

# *Understanding the Book of Daniel*

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**The dealings of the Lord with the Jews and the Gentile nations**

## **Understanding the book of Daniel**

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**This booklet is designed to help understanding as one reads the scripture.**

## **The purpose of the book of Daniel**

In the book of Daniel the scriptures foretell how the Lord will deal with the people of Daniel (the Jews) and the Gentile nations.

Through a series of dreams and visions and their interpretations Daniel is shown an outline of future Kingdoms of the world.

The book is not written like a history book. It only deals with such things as are relevant to the message of the writer. Rather the book is prophetic and as such it gives a remarkable forecast of future events – some fulfilled within the time of the book itself, others still being fulfilled today.

The book of Daniel is particularly concerned with events as they impact Daniel's people – the Jews.

**The message of the book of Daniel reaches right through to today – for both Jew and gentile.**

## **Background information.**

Daniel was a Jew and he was taken captive others to Babylon along with many other Jews.

Babylon was the dominant power of the day. It will enhance our understanding to fill in some earlier background:

### **The first references in the scripture concerning Babylon are to Babel – a city built by Nimrod.**

Nimrod was directly descended from Noah being his great grandson. (Noah > Ham > Cush > Nimrod).

Nimrod was the first person reported in scripture to create a kingdom - reigning over Babel, Erech, Accad and Calneh in Shinar (an earlier name for Babylonia.) From there he went on to Assyria and built Ninevah, Rehobuth Ir, Calah, and Resen.

Nimrod is described in the bible as a 'mighty hunter before the Lord.' He placed himself 'before' or 'in front of in importance' so far as his kingdom was concerned. Nimrod epitomises human strength and self importance.

He died at a relatively young age

His principal city, Babel, was so named because the Lord confused the languages of the people there – Babel means confusion.

After Nimrod's death his wife (Seminaris) was fearful of her position so she declared that Nimrod was a God and the worship of Nimrod was started. This made Seminaris the wife of a God making her a 'Queen of Heaven.'

Nimrod is thought to mean 'rebellion.'

In this scenario we can see three very important developments in the rise of 'man.'

- 1) In Nimrod we see man relying on himself, his own strength and power and not on God.
- 2) We see a man being worshipped as a God.
- 3) We see the beginnings of the Queen of Heaven now prominent in some religions.

(In some nations, their culture includes the worship of ancestors. Here we can see that the worship of ancestors finds its roots in Nimrod and Babylon.)

Reference: Genesis 10 and 11

### **In the period after Nimrod and before Nebuchadnezzar**

The city of Babylon went through various rulerships by different people including the Amorites, the Hittites, the Kassites. Eventually an Assyrian governor was appointed.

Nabopolassar led a rebellion, by which time Assyria was in no place to resist, so Nabopolassar became ruler.

Nebuchadnezzar was his son.

### **After the rule of Nebuchadnezzar**

The rulership went in the following order, some of these rule only for a few months.

Nebuchadnezzar – Evil Merodach – Nergal Sharusur – Labashi-Marduk – Nabonidus – Belshazzar – Cyrus / Darius – Cambyses - Pseudo Smerdis - Darius I Hystaspesw - Xerxes - Alexander the Great.

### **Nebuchadnezzar takes the Jews into captivity**

The ten northern tribes of Israel had previously been taken into exile in Assyria (2 Kings 15:29). These tribes are sometimes referred to as the ‘lost tribes of Israel.’

However, when the exile of the Jews is mentioned it is the Babylonian exile that is usually considered.

The exile of the Jews into Babylon took place in stages over a 19 year period. Jeremiah specifically mentions three ‘batches’ of Jews taken into exile in 52:28-30.

The whole process of exile to Babylonia from Israel took about 19 years to complete – starting in 605 BC when Nebuchadnezzar came to power and ending in 586BC when the temple was destroyed.

Jeremiah had prophesied this in 25:11-12.

The book of Daniel opens with Daniel and his three friends in captivity in Babylon

## ***Chapter 1*** ***Starting in Babylon***

*The first 6 chapters tell of the life of Daniel and his career in Babylon, from youth to old man, full of days.*

We are introduced to the scene in Babylon where Daniel and his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah are found among the exiles who were selected to serve in the King's palace. They are all given Babylonian names:

Hananiah	becomes	Shadrach
Mishael	becomes	Meshach
Azariah	becomes	Abed-Nego
Daniel	becomes	Beltshazzar

In this first chapter the four are seen as being dedicated servants of the God of Israel – enjoying his favour.

God gives the four favour with the chief of the eunuchs such that they were able to avoid eating meat and drinking wine. (It was common practice for meat to have been used in sacrifices to idols – thus Daniel and his friends wanted to avoid being defiled.)

The four are reported to have become 10 times wiser than the magicians and astrologers in the realm of Nebuchadnezzar, demonstrating the difference between those who, by walking in His ways, serve God and those who don't.

## *Chapter 2*

### *Nebuchadnezzar's first dream – the big statue*

Nebuchadnezzar's first dream – of history yet to come!

Nebuchadnezzar requires the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell him both the dream and its interpretation, at pain of death.

They respond by saying it is not possible and the death decree is issued.

Daniel hears about it and asks for 24 hours.

Daniel sees the same vision and receives the meaning.

Daniel and his friends are promoted. Daniel becomes chief of all the wise men.

This is the dream:

Nebuchadnezzar sees a large statue which pictures the kingdoms to come:

Head of gold	representing Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon
Chest and arms of silver	followed by a kingdom inferior to Babylon.
Belly and thighs of bronze	a third kingdom
Legs of iron and feet iron/clay	fourth kingdom strong as iron, but the feet and toes are made of clay and iron which do not mix.

In the interpretation Daniel refers to the toes as Kings – in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up His eternal Kingdom. This Kingdom is referred to as a 'Stone cut without human hands.'

This large stone crushes the image.

The God of heaven sets up His own Kingdom.

*We are able to identify the Kingdoms referred to in this dream both from history and from further information given later in Daniel - as follows:*

<i>Head of gold</i>	<i>Babylon</i>
<i>Chest and arms of silver</i>	<i>Medes and Persians</i>
<i>Belly and thighs of bronze</i>	<i>Greece</i>
<i>Legs of iron and feet of iron/clay</i>	<i>Rome.</i>

### *Chapter 3*

#### *The statue and the fiery furnace*

The vision of the statue and its interpretation seem to go to Nebuchadnezzar's head – he sets up a huge image (about 90 feet) and commands everyone to worship it. When the music started everyone was to fall down and worship the statue - at pain of death for disobedience. The death sentence was to be thrown into the fiery furnace.

Daniel's three friends refuse to worship and are thrown into the furnace. Four people, though only three were thrown in, are seen walking in the furnace untouched by the fire.

Nebuchadnezzar is stunned and decrees that no one is to speak against the God of Shadrach, Mesach and Abed-Nego who are all promoted.

Nebuchadnezzar proclaims: 'there is no other God who can deliver like this.'



**Chapter 4**  
***Nebuchadnezzar's second dream – the big tree.***

More history in the making!

Nebuchadnezzar sees a tree that grows very large with many sheltering around it.

A holy one comes from heaven and orders the tree to be cut down, leaving the stump bound with a band of iron and bronze.

When the tree is cut down he (Nebuchadnezzar) is put out to graze with the beasts of the field for 7 times.

(A Babylonian time was 360 days – making this time of grazing like a wild beast 2,520 days long)

Daniel (Belteshazzar) was astonished and gives the interpretation:

You Nebuchadnezzar are the great tree - you will be 'cut down' and you will graze with the beasts of the field until seven times pass over you and you will then be restored.

Nebuchadnezzar seems to learn nothing from this dream as he is seen 12 months later walking about in his palace proclaiming how his own mighty hand has built Babylon.

God speaks from heaven – 'Nebuchadnezzar to you it is spoken – the kingdom has departed from you.'

That very hour Nebuchadnezzar is put out to grass.

At the end of the time, 2520 days, he was restored. His conclusion:

'Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honour the King of Heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.'

*Chapter 5*  
*Belshazzar's party trick*

The book has now moved on - Nebuchadnezzar has gone and Belshazzar is now ruling Babylon.

(Nebuchadnezzar is referred to as father (lit: an ancestor) of Belshazzar who was actually the son of Nabonidus.)

We need to be careful here to distinguish between Belshazzar the son of Nabonidus who became ruler and Belteshazzar, the name given to Daniel.

Belshazzar holds a great feast at which the sacred articles, taken from the Temple in Jerusalem, are defiled as the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron wood and stone are worshipped.

The fingers of a man's hand appear and write on the wall:

MENE MENE TEKEL UPHARSIN

Daniel is sent for.

The interpretation is given:

Mene God has numbered your kingdom and finished it

Tekel You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting

Peres Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

History in the making again!

That very night .....

## **Chapter 6**

### ***Medes, Persians and lions***

The kingdom is now ruled by the Medes and the Persians. Two rulers are referred to - Darius is a Mede and Cyrus a Persian.

Daniel is put into a position of importance as one of three governors who supervised 120 satraps. ('Satrap' was the title given to the governor of an area or province.)

Daniel excels in his job of governance such that the other governors and satraps plot against him.

The plot involves a decree. The decrees of the Medes and Persians could not be altered once given – even by the King.

Darius is 'tricked' into giving a decree that anyone petitioning any god or man other than Darius himself, during a 30 day period, shall be cast into the den of lions.

Daniel continues his daily worship of the Lord God and thus falls foul of the decree.

He is thrown into the lions den.

Daniel (aged about 80 at this time) survives the night in the lions den. Daniel's accusers are then given the same treatment but are all killed by the lions.

As a result Darius writes to all peoples the passage found in verses 25-28.

*25 Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.*

*26 I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and steadfast forever; his kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end.*

*27 He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.*

*28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

(NKJ)

This chapter concludes with the statement ‘Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.’

We have been taken right through to the end of Daniel’s career. The next chapters will fill in some dreams and visions given to Daniel at various times.

**Chapter 7**  
**Four nasty beasts.**

*Having covered the life of Daniel the scripture now goes back to fill in some more detail.*

So now we are taken back to the reign of Belshazzar.

Daniel has another dream of future history:

Four great beasts come out of the sea.

First                      Like a lion with eagle's wings – representing regal splendour  
– Lion King of beasts and eagle King of birds.     **Babylon**  
(At the time he received this vision this  
part was history.)

Second                     Bear on its side with three ribs in its mouth – suggests one  
side stronger than the other. 3 ribs – Media, Persia and  
Babylonia.     **Medes and Persians**  
(At the time he received this vision the  
Medes and Persians were soon to invade.)

Third                        Like a leopard with 4 wings on its back. Alexander was  
renowned for his speed of conquest. When he died the  
kingdom was divided to 4 generals     **Greece**

Fourth                      Dreadful and terrible etc. This beast has 10 horns.     **Rome**  
with its all conquering army.

The beast is slain and the Son of Man comes.

The interpretation:

These beasts all come from the sea (verse 3). [We know from Revelation 17  
verse 15 that the sea is sometimes used in scripture to represent 'peoples,  
multitudes, nations, and tongues.']

Therefore we can say that these beasts represent kingdoms which arise out of the  
earth – verse 17.

Daniel was particularly interested in the fourth beast (v 19) – much detail is  
given as follows:

The fourth beast is:

Dreadful

Terrible

Exceedingly strong

Has huge iron teeth

It devours, breaks in pieces and tramples the residue with its feet.

It has 10 horns. The horns represent kings (v 24) So 10 kings arise out of this kingdom.

Another 'little' horn arises and subdues 3 of the 10.

This 'little horn' speaks pompous words against the most high (v 8 and 25) and has the eyes of a man.

This 'little' horn intends to change the time and the law and the saints are given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (We have already seen that a time is 360 days so this becomes  $360 + 720 + 180 = 1260$  days.)

The story unfolds further –

A heavenly court is assembled - verses 9,10 and 26 and 27 record it and its verdict on the 'little' horn – whose kingdom is taken away and the Everlasting Kingdom of Jesus and His people is brought in.

## *Chapter 8*

### *The ram and the furious goat*

We are still in the reign of King Belshazzar.

Daniel receives a vision – again of future events:

A ram with two horns is standing by the river. The ram represents Media and Persia - verse 20. The longer of the two horns being Persia – the stronger of the two countries.

A male goat (Greece – see verse 21) from the west with a notable horn (specified in verse 21 as its first king – Alexander the Great). The ram is defeated by the goat with furious power.

A little later the very notable horn (Alexander) is broken off the goat and replaced by 4 notable horns (four generals\*). From one of these horns a little horn emerges with particular interest in the Glorious Land (a reference to Israel). Regular sacrifices are stopped and the sanctuary torn down.

Historically this little horn is Antiochus Epiphanes who trampled underfoot the Temple. This was to last for 2,300 days after which the sanctuary would be cleansed.

It is Gabriel who gives the interpretation to Daniel.

\* The four generals were:

- 1) Cassander who ruled Macedonia and Greece
- 2) Lysimachus who ruled Thrace, Bithynia and most of Asia Minor.
- 3) Seleucus ruled Syria and Babylon. (Antiochus Epiphanes comes from this line.)
- 4) Ptolemy ruled Egypt.

**Chapter 9**  
**70 years and 70 sevens.**

We have now moved forward again to the reign of Darius where we find Daniel studying the bible. He is reading in Jeremiah where he finds that the exile in Babylon is to last 70 years. (Jeremiah 25:11)

Daniel now understands Jeremiah's prophecy concerning 70 years in captivity and seeks the Lord regarding the end of the period. He exclaims Israel's failures and God's promises.

Daniel intercedes and asks the Lord to cause His face to shine on His sanctuary which is now desolate. (The temple in Jerusalem.) He also pleads for the city of Jerusalem – 'O Lord listen and act. Do not delay for your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.'

Whilst Daniel is speaking Gabriel comes to him and reveals more of the future:

*The 'famous' seventy weeks prophecy.*

When we translate literally this is a prophecy concerning 70 'sevens.'  
So seventy sevens are determined. This is easily interpreted as  $70 \times 7 = 490$  years.

These 490 years are determined for Daniel's people (the Jews) and for your holy city (Jerusalem) and they will:

Finish the transgression  
Make an end of sins  
Make reconciliation for iniquity  
Bring in everlasting righteousness  
Seal the vision and prophecy  
Anoint the Most Holy.

It is clear that the 490 years of this prophecy see the coming Messiah, His dealing with and victory over sin and the establishment of His everlasting Kingdom.

Gabriel gives the following detail:

After the command to restore and build Jerusalem there will be 7 periods of 7 years and then 62 periods of 7 years.



This is the arithmetic:  $7 \times 7 = 49$ .  $62 \times 7 = 434$ . Making a total  $49+434 = 483$  years.

After 483 years the Messiah will be cut off - Jesus died in AD 33.

Then Gabriel tells us 'the people of the prince who is yet to come' will destroy the city and the sanctuary - this is now history fulfilled by the Romans under Titus in 70AD.

At this stage it is the 'people of the prince yet to come' who destroy - so we know that this prince when he emerges will be of Rome, as it was the Romans who destroyed the city and the sanctuary.

### ***But.....***

There is one period of seven years for Daniel's people (the Jews) left. We have only accounted for 69 periods of seven years not the 70 sevens that Gabriel announced in verse 24. There is one 'week' still to come. This will be another period when the emphasis of God's dealings will again be with the Jew and not the Gentile.

Gabriel makes it clear that there is a prince to come, that the prince will make a treaty for one 'week,' but in the middle of that seven years he will bring an end to sacrifice and offering and will desecrate the temple.

*From this passage we are able to make various conclusions:*

- 1) *There is a gap. Jesus came for the Jews but the Jews rejected Him and He was crucified – but it was 40 years before the city and temple were destroyed by the Romans.*
- 2) *We are still in the gap – because it is obvious that the everlasting Kingdom, free of sin, has not yet been established.*
- 3) *There is a 'world' ruler, described by Gabriel as a prince, yet to emerge. When he does emerge he enters into a treaty with the Jews – he is known as 'antichrist'. (Which literally means 'instead of Christ.')*

*From this we understand that, at this stage in history, the Jews are desperate for peace (this is the situation right now) and instead of seeking the Lord they make a treaty with antichrist.*

- 4) *The temple will be built and the sacrifice and offering restored.*

## *Chapter 10*

### *Jesus revealed and more future history*

Daniel knew that there would be a long period of time before the vision was fulfilled – it says so in verse 1 – the appointed time was long, he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision.

Then Daniel receives a vision of the Son of Man.

An angel comes to bring more revelation, but is held up by the prince of the kingdom of Persia for 21 days. (From this statement we learn that there are spiritual principalities at work. The spiritual power also has an earthly outworking – hence there is a nation of Persia and a spiritual prince of Persia.)

The angel has come to make Daniel understand what will happen to his people (the Jews) in the latter days – the vision refers to many days yet to come.

Now, during the time of the Medes and Persians Daniel is told explicitly that the prince of Greece will come.

## ***Chapter 11***

### ***Wars, alliances, and tribulation.***

Daniel is given much detail about future rulers.

A great deal of this is now fulfilled history – an outline of the main features is given here:

*(Most of this is interesting as history – but you can skip the detail if you wish)*

The chapter starts with prophesying that there will be 4 more rulers before Greece takes over.

History gives us the names:

Cambyses 529 to 522BC,

Pseudo Smerdis 522 – 521BC,

Darius 1 Hystaspes 521 – 486BC,

Xerxes I 486 – 465BC Xerxes is the one who history confirms stirs up all against Greece, (and loses!)

Alexander the Great fulfils the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse, but dies young in 332BC. His kingdom is split between his four generals as foreseen in verse 4. (see chapter 8).

Verses 5 to 6 foresee the events in clear detail as in history the Kings of the north and south eventually join in an alliance. The daughter of the king of the south is given to the king of the north in an alliance.

Berenice was the daughter of Ptolemy II Philadelphus of Egypt who was given to Antiochus II Theos of Syria. These two powers became allies for a while - until Antiochus and Berenice were killed by a conspiracy and Ptolemy also died.

Verse 7 to 9 continue the prophecy. History sees Ptolemy III Eurgetes conquering Syria.

History records ongoing battles between north and south.

Verse 10 - 12 foresees the wiping out of the army of the north – fulfilled in 217BC when Antiochus the Great challenged Egypt with a great army, losing heavily.

Verses 13 – 16 see the king of the north establishing himself in the ‘Beautiful Land.’ Fulfilled as Antiochus III takes Sidon and then rules the Holy Land.

Verses 17 – 20 see more comings and goings ending with one who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom, but dies soon after. This is fulfilled in history by

Seleucus IV Philopator who appointed a tax collector Heliodorus, but then died of poisoning.

The result leads to the last of the kings of the north Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Egypt now attacks without success. The two powers try to establish a peace covenant but cannot agree. (v 27)

Verse 29 says that at the appointed time the king of the north comes again (against the south) but now ships from western lands oppose him. He returns and rages against the holy covenant defiling the Temple and erecting the abomination of desolation.

[Antiochus Epiphanes is looked upon as a type or forerunner of the antichrist.\*]

Up to verse 35 the prophetic statements are all in chronological order and fulfilled. There is then a chronological gap before verse 36.

The immense accuracy of the prophecies has led people to deny the authenticity of the book – saying instead that it is a forgery dated somewhere after Antiochus Epiphanes – i.e., after 164BC.

As far as we know the first person to suggest this was Porphyry a pagan and atheistic writer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century – he found the book so accurate that the only possible answer (for him) was that it was written after the events. The authenticity of Daniel was defended by Jerome, 347 – 420AD and for 1300 years remained unquestioned. Critics of the inspiration of scripture appeared again – but the discovery of The Book of Daniel among the Dead Sea Scrolls put its authenticity beyond doubt.

Verses 36 to the end of the book speak of events yet future starting when antichrist has emerged and established himself in Jerusalem.

(\* some commentators say that Antiochus Epiphanes is the antichrist but Jesus speaks of, ‘the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel,’ as a yet future event, in Matthew 24:15 – so the actual antichrist is yet to come.)

## ***Chapter 12***

### ***The end of time***

This chapter deals with the time generally known as ‘the Tribulation.’ This is the period of time when the prince of ‘the people who destroyed Jerusalem’ is seen ruling the earth.

This period starts with a 7 year peace treaty between this prince (also known as antichrist) and Israel. (Described in Chapter 9:27)

It is worth noting that we are seeing world events leading in this direction now.

Half way through the peace treaty Antichrist causes a massive offence to Israel in the context of the Temple (which will have been rebuilt by then.)

This signals the outpouring of the trouble, described in Jeremiah 30:7 as the time of Jacob’s trouble.

Michael ‘stands up’ announcing....

‘A time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.’

Dead come alive again – some to everlasting life and some to everlasting contempt.

The trouble is said to be for a time, times and half a time. That is 3.5 years and is the second half of the Tribulation week or period.

The power of the ‘holy people’ – the Jews is completely shattered – we know from other passages that at this point the Jews call for and recognise Jesus as the Messiah and a significant portion are saved.

So far as Daniel is concerned.....

‘But you, go your way till the end, for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of those days.’

## **Chapter 13**

### ***Let's put it together – the overview***

Daniel was given an outline of the future history of the world from his own time right through to the eventual rise and defeat of antichrist and the establishment of the Lord's everlasting kingdom.

The information given to Daniel concerned for the most part the Jews. (Daniel's people). So it is not a complete world history.

The book of Daniel foresaw the rise of certain kingdoms:

Babylon

Media and Persia

Greece

Rome.

History confirms the accuracy.

*We should seek to understand that these kingdoms are spiritual kingdoms with an earthly manifestation. For example we are told that Greece (the bronze thighs of the statue) and Rome (the legs and feet of iron and clay) would in some way control the 'whole earth.' ( 2:39 and 7:23). History will tell us that the earthly kingdoms have not accomplished that. However we are also told in 10:13 that there are spiritual principalities at work – one of them, the Prince of Persia, withstood the heavenly messenger on his way to Daniel for 21 days. From this we can deduce that the ruling spiritual world powers have been: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome – with Rome still being the ruling world spiritual power.*

The book of Daniel shows that there is a large 'gap' whilst there is nothing to report concerning the Jews. After the Romans destroyed Jerusalem the Jews were scattered among the nations and Israel ceased to exist as a nation.

However, the prophecy requires that Israel exists at the culmination of time, as do other scripture passages. In our generation we have seen the re-establishment of the nation of Israel.

The prophecy speaks very clearly of 10 kings emerging out of the Roman period of influence – they have been pictured as the ten toes of the great statue and as the ten horns of the fourth beast. The Roman Kingdom is said to devour the whole earth 7:23.

*What form will the 10 kings take?*

We do not know. They seem to have influence over the whole world. It looks likely that they will in some way be economic. When Babylon is destroyed it is the tradesmen and the merchants who mourn its passing – ‘no one will buy our merchandise any more.’

We can therefore expect to see 10 Kings emerge – exactly what form they will take is speculation.

By cross referencing what we have learned from Daniel with the prophetic revelation of Jesus Christ given to John and recorded for us as ‘the book of Revelation,’ we can confirm our understanding.

In Revelation 17 and 18 we see Babylon pictured as a spiritual power (harlot) and as a physical power (city). The harlot sits on a beast which bears great resemblance to what we have seen in Daniel:

From Revelation chapter 13 we see that the beast:

Is like a leopard.  
Feet of a bear  
Mouth of a lion  
Has seven heads  
Has ten horns

Revelation 17 tells us that the seven heads represent Kingdoms and that when the prophecy was written down by John:

5 had fallen  
1 existed at that time  
the seventh was yet to come.

Three of the fallen five can be identified from our study – they are Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece. (The other two might have been Assyria and Egypt.)

Rome was the ruling power in the day of John.

That leaves the seventh head to come – it must be the one with 10 horns (kings) as they have not yet been seen.

Revelation 17 tells us that out of this an eighth head appears.

The 10 kings (seventh head) rule only for a short time – spoken of biblically as one hour. During their reign they turn against the harlot – the spiritual power of Babylon, and then hand their power to the eighth head, Antichrist.

The 10 kings destroy Babylon, handing over to a political ruler – Antichrist.

In the world today there are 10 economic regions emerging – ruling over all world trade. Even national governments must bow to this unelected body governed by the GATT agreement and brought into being on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1995.

Europe is the driving force of this development and if we see what has happened to the EEC it could be an example.

The EEC was founded by the Treaty of Rome in 1967.

It was the European Economic Community.

Then it changed its name:

The European Community

Then it changed its name again:

The European Union.

So we see a change of emphasis from economic co-operation to full blown political union.

Now under the Treaty of Rome (a revised Treaty of Rome is currently planned) it has become/is becoming a very powerful unit.

The Club of Rome (not the same thing – but a body of influential people interested in establishing one world government) published a map in 1972 breaking the world into 10 economic kingdoms.

What we know is that 10 kings will emerge. They will give their power to antichrist. What we are seeing might be that emerging or might be some shadow of what is to come.

In any event the signs are there that the time is approaching for that last 7 year period affecting the Jews, spoken of by Daniel, to unfold.

Will the church be there - no. By definition it is a period when God is dealing with Israel and the world in wrath and judgement. For antichrist to be able to appear and exert power the church must be removed first.

The church is called to look for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ – when rising to meet Jesus in the air, the church will enter into her inheritance. A glorious prospect usually referred to as the rapture – or the catching away of the church.



**Chapter 14**  
***The insights of Dr Henry Grattan Guinness***

*Dr Guinness was a bible student who loved the Jews and understood their time of restoration. He wrote a number of volumes on astronomy, history and prophecy, published between 1878 and his death in 1910.*

Dr Grattan Guinness considered the possibility that the period of time when Nebuchadnezzar was ‘eating grass’ was a biblical type, representing something more.

There are times in scripture when one thing is used to express something else. We have already seen the example from Revelation 17 where the waters upon which the harlot sat represents ‘peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues.’

Dr Guinness suggested that it was possible that each of the 2520 days that Nebuchadnezzar was eating grass would represent one year, and that the total 2520 years would be the time of gentile influence and power.

He further noted that Israel went into captivity in Babylon in stages over 19 years. He suggested that in like stages over a like period of 19 years Israel would be restored at the end of the 2520 years.

These were the dates he proposed and the events that took place in those years:

<b>His proposal:</b>	<b>2520 years later the events:</b>
<b>607/6 BC</b> <b>Jerusalem captured</b> <b>Nobles’ sons taken to Babylon</b>	<b>1914</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> World war. Britain decides that the Jews should have their own land.</b>
<b>604 BC</b> <b>Daniel 2 declares the times of Gentile dominion over the earth</b>	<b>1917</b> <b>The Balfour declaration *</b> <b>Jerusalem captured from the Turks.</b>
<b>598BC</b> <b>The ‘Jehoiachin’ revolt</b> <b>Jerusalem taken again.</b> <b>Ezekiel taken to Babylon.</b>	<b>1923</b> <b>The ‘Palestinian Mandate’ given to Britain by the ‘League of Nations.’</b>
<b>588BC</b> <b>Zedekiah revolt.</b> <b>Nebuchadnezzar beseiges Jerusalem which falls in 587.</b>	<b>1933</b> <b>Gentile nations ‘cut off’ from the Fatness of the Olive Tree – as per the warning in Romans 11.</b>

Now we can see events further unfolding – Israel indeed has been a nation since 1948. There have been major changes in world power structures amongst gentile nations with the collapse of communism. America has become the ‘all powerful’ world nation yet at the same it has become the biggest debtor nation the world has ever seen. The story still unfolds – but watch for the fall of America as confidence in the dollar waivers. Terrorism based on religion and the rise of Islam will dominate the world scene – particularly the Middle East.

The world is looking for a solution and is planning to sacrifice Israel in the process of seeking world peace.

Yet, if we are understanding this correctly, the time of gentile influence and power is on the wane and Israel is being realigned by God, Himself. Israel is being made ready to become the chief nation of the world when they, the Jews, welcome Jesus – ‘blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,’ and the millennial kingdom is established.

We live in a time of transition.

## **Chapter 15**

### ***The insights of Sir Edward Denny***

Pondering on the passage of scripture Matthew 18: 21-22 led Sir Edward to consider that there might be a link between 70 x 7 (490) and forgiveness.

Here is the passage:

*‘Then Peter came to Him and said, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’*

Sir Edward looked beyond the actual numbers for a greater meaning. In so doing he was led to understand biblical chronology.

(The details are beyond our scope here but are found in ‘Unlocking Time.’)

The key thing he came to understand, and to demonstrate as being chronologically true, was the reality of Peter’s statement, ‘with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.’

Sir Edward discovered that each day of creation represented one thousand years that the earth would enjoy. He also discovered that the whole seven thousand years broke down like this:

The first 2,000 years	An age when man was to be guided by his Conscience.
The next 2,000 years	A period when God favoured Israel as His ‘chosen’ nation.
The next 2,000 years	A period when Israel ceased to be God’s favoured nation and His favour went to the gentiles.
The last 1,000 years	The personal reign of Jesus Christ after His second coming, Israel will be the chief nation on earth and the church will reign with Christ as His bride.

We live in a time of transition – because the 2,000 years of gentile favour has ended and Israel is being brought into position ready to live out the last ‘week’ of Daniel’s prophecy.

## ***Chapter 16***

### ***The insights of A E Ware and F Paine***

It was given to these two men, and the others that joined with them, to understand how to link the outline of time revealed to Sir Edward Denny to our calendar.

Quite astonishingly it became abundantly clear, though specific revelation and through study, that the gentile nations were ‘cut off’ from God’s favour just as Paul warned in Romans 11:22.

By revelation they received warnings that pointed specifically, to 12<sup>th</sup> June 1933. These warnings were received 200 days, and again 40 days, before the event.

It turned out that the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1933 was the opening of the ‘World Economic Conference,’ called to address the world financial depression, and held in London.

With every nation of the world represented, it was a unique opportunity for world leaders to call upon the Lord for help. Instead the conference ended with the conclusion – ‘it is not beyond the wit of man to solve this crises.’ The gentile nations slipped out of God’s favour as the unbelieving branches were cut off from the Olive Tree.

Later study and revelation showed that exactly 2,000 years of ‘redemption’ chronology and 2,000 years of the chronology of man both came to an end on that specific day, even though their methods of counting were wildly different.

Since that time the world has experienced the Second World War, Israel has been re-born and the gentiles nations are becoming increasingly ungodly. All the signs spoken of by Matthew in chapter 24, including the parable of the fig tree (which talks of Israel being re-established and many nations being born) are being fulfilled before our eyes.

Since 1933, when the of the time of the gentile’s power and influence and their position grafted into the Olive Tree were ended, the world has moved on towards the end times scenario.

It is significant that soon after 1933 we saw the Second World War and the blatant attack on the Jews, attempting to eliminate them, by Nazi Germany. It is as if the spiritual forces understood that God’s plan to redeem Israel was moving along swiftly and they were out to stop it – hence the manifestation on the earth of what we now refer to as the holocaust.

## ***Chapter 17***

### ***The conclusion of the matter***

What have we learnt from Daniel?

Medo Persia would follow Babylon.

Greece would follow Medo Persia

Rome would follow Greece.

..... All Fulfilled.

The eventual manifestation of the power of Rome would be 10 'kings' whose kingdom would be handed to one man – antichrist.

Now the world would turn against Israel in a big way, but the arch angel Michael will stand up (Daniel 12:1-3) and the Kingdom of the Messiah, Jesus Christ will be established.

..... In the process of fulfillment – the signs are there.

God's favour once again turns to Israel, just as Paul prophesies in Romans 11: 24-27.

The gentile nations will move further and further away from God, away from holiness and will eventually all surround Jerusalem as prophesied by Zechariah in chapter 14. God will deal with them.

### **What about the bride of Christ – the believers?**

Now we need to understand the favour of God. We have referred a couple of times to Paul writing to the Romans – chapter 11. So we will look there to understand our position.

Paul records the fact that Israel was 'cut off' from the Olive Tree for unbelief. Here we must carefully note that Paul says 'some of the branches were cut off.' Not all. Those that were cut off were cut off for unbelief. Any in Israel who believed in the person of the Messiah for their redemption from sin were not cut off – because they believed.

Paul states that the gentiles were grafted in. Now let us see this clearly as well. Until they were cut off as branches Israel were natural branches in the Olive Tree whether they believed or not. So it is with the gentiles, they were grafted

into the Olive Tree - but with the strong warning that they too would be cut off if they failed to continue in His goodness.

What were Israel and then the gentiles grafted into?

God's goodness                      verse 22.

The root of fatness                verse 17.

Neither Israel nor the gentiles are the root of the tree – they are described as branches. The root of the tree is the goodness, the fatness, the favour of God.

Whatever is to come in the future for the world, you and I (if we are believers) will not be broken off from the Olive Tree – because we are believers.

Whatever happens:

God will cause 'all things to work together for good to those who love Him.'

So the final conclusion:

As Paul urged Titus (2:13) let us be found,

***'looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.'***

***God bless you.***