

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Introduction

“**Bottom line**” of the study of the book of Daniel: “**KADOSH, KADOSH, KADOSH!**” This is the Hebrew word for “Holy.” Holy, Holy, Holy. This is what the angels and living creatures in Revelation are saying and singing unceasing around the throne. God is indeed HOLY, there is no one above Him. And in the book of Daniel we understand that all of history is in His hands.

A WORD ABOUT PROPHECY: GOD IS NOT SUBJECT TO TIME!

- Scriptures tell us:

“For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy...” (Isaiah 57:15)

“Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘my counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.’” (Isaiah 46:9-10)

- A weak but effective analogy of this is the viewing of a parade. Sitting on the curb of a parade route, as opposed to being up in the Goodyear Blimp and seeing it all. This is a simple comparison of our vantage point compared to God’s. He is outside of the framework of time. He can not only see, but has planned the beginning to the end.
- God has given us His Word to provide His plan to use and show us the way to salvation through His Son. How does God authenticate His book (His Word) to His creation? **By prophecy – by telling us things that will happen BEFORE they happen – and doing it with amazing detail.** Daniel provides more proof of this than any other book.

WHY STUDY DANIEL?

- Daniel contains some of the most **amazing and demonstrable proofs that the Bible is what it says it is – the infallible inspired Word of God**.
- This book shows clearly that the bible is an “integrated message system” that has been divinely engineered. 66 books, written by 40 authors over thousands of years – evidence in Daniel (and every other book) that it has been designed and inspired from outside the domain of time as we know it.
- Daniel is the **most attacked, and the most validated and vindicated book** in scripture. It contains some of the most amazing prophetic passages in the entire Bible. Revelation is also packed with prophecy, but Revelation differs from Daniel in one very basic way: most of the prophecy contained in **Revelation is about the FUTURE** – what is still yet to come. While it is also an amazing book, we are looking at the prophecies as something yet to happen. Daniel is different. Most of the prophecies contained in Daniel have already been fulfilled. We are studying this book in a unique time in history. We are able to look back at things that have already happened, and see how they have perfectly and completely fulfilled prophecies in Daniel. One of these is referenced clearly by Jesus and is perhaps the most amazing in all the Bible’s prophecies. The unique perspective we have on the book of Daniel allows us to be awe-struck by the clarity of fulfilled scripture.



- **Most of the Bible deals with history through the “lense” of Israel.** That is, we see most of God’s plan for man’s redemption through His plan for the Jews, His chosen people. **However, there is one very conspicuous exception: The Book of Daniel.** Here there is an intense focus on Gentile history – even today’s history. We are currently living in the age of the Gentiles, also called the age of Grace. And, as mentioned before, we are able to look backwards to what Daniel looked forward to – fulfilled prophecy regarding the Gentile nations who have dominance in God’s plan at this moment.
- This book is critical to understand of “end times.”
- **It is vital to know what Daniel says in order to understand the rest of Scripture,** and Jesus himself makes this clear (He references Daniel 3 times, especially Daniel 9, which we will discuss later)

A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION: WHEN WAS DANIEL WRITTEN?

- Some might think this is an unimportant question. However, for the book of Daniel, it is a vital and important question. Because of the startling prophecies, and subsequent fulfillments validated by secular history, many “scholars” have tried to discredit this book. One way they attempt this is by saying that it was not written when it was. That way, they don’t have to deal with the astonishing and faith-challenging fulfillments of prophecy! *(Many Bibles will even introduce this book as having been written about 165 BC (2nd century BC), or AFTER the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes, about whom many of these prophecies relate. The ONLY reason they do this is because they can’t accept the fact that God is beyond our time line, and sees it all, and gave the vision to Daniel.)*
- **Some say it doesn’t matter WHEN it was written, but it does.** It matters a great deal. Daniel was taken captive to Babylon during the first siege of Nebuchadnezzar in 606 BC. Daniel lived through two major world empires and was most likely in his 90’s when he died, somewhere in the late 500’s BC. While we do not have exact dates he wrote, this book was obviously an eye witness account to many of the events related, and had to have been written at least 5 centuries before Christ. This is important because many of the prophecies the book contains happen during this time (but not all! Some are still in the future).
- **Daniel is the most authenticated book in the Bible,** and the most vindicated, because there have been so many attempts to discredit it – none successfully. There are too many of them to go into detail. However, there is one very BIG problem for those who try to say it was written after Jesus’ time. It is really very simple: Daniel is part of the Old Testament – the Jewish Tenach. This may seem simplistic, but that fact alone silences many critics. Why? Because we have proof that it was included in the **Septuagint** translation of the Old Testament that took place between 285 and 270 BC (almost 3 centuries before Jesus!)
- **ABOUT THE SEPTUAGINT:** After Alexander conquered the “world” at that time, Greek became the common language. The Jews no longer spoke or studied Hebrew. If they had any knowledge of Hebrew, it could be equated to that of Catholics with Latin – they knew enough to say their liturgies, but that’s it. They were unable to read their own scriptures. To correct this problem, 72 Hebrew scholars (6 from each of the 12 tribes) gathered in Alexandria to translate the OT into Greek, the common language. This is well documented by secular history. Daniel is included in this translation. So out the window goes a big skeptic’s argument.
- An interesting note found in secular history about the dating of this book: The historian **Josephus** tells us that during Alexander the Great’s conquest of Jerusalem in 332 BC, a Priest named Jaddua showed him references in the book of Daniel to himself (Alexander). The references and prophecies were so clear and so startling that Alexander had no trouble recognizing himself, and **therefore spared the city.** This is also documented by secular history.

- Another note of vindication: in the early 1900s an archaeologist named Koldewey **undertook excavations of Nebuchadnezzar’s palace**, including the banquet hall that is described in Daniel chapter 5. He discovered this hall was precisely and accurately described by Daniel in chapter 5, and therefore he had to be an eyewitness to events which are clearly described in secular history. (*SIDE NOTE: Saddam Hussein restored this banquet hall, which is 173 feet x 56 feet, and used it for state affairs – history is happening before our eyes. What a unique time in history we live!*)
- **YET ANOTHER VINDICATION:** While we are on this particular incident in Daniel 5, we’ll mention that scholars gleefully used this event for many years to try to discredit Daniel. **They said no one named Belshazzar** (by the way, don’t confuse him with Belteshazzar – Daniel’s Babylonian name) **ever was King in Babylon**, and therefore this was a fabrication. Within the last 50 years however, archaeologists have unearthed Babylonian records with his name, showing him to be the King’s son, who was left in charge in the King’s absence. We’ll talk more about this later (when we get to chapter 5). The stones are indeed crying out! Another bogus argument down the drain....
- **The ultimate authentication**, however, for everyone who believes Jesus, is Jesus himself. He quotes Daniel 3 times, and verifies him as the author, and as a prophet. *Daniel is, by the way, the only book of scripture that we are told to completely understand (Matthew 24, Mark 13, both important chapters on the end times) – perhaps the greatest reason for studying this book!* **“Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place – whoever reads, let him understand – then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”** (Matthew 24:15) This is a reference to the authority of Daniel as a prophet, and the command to understand this book!

OTHER NOTES ABOUT THIS BOOK

- **“FOREIGN” WORDS:** As we mentioned before, many try to discredit this book because they can’t bring themselves to believe in the God who gives us history in detail before it happens. When they can’t discredit by dating, they try other means. For example, they say that there are **“foreign” words in Daniel**, which they say shows many different authors. Yes, there are foreign words – 15 Persian words, 3 Greek words, Chaldean (the common language at that time) and Hebrew. What they don’t want to see, however, is that these words actually validate and authenticate this book!

Chapter 1 is written in Hebrew – the story of Daniel’s capture (a Hebrew)

Chapters 2 through 7 are written in Chaldean (the Gentile language of the day) – *these books relate Gentile history and would be expected to be in the Gentile language of the day*

Chapter 4 is actually written by a Gentile King, in Chaldean (this is unique in the Bible!)

Chapters 8 through 12 are written in Hebrew, because the *focus* is back on Israel.

The Persian and Greek words are completely appropriate in their text settings. They also seem to forget that Daniel was raised as a Hebrew, came to Babylon as a teenager, learned to speak the common language of the Babylonian empire, and survived well into the Persian empire. Daniel spoke and understood all of these languages. Duh! It is much like the stupid arguments for evolution – it takes more faith to believe that than special creation, but they refuse to believe because they WILL NOT believe the truth, the only alternative. It is the same for these “scholars,” they refuse to see or believe the truth.

- **Nothing bad or evil is spoken about Daniel** anywhere. He is only one of two people in the entire Bible in this category (Jesus is the other!). In addition to the incredible prophecies, we should also be **paying attention to the life of Daniel**, so we can see him as a **role model**. His character, courage, faith and humility are important qualities we NEED to see. They should not be overlooked for the more dramatic impacts of the prophetic nature of the book.
- **Daniel is an “apocalyptic” book.** (apocalyptic means to uncover something hidden) Revelation is the only “apocalyptic” book in the New Testament. There are several books, chapters and passages in the Old Testament in this category.

- **Some things in the Book of Daniel are “sealed”** (still hidden away, but we will discuss later how perhaps they are becoming “unsealed” in our time). This book is protected by God, and not everything in it will be understood until the end times.
- Daniel **does not directly deal with the Church** (the Bride of Christ), with one possible indirect exception (later). The main focus is Gentile history in general (includes today), and God’s master plan for the Jews.
- Daniel’s prophecies regarding end times are **often explained by other books in the Bible**, especially the book of Revelation (and we will be looking at these as they are addressed in Daniel). Daniel and Revelation are like bookends of prophecy. Daniel provides the skeleton of end time prophecy, and Revelation gives the flesh. A good book to round out prophecy studies here is the book of Zechariah. Together these three books can be called the “Apocalyptic Triangle.”



THE ORGANIZATION OF DANIEL

- Daniel is pretty much **divided into two main sections**: Chapters 1-6 are HISTORIC, relating actual events in Daniel’s life. Many prophecies are contained in these chapters as well, but the greatest amount of prophecy is found in chapters 7-12, which are all visions. These chapters (7-12) are like appendices to the first 6 chapters.

A REVIEW OF WORLD (AND IN PARTICULAR JEWISH) HISTORY

- It is important to have a basic understanding of this history before we begin a study of this book. While these dates are somewhat speculative, they are fairly well documented by secular history and archaeological evidence. They are very close, so don’t worry about being off a few years. They are only to help us grasp the whole of history before Daniel, and after (as the prophecies he writes are fulfilled). *(A more complete summary of world events and dominions is included at the end of this introduction.)*
- **Quick Old Testament Time Line.** The Bible does not record dates in the manner that we use today. The Jewish calendar is based on the moon, a lunar calendar with 360-day years. We are, however, given sufficient information to enable us to calculate approximately when major events of the Bible occurred, even far back into the Old Testament. In addition to these approximations, archaeology is yielding exciting finds that verify dating and Old Testament history. All years are “BC.”

Year	Event
???	Creation, Fall, Flood, Table of Nations, Babel
2050	Abraham
1950	Isaac
1900	Jacob (Israel), 12 Tribes
1800	Israelites move to Egypt, remain 400+ yrs
1400	Moses, Exodus
1360	Joshua, entry into Promised Land, Judges
1150	Ruth
1100	Samuel
1050	Saul
1015	David
975	Solomon
935	Israel divided into 2 kingdoms, Kingdom of

	Israel in north, capital Samaria; Judah (south), capital Jerusalem; time of the kings, Elijah, Elisha
740	Isaiah
722	Fall of Northern Kingdom of Israel to Assyrians
625	Jeremiah
606	1 st Siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, first captives to Babylon (including Daniel)
595	Ezekiel (in 2 nd wave of captives to Babylon)
586	3 rd and final siege of Jerusalem, temple destroyed, land desolate, last captives to Babylon

580	Daniel
536	Persian Empire begins, Cyrus allows Jews to return to Land of Israel (70 yr captivity ends)
480	Esther
460	Ezra
450	Nehemiah - The Old Testament history ends. 400 year “silence.” John the Baptist announces Messiah is coming to open “New Testament.”

BACKGROUND ON BABYLON

We won't be spending a great deal of time on Babylon at this point, as we will be hearing more about this interesting place later in the book study. However, you should keep in mind a few things before we begin.



The Bible can be called “**The Tale of Two Cities**” – Babylon and Jerusalem. Jerusalem is obviously the City of God, and Babylon is the City of Man, or the City of Satan, the enemy of God and his people. Throughout scripture, from the first book to the last, Babylon is presented in opposition to Jerusalem. It becomes a spiritual metaphor for the battle that rages from the fall of man to the present day.

We first hear about Babylon, or Bab-el as it was called then (meaning “gateway to the gods”) in **Genesis chapter 10**. This is known as the Table of Nations, and shows how the descendents of the sons of Noah re-populated the earth after the flood. One of those mentioned in more detail than any of the others is Nimrod, who is called in scripture “a mighty hunter before the Lord.” Nimrod is a descendent of Ham, but the description from Hebrew into English leaves us with the wrong impression. It may sound to us like he was good in the Lord’s sight. Far from it. The actual Hebrew indicates that he was “a mighty hunter IN DEFIANCE before the Lord.” It is important for us to remember this, as he goes on to become the first world dictator. Bab-el, the town he founded, is located on the “plain of Shinar” which you should also remember, since this is another way of saying “Babylon” in scripture. This plain was located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and the people who lived and ruled in these regions were known as the **Chaldeans**.

SIDE NOTE: Nimrod also founded another city that stood in defiance to God, and was eventually used by Him to effect his judgment on Israel – **Nineveh** – the capital of the Assyrian empire (which conquered and took captive the 10 northern tribes, known as the Northern Kingdom of Israel. They would never return to their homeland).

Bab-el, or Babylon, is featured prominently in Genesis Chapter 11. We know this story as the **Tower of Babel**. It is much more than a tower, but an open act of defiance before God. They did not want God, they wanted to do things their way. They were short circuiting God’s plan. God took care of that. What you should remember about this is that it is one of the thousands of Old Testament **TYPES**. It is a real event that is also symbolic and foreshadows a coming event.

The tower of Babel is being “rebuilt” today. The move to a one world government, one language, one currency, one power is very much behind today’s politics. It is the same as it was in Bab-el those many years ago. Even though God confounded the languages then and abruptly ended their dreams for a tower to heaven, powerful cities were built there and played integral roles in subsequent world powers. The spirit of the ancient tower of Bab-el is strong today.

Babylon has always been involved in world power struggles. All of them centered around either Nineveh or Babylon. The Babylonian Empire that was in power when we begin the book of Daniel was not the first Babylonian Empire. It is a “resurrection” of the ancient Babylonian Empire years before and is frequently called the “Neo-Babylonian” empire (neo=new).

The most important thing you can remember about Babylon is **that every form of political, scientific and economic system** known to man had its roots in Babylon. Also, more importantly, every form of occultic practice also had its roots in Babylon. Absolutely every type of spiritual corruption goes back to Babylon, since the first uprising against God after the flood at the Tower of Bab-el.

A quick example of how Babylon has corrupted God's plan is the word we use for "**Easter.**" The very word Easter comes from the Babylonian fertility goddess "ishtar" also known as "astarte." Rabbits were prolific, so became idols and were used in worship to this goddess. So were eggs. Both of these icons of our Easter season, and the very name itself, come from Babylon. I would prefer to wish you a happy "Firstfruits" on that day, since that is the Jewish feast day that Jesus arose from the dead.

When Emperor Constantine declared Christianity to be the state religion in the 3rd century, the occultic practices of the entire pagan world at that time were tied to Babylon's dark past, and traditions die hard. Many of our Christian holidays incorporate traditions that come from Babylonian occultic practices. This has continued on in many cases even to today.

Babylon is located 62 miles south of Baghdad, in the country of Iraq. Many of the ancient buildings have been excavated, and Saddam Hussein spent millions of dollars and about 25 years restoring Babylon. The banquet hall at Nebuchadnezzar's palace, the place where the handwriting on the wall incident took place, has been completely restored now and was used for Iraq affairs of state. This room is 173 feet long and 56 feet wide. There is a lot of activity today in Babylon, following the wars there. There is military presence (global alliances) as well as great UN influence. It will be interesting to watch what happens there.

A VERY IMPORTANT NOTE!! Don't confuse the FALL of Babylon with the DESTRUCTION of Babylon. They are not the same. The prophetic scriptures in Isaiah 13 and 14, and Jeremiah 50 and 51, and Revelation 17 and 18 call for the complete destruction and non-inhabitation of Babylon after its judgment. It even goes so far to say that none of the materials can ever be used to build again. This is most definitely not the case - yet. Babylon has been inhabited by people since its fall. From roaming Nomadic tribes to actual schools for priests, and now the excavation and rebuilding of Babylon – these all indicate that these very specific prophecies have not yet been fulfilled. Many people have made this mistake, but the destruction of Babylon is still to come. It is recorded in Revelation 17 and 18.

God can be taken at his very literal word. Babylon must be rebuilt, which is now happening, and it must be completely destroyed in order to completely fulfill these prophecies. Keep this mind!

MORE DETAILED RELEVANT HISTORY OF THE TIME

When our story opens in Daniel chapter 1, we see the **first of three sieges** by Nebuchadnezzar. His father, Nabopolassar began the series of campaigns that would unite the Chaldeans and restore the Babylonian empire. You may remember the Battle of Carchemish in 606 BC against Pharaoh Necho of Egypt. This was not fought in Egypt, but near the Euphrates River. Egypt was a dominant world power until this point. Nebuchadnezzar was at the forefront of these battles when he decided to take Jerusalem the same year. This was the first siege against the city. During this time, however, Nebuchadnezzar got word that his father had died, and he needed to return to Babylon to take over as king of the new empire.

Before he left, however, he plundered the temple, taking the temple treasures, took the choice hostages (including Daniel) and left a vassal king (Jehoiakim). This siege began the "**Servitude of the Nation**" – as it is referred to in scripture. *Keep this term in mind. It will be very important later.*

While Nebuchadnezzar was away, Jehoiakim got cocky and listened to his advisers and phony priests who told him that they can win against Babylon. Jeremiah pleads with him to listen – that Nebuchadnezzar is God's servant (an interesting term!), doing God's will and not to rebel against him. However, Jehoiakim would not listen. This rebellion leads to a 5-year battle (the 2nd seige) during which Jehoiakim dies and his son Jehiachin (also called Jeconiah) reigns until the siege is over. However, during this siege, over 10,000 captives (including 1000 skilled artisans) are taken to Babylon, and many are killed. Jeconiah's uncle, Zedekiah, was then installed as the vassal king.

Zedekiah went on an ego-trip and would not listen to Jeremiah and Ezekiel who warned him that Nebuchadnezzar was God's servant. They told him and his greedy advisers to cooperate and not rebel. They did not listen, and now Nebuchadnezzar had had it. Enough was enough. He returned to Jerusalem for the 3rd and final siege, this time completely destroying Jerusalem and the Temple in 586 BC, on the 9th of Av (this date is important!). The remaining Israelites were taken to Babylon. This was termed the "Desolations of Jerusalem" by scripture. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO NOT CONFUSE THIS with the "Servitude of the Nation."** These are two different terms for two different events, and will become very important as we will see later.

As an illustration of the literal nature of God's prophecies, we should note that there had been apparently conflicting prophecies regarding the last king of Judah, Zedekiah. It was said that he would die in Babylon, but another said that he would never see Babylon. Zedekiah and his false prophets laughed at Jeremiah about this, but they weren't laughing when Nebuchadnezzar took Zedekiah captive, killed his entire family before his eyes, then blinded him and took him prisoner to Babylon. Zedekiah died in Babylon, but he also never literally saw Babylon. God's prophecies are precise, perfect, and will always be fulfilled to the letter...literally.

This is something we must always remember. (This is especially important regarding his promises to the Jews which have not yet been completely fulfilled. Some like to say that the Church has replaced Israel, but God does not work that way. This "theory" is called "replacement theology," and is a bold lie from the enemy. God does not go back on His promises and covenants. We have seen over and over how very literal He is. The only time we will get into trouble regarding interpretations is when we leave the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and stray from *literal* interpretations. God is holy, AND holy and perfect in his precision!)

An interesting note: It was not common in those days to completely destroy any of the cities or towns that were captured during battles. The ancient peoples would rather add them to their empires, keeping the people as slaves, but usually well treated and under vassal rulers. All during the many battles for world dominion this was the common practice. It was not until the Roman empire that we hear of the senseless brutality and killings, the total destructive power that was characteristic of Rome. However, in this case, Nebuchadnezzar was indeed God's servant doing God's will and what was planned out well before his arrival on the world scene. The people's evil, greed, idolatry, and complete turning away from God led to their destruction.

All of this serves as background to some of the most amazing prophecies and fulfillments in scripture, and should show us that **God does not deal in approximations**. He has a plan, and it will be carried out to the very day and hour. We have not spent much time discussing **WHY Israel (Judah) was being judged**. Aside from her idolatry and string of wicked kings, and completely turning their backs on the God who loved them dearly, they had broken countless laws which God had given them back in the wilderness wanderings. One of these laws had to do with the Sabbath year and the land. In Leviticus 25 (v1-7) they were instructed to grow their crops on the land for 6 years, and then let it lie fallow for the 7th year. For 490 years they failed to do this. While this was not the ONLY reason for God's judgment, it apparently determined the length of time they would spend in captivity. Essentially, God said, "**You owe me and the land 70 years!**"

"And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years." (2 Chronicles 36:20-21)

Since Israel has been back in her homeland (1948) God has blessed the land and they are now the 4th largest exporter of fruit in the world (this tiny toenail sized nation!) **However, the deceit and “Pharisaical” practices of old are still with us.** Human nature does not change, until God gets hold of the heart, and the heart submits completely to God. At any rate, many of the Israeli farmers and government farms have decided they need to go back to the Levitical commands regarding the land (perhaps they know their OT history well!). That is, allowing the land to be unworked for the 7th year. However, in order to circumvent this great inconvenience (and loss of revenue from the land!) they have exploited a loophole in the law. Nothing is said there concerning land that belongs to Gentiles, only to Jews. So, at the end of the 6th year, the land is “sold” to a non-Jew (Arab Christians mostly). The contract is written, however, so that payment is postponed until after the end of the 7th year, and by that time there is a clause that allows the Jew to purchase it back. There is never any exchange of money for the land, just a contract, and the so-called “buyer” receives a nice commission for services rendered! Amazing, isn’t it! They still haven’t gotten the whole picture.

We could stop here with a fairly thorough introduction to the book of Daniel.

However, we just can’t help but share [A STARTLING FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY](#), as another incentive to study this remarkable book. This is simply amazing, but is only one of many demonstrations of God’s remarkable prophetic fulfillments. Hold on, and read carefully. We guarantee you will be blessed by this.



We begin with the fact that the first siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, and the first taking of hostages in 606 BC **began what scripture calls the “Servitude” of the Nation.** Seventy years in exile and captivity were their punishment (Daniel knew this, as we will see later). And the total destruction of Jerusalem in 586/7 BC when Nebuchadnezzar had enough and destroyed it all, including the Temple, began what is termed the **“Desolations of Jerusalem.”** These are two different incidents (and time periods), and are 19 years apart.

As we could predict from God’s word, Cyrus the Persian gave the decree (this is another amazing story we’ll look at later) for the Jews to return to Israel and Jerusalem, exactly 70 years TO THE DAY after their initial captivity. This ended their 70 years of captivity, or **the “Servitude of the Nation.”** (This can all be verified by secular history records.)

But what about the other term, the **“Desolations of Jerusalem?”** Well, when we read Ezra and Nehemiah, we see that it was 19 years later before the actual city gates and the Temple in Jerusalem were rebuilt. That is condensing the story quite a bit, but for the purpose of this lesson that’s all we’ll say here. Therefore, exactly 70 years following the destruction of the original temple, the city gates and the temple in Jerusalem were completed. The SERVITUDE OF THE NATION was judgment against the people, and the people served the sentence passed in captivity (servitude) to Babylon. The DESOLATIONS OF JERUSALEM was prophecy concerning the land of Israel and the City of Jerusalem, and those also received a 70 year sentence which was fulfilled to the day, but a *different day than the service of the nation, the people.*

That’s amazing, but it doesn’t stop there. ***Get ready for something REALLY amazing!***

In an interesting passage in Ezekiel a total **of 430 years of judgment for Israel are predicted.** This is found in Ezekiel 4:1-8. It is one of those unusual ways God has Ezekiel prophesy to the nation of Israel. If you are interested, you can read about it on your own. Anyway, this number has always stumped scholars, because it doesn’t seem to easily fit into any of the recorded exiles or judgments against Israel. Seventy (70) years are accounted for in the Babylonian exile, but that leaves 360 unaccounted for from Ezekiel’s 430 years.

Taking a little side trip back into Scripture, we will see that there is another interesting passage, in **Leviticus 26**. Throughout this chapter God warns his people about what will happen if they are, and continue to be, disobedient. This is well before they even enter the Promised land. Here's a sample:

¹⁷ “I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. ¹⁸ And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. ¹⁹ I will break the pride of your power, I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. ²⁰ And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit. ²¹ Then, if you walk contrary to me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. ²² I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate. ²³ And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, ²⁴ then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins.” (Leviticus 26:17-24)

Notice verses 18, 21, and 24 and see the reference to punishing the children of Israel “7 times more.” This appears in additional verses in this chapter. This would seem to indicate that any judgment God had for his people would be **multiplied by seven times if they did not turn back to him**, if they were “contrary” to him. This has led to what some call “pure conjecture,” but we’ll let you decide that. *Keep reading.*

So, there seems to be 360 years unaccounted for in Israel’s judgment. If we multiply this number by 7 (using God’s formula) we get 2520 years. The Jews have not had their own homeland since the time of Nebuchadnezzar in the 5th century before Christ, and this number seems to be close to the amount of time since Israel has been dispersed (the Diaspora, which began in Babylon, and happened again in 70 AD when Rome destroyed the temple and Jerusalem again). However, we know that God does not deal in approximations. God’s word is precise; fulfillment is exact.

In the late 1800s a man named Sir Robert Anderson presented some interesting thoughts about prophecy. He was the first to suggest that God’s “year” was and continues to be the year of the Old Testament, the 360-day year (based on the Hebrew lunar calendar, and way the Jews marked time in scripture, and still do). In fact, throughout the entire Bible (including dramatically in the book of Daniel as we shall see) the year found in scripture is in fact the 360 day year of the Jewish calendar.

Now we could get very technical and lose everyone in the calculations. We won’t do that here. However, using this as the accepted standard (the 360-day year) and throwing in all the many corrections for leap years, calendar reform and corrections, the BC-AD turnover loss of one year and other corrections, AND assuming the seven-fold judgment found in Leviticus and the unaccounted for 360 years of judgment in Ezekiel we will find something truly remarkable. YOU decide if this is what some call “pure conjecture!”

We know by secular history and biblical scripture the exact dates of the first siege of Nebuchadnezzar in 606 BC. God always provides the markers we need for these kinds of calculations. It is as if He WANTS us to be able to do this, just to be amazed at His preciseness. Before beginning, we subtract out the years of their exile, then account for the remaining years. **The 7-fold punishment formula** yields 906,295 days from that date. With the above corrections, guess what date comes up? **May 14, 1948.** This was the date that David Ben Gurion declared on national radio the re-establishment of the nation of Israel as the new Jewish homeland. He cited Ezekiel as his authority. It seems that the **SERVITUDE OF THE NATION** which began back in 606 BC ended on May 14, 1948, not when Cyrus gave the decree to return to Israel. God was true to his word, and their punishment was multiplied seven-

fold. The Jewish people have been without a homeland since Nebuchadnezzar. But He re-established the Jewish homeland on May 14, 1948, in extraordinary preciseness to His Word. And He is continuing to fulfill other prophecies regarding the land of Israel right before our eyes.

But hold on, **we're not done yet**. You might think this is nice and the mathematics are impressive and that maybe this happens to just be "coincidence." (We remind you that the Jewish rabbis say that "coincidence is NOT a kosher word!") Amazingly, it happens again.

We also know *when* the **city walls and the temple in Jerusalem were completed**. By applying the same formula, calculations, and conditions, we add the 7-fold punishment of 906,295 days to that date, and now what is the result? June 7, 1967 – the exact date of the end of the infamous "Six Day War" in which Israel regained control of Jerusalem, AND the Temple Mount...and for the first time since 606 BC, the Star of David flew over Jerusalem, which was once again controlled by Israel. This was the real end of the DESOLATIONS OF JERUSALEM. Once again, God precisely fulfilled His Word.

This should thrill and sober us as we repeatedly find evidence of Yahweh's sovereignty and holiness. We only scratch the surface here. The Word of God is literally filled to overflowing with these kinds of testimonies of His nature. He is holy, and indeed ALL nations bow before Him. He has the plan of history firmly established. Nothing, no one, can change that.



It is just as important to remember that **God also has a plan for each of us** as individuals, not just part of the sea of history and people in His hand. It is not a vague or approximate plan – it is precise and perfect, just like the plan for all of history. If we only understand this, our lives would be much different!

If you are interested in the mathematics and calculations involved to yield these numbers, they are included at Chuck Missler's website: www.khouse.org. This is one of the best sites we know of for diving deeply into the beautiful intricacies of God's Word.

FINAL NOTES BEFORE WE BEGIN...

Nebuchadnezzar was said to be God's servant, fulfilling his plan. Nebuchadnezzar's empire actually began the period of time that scripture calls the "**times of the Gentiles**." Since that time, Israel has not had complete control over its homeland. The Jews have remained under other government authority (the Greeks, the Romans, and to some extent still under Gentile dominion, they did not have control over Israel until 1948). We will see how important this fact figures in prophecy. We have seen it prominently in Revelation. We continue to live in this time. But like all else in God's plan, it has an end already destined and determined by Him. Jesus reaffirmed this in those chapters where he spoke openly about the end times. (Matthew 24, 25, Mark 13 and Luke 21, 22)

"And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." (Luke 21:24)

No king from the line of David has ruled over Israel since the Babylonian captivity. We all know who the next one will be. Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus the Messiah, will return to declare victory and take his legal throne in Jerusalem to establish what we know as the Millennial Kingdom.

(Israel's timeline follows...)

Israel's Timeline

<p>Unknown</p>	<p>CREATION, FALL (Genesis 1-3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Humanity grows (Adam, Cain and Abel, Seth, etc.) (Genesis 4-5) ▪ Noah, Flood (Genesis 6-9) ▪ Table of Nations (Genesis 10) ▪ Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) 	
<p>17th Century BCE</p>	<p>TIME OF THE PATRIARCHS (Genesis 12-50)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Call of Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees (Babylonian region) to Canaan at God's direction (Genesis 12) ▪ Covenant relationship (Genesis 12-15) ▪ Patriarchs of the Israelites, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 12-45) ▪ Famine forces the Israelites to Egypt for survival (Joseph, Genesis 46-50) 	
<p>13th Century BCE</p>	<p>DELIVERANCE FROM EGYPT (Exodus-Deuteronomy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moses born, saved from death, raised Egyptian royalty, called by God to deliver people ▪ Moses leads Israelites from Egypt, followed by 40 years of wandering in the desert ▪ The Torah (Law, including 10 Commandments) received at Mount Sinai, Mosaic Covenant ▪ Tabernacle built ▪ Moses dies, Joshua takes over 	
<p>13th Century – 930 BCE</p>	<p>THE UNITED NATION OF ISRAEL (Joshua-2 Chronicles)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Israelites settle the Land of Israel ▪ Judges rule the land for 350 years, terrible time of disobedience, 7 sin cycles ▪ Monarchy begins (first king Saul, 1020 BCE) ▪ King David's reign to unite the kingdom (1004-965 BCE) ▪ Jerusalem becomes capital of Israel ▪ King Solomon (David's son) (965-935 BCE), kingdom flourishes, Temple built (960 BCE) 	
<p>930 – 606 BCE</p>	<p>NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under Solomon's son, Rehoboam, kingdom split into two (10 northern tribes as "Israel") ▪ Capital Samaria ▪ Continued decline of northern kingdom, all evil kings (none good) ▪ Lasted 200 years under 19 kings ▪ Prophets: Elijah, Elisha, Hosea, Amos, Jonah (to Nineveh), Nahum (to Nineveh), ▪ Conquered by Assyria (no return) 722 BCE 	<p>SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capital Jerusalem ▪ Two southern tribes as "Judah" ▪ Also in decline, but had a few good kings ▪ Lasted 350 years, also 19 kings, but all from the line of David ▪ Threatened by Assyria, but conquered by Babylon (who also conquered Assyria) ▪ Prophets: Obadiah, Elijah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah
<p>606- 536 BCE</p>	<p>BABYLONIAN DOMINATION (2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Prophets: Jeremiah (and Lamentations), Ezekiel, Daniel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Judah conquered by Babylon ▪ Jerusalem and First Temple destroyed (586 BCE) ▪ most Jews exiled to Babylon (for 70 years) ▪ Little to no Jewish presence in the land 	
<p>536-333 BCE</p>	<p>PERSIAN DOMINATION (POST EXILE: Ezra-Esther, Prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some (remnant) Jews return from Babylon ▪ Temple, city walls rebuilt ▪ Jews under Persian rule ▪ People continue to fall away from God ▪ Old Testament time line ends 	
<p>332-166 BCE</p>	<p>GREEK DOMINATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land conquered by Alexander the Great; Greek Empire begins ▪ Hellenistic influence on world (Greek common language, academics, philosophers, etc.) ▪ Alexander dies, empire divided among 4 generals ▪ Jews ruled by the Syrian Seleucid rulers, including Antiochus Epiphanes ▪ Old Testament (Hebrew) translated into Greek (common language), "Septuagint," (275 BCE) 	

166-63	<p>HASMONEAN PERIOD OF SELF RULE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maccabean (Hasmonean) revolt against Antiochus (who desecrated the Temple, and prevented Jews from practicing their faith) ▪ Jews enter Jerusalem, cleanse the Temple (164 BC) ▪ Syrians granted self-rule to Israel (Judea as it was called then) ▪ Collapse of Seleucid kingdom allowed Jewish independence, for a time ▪ Jews flourished under Hasmonean dynasty
63 BCE-313 CE	<p>ROMAN DOMINATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jerusalem captured by Roman general, Pompey (63 BCE) ▪ Rome places a vassal “king” on the throne in Israel, Herod (not Jewish, an Idumean) ▪ Temple restored and refurbished as Herod’s pet project for his posterity ▪ Priesthood appointed, not hereditary (Aaronic) (throne, priesthood not occupied by Jews) ▪ Jesus born, ministers, crucified, resurrected, ascended to Heaven, sitting on Throne ▪ Jews revolt against Rome in 66 BC, Rome destroys Jerusalem and 2nd Temple (70 AD), takes Jews captive as slaves, scatters (the Diaspora) around the world ▪ New Testament written
313-636	<p>BYZANTINE RULE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roman empire splits (east and west) East considered “Byzantine” Empire, technically still Roman Empire dominion ▪ Emperor Constantine declares Christianity the state religion (combines Christian and pagan practices, theologies, rites and rituals) ▪ Land of Israel “Christian” ▪ Churches built in Israel on holy sites, monasteries ▪ Jews deprived of autonomy, could not enter Jerusalem except on Tisha b’Av, the mourning day of the destruction of the Temple ▪ Many Jews move to Alexandria which becomes a large Jewish center
636-1099	<p>ARAB RULE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arab conquest 4 years after death of Muhammed (632) ▪ Caliphs rule from Damascus, Baghdad, Egypt ▪ Beginning of Islamic rule ▪ Jewish settlement in Jerusalem resumed, lived under “protection” in return for taxes ▪ Many restrictions against Jews ▪ Dome of the Rock built on site of both Jewish Temples (1st and 2nd) (691) ▪ By end of 11th century Jews diminished greatly in the land
1099-1291	<p>CRUSADER DOMINATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under Pope Urban II, attempt to “save Holy Land from infidels” ▪ Knights of First Crusade capture Jerusalem, massacre most of non Christians ▪ Jews defended their quarter, but later either burned to death or sold as slaves ▪ Crusaders extended their power over land of Israel ▪ Opened trade routes from Europe, pilgrimages to Holy Land popularized ▪ Jews wanted to return, many did ▪ Saladin (Muslim) overthrew Crusaders (1187) ▪ Jews granted more freedom, right to live in Jerusalem ▪ Crusaders regain some power after Saladin’s death, but limited ▪ Crusaders finally defeated by Mamluks (an Islamic military group, from Egypt)
1291-1516	<p>MAMLUK RULE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land fell into neglect, some ports destroyed to prevent further Crusader control ▪ Urban centers mostly in ruins ▪ Much of Jerusalem abandoned, small poverty-stricken Jewish communities ▪ Political and economic crises, plagues, locust invasions, earthquakes
1517-1917	<p>OTTOMAN RULE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land divided into 4 districts, administered by Damascus, ruled from Istanbul ▪ 400 years of Ottoman (Islamic) rule ended by British conquest

<p>1918-1948</p>	<p>BRITISH RULE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ottomans overcome by British Empire in 1917 ▪ Becomes British “colony” ▪ Minister Balfour pledges establishment of Jewish homeland, continual delays ▪ World War II (1939-1945) ▪ European Holocaust ▪ Jews return to Israel, Zionism begins in late 1900s ▪ Many Jewish communities built, Kibbutz concept ▪ Continued Arab influence and violence against Jews
<p>1948 -</p>	<p>RESTORED STATE OF ISRAEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ End of British Mandate, State of Israel announced (14 May) ▪ War declared against Israel by all surrounding Arab nations (15 May) ▪ War of Independence (May 1948-July 1949) ▪ Continued wars and battles with Arab nations, Muslims pledge destruction of Jews ▪ Ongoing terrorism against Jews ▪ Establishment of PLO, increasing violence ▪ Many international attempts at peace, none work or last ▪ US backs Israel from beginning (1948), but support wanes in 21st century ▪ World nations turn against Israel ▪ No peace in Israel yet ▪ Israel still waiting for Messiah



“Eretz Israel” – literally the land of Israel, as God defined it in scriptures

NEXT UP: Daniel Chapter 1