

## **Life-Study of Daniel Summary – Messages 1 to 8**

### **Introduction**

**The subject:** The destiny of Israel apportioned out by God, the contents of the seventy weeks.

This book not only covers the destiny of Israel but also covers the Gentile government and Christ. The book of Daniel shows us that Israel and human government are for Christ. Christ is the centrality and the universality of God's move, and this move is intrinsically involved with Israel and the Gentile government.

**The contents:** The seventy weeks apportioned out by God for Israel. One week equals seven years. These seventy weeks are divided into the first seven weeks, the middle 62 weeks, and the last week.

**The central thought:** The ruling of the heavens by the God of the heavens over all the human government on earth matches God's eternal economy for Christ to terminate the old creation for the germination of the new creation and to smash and crush the aggregate of human government and establish the eternal kingdom of God.

### **The Victory of the Young Descendants of God's Degraded Elect Over Satan's Further Devices**

**Dan. 1:2** – And the Lord gave Jehoiakim the king of Judah into [Nebuchadnezzar's] hand with some of the vessels of the house of God...

The issue of the degradation of God's elect was the **captivity to Babylon**. When God's people were captured back to the place of the worship of idols, they were taken back to Babel, to the original place of the worship of idols by their forefather Abraham. The captivity to Babylon was the **utter destruction of the testimony of God's elect in the worship of the unique God**, Jehovah, by the carrying of some of the vessels of the temple of God into the land of Shinar and their being put into the temple of idols.

**Dan. 1:3-4** – Then the king told Ashpenaz... to bring some of the sons of Israel... in whom was the ability to stand in the king's palace. And [he told him] to teach them the learning and language of the Chaldeans.

Among such sons of Israel were some **young overcomers** whom God used to gain the victory over Satan's devices. In His sovereignty He had arranged for Daniel and his companions to be taken to Babylon, where they were His overcomers.

Daniel 1:3-7 describes Nebuchadnezzar's devilish temptation. First Nebuchadnezzar tried to seduce Daniel and his three companions to be defiled in partaking of his **unclean food**, food offered to idols. When Daniel and his companions refused to eat the unclean food, they were actually **rejecting the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and taking the tree of life**. If we are careless in our eating, in our shopping, in where we go, and in what we do, we may take in something related to idols, something demonic. If we eat godly food—that is, if we eat God as our food—we will be one with God.

Daniel fought the battle by countering the devil's temptation with **bold rejection**. God honoured Daniel's fighting, and Daniel and his companions became the overcomers among the remnant of God's defeated elect. God blessed Daniel and his three companions with knowledge and insight in all learning and wisdom, and He blessed Daniel especially with understanding in all visions and dreams. From God Daniel received wisdom, insight, understanding, and longevity.

In chapter 2, we have Daniel's vision from God concerning Nebuchadnezzar's dream. In his interpreting of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Daniel exalted God. The contents of the dream were a **great human image and its destiny**. This great image signifies the aggregate of human government throughout human history, from the beginning of human government in Babel in the land of Shinar, as signified by the head, to the

termination of human government in human history in the Roman Empire with the ten kings, as signified by the ten toes.

In the great human image, the **head of gold**, corresponding to the first beast signifies Nebuchadnezzar, the founder and the king of **Babylon**. The **breast and the arms of silver** signify **Medo-Persia**. The **abdomen and thighs of bronze** signify **Greece**, including Macedonia. The **legs of iron and the feet partly of iron and partly of clay** signify the **Roman Empire with its last ten kings**. The culture of the world is an accumulation of culture from the time of Nimrod until the present. Today we are still under the influence of Roman culture, especially in the matters of law, politics, and government.

The destiny of the great human image is to be **crushed by a stone cut out without hands**, at its appearing. This stone cut without hands is Christ. The great human image will be replaced with a **great mountain**, signifying the eternal kingdom of God, which will fill the whole earth. The church today is Christ's increase in life, but the eternal kingdom of God is Christ's increase in administration.

In chapter 3 Satan's strategy was to seduce the young overcomers among God's defeated elect in the worship of idols through Nebuchadnezzar's blindness. Nebuchadnezzar made a **great image of gold** and commanded all the peoples, nations, and languages to worship his golden image. Daniel's three companions were among the high officials gathered, but Daniel was not present.

Nebuchadnezzar tempted the young overcomers by giving them another chance to worship his golden image. Their response to Nebuchadnezzar was impolite and very bold. Yet there was still something of the natural thought in their response. They said that God was able to deliver them from the blazing furnace. Actually, **God did not deliver them from the furnace. He kept them in the furnace and made the fire of no effect.**

When the enemy throws us into the furnace, we should realize that we do not need to ask the Lord to deliver us. **He will come to be with us and take care of us in our suffering, making our place of suffering a pleasant situation.** The three young overcomers gained the victory over the seduction of idol worship. They did not care for Satan. Today, in this dark age, everything seems to be discouraging. But there is still a group of overcomers to stand against the tide and to carry out God's worship, testimony, and interest on earth.

Daniel 4:4-18 are a record of Nebuchadnezzar's testimony. Daniel came to interpret another of Nebuchadnezzar's dreams. In his dream the Most High God had decreed that Nebuchadnezzar would be driven out from among mankind, dwell with the beasts of the field, be made to eat grass as bulls, and lose his reasoning until he came to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men. Because this dream was fulfilled, Nebuchadnezzar blessed the Most High and praised and honored the ever-living One, and the record of Nebuchadnezzar comes to an end.

**Dan. 5:1,4** – Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords; and he drank wine before the thousand... They drank wine and **praised the gods** of gold and of silver, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Daniel 5 is a continuation of Daniel 4. Belshazzar (a descendant of Nebuchadnezzar and a king of Babylon), under the influence of wine, commanded men to bring the gold and silver vessels that Nebuchadnezzar his forefather had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem, that he, his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them and **praise the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone**. At that very moment, the fingers of a man's hand came forth and wrote opposite the lampstand upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace. Daniel interpreted the writing on the wall. In his interpretation, Daniel says that **God has numbered Belshazzar's kingdom and brought it to an end, Belshazzar has been weighed in the scales and found to be lacking, and his kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and the Persians**. Belshazzar was slain that very night and Darius the Mede received the kingdom.

In the first five chapters of Daniel, there are a number of lessons for us to learn. In chapter one, we learn that **we should not care for the worldly choice and the worldly taste but set our heart on God** and have a taste only for vegetables, that is, for simple food. In chapter five, we see the importance of being **serious with God and not disregarding any spiritual lesson**. In chapter four, we see that we need to be **careful and not consider what we have achieved** as our achievement may make us proud, and this may usher in God's judgment.

Daniel 6 is very crucial because it shows us how God carries out His economy with His elect for Christ's coming. **God's move is like a train which must have rails for it's move. Man's prayers are like the rails which pave the way for God's move to go on. There is no other way to bring God's economy into fullness and into fulfillment except by prayer.**

During the time of Darius, Daniel distinguished himself among the chief ministers and satraps and the king considered setting him over the whole kingdom. Being jealous of Daniel, the chief ministers and satraps with the high officers of the kingdom took counsel that the king should establish a statute and make firm an edict that anyone who made a petition within the next thirty days to any god or man besides the king should be cast into the lions' den; **Satan, who was behind them wanted to stop or cut off the channel of prayer God was using for the carrying out of His economy. Despite this, Daniel continued to pray.** Verses 19-24 shows us God's deliverance of Daniel. Just as the Lord did not quench the fire for Daniel's three companions, He also did not slay the lions for Daniel's sake. Instead, He shut the lions' mouth, making their teeth of no effect. After Daniel was taken out of the den, those who had accused Daniel were thrown into the lions' den with their children and wives. The lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

**Dan. 6:26-27** – ... For He is the living God/And enduring forever;/And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed,/And His dominion will be unto the end. He delivers and rescues,/And He does signs and wonders/In heaven and on earth;/[It is He] who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Verses 25-28 reveal God's victory over Satan in the worship of God on earth, even in a Gentile kingdom, through the overcomers in the captivity of His defeated elect. Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in the whole earth, making a decree that in all the dominion of his kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.

(Life-Study of Daniel – Messages 1 to 6)