



## I. The life and ministry of Daniel

*A. He was called by God a prophet during the time of Israel's Babylonian captivity.*

1. Daniel was later mentioned by Ezekiel concerning his uncompromised righteous standard. —Ezekiel 14:12-20
2. Jesus called Daniel a prophet and made reference to his writings when He spoke about His second coming. —Matthew 24:15-16
3. Daniel (606 – 534 B.C.) was taken to Bablyon during the fourth year of Jehoiadim king of Judah to the end of the 70 year captivity in Babylon.

*B. Daniel's experience with the Kings of Babylon.*

1. Daniel as a Babylonian captive walked in the wisdom and favor of God under King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. —Daniel 1
2. Danike interprets King Nebuchadnezzar's dream concerning the Kingdom of God. —Daniel 2
3. Daniel's three friends delivered from the fiery Furnace. —Daniel 3
4. Daniel interprets a dream concerning the King Nebuchadnezzar's madness. —Daniel 4
5. Daniel interprets for King Belshazzar the Handwriting on the Wall. —Daniel 5
6. Daniel is delivered from the lion's den then promoted by King Darius the Mede. —Daniel 6

## II. Daniel's visions and interpretations of dreams concerning the Israel and Gentile nations.

*A. Daniel's interpretation of King Nebuchadnezer's dream reveals the coming of Messiah in the days of 10 king.s —Daniel 2:36-45*

*B. Daniels 1<sup>st</sup> vision is of four Gentile kingdoms (1st year of King Belshazzar, 552 BC)*

1. The vision of four beasts coming out of the sea (lion, bear, leopard, monstrous) leading up to Messiah's Kingdom. —Daniel 7:1-15
2. Gabriel explains more about the coming of Messiah in the days of the fourth beast. This part of the vision will be fulfilled at the 2nd coming of Messiah. —Daniel 7:16-28



C. *Daniels 2<sup>nd</sup> vision of the ram and goat, the four horns, and the little horn. (3rd year of King Belshazzar, 550 BC)*

1. The fulfillment of the 2nd vision is as follows. The goat is the kingdom of Greece under Alexander the Great which defeated the ram. The ram was the Kingdom of the Medes and Persians. After the death of Alexander the Great the Kingdom of Greece divides into four kingdoms. Out of the four kingdoms there arose a little horn which sets up the abomination of desolation in the temple for 1150 days (2300 morning and evening sacrifices). This was fulfilled in the time of Antiochus Epiphanies. —Daniel 8:1-14
2. The angel Gabriel explains the vision as it relates to the Jewish people, Jerusalem and the Temple. The 2nd vision has been fulfilled. —Daniel 8:15-27

D. *Daniel's encounter the angel Gabriel (Darius, 538 BC)*

1. Daniel is praying for Israel after studying the prophecies of Jeremiah in Jeremiah 29:10-14 concerning the 70 years of Babylonian captivity (606 - 536 BC). He receives a timeline of God's plan of restoration for Israel commonly called "Daniel's 70 weeks." — Daniel 9
2. Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times. After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him." —Daniel 9:25-27 NLT
3. The timeline of 70 weeks represents 70 "sevens" of years meaning 490 years of God's dealings with Israel. This gives a timeline of Messiah's 1st and 2nd coming.—Daniel 9:24-27
  - a) After the first 69 weeks or 483 years, Messiah would visit Jerusalem and be crucified. From King Cyrus' command to rebuild Jerusalem to Messiah's visit was exactly 483 years to the day. The first 69 weeks has been fulfilled.
  - b) The 70th week or the last 7 years reveals the time when Messiah comes a second time to deliver Israel and establish the Kingdom on earth.



c) The 70th week is also referred to as the time of Jacob's trouble in Jeremiah 30:7 and the great tribulation in Daniel 12:1-13 and Matthew 24:15,16. We are awaiting its fulfillment!

*E. Daniel's 21 day fast and 2nd encounter with the angel Gabriel explains events surrounding Israel during the first 69 weeks of the prophecy. —Daniel 10 (3rd year of King Cyrus, 533BC)*

1. The defeat of Persia and the rise of Greece under Alexander the Great to his death and then kingdom divided amongst his four generals. —Daniel 11:1-4
2. The focus turns to two kingdoms; the King of the North, the Seleucid dynasty in Syria and the King of the South, the Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt. Both of these kingdoms eventually came under the control of the Roman Empire. —Daniel 11:5-19
3. One of the kings of the north, Antiochus Epiphannes invaded Israel and defiled the temple. The Jewish Hasmonean dynasty fought back and restored the temple sacrifices and ruled Israel for a time. This time is commemorated during Hannakuh. —Daniel 11:20-36
4. The time of the end is a reference to the end of these two kingdoms, North and South. The last conflict between the king of the north and king of the south brings us to the rule of the early Roman Empire. Octavian (King of the North) defeats Marc Anthony & Cleopatra (King of the South) and becomes Ceasar Augustus of Rome who is later assassinated after his military victories. —Daniel 11:40-45
5. These amazing and detailed predictions take place within the first 69 weeks of Daniels 70 weeks. They bring us to the time of the Herodian dynasty in Israel which ruled under the authority of Rome. This brings us to the time of Christ's first coming. These prophecies have been fulfilled.

*F. The 70th week of Daniel is the last period of God's dealings with the nation of Israel.*

1. Connecting the 70 weeks prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27 with Daniel 12:1,2 we have a clear conclusion of the 70 weeks of Daniel. The conclusion is the deliverance of Israel from their time of trouble and their acceptance of their Messiah.
2. The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him." —Daniel 9:27 NLT
3. At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a



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nation, *Even* to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered. —Daniel 12:1,2

4. Jesus referred to this second half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel as great tribulation, a period of 42 months. —Matthew 24:15,16

5. For 2000 years the Jewish people were scattered throughout the nations. Their nation was reborn in 1948, their city was recaptured in 1967, and they declared Jerusalem as their eternal and unified capital in 1980. Plans are under way to build a third Temple. The 70th week is about to be fulfilled. What an amazing time to be alive to witness the unfolding of God's plan!