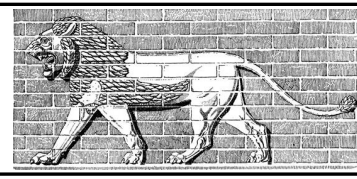


THE BOOK OF
DANIEL
— *Our God Reigns* —



Part 25 — “The Book of Daniel: Longing for the Messiah” — 4 December 2022

Introduction: The Linguistic & Literary Structures of Daniel

Linguistic: Aramaic (2:4b-7:28) — Hebrew (1:1-2:4a; 8:1-12:13) **Literary:** Narrative (1-6) — Prophetic Visions (7-12)

Daniel 7 is the link between the linguistic sections (it comes at the end of the Aramaic section) and the literary sections (it is the first of the prophetic visions), demonstrating its centrality to understanding the message of the book.

Main Point: While the narrative portions of Daniel describe the lives of God’s people in exile because of their failures, the prophetic visions anticipate the coming of Messiah who would save them from both their _____ and their _____.

Earthly Kings & the King of Heaven

1. The book of Daniel begins with a description of the king of Judah falling before the _____ of the king of Babylon.

Dan. 1:1—¹ *In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.*

⇒ Jehoiakim was in many ways the opposite of what the king of God’s people was to be like (Deut. 17:15-20). He was chose to rule by the Egyptians and favored an alliance with them (2 Kings 23:34-35). He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord (2 Kings 23:36) and despised the Word of the Lord (Jer. 36:22-24).

⇒ Nebuchadnezzar embodied the worldly image of a king. A brilliant military commander, he restored the Babylonian empire to its former glory, subduing Egypt, their great enemy. He also beautified the city of Babylon, undertaking great construction projects. Under his rule, the kingdom was administered effectively and thrived.

2. Throughout the book it is demonstrated that that the LORD, the God of Israel, is the sovereign _____ of Heaven.

Dan. 2:47—*The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.”*

Dan. 3:28—*“Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Mesbakh, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.”*

Dan. 5:22-23—²² *And you his son, Belsazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, ²³ but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven*

Key Point: The _____ of Nebuchadnezzar demonstrated that even the most powerful of earthly kings will bow before the power of the King of Heaven!

Dan. 4:2-3—² *It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me. ³ How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.*

Dan. 4:37—*Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.*

The Coming Kingdom of God

1. The book of Daniel anticipates the continued raging of the _____ and the coming of a terrible _____.

⇒ Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (Dan. 2) portrayed the coming of significant gentile empires both in the near future and in the latter days. These empires would fight and devour one another like beasts (Dan. 7-8). From these empires would eventually rise a ruler who would blaspheme God and would persecute His people.

Dan. 7:23-25—²³ “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. ²⁴ As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. ²⁵ He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

2. The book of Daniel anticipates the coming of the Kingdom that _____ will establish and the defeat of the Antagonist who will challenge Him and persecute His people.

Dan. 2:44-45—⁴⁴ And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, ⁴⁵ just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold.

Dan. 7:11—“I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire.

Key Point: Although God’s people find themselves under the rule of unbelieving powers, they can live with _____ because He will fulfill His promises to them.

The Coming Savior

1. The sins of God’s people are both implicit and explicit within the book of Daniel.

Dan. 1:2—And the Lord gave Jeboiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

Dan. 9:8, 11—⁸ To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you....¹¹ All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him.

2. The _____ of Messiah’s coming is made clear and its saving _____ is implied in the prophecy of the Seventy Weeks.

Dan. 9:25-26—¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously...²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever!”²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.”

⇒ That it is said Messiah will be “cut off” is clearly a reference to his death. This harmonizes with what the prophet Isaiah had written about roughly 200 years before (Isa. 53:8).

Key Point: The past, present, and future sins of God’s people would have to be dealt with by Messiah whose death would be as a _____ on their behalf.

The Son of Man

1. The Son of Man figure has both _____ and _____ characteristics.

Dan. 7:14—“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

2. It is implied that the Son of Man is the One who will _____ over the Kingdom of God.

Dan. 7:14—And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

3. It is implied that the Son of Man is the One who will _____ for God’s people what they do not deserve.

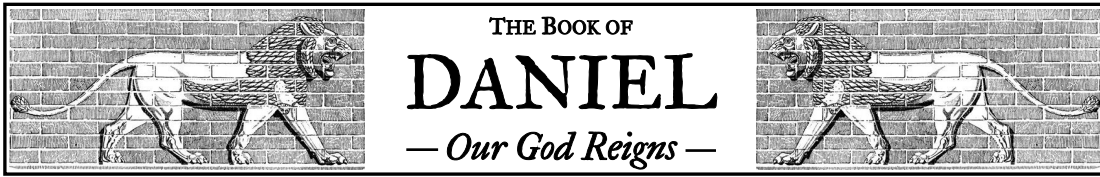
Dan. 9:27—And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’

Key Point: The Divine Son of Man is the only one who can _____ God’s people from both their sins and their enemies!

Daniel & Avent

• The coming of the Magi to worship Jesus _____ the accuracy of Daniel’s prophetic visions and _____ their ultimate fulfillment in the return of Christ to rule and reign.

Matt. 2:1, 10-11—¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”...¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.



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Key Point: The humbling of Nebuchadnezzar demonstrated that even the most powerful of earthly kings will bow before the power of the King of Heaven!

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