

# The Big Picture for Daniel

## An introduction to the end time prophecies:

In order to understand the prophecies that specifically apply to the end, we must first understand how the conflict between Christ and Satan began on this earth. Just after Adam and Eve sinned and before they left the Garden of Eden, God in His love and mercy revealed that there was a remedy for sin and that they could be restored to Eden. In other words, before there was sin, there was a Saviour. Paul states this fact in this way.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Grace, being an eternal attribute of God, was promised to our first parents that they should not be discouraged when they beheld the consequences of sin, but would have faith in the promise of God.

Let's look at the first promise or prophecy of salvation given to them.

Genesis 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15) And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.

Notice that God promised to do something to save them, something that was impossible for them to do for themselves. Paul states this truth in the following verse.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7) Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

In other words, Adam and Eve found themselves in the quick sand of sin, also know as "the nature of sin". Once in quick sand, you can will all day and not get out, you can work all day and not get out. Only the gospel of Christ can get us out as Paul describes in this next verse.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

## Enmity between the serpent and the woman:

Revelation identifies the serpent as Satan. Why was the serpent called old? Revelation is referring us back to the serpent who deceived Eve in the garden.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The woman is referring to Eve, but because this is a prophecy, and prophecy speaks in symbols, so it also symbolizes the church. We see then that the enmity is between the serpent and the church.

Jeremiah 6:2 I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman.

## Enmity between the serpent's seed and the woman's seed:

When we look at the first indication of two seeds at enmity or variance with each other, we read of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4. Cain is identified with the serpent, known as "that wicked one".

1 John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Abel is identified with the righteous. Thus we understand the enmity is also between the two seeds, the righteous and the wicked.

Matthew 23:35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

There is another interpretation for the woman's seed and that is, the seed is Christ. As we take a quick look at Revelation 12, we see a woman ready to give birth to a child. The woman symbolizing Mary and the child or seed, referring to Christ.

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Revelation 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: 2) And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 3) And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4) And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 5) And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to His throne.

The woman, in a second sense, represents the church. This prophecy is revealing the transition from the Old Testament church to the birth of Christ and the beginning of the New Testament church. This understanding is consistent with the history of the enmity of Satan against Christ and His church in both eras.

## Enmity between Satan and Christ:

Let's now take a look at "it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel". Who is this enmity between? It is between the woman's seed and the serpent. It is the God of peace who shall bruise Satan with a mortal wound.

Romans 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Malachi 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. 2) But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. 3) And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

Who is it that shall bruise the heel of Christ? This refers to Satan who was behind the wicked in causing the crucifixion of Christ. Christ was not mortally bruised but raised from the dead to continue His work of salvation for man and to restore lost Eden not only to Adam and Eve, but all their righteous seed.

### **The final battle in this great conflict between Christ and Satan:**

Genesis 3:15 reveals the beginning of this conflict, and Revelation records the end.

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Notice that we have the same four elements in Revelation 12:17 as we did in Genesis 3:15.

1. The dragon, that old serpent
2. The wroth or enmity
3. The woman
4. The seed

Revelation 12:17 refers not to just “the seed”, but to the remnant of her seed, referring to the final generation. Revelation chapter 20 records the final mortal wound of the dragon, that old serpent called the devil and Satan, along with his wicked seed.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

### **Understanding the book of Daniel:**

Not so obvious to most of us at first glance, Daniel, actually reveals the gospel plan of how God works for the salvation of man, especially focusing on the final generation just before Christ returns when probation closes for all. At that time, all will have made their final and irreversible decision to accept salvation or to reject it. Prophecy reveals how God works to save man, and how Satan works to destroy man. It's a battle between two gods, God the Creator and god the usurper who desires to sit on the throne receiving the worship only due the Creator. In other words, “Will the real God please stand up”!

2Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

### **The meaning of “Daniel”:**

What does “Daniel” mean? Dan means judge, and El means God. We will discover that judgment is a major theme in the book of Daniel.

1. Daniel 2 reveals a judgment on the kingdoms that rule by Satan's kingdom principles—self exaltation and force
2. Daniel 4 reveals a judgment on a man, King Nebuchadnezzar
3. Daniel 5 reveals a judgment on a kingdom
4. Daniel 7 and 9 reveals a judgment on a church
5. Daniel 8 reveals a judgment on the whole earth

### **The setting for the book of Daniel:**

Israel was in apostasy and had caused the removal of the protection of God. Thus King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was allowed to destroy Jerusalem and take captives back to Babylon of which Daniel was one. Israel

was captive in Babylon 70 years. Daniel was promoted to high positions and was instrumental in interpreting dreams and visions for the king.

### **Daniel records the battle between the seed of the wicked and the seed of the righteous:**

Daniel prophesies of the rise and fall of 4 earthly kingdoms. These were not the only kingdoms of the earth, but Daniel highlights those who battled against the righteous seed. After the fall of the four kingdoms, there arises the church/state union called a little horn in Daniel 7 and 8, also known as the antichrist, the final seed of Satan. The book reveals the play and counter play between Christ and antichrist, the first being Satan himself and his final seed at the end of time. The judgment reveals how God deals with the rebellion and the rebellious.

### **Daniel's prophecies cover from Daniel's time to God's everlasting kingdom:**

All the prophets write to those who live in their day, but include events that have to do with the final events of earth's history.

### **Daniel's literary structure is to repeat and enlarge:**

Daniel structures his book by repeating and enlarging on most of the same events in succeeding visions.

1. All the visions repeat the same **sequence** of kingdoms and events in full or in part.
2. From vision to vision the **succession** is the same although the symbols change.
3. The **pattern of emphasis** from vision to vision is repeatedly on the **fourth beast, the judgment, and God's kingdom being set up on this earth.**
4. The fourth beast has four **phases** with the last phase continuing till the judgment and setting up of the everlasting kingdom.
5. The number of symbols representing the four phases of the fourth beast are described by **two** symbols in Daniel 2, **three** symbols in Daniel 7, and **one** symbol in Daniel 8 and 11.
6. The fourth beast is always the **last kingdom before God's everlasting kingdom is set up.**

### **Daniel chapter Two:**

Daniel's succession of kingdoms and events starts in chapter two:

Daniel chapter two gives us the first vision which encompasses events extending from the kingdom of Babylon to the everlasting kingdom of God.

### **Symbols identified:**

1. Head of gold = first kingdom of Babylon identified in Daniel 2:37, 38.
2. Breast and arms of silver = second kingdom identified as Medo-Persia in Daniel 5:26-28; 8:20.
3. Belly and thighs of brass = third kingdom identified as Greece in Daniel 8:21.
4. Legs of iron = fourth kingdom also known as Rome in Daniel 7:7 and in Revelation 12:1-4
5. The feet and toes of iron and clay represents state and church respectively. Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 18:6
6. The stone cut out of the mountain without hands represents the judgment. Daniel 7:9, 10; 8:14
7. The stone becoming a great mountain and filling the earth represents the everlasting kingdom of God set up on this earth.

### **Pattern of emphasis:**

Daniel 2 sets the **pattern** emphasizing the **fourth kingdom** of Rome, the **judgment**, and the **everlasting kingdom**. The first three kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece are covered in three verses and the rest of the chapter focuses on the fourth kingdom of Rome, the judgment, and the everlasting kingdom. This same pattern of emphasis continues in each succeeding vision of Daniel.