

Lesson 7 – Getting Started With Prophecy

Introduction: “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” (Rev. 1:3). This lesson begins our study of prophecy.



Three basic premises will control our study in this Prophecy Seminar:

- 1. The prophetic symbols in both Daniel and Revelation must be interpreted by the Bible itself.**
- 2. Prophecy can be understood correctly only as it centers in and uplifts Jesus Christ.**
- 3. The focus of our study will be on the preparation needed for the end time.**



**If the world
came with an
owner's manual,
this would
be it.**



1. Who alone truly knows the future? Isa. 46:9, 10 [The Further-study verse is John 14:29]

Isa. 46:9, 10

9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

- **John 14:**²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
- ²⁸ Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.
- ²⁹ And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.



**To what event
does the book of
Daniel point?**

Daniel 12:4, 9, 13 (1320)



**The Time
of the
End!!!**

2. Has God revealed the future? Amos 3:7 [2 Peter 1:19-21]

Amos 3:7

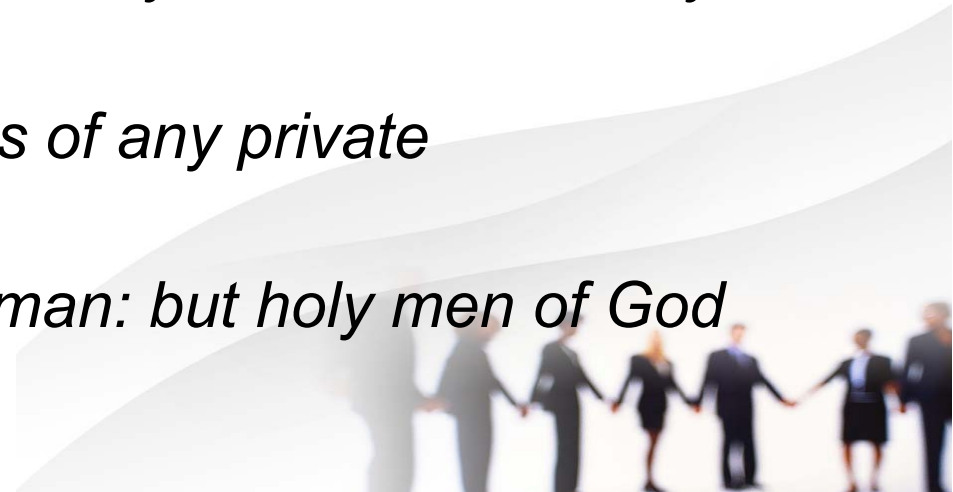
7 Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

2 Peter 1:19-21

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.



3. Which prophecies did Jesus mention by name, saying we should understand them? Matt. 24:15 [Rev. 10:1, 2]

Matt. 24:15

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

In the Great Controversy it connects the abomination of desolation to the siege of Jerusalem by the armies of pagan Rome in 66-70 AD, when the Roman armies placed their idolatrous standard on holy ground outside the walls of Jerusalem. The book of Revelation identifies the papacy as the mother of abominations as well as the mother of harlots.

As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal Sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains.



**A common question, frequently asked at
this time is:**

***If Scripture is so clear, how can the
ministers, evangelists and their followers
not accept it?***

See – 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12



2 Thessalonians 2: 8-12

⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.



4. For what time period was the book of Daniel especially written? Dan. 12:4 [Note: Daniel and Revelation are both about the last days; but Daniel was written first and Revelation builds on its prophecies. In order to understand the two books we must start with Daniel and with Daniel's first prophecy. Each succeeding prophecy is built upon the ones before. Dan. 8:17; 12:9]

Dan. 12:4

4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

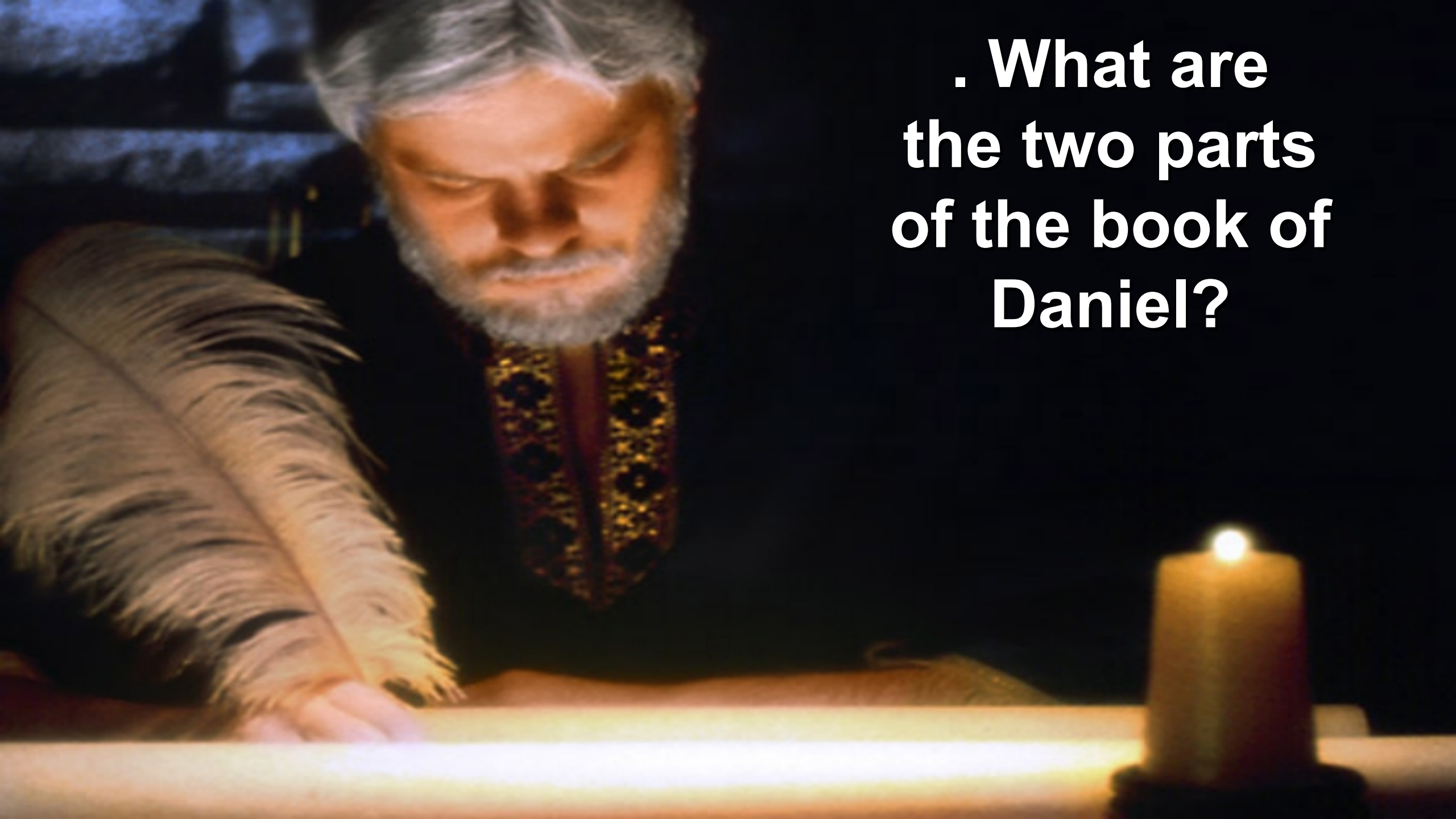
Dan. 8:17

17 So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.

Daniel 12:9

9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.





**. What are
the two parts
of the book of
Daniel?**

1. Historical



2. Prophetic



How is the Book of Daniel to be Interpreted?

Daniel 2

gives us the broad outline of human history from Daniel's day to our day.

Daniel 7

covers the same period with different symbols, and elaborates on a certain period in the time of the end.

Daniel 8 and 9

cover the same ground, but add further details on the time of the end.

Daniel 10 through 12

likewise go over the same ground and further expand our understanding of the end time.

5. What circumstances led up to Daniel's first prophecy? Dan. 2:1-3 [Dan. 2:1-23, 29]

[Dan. 2:1-23, 29]

And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.

8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.

9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.



5. What circumstances led up to Daniel's first prophecy? (cont'd)

10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.

11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

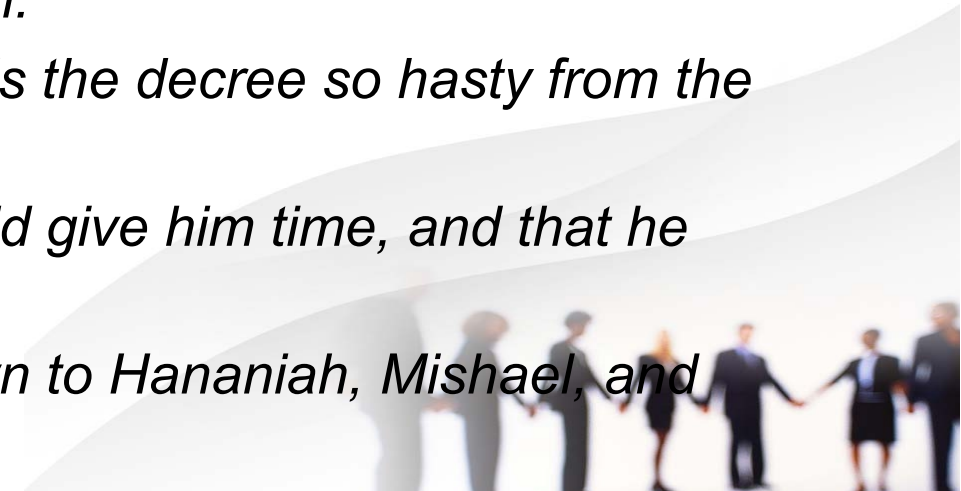
13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:



5. What circumstances led up to Daniel's first prophecy? (cont'd)

18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.



6. Who explained the dream, and what period of earth's history did it picture? Dan. 2:27, 28 [Dan. 2:19]

Dan. 2:27, 28

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Dan. 2:19

19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.



7. What was the dream? Dan. 2:31-35 [Acts 17:26]

Dan. 2:31-35

31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Acts 17:26

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;



8. There are two vital principles we must understand to interpret correctly Daniel and Revelation:

(1) These prophecies are given in symbols; and (2) The symbols are interpreted by the Bible itself.

In this first prophecy, God makes it easy by giving the interpretation immediately. What did the head of gold represent? Dan. 2:36-38 [Note: Nebuchadnezzar represented Babylon. "King" and "kingdom" often mean the same in prophecy (Dan. 2:39; 7:17, 23). Hos. 12:10; Isa. 14:4]

Dan. 2:36-38

36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

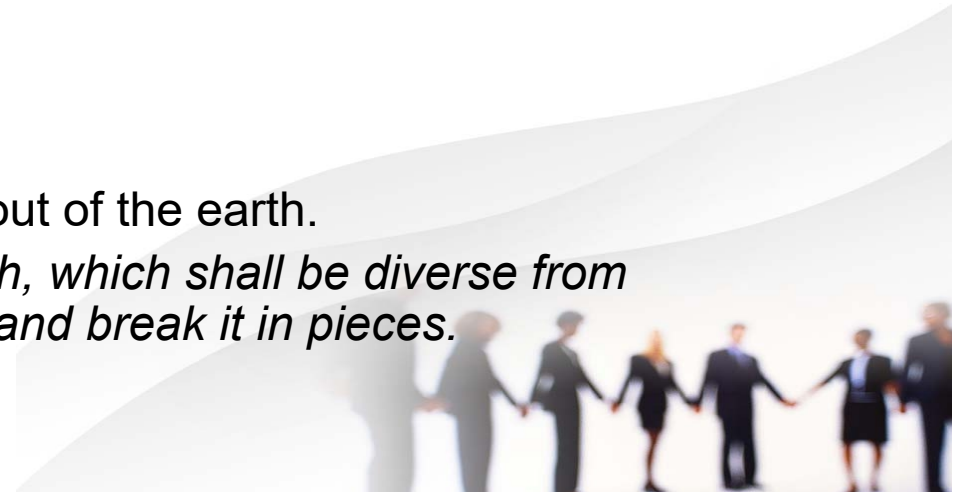
Dan. 2:39

39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth

Dan..7:17, 23

17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.



.9. What did the silver, bronze and iron represent? Dan. 2:39, 40 [Note: The three kingdoms that followed Babylon were Persia (or Media-Persia), Greece and Rome respectively. Dan. 5:28; 8:20, 21]

Dan. 2:39, 40

39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

Dan. 5:28

28 Peres; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Daniel 8:20, 21

20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.

21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.



10. To see how prophecy builds on itself, note how these same four kingdoms are described again, in greater detail, in the next major prophecy of Daniel. What symbols did God use this time? Dan. 7:2-7, 17

Dan. 7:2-7, 17

2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.



11. What would happen to Rome, the fourth kingdom? Dan. 7:23, 24a [Note: As predicted, only three world powers followed Babylon. Rome was never succeeded, but from 351 to 476 A.D. it was divided up into the following divisions by warring factions within: AngloSaxons (England), Franks (France), Suevi (Portugal), Visigoths (Spain), Alamani (Germany), Burgundians, Lombards, Ostrogoths, Heruls, and Vandals.]

Dan. 7:23, 24a

23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them;



12. How is this breakup of Rome into modern Europe described in Daniel 2? Will Europe ever be reunited? Dan. 2:41-43 [Dan. 2:21]

Dan. 2: 41-43

41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

Dan. 2:21

21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:



13. What will happen in the days of divided Europe? Dan. 2:44 [Matt 21:44]

Dan. 2:44

44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Matt 21:44

And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.



14. How does Revelation describe this event? Rev. 11:15-18 [Rev. 6:14-17]

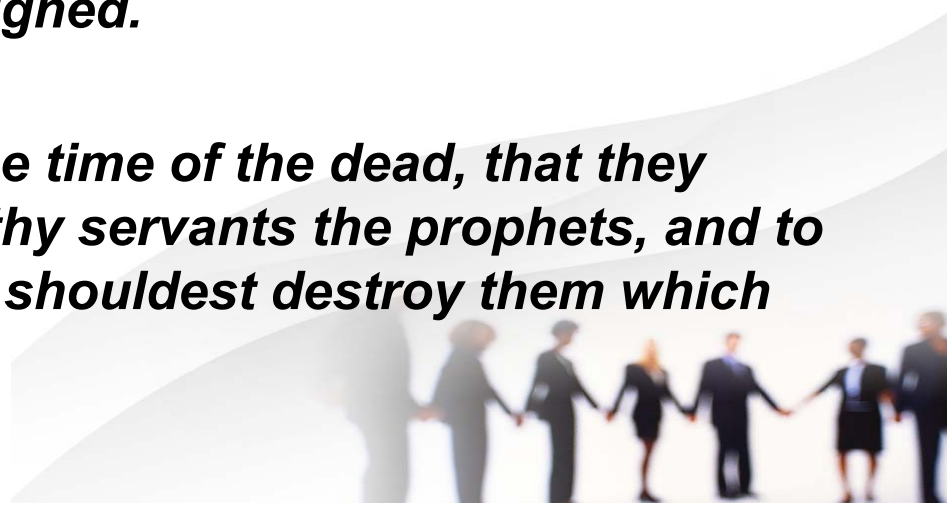
Rev. 11:15-18

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.



14. How does Revelation describe this event? Rev. 11:15-18 [Rev. 6:14-17] (cont'd)

Rev. 6:14-17

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

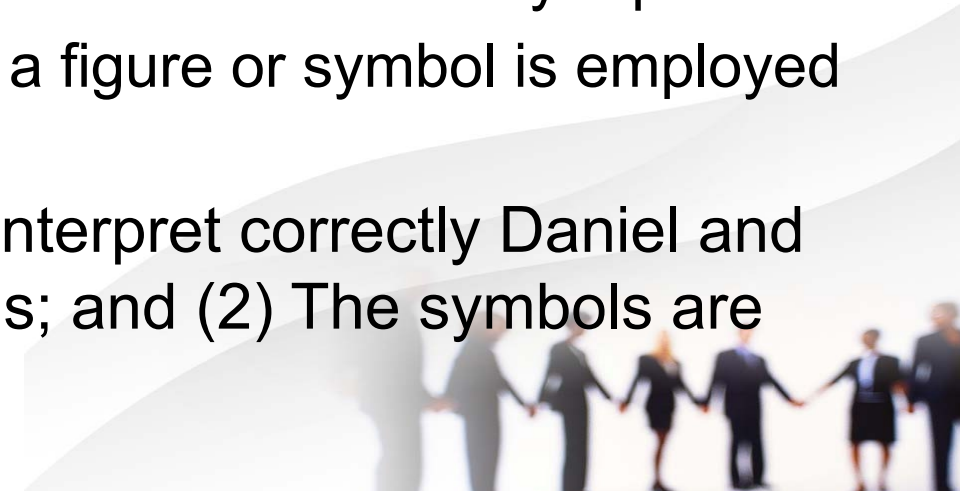


- Commitment: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and pagan Rome have all passed away—we are now living in the tiptoes of the image, just before the new kingdom is set up! When God's kingdom comes, with what group of people, as described in our last text, do you want to be found?



Getting Started with Prophecy Questions

- 1. To what event does the book of Daniel point? What are the two books called?**
- 2. Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any _____ interpretation.*
3. For what time period was the book of Daniel and Revelation especially written? Which one was sealed?
4. What are the two parts of the book of Daniel?
5. What circumstances led up to Daniel's first prophecy?
6. Describe the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream and what kingdoms they represented.
7. Daniel had a vision in ch 7, what were these 4 great beast and what did they represent?
8. The language of the Bible must be taken literally unless a figure or symbol is employed
True or False
9. There are two vital principles we must understand to interpret correctly Daniel and Revelation: (1) These prophecies are given in symbols; and (2) The symbols are interpreted by the _____ itself.
10. What will happen in the days of divided Europe?



Questions and Answers

1. To what event does the book of Daniel point? What are the two twin books called?
a. The time of the end b. An Apocalypse (End time destruction of the world)
2. *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any Private interpretation.*
3. For what time period was the book of Daniel and Revelation especially written? Which one was sealed? **a. The end times b. Daniel**
4. What are the two parts of the book of Daniel? **Historical and Prophetic**
5. What circumstances led up to Daniel's first prophecy? **Nebuchadnezzar's first dream**
6. Describe the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream and what kingdoms they represented.
**a. Head-Gold Babylon b. Breasts and Arms-Silver Media/Persia
c. Belly and Thighs of Bronze Greece d. Legs of Iron – Rome e. Feet of Iron and clay
Divided Europe**



Questions and Answers

7. Daniel had a vision in Ch 7, what were these 4 great beast and what did they represent?
a Lion-Rome b. Bear-Media Persia c. Leopard-Greece d. Terrible Beast-Rome
8. The language of the Bible must be taken literally unless a figure or symbol is employed
True
9. There are two vital principles we must understand to interpret correctly Daniel and Revelation: (1) These prophecies are given in symbols; and (2) The symbols are interpreted by the **Bible** itself.
10. What will happen in the days of divided Europe? **God will set up his kingdom that shall never be destroyed**

