thing today. I am going to try to bridge the gap between the inspirational and the doctrinal so I can give you an overview of both aspects without short-cutting either one of them. You are going to have to bear with me because I am going to move back and forth here, but I think it will be in a fashion that you are able to understand it. When you leave here today, I hope you are a little bit wiser and smarter about the things of God than you are when you came in. That is our goal today.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. We ask You, Father, to take the Word of God today and make it real in our hearts. Help us to understand all that we have and all that we do. Lord, to whom much is given, much is required. We pray, Father, that You will quiet our hearts. You will open our minds today, and Holy Spirit of God, do that work of interpreting for us. Show us, lead us, because, Lord, without You, all the knowledge in this room is worthless without the power of the Holy Spirit of God to lead and guide us into all truth. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

I want to stay with the inspirational for just a minute, and we will move back and forth. The Bible says in Proverbs 22:6, a verse that you all know:

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

I want to talk to you today for a little bit about that aspect, because the book of Daniel is a book that shows you the inside details of what it means and how to teach that child. One good thing about our church is the fact that we have a lot of young couples. We have a lot of young people, and continually we have couples with kids, and we have single moms with kids, single dads with kids. We have more couples all the time who are having kids. That is a good, healthy thing for a church. That is why it is so absolutely important that you and I understand some things about the concept of Daniel.

If you are a young man or a young woman this morning, and you are somewhere in your early 20s or maybe in your late teens or wherever you are at, you need to understand what I am saying today because a lot rides on it for your success as a child of God and what you are going to accomplish with the Lord Jesus.

Thursday night I told the folks there, I always give you a little preview of Sunday, and I asked them this question: "What would you do or how would you respond if this morning I could give you the absolute guaranteed results of who was going to win the Super Bowl for the next 20 years?" What would you do with that information? If I could say to you, "Jimmy, here is a list for the next 20 years of who is absolutely guaranteed to win the Super Bowl," you would be a millionaire if you had any brains at all. Remember that story Back to the Future where Michael J. Fox was in there and he bought that sports book for 200 years? His plan was to go back and have all the money; he was going to make a fortune. That is exactly what we would do.

Let me ask you this: What would you say? What would you do if I told you that I could show you absolutely unconditionally for your children:

4. How the devil is going to attack them.
5. When he is going to attack them.
6. Exactly the mode by which he is going to come after them.
7. The exact things that you need to do and understand to counter that, so that you have an absolute understanding in your own life first, and then in the life of your children.
8. If you are a young man or a young lady today, an answer to why you get attacked the way you do when you decide to do what is right with God.

Every answer to those questions is found in the book of Daniel. If you are raising kids here this morning, and that is my real concern, I have such a burden for moms and dads who are trying to raise children in the world that we live in. I have even had parents say to me, or a couple say to me, "We want to have kids, but the world is such a terrible place, and there are so many rotten things, and it is such a wicked place, we are almost afraid to have kids because we do not want to bring kids into this environment and then fail and have them." What they are saying is, "We

would rather stay single without kids than married with kids that we lose because the devil and the world get them." I understand that.

But let me just say this to you: The biblical principles are clear, and the Word of God today works just like it did 2,000 years ago, 1,500 years ago, 1,000 years ago. Please do not think that the Holy Spirit of God would take you to the book of Daniel and then take you into the book of Revelation and lay out for you all the intimate details of the Antichrist. There are places in that Bible I can show you how much the Antichrist weighs. There are places in that Bible I can show you how tall he is. There are places in that Bible I can show you what he thinks about women. When he establishes the kingdom, him and Hillary will get along just fine without Bill. That is his mindset.

I can take you and show you the most intimate details about the Second Coming of Christ, all those things. And yet we fail to understand, we fail to focus on the fact that the same Holy Spirit of God that gives you the intimate details of the end times is the same Holy Spirit of God that gives you the intimate, behind-the-scenes details of how to raise your family, and for a young man or a young lady, to give you the victory, or for a mom and dad, to give you the victory. I told you last week, one of the key words in the Bible is the word "overcome." You are going to see that Daniel is an overcomer. You are going to see how he overcomes. He is one of the seven men that I talked about Thursday night, that I mentioned last week. He is one of the seven men that the Bible says that if you want to learn how to overcome, he is one of the men to study. There are seven of them. We talked about it Thursday night. This is the book of Daniel. The book of Daniel reveals to you and I those concepts that we must understand.

VI. SEC: Nebuchadnezzar's Plan And The Evil Day

I want to read Daniel chapter one here, starting in verse one. Let us come along here with me.

Daniel 1:1-8

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

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

3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Parents, there are some things you need to take notes on. If you have young kids, or you are contemplating someday getting married and having kids, if you want your kids to make it through this world with God and God's hand in their life, if you want an absolute guarantee that will bring you through every trial on this planet, you are about to get the inside information. It is unfortunate that Daniel is so focused on his future references on prophecies, and it is so taken back from being the greatest practical book on how to do it.

- Nebuchadnezzar's Plan
- The Three-Year Provision
- The Evil Day
- Building Character And Courage
- Daily Provision And Redefining Identity
- Daniel's Purpose

VII. SEC: Doctrinal And Inspirational Lessons From Daniel 2-6

- Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream
- Daniel 3: The Fiery Furnace
- Daniel 4-5: Nebuchadnezzar's Insanity And Belshazzar's Feast
- Daniel 6: The Lion's Den

VIII. SEC: Daniel 7: The Gentile Kingdoms

Daniel 7 is the great doctrinal chapter that fills the gaps between Daniel and Revelation. We already saw in Daniel 2, we remember they talked about four kingdoms: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. They run from 606 B.C. up to about 1500 A.D. Now in Daniel 7, we have more kingdoms. Every expositor, every man who lays out Daniel, tries to make these next four match up to the four we just looked at. But that will not work because if you are paying attention, you look at Daniel 7:17. It says that these four kings shall arise. So it cannot match up to the four back there because Babylon is already in effect, and it will not match up that way.

When you get Revelation and you lay this thing out, God is showing you the major kingdoms right up to the Second Coming of Christ. Here is how it runs:

9. It starts out Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. That brings us up to 1500 A.D. on your historical calendar line.
10. Then you have another world power. This one is likened to a lion. There is only one nation on this earth that had the crest of a lion: it is England. By a wild coincidence, England was the world power from 1600 to 1900.
11. Then the next beast down there in Daniel 7:5 is a bear. There is only one nation on the face of this planet that is a bear: it is Russia. Russia becomes a world power from 1914 to 1980. Look at that bear down there. It says it devoured much flesh. Before communism goes to pieces and falls, that bear devoured two-thirds of the world's population under communistic rule.
12. Then the last one, Daniel 7:6, a leopard. The good old U.S.A., the world power from 1900 to 2000. We are the only superpower in the world today. There are no superpowers. England was until 1900. Russia was until 1980. You cannot even find the Russians anymore. You cannot even find communism anymore. It is gone. There is no threat anywhere. The world power now, they are so split up and fractured, the world power now is America. She is likened to a leopard.

Have you ever noticed that leopard? That leopard represents the melting pot of integration. That leopard is a picture of what America is. There are three races in that Bible: Ham, Shem, and Japheth. Ham represents the black man. Japheth represents the white man. Shem represents the yellow man. That leopard is the only animal on the face of this planet that has the black spots of Ham, the white belly of Japheth, and the yellow back of Shem, integrated. You have the nations running down from 606 B.C.: Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, England, Russia, the good old U.S.A., and then right down in Daniel 7:7, here comes the Antichrist, and he shows his run through history, using the Gentile nations as his tools to launch his plan.

IX. SEC: Daniel 8-9: Alexander The Great And Daniel's 70th Week

- Daniel 8: Alexander The Great
- Daniel 9: Daniel's 70th Week