

# DANIEL: Life in the Present; Hope for Our Future

## Chapter 9 The Future Past: The Four Beasts

(Daniel Chapters 8-9; Revelation 13:1-7; 17:17)

### REVIEW:

Ch. 2 – Nebuchadnezzar vision = 4 kingdoms (Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome) – fifth Kingdom = Messiah's, eternal

Ch. 7 – Daniel's vision = 4 Kingdoms, but from a heavenly perspective (we see God give the last Kingdom to Jesus)

- We see the continuation of Rome (E.U.), introduction of the Anti-Christ, 7 yr tribulation, 3.5 great trib.

Ch. 8 - The Focus of Ch. 8 is the breakup of the Grecian Empire – Alexander, 4 generals, Antiochus Epiphanes, AC

7:25 He will speak <sup>[w]</sup>out against the Most High and wear down the <sup>[s]</sup>saints of the Highest One, **and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law**; = man of lawlessness (antichrist will be a law unto himself= autocrat) and <sup>[a]</sup>they (Jews who believe; new Christians) **will be given into his hand** for a <sup>[a]</sup>time, <sup>[a]</sup>times, and half a <sup>[a]</sup>time. **(3.5 years of the Great Tribulation).**

**Revelation 13:1-7** “Then I saw a **beast** [kingdom/Antichrist] coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns *were* ten diadems, and on his heads *were* blasphemous names. <sup>2</sup> And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like *those* of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon [satan] gave *him* his power and his throne and great authority. <sup>3</sup> **I saw one of his heads as if it had been <sup>[b]</sup>slain, and his fatal wound was healed.** And the whole earth was amazed *and followed* after the beast;<sup>4</sup> they worshiped the dragon [satan] because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” <sup>5</sup> There was given to him a mouth speaking <sup>[a]</sup>arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for **forty-two months** (3.5 years) was given to him. <sup>6</sup> And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is*, those who <sup>[d]</sup>dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> It was also given to him to make war with the <sup>[s]</sup>saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. <sup>8</sup> All who dwell on the earth will worship him, **everyone whose name has not been <sup>[f]</sup>written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.**”

**Daniel 7:26** But the court [in heaven] will sit *for judgment*, and his (antichrist's) dominion will be taken away, <sup>[a]</sup>annihilated and destroyed <sup>[a]</sup>forever. <sup>27</sup> Then the <sup>[a]</sup>sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the <sup>[s]</sup>saints of the Highest One; (1000 year reign on this earth) His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’

**READ Daniel Chapter 8** –ch. 8 refers to **Greece**, Alexander, and then **Antiochus Epiphanes** (Abom. /Desolations)

Vs. 4: “I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no *other* beasts could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his <sup>[w]</sup>power, **but he did as he pleased and magnified *himself*.**”

Vs. 12: “And on account of transgression [Israel's sin] the host will be given over *to the horn* along with the regular sacrifice; **and it will fling truth to the ground and perform *its will* and prosper.** <sup>13</sup> Then I heard a holy one speaking, [Angel] and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, “How long will the vision *about* the regular sacrifice apply, <sup>[w]</sup>while the transgression causes horror, so as to allow both the holy place and the host <sup>[w]</sup>to be trampled?” <sup>14</sup> He said to me, “For 2,300 evenings *and* mornings; then the holy place will be <sup>[w]</sup>properly restored.” -Sept. 6, 171BC - Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 165BC

=6.5 yrs Antiochus persecuted Jews in Israel, until Judas Maccabeus defeats Greece & restored the Temple (menorah)

### Interpretation of the Vision

<sup>15</sup> When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought <sup>[w]</sup>to understand it; and behold, standing before me was one <sup>[s]</sup>who looked like a man. <sup>16</sup> And I heard the voice of a man between *the banks of* Ulai, and he called out and said, “**Gabriel**, give this *man* [Daniel] an understanding of the vision.” <sup>17</sup> So he came near to where I was standing, and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, “Son of man, understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end.” <sup>18</sup> Now while he was talking with me, I sank into a deep sleep with my

face to the ground; but he touched me and made me stand <sup>(u)</sup>upright.<sup>19</sup> He said, “Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for *it* pertains to the appointed time of the end.

**Vs. 21:** The shaggy <sup>(u)</sup>goat *represents* the <sup>(u)</sup>kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king [Alexander the great].<sup>22</sup> The broken *horn* and the four *horns that* arose in its place *represent* four kingdoms *which* will arise from *his* nation, although not with his power.

<sup>23</sup> “In the latter period of their <sup>(u)</sup>rule, When the transgressors have <sup>(u)</sup>run *their course*, A king will arise, [Antiochus Epiphanes = TYPE (prefigure, a foreshadow of the **Antichrist** to come in the end times)]

<sup>(u)</sup>Insolent and skilled in <sup>(z)</sup>intrigue.<sup>24</sup> “His power will be mighty, but not by his *own* power, [demonic] And he will <sup>(aa)</sup>destroy to an extraordinary degree - And prosper and perform *his will*; He will <sup>(ab)</sup>destroy mighty men [3 countries] and <sup>(ac)</sup>the holy people. [Dedicated to exterminating the Jews]

<sup>25</sup> “And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify *himself* in his heart, And he will <sup>(ae)</sup>destroy many while *they are* <sup>(af)</sup>at ease. [he breaks the peace treaty 3.5yrs in] He will even <sup>(ag)</sup>oppose the Prince of princes, [Messiah] But he will be broken without human agency.

<sup>26</sup> “The vision of the evenings and mornings Which has been told is true; **But keep the vision secret (seal IT UP) For *it* pertains to many days in the future.**”

<sup>27</sup> Then I, Daniel, was <sup>(ah)</sup>exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up *again* and carried on the king’s business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to <sup>(ai)</sup>explain *it*.”

- Church, the devil is real. He is a real enemy of God and the Church. Devil is a creation, not all-powerful =limited
- The AntiChrist in the end times will be a real king/president. His charge is to get the world to reject God and worship satan. He acts like “Jesus” (the false Messiah) within the Unholy trinity: The Dragon, The Antichrist, and the False Prophet in Rev. ch. 13, and 19:20; **The designation Antichrist means he is ‘anti’ - against Christ**
- The Church will not have to worry about this – The devil & antichrist are tools God will use to accomplish His perfect purposes on the earth. \*Rev. 17:17 “For God has put it in their heart to execute His purpose by having a common purpose and by giving their kingdom to the beast until the words of God will be fulfilled.”

**Daniel 9** In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans— <sup>2</sup> in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was *revealed as* the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, *namely*, seventy years.[Jeremiah 25:11-12] <sup>3</sup> So I <sup>(aj)</sup>gave my attention to the Lord God to seek *Him* by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. [lit. I set my face toward God] <sup>4</sup> I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed and said, “Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, <sup>5</sup> we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. <sup>6</sup> Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land.

<sup>19</sup> O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! **For Your own sake**, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.” = Daniel appeals to God’s own Glory and the covenant people who are called by His Name. And that even though Israel has broken the covenant with God, God is STILL faithful to heal and restore, to call them back into Right relationship with God = **mercy & grace**

**Powerful prayer of a man broken for his country & in love with His righteous God.**

**Daniel has seen time again the powerful hand of God to intervene and rescue = love relationship w/ God**

- **Daniel acknowledges the sins of the people of Israel (he is in mourning as he prays = fasting, sackcloth & ashes) = he sets his posture toward the face of God. He is preparing to spend much time w/ God in prayer = ALL Day prayer vigil.**

- **32 times, Daniel acknowledges his own sin with the sin of Israel.**
- **Daniel confesses their corporate sin**
- **Daniel acknowledges their deserved judgment**
- **Daniel asks for God's mercy, to end their punishment after 70 years and allow them to return to Israel**
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- **\*\*God not only answered Daniel's prayer – but God sent an Angel to explain the purpose of Israel going forward – why will they continue to exist? What is their purpose? God's plan for Israel??**

<sup>20</sup> Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and <sup>(a)</sup>presenting my supplication before the Lord my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God, <sup>21</sup> while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision <sup>(a)</sup>previously, <sup>(a)</sup>came to me <sup>(a)</sup>in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering. <sup>22</sup> He gave *me* instruction and talked with me and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding." <sup>23</sup> **At the beginning of your supplications the <sup>(a)</sup>command was issued**, and I have come to tell *you*, *for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.*

**\*HUGE . . . God is about to give Daniel insight as to when the Messiah will come .....HUGE ..... (and that he will die).... What???? (Then = the most difficult passage in the O.T.)**

**\*\*“Week” = 70 units of 7 = week = 7 days, Weeks= a unit of 7 (lit. seventy .. sevens) = 490 (490 days = 16 months; 490 weeks = 9.5yrs = both too short to represent the time to Messiah) = years**

<sup>24</sup> **“Seventy weeks, (or seventy sevens), have been decreed for your people [Jews] and your holy city [Jerusalem – the Temple] = this prophecy concerns the future of Israel and their purpose & the timing of their future**  
 -to <sup>(a)</sup>finish the transgression, = To end the apostasy of the Jewish people by returning home & restraining sin in the renewal of the Levitical sacrificial system.

-to <sup>(a)</sup>make an end of sin, = To finish the sacrificial system with the introduction of Messiah who will atone for all sin (Heb. 9:26)

-to make atonement for iniquity, = The Messiah's death will fulfill this for Jews (Zech. 12:10; Romans 11:26-27)

\*These first three purposes (though they pertain to Israel) will all happen when the Messiah comes to earth =Advent

- BUT...these would make **NO sense** to the Jew – not understanding that their divine Messiah would need to die in order to fulfill all of these prophecies – on their behalf, for the redemption of Israel.

\*\*The next three will happen when Messiah is cut off, then raised from the dead -

-to bring in everlasting righteousness, =The Messiah will inaugurate God's kingdom: spiritually-physically-eternally

-to seal up vision and prophecy [lit. prophet] and = that God would end giving prophets and prophecy for Israel (Heb. 1:1-3) since the Messiah would be the last and ultimate Voice of God for the people of Israel (accept? Reject?)

-to anoint the most holy place. The re-constituting of the Holy of holies in the temple? But when? Millennial Kingdom (Ezekiel 40-48)

<sup>25</sup> So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem

until Messiah the [Ruler] Prince, *there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks = 69 WEEKS (483 years)*

**7weeks (49 years) + 62weeks (434 years) = 69 weeks or 483 years. A Jewish year fluctuated between 360-355**

**The 483 years begins with the decree to restore and build Jerusalem (Neh. 2:1-8); Artaxerxes 445BC**

*it will be built again, with <sup>(a)</sup>plaza and moat, even in times of distress.* It took Nehemiah 49 years to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple.

<sup>26</sup> Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, 434 years after the restoration of Jerusalem (9<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan, 30AD) =Jesus' triumphal entry (= Palm Sunday). Then He was crucified 5 days later. = Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, AD33 (by the Roman Calendar)

\*\*This is

The Messiah will be cut off [Heb. He will be killed, or ended] and have nothing [Heb. but not for Himself]=not because He Himself was sinful.

'He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He **was cut off** out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due?* His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth" Isaiah 53:7-9 Extraordinarily accurate.

This had to be SO confusing to Daniel ...

Vs. 26: *and the people of the prince who is to come* [Rome; the antichrist comes from Roman descent -E.U.], and Rome] *will destroy the city and the sanctuary* [70AD – partial fulfillment]. *And its end will come with a flood; even to the end* <sup>(and)</sup> *there will be war; desolations are determined.*

### **The Last "WEEK" ... The last seven years (Tribulation):**

Still Future: <sup>27</sup> *And he* [antichrist] *will make a firm covenant with the many for one week* [7 years], *but in the middle of the week* [3.5 years] *he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate* [Angel of destruction in Rev.], *even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate* [antichrist]." = [Ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy = Rev. 15-18]

#### **In summary, what the Angel revealed to Daniel is that:**

- **The Jews will be able to return to Israel and rebuild the temple and their city -7w=49yrs**
- **Then the Jews will continue w/ Sacrifices until the Messiah comes - 62w=434yrs**
- **Then the Messiah will minister to God's people, but He will be rejected & cut off at the end of 69w=483yrs (roughly around 33AD)**
- **Because Israel rejects God's Messiah in the person of Jesus Christ, Jerusalem and the Temple are again destroyed by the Romans this time as punishment from God; all of Israel is scattered (the diaspora)**
- **Then, there is a Pause for Israel, a hardening: an age of grace for the Gentiles = "The times of the Gentiles"**  
Luke 21:24 *"They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."*  
Romans 11:25 *"I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in"*
- **Then, when the Times of the Gentiles is complete, the last week (7 years) will occur and God will once again deal with the Jews and Jerusalem.** They will face the Great Tribulation of (Matthew 24; Luke 21, & Rev. 4-18)
- **Then Messiah will return,** (the Second Coming) and ALL those (Jew & Gentile alike) who believe in Jesus as Messiah will be saved and enter into a literal 1000 year reign with Jesus & ALL of the OT prophecies concerning Israel will be finally fulfilled, literally on this earth.

### **So, What is our take away from Chapter 9?**

- We have a lot to learn from Daniel about our heart and posture of Prayer. He encourages us to take prayer seriously.
- The Angel Gabriel stated that Daniel was esteemed by God. Watch his life. There is much for us to learn (especially when times are tough). Is there hope for you to be esteemed by God?
- God gave grace to Israel and restored them to their homeland. God is a Covenant God; He is faithful always.
- God showed that the Messiah would be the fulfillment of Israel's purpose. That in Him, they would find their hope and calling – to be a continual lighthouse to all nations. (*My house shall be a house of prayer for all nations*)
- God predicted when the Messiah would come, 483 years before He did, and that He would die.

**APPLICATION:** God has a plan for this world; throughout history, God has been working out His plan and purposes. YOU are part of that. Your redemption. Your future. - Is God calling you to be justice to the world? Grace?