

## Life-Study of Daniel Review

The Subject: The destiny of Israel apportioned out by God, the contents of the seventy weeks. The seventy weeks are the destiny apportioned out by God to Israel.

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

**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 **food offered to idols**. Daniel fought with **bold rejection**. God honoured Daniel's fighting, and Daniel and his companions became the overcomers among the remnant of God's defeated elect.

In chapter 2, we have Daniel's vision from God concerning Nebuchadnezzar's dream, **the 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 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. The **head** of gold signifies Nebuchadnezzar, the founder and the king of **Babylon**. The **breast and 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 clay signify the **Roman Empire** with its last ten kings. The destiny of the great human image is to be **crushed by a stone cut out without hands**. The great human image will be replaced with a great mountain which will fill the whole earth.

In chapter 3 Nebuchadnezzar made a great image of gold and commanded all the people, nations, and languages to **worship his golden image**. Daniel's three companions' response to Nebuchadnezzar was impolite and very bold. They gained the victory over the seduction of idol worship. 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.

Daniel 5 is a continuation of Daniel 4. Belshazzar and his lords, wives, and concubine drank from the vessels taken out of the temple and **praised the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone**. Because of this, God numbered Belshazzar's kingdom and brought it to an end.

Daniel 6 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 its 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 except by prayer.**

### **The Vision Concerning the Four Beasts Out of the Mediterranean Sea**

**Dan. 7:2-3** – ... I was watching in my vision by night, and there were the four winds of heaven, stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from each other.

Daniel 7 describes the four beasts which came out of the Mediterranean Sea. The Mediterranean Sea was the center of the inhabited earth. The four winds signify moves of heaven from four directions; the stirring up of the great sea signifies the **stirring up of the political situation** around the Mediterranean Sea; and the four beasts signify four great, fierce, cruel, and inhuman kings with their empires.

The **first beast** corresponds to the head of gold of the great human image signifying Babylon with its founder and king Nebuchadnezzar. The **second beast** resembled a bear and signifies Medo-Persia. The **third beast** was like a leopard signifying that it was fierce, cruel, and swift. The third beast signifies Greece with its kings, Alexander the Great. The **fourth beast** corresponds to the legs and feet of the great human image, signifying the Roman Empire. **Antichrist** will come up among the ten kings of the Roman Empire and will have sharp sight to perceive things and a mouth to speak great things against God. Because of this, Antichrist will be slain, and his body will be destroyed and given to the burning fire. As the stone cut out without hands, Christ will become a great mountain and will fill the whole earth forever and ever. **Christ's coming will terminate the entire human government on earth from its end to its beginning, and it will bring in the eternal kingdom of God.**

Human government not only **rebels against God, exalts man, and worships idols** but also **fights against God directly**. However, Christ, the embodiment of God, will come with His bride to crush the human government. Ephesians reveals that the church is not only Christ's bride but is also a warrior. In His coming to crush human government, Christ will be the Husband with the overcomers as His bride.

### **The Vision Concerning the Seventy Weeks**

**Dan. 9:24** – Seventy weeks are apportioned for your people and for your holy city, to close the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make propitiation for iniquity, and to bring in the righteousness of the ages, and to seal up vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.

In Daniel 9:3-23 we see the way to obtain the vision of the seventy weeks—**Daniel's desperate seeking of the Lord God in prayer and supplications with fasting**. In his desperate prayer, Daniel requested that God recover the holy land, send His people back, and rebuild the holy city. But God answered him by giving him the report through the angel Gabriel of the seventy weeks.

The seventy weeks are divided into three parts, with each week being seven years, not seven days, in length. **First**, seven weeks of forty-nine years were apportioned **from the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem to the completion of the rebuilding**. **Second**, sixty-two weeks of four hundred thirty-four years were apportioned **from the completion of the rebuilding of Jerusalem to the cutting off of the Messiah**. The cutting off of Messiah—the crucifixion of Christ—was the **termination of the old creation with the human government** in the old creation and the **germination through the resurrection of Christ of God's new creation** with God's eternal kingdom as the divine administration in God's new creation. Finally, we have **one week of seven years**. This week will be for **Antichrist to make a firm covenant with the people of Israel**.

Between the sixty-ninth week and the last week, there is a gap which has already lasted for nearly two thousand years. In this gap the church is being secretly and mysteriously built by Christ in His resurrection to be the Body of Christ and bride of Christ.

For us to know God's economy and to know that in God's economy Christ is the centrality and universality of God's move, we need to see the spiritual things behind the physical. Apparently, all of the struggles are merely the activities of human governments represented by the great human image. Actually, God was behind the physical world managing the entire situation.

(Life-Study of Daniel)