**DANIEL**

Background to Daniel:

Theme: God Rules the Nations, Do Not Fear!

Main messages:

1. How to stay pure and uncorrupted—to maintain your integrity in a world

 in which you are surrounded by unbelievers.

2. God is in control. He will protect his people. Do not fear. God will deal

 with those who persecute or otherwise oppose your service for him.

Principle Audience:

Jews who suffered under the persecutions of Antiochus Epiphanes (167-164 BC)

Things that make Daniel unique:

1. Daniel, more than any other book, is the fighting ground for intellectuals

 over whether the Bible is inspired by God. If they cannot cut down

 Daniel, then their case is lost

2. Daniel ↔ Old Testament as Revelation ↔ New Testament

Both:

1. Largely Apocalyptic.

2. Concerning end times. (eschatology)

3. Written to a people who are suffering very intense persecution.

4. Daniel has by far the most information in the OT about angels, the resurrection and the after life. OT has very little about heaven, hell and eternal life.

5. Daniel set in a pagan nation. Daniel’s ministry was principally to pagans.

6. Daniel is a very unique “prophet.” In fact, was he a prophet? Did he occupy the position of prophet among the Jews? No. Did he proclaim, “Thus says the Lord” to Israel? No. Did he predict the future? Yes. If Daniel was a prophet, he was a prophet to the nations.

7. More specific predictive prophecy than any book in Bible by far.

Author:

Daniel, but probably an editor put together some of the historical materials and most likely even wrote certain sections. (Daniel 4:19, “Then Daniel, (also known as Belshazzar) was greatly perplexed.” Daniel 10:1 “In the third year of Cyrus, a revelation was given to Daniel.”)

Then in the next verse Daniel 10:2 Daniel says “At that time, I, Daniel…” Not what Daniel would have said.

We will see that authorship is very important. Skeptics will insist that Daniel wrote nothing. They will question whether a person named Daniel ever even lived.

Language:

Both Hebrew and Aramaic (vernacular language of Jews after about 550 BC)

Daniel 2:4 Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic: through the end of Daniel 7 is in Aramaic.

Note that DSS has the same Hebrew/Aramaic split.

Date of writing: 6th century BC. Daniel lived until at least 536 BC when he had his last vision.

Skeptics: Daniel written around 160 BC. It is “pseudepigraphic” (There were many pseudepigraphic Hebrew writings from 200 BC to AD 200 Baruch, for example, which everyone knew were pseudepigraphic)

Evidence pro:

1. Existence of Greek words in the text, when Greece did not conquer the area until 335 BC.

 But…. Very few Greek words. What words from an unfamiliar language are incorporated first? Chinese word for guitar is guitar. Greek words in Daniel are some of the musical instruments in Daniel 3:5

2. Supposedly a fairly modern type of Aramaic is found in the Aramaic sections.

 Most conservative scholars totally deny this. There is no evidence of later Aramaic style at all. It is more of a Mesopotamian than a modern, Judean Aramaic.

3. The real reason. If Daniel was written by 535 BC, then Daniel is without

 the slightest possibility of a shadow of a doubt the inspired word of God.

4. Almost every commentary I have read claims that the book of Daniel is a blatant fake. A total lie!

Evidence con:

1. Septuagint translation from Hebrew to Greek about 200-170 BC. Hard to translate before it was written.

2. Daniel manuscripts have been found in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Eight fragments have been found, with parts of all but ch 12 (which is actually quoted in another DSS). The oldest two have been dated to 150-100 BC

3. Would it be possible to convince the ultraconservative rabbis to accept a blatant faked book into the canon of the scripture. It is impossible to claim that Daniel was accepted later than 100 BC, even for the greatest die-hard skeptic.

4. We will see that Daniel predicts amazingly specific things way after 165 BC. Therefore the whole argument totally falls apart. (skeptics will deny this, and thus their bogus arguments about Daniel 2 etc, as we will see)

Historical background.

722 BC Samaria destroyed by Assyria.

612 BC Assyria/Nineveh destroyed by Nabopolassar (Babylonian) and Cyaxares (Median).

605 BC Nebuchadnezzar son of Nabopolassar king of Babylon Neb attacks Jerusalem, Jehoiakim submits, captives and tribute/treasure taken to Babylon. (beginning of Jeremiah’s 70 years?)

600 Judah rebels

597 Neb returns, attacks Jer. Jehoachin taken as captive to Babylon. Zedekiah installed as puppet king.

586. Zedekiah rebels, Neb. Returns, Jerusalem and Solomon’s temple leveled. (beginning of the 70 years of captivity?)

Nebuchadnezzar succeded by Evil-Merodach, then Nabonidus, then Belshazzar.

550 Cyrus reigns over Media/Persia

 a. 546 Lydia

 b. 538 Babylon

 c. 530 Egypt

538 Babylon captured by Cyrus’ armies. Decree to return to native lands. (Ezra 1) (Daniel 5) Media/Persia takes over Babylonian empire.

537/6 Jewish captives return to Jer. to build temple

522 Darius king. Decree to rebuild temple. Second return (Ezra 6) (battle of Marathon, invasion of Greece)

516 Temple completed. (Haggai, Zechariah) Note: This is 70 years after the captivity (See Jeremiah 29)

486 Xerxes. (Thermopylae battle, Esther.)

464 Artaxerxes (decree to rebuild Jerusalem, 3rd return under Ezra, Nehemiah, Malachi)

336 Alexander takes throne of Macedon

334-332 Crosses into Asia, Conquers entire Persian Empire

323 Alexander dies

315 Four successor dynasties take over

311. Seleucus, general of Ptolemies, establishes separate dynasty.

185-163 Seleucid king Antiochus Epiphanes rules over Jerusalem.

167 Temple desecrated.

164 Macabeean revolt. Temple cleansed

63 Pompei conquers Jerusalem for Rome.

31 Battle of Actium. Greek power ends

6/5 Jesus born under Rome

29 AD Jesus crucified.

70 Titus destroys Jerusalem

Outline of Class

I. Practical examples in the lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Ch 1,3-6). Remaining righteous in a pagan world.

II. Prophecies of the future. Ch 2,7-12

**Ch I** Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael Will they compromise their convictions under pressure from the world?

Background: 605 Captives sent from Jerusalem for assurance of submission. Children of the leading families in Jerusalem.

Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael children of aristocratic families, taken as captives.

Babylonians try to make them Babylonian

Change their names

Daniel → Belshazzar (named after the chief pagan god of Babylon: Bel Belshzzar = “may Bel protect his life”)

Hananiah → Shadrach etc… v 5,6

Educate them in t`heir culture. v 4,5

Offered wealth and power in the new system as a bribe to become Babylonian.

Similar to Joseph (taken as a captive as child, raised up to position of power, tempted to compromise, etc. ) in many ways.

Will they lose their convictions?

But….. God is in control.

Isaiah 39:6,7 Notice that the prophecy includes being made eunuchs.

Daniel 1:2 And the Lord delivered Jehoiachim

1:9 God caused the official to show favor to Daniel.

1:17 God gave them knowledge and understanding.

1:8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself. He refused to lose his Jewishness.

Do you refuse to lose your Christianness when people at work ask you to make teensy compromises with your conviction.

Daniel SM&A purposefully made an issue out of it to prove to themselves and their boss their conviction. They went overboard.

Q: Have we gone overboard to make our Christianness stick out or have we gone overboard to not make too many waves at work?

v. 11 Please test your servants.

Q: Is it wrong or a bad thing to rise to positions of prominence in an ungodly world?

Q: What are the potential pitfalls?

Q: How might we imitate DSM&A at work?

V 20,21 God sees a man willing to not compromise his convictions at all. Blesses him fully.

 By the way…. About 604 BC till 538 BC a long time… We will see that Daniel and friends never compromised even one bit.

Theme verse of Daniel Daniel 12:3

**Ch III The image of gold and the fiery furnace THE FIRES OF PERSECUTION**

Do not conform to the pressure of the religious world to conform.

How will your faith hold up?

The Scene:

A few years after DSM&A entered service to Nebuchadnezzar.

A giant idol is built in the plains of Dura. (a large open plane not far from Babylon where tens of thousands could gather.

Note the relationship to Daniel 2 with the statue. Neb has forgotten what he learned back then.

Where is Daniel? Off on a mission?

Nebuchadnezzar calls a big party, and guess who is invited. Attendance was not optional!

3:4-6 Imagine you are SM&A What thoughts go through your mind?

“I will bow my head, but not my heart. God will understand”

Talk about peer pressure!!

Their religious friends (and even fellow-Jews?) Don’t be so hard line.

Appn: Jews in time of Antiochus Epiphanes. Many wanted to combine Greek culture and philosophy with Judaism.

Appn: Persecutions of Diocletian: Some offered the sacrifice to the Roman god. What should the church do with these people after the persecution ended?

Appn: the denominational world/ecumenical movement, etc….

You don’t really have to be so committed.

Are you really saying all these people are lost? How could you be so arrogant.

Daniel 1: Pressure on the job

Daniel 3: Pressure from our religious friends.

SM&A: Would God really want me to die now? Doesn’t he have great things in store for me? What would it hurt for me to compromise?

Q: Was their “salvation” at stake?

Q: What would you have done? Really…. My kids….

V 7 the horn etc. blow. 30,000 bow and three remain standing. Being a disciple might make you stick out. Are you ready for that? (Remember Antiochus Epiphanes)

v. 13. Dragged to furnace. Neb is furious. Gives one more chance to repent

SM&A refuse to bow.

I love v 16-18. Note

1. God is able

2. But even if he does not, we refuse to compromise our devotion to God.

Is that your attitude about the truth of the gospel? Imagine how awesome an example this was to the Jews suffering under Antiochus Epiphanes.

Even as they were dragged to the flames, they could have changed their minds.

7 times hotter. Critics: here is a mistake in Daniel.

What was going through their minds as they were dragged to the furnace?

3:22-25

Result:

1. Nebuchadnezzar praised God

2. SM&A promoted.

Were they guaranteed this result? No!!!!

**Ch IV A KING EATS GRASS** Ch IV is about pride in our own accomplishments.

Theme: God rules the nations. God also rules the rulers of the nations.

Nebuchadnezzar has a dream of a giant tree…. 4:10-16. About AD 570, at height of his greatness.

4:17 The theme of ch 4 and one of the themes of Daniel. (remember the Jews in time of Antiochus Epiphanes. How could God put such an evil man over us?)

v 22 You, O king, are that tree.

v. 27 repent and the calamity may not fall on you.

v. 28 Is this not the great Babylon me my I

Herodotus ( 484-430 B.C) describes the city of Babylon in his day and its splendor.

The city stands on a broad plain, and is an exact square 120 furlongs[1] (13.63 miles) in length each way, so that the entire circuits is four hundred and eighty furlongs (54.52 miles)….It is surrounded, in the first place, by a broard and deep moat, full of water, behind which rises a wall fifty royal cubits in width, (87 feet ) and two hundred in height (350 feet).

On the top, along the edges of the wall, they constructed buildings on a single chamber facing one another, leaving between them room for a four horse chariot to turn. In the circuit of the wall are a hundred gates, all of brass, with brazen lintels and side-posts.

The city is divided into two portions by the river which runs through the midst of it. The river is the Eurphrates, broad, deep, swift stream, which rises in Armenia….The city wall is brought down on both sides to the edge of the stream.

The houses are mostly three and four stories high; the streets all run in straight lines, not only those parallel to the river, but also the cross streets which lead down to the waterside.[2]

The great gardens of Babylon.

1 Cor 4:7 Deut 8:6-18, 2 Cor 12:7-10 While the words were still on his lips….

For us: Q: How might we be like Nebuchadnezzar?

Nebuchadnezzar appears to have become crazy for a while (one obscure historical reference may confirm this story… like King George of England)

This illness of Nebuchadnezzar has been diagnosed as insania zoanthropica . Raymond Harrison recites a personal experience in a British Mental institution in 1946,

 The patient was in his early 20’s who reportedly had been hospitalized for about five years. His symptoms were well developed on admission, and diagnosis was immediate and conclusive. He was of average height and weight with good physique, and was in excellent bodily health. His mental symptoms included pronounced anti-social tendencies, and because of this he spent the entire day from dawn to dusk outdoors, in the grounds of the institution…..

His daily routine consisted of wandering around the magnificent laws…and it was his custom to pluck up and eat handfuls fo the grass as he went along. On observation he was seen to discriminate carefully between grass and weeds, and on inquiry from the attendant the writer was told the diet of this patient consisted exclusively of grass from the hospital lawns. He never ate institutional food with the other inmates, and his only drink was water… The writer was able to examine him cursorily, and the only physical abnormality noted consisted of a lengthening of the hair and a coarse, thickened condition of the fingernails. Without institutional care, the patient would have manifested precisely the same physical conditions as those mentioned in Daniel 4:33[3]

It took 7 years, but… v 34

THOSE WHO WALK IN PRIDE, HE IS ABLE TO (WILL) HUMBLE

There are two ways for God to humble us

1. Blessing us

2. Taking away our blessings. Which would you prefer?

**Ch V PARTY ANIMAL MEETS MAN OF GOD Or THE WRITING ON THE WALL**

 (this is where that saying came from)

The fall of Babylon. October 12, 539 BC

It is no coincidence that Ch 5 follows Ch 4. God rules the nations.

The scene:

Babylon has become decadent

Nabonidus, a semi-legitimate ruler, has gone off into the desert to pursue mystical studies

Belshazzar, his son, is regent

(note: skeptics doubted the reality of Belshazzar. Proof Daniel is fiction. They don’t say this any more. Vs 7 “I will make him the third in the kingdom = #2 behind Belshazzar. Later, records showed. Belshazzar began to rule as co-regent in 553 BC

What Belshazzar does not know: The armies of Cyrus were waiting that very night just outside the city.

Belshazzar is having a drunken party with all his corrupt officials.

v. 3 Drank out of the vessels from the temple of God.

Mistake city!!!!! God rules the nations.

the writing on the wall. (by the way, this plaster-covered wall has been discovered)

V 5. Belshazzar pees his pants.

V 10 The “queen” (probably the queen mother, the mother of Belshazzar, daughter of Nebuchadnezzar) she remembers Daniel.

I love v. 16, 17

Is that your attitude? Notice how Daniel has the same conviction he had in 605 BC, 67 years before. May we maintain such conviction for so long!!

v. 18-23 Daniel, as usual, gives credit to God.

Belshazzar, if only you were teachable as was your grandfather Neb. V 22

v. 22 You have set yourself against the Lord of Heaven. (Like Antiochus Epiphanes and Diocletian and others were to do in the future)

Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin

Counted, counted, weighed, divided (double meaning, Persia)

This message is for the Jews under Antiochus Epiphanes as much as for Belshazzar. God will judge your persecutors.

5:30 When God says it is time for judgment, things happen fast. October 12, 539 BC (Herodotus)

Read Daniel book p. 88 Herodotus. Note the festival going on.

Message: persecuted disciples. Do not fear. I am in control. I’ve got your back covered.

**CH VI THROWN TO THE LIONS**. About 538 BC Daniel 80+

How the world reacts to a righteous man of God.

Who is Darius the Mede? Ugbaru the Median general who conquered Babylon and was appointed governor? Astyages, former king of Media, who was deposed by Cyrus?

Note Daniel 9:1 Darius was “made ruler (not king)” over Babylon.

Note 9:28 The writer is well aware of Cyrus! (so this is not a historical error)

Note v. 4,5 They could find no basis for accusation. Could they say that about you? (again, see ch. 1) The only way we will be able to get this guy is to use his righteousness against him.

v. 6,7 the plot is hatched. Anyone who prays…

v. 8 Darius agrees. Pride goes before destruction. Like Jepthah.

Q: Will Daniel be caught in the trap?

What is Daniel’s response? Why did he keep the windows open? Note: Daniel shares his faith at work simply by being righteous. Everyone knows about his faith.

v. 10. He did not change a thing. What is your response when people try to use your righteousness against you?

v. 12 An unusual law. Because it was a dual kingdom.

v. 16 thrown to the lions. Have you ever felt like that?

God shut the mouths of the lions. Darius praises God.

**Part II Prophecies of the Future**

CH II A Dream of the Future.

v. 1 In the second year of his reign… 604 BC

Neb has a dream. Interpret it for me. Fine, tell us. Neb: no, you tell me the dream first, so I will know you are not religious fakes. Or I will kill you all.

v 11. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men. WRONG.

Many so-called charismatics are the same. God told me… I know it in my heart… Do not be intimidated by religious fakes. The world will be able to tell the difference.

Daniel’s prayer: v. 21 He removes kings and establishes king. Surely he can take care of our tough situation! God rules the nations. Do not fear.

v. 28 Daniel, as is typical, gives God the glory

The vision

A head of gold. Babylon

Chest of Bronze, Persia/Media

Belly and thighs of silver Greece

Legs of iron, but legs are part iron and part clay Rome

v. 37 God has given you (Nebuchadnezzar) dominion and power. God rules the nations!

Skeptics: head = Babylon Chest = Media Belly = Persia Legs = Greece This makes no sense at all.

Divided kingdom Diocletian AD 284 Permanent after Theodosian AD 395

Clay: Western Rome fell in AD 476

Iron: Eastern Rome—Byzantium lasted until AD 1453

603 BC- AD 1453 over two thousand years of Near Eastern history are covered in this one vision.

[Premillenialists 10 toes = EC (EU) now 27 countries oops]

2:44 In time of Rome, God will establish the kingdom of God on the earth.

You, Christian, are a citizen of that kingdom.

Daniel VII Daniel’s First Vision. Four Beasts.

This vision focuses on Rome! (so much for 160 BC date of authorship)

First year of Belshazzar (regency) 553 BC

v.4 A lion Babylon lion a major motif. Eagle: Jer 48:40 Look, an eagle is swooping down

The heart of a man given to it. Nebuchadnezzar repents.

v. 5 a bear. Strength. Persia/Media 3 ribs = Lydia, Babylon, Egypt.

v. 6 a leopard.Speed Greece (Alexander) four heads = Antigonus, Cassander, Lysimachus and Ptolemy. (See ch 8)

v.7 a terrible beast. This vision about Rome and its persecution of the Church.

v. 7 10 horns = 10 kings (v. 24) (The Emperor’s Club)

Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Tiberius, Titus

v. 8 another horn. An eleventh king. Domitian. First systematic persecutor of Christians. AD 81-96.

This horn will speak boastfully. Domitian was proverbial for arrogance and pride.

Go to the interpretation of the vision in v. 20-25.

v. 21 waging war against the saints. Imagine how 1st century disciples felt when they were persecuted by Domitian, the 11th emperor!!!! God is in control. Do not fear.

Subdue 3 kings: Galba, Otho and Vitellius defeated by his father, actually, but Domitian was in Rome defeating Vitellius. How did Daniel know that?

[Side note: Revelation 17:1-18 7 heads and 10 horns (ignoring G, O & V)

v. 8 the beast who once was (Antiochus Epiphanes), now is not, and yet will come (Domitian) God is preparing his people. v. 10,11 the eighth king is Domitian. He is going to his destruction. God is in control, do not fear)

v. 12-14 10 horns are 10 future persecuting emperors of Rome. But the lamb will conquer them….]

But back to Daniel

v. 25 will try to change the set times. Domitian changed October to Domitianus and November to Germanicus (his middle name)

v. 25 and the laws. Domitian abolished Roman law and established his own Domitian law.

Note: The day Domitian died, the months were returned to their original names and Roman law was reestablished.

v. 25 3-1/2 times ½ of seven A limited period of persecution.

v. 26,27 so cool (or go back to v. 9) Massively inspiring. But imagine being a 1st-3rd century disciple.

CH VIII Daniel’s second vision. A Ram and a Goat. Greece and Antiochus Epiphanes.

“The third year of King Belshazzar” 551 BC

v. 2 in the citadel of Susa. Later the capitol of Persia.

v. 3 A ram with two horns.

v. 3 The horn which was longer but grew up later is Persia under Cyrus, who supplanted Media as the chief power in the dual kingdom of Media/Persia.. What a precise vision! Clearly, Daniel sees Media/Persia as one kingdom!!!

v. 4 Charged West (Lydia) North (Babylon) and South (Egypt) This is exactly what Cyrus did!

v. 5 Suddenly, a goat charges form the West. Prominent horn: Alexander the Great. 334 BC crossed the Dardenelles.

v. 5 Without touching the ground. By 332, Darius III was dead

Note: Josephus tells the story of Alexander coming to Jerusalem and being showed a copy of Daniel.

v. 8 At the height of his power… 323 BC. Alexander died. His wife Roxanne had an infant son. No heirs.

v. 8 Four Prominent horns emerged. Antigonus, Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy are the four separate kingdoms/dynasties which emerged after Alexander died.

 (v. 21,22) Not 3, not 5, 4!!!!!

v. 22 The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent the four kingdoms that will emerge from this nation but will not have the same power.

v. 9 Out of one of them (out of one of the four). Seleucus 312 BC A general for Ptolemy

v. 9 to the South (Syria) East (Persia, Media, Elam) toward the Beautiful Land (Palestine) This is a list of the conquests of Seleucus and his sons. All this took over 100 years.

v. 11 It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host—Antiochus Epiphanes had a statue of himself put up in the inner sanctuary of the temple, after sacrificing a pig in the Holy of Holies.

v. 11 It took away the daily sacrifice. This is exactly what Antiochus did. Sacrifice ceased and the Abomination of Desolation lasted for three years.

It is absolutely spectacular how specific and how accurate this prophecy is—400 years before the events!

v. 12 Why did this happen? Because of rebellion. Of who? Of the Jews!

1 Macabees 1:41-54. vs 57 Antiochus sets up the abomination of desolation.

v. 12 truth thrown to the ground. Hellenizing Jews set up as high priests. Exactly what happened

1 Maccabees 1:12-15. Jews request to build a gymnasium and to institute pagan practices in Jerusalem.

“Because of rebellion” God is in control. Why did this happen? Because the Jews had not been faithful. If we are not faithful—if we become prideful and do not rely on God he will judge us and discipline us.

Note: After this terrible persecution, Judaism had one of the greatest periods of both political power and faithfulness. This is when the Hasidim took religious power in Israel.

skip to v. 23-25

24. He will become very strong, but not by his own power.

25. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power. Is this subtle? God is in control.

Back to v. 14 2300 evenings and mornings = 1150 days.

The actual desecration lasted from early Dec 167 – Dec 25 164 BC About 1150 days.

Dec 25, 164 Judas Maccabeeus successful revolt Maccabeean kingdom.

Hannukkuh celebrates this. See 1st Maccabees 4:36 f

An intense vision! 8:27 I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king’s business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

v. 25 Antiochus died the next year, fulfilling this prophecy as well.

How Did Daniel know all this?

Summary: Intense persecution. Temporary. God is in control. Do not fear.

DANIEL IX THE MESSIAH IS COMING TO JERUSALEM.

Darius who was made ruler. An appointed governor, not a hereditary emperor. Daniel is not wrong here.

9:1 538 BC The prophecy concerning 70 years of captivity is coming true.

9:2 I understood from the prophet Jeremiah that the desolation would end after 70 years (Jeremiah 25:8-14)

Daniel 9 is an awesome prayer. v. 5,6 We have sinned. We deserve what has happened to us. Daniel is taking personal responsibility for corporate sins—even ones he had nothing to do with. What a great example for us.

Summary: 9:17

v. 20,21 While I was still praying. Very encouraging. God hears and answers our prayers.

v. 24-27 A key passage in Daniel and in the Bible!

v. 24 Seventy “sevens” = 490 (years? let the fulfillment interpret the prophecy, but remember that the seventy of 9:2 was a literal 70 years)

finish transgression…. anoint the Most Holy (anoint = Messiah) As clear a messianic prophecy as there is.

v. 25 From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. When was that?

 539 BC Darius Ezra 1 return and rebuild temple but not the city

 520 BC Darius Ezra 6 rebuild temple Never worked on wall

 458 BC 7th year of Artaxerxes Ezra 7:13-16 specific permission to rebuild the city of Jerusalem.

 445 BC 20th year of Artaxerxes To Nehemiah decree not quoted but implied.

 Specific permission to rebuild wall. Confirmed the decree of 458 BC.

458 - 490 = -32 no! there was no year zero BC = AD 33 The seventy weeks end in AD 33.

The simple treatment. The Messiah is coming to Jerusalem around 33 AD.

Read in more detail. The Messiah is coming to Jerusalem during the seventieth week--between 26 and 33 AD. Most likely date of crucifixion was AD 30 (Passover Sabbath on a Saturday 29,33)

Daniel predicted the year when Jesus would be crucified!!!!

v. 26 The people of the ruler will come. AD 69 Vespasian AD 70 Titus

Destroy the city and the sanctuary. Exactly what happened in AD 70. This is the second of two “Abomination of Desolation” events 167 BC and AD 70

Luke 21:20 When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies…

v. 22 the time of judgment on the Jews has finally come.

Matthew 24:12-14 sounds almost exactly like Daniel 8 under Antiochus.

Matt 24:15,16 This is the abomination of desolation of Jesus Christ

My opinion: God gave the Jews 40 years to consider Jesus, then he cut off their religion forever.

Daniel 9:27 He will put an end to sacrifice and offering. So much for the premillenial expectation!

Hebrews 8:13 It will soon disappear.

The abomination of desolation. It is over folks. Titus performs a pagan sacrifice right on the site of the temple.

DANIEL X & XI DANIEL’S FINAL VISION. KINGS OF THE NORTH AND KINGS OF THE SOUTH.

Daniel 10:1 In the third year of King Cyrus 536 BC This vision of a “great war” is the culmination and climax of Daniel.

v. 5-6 Might this be a vision of Jesus (Revelation 1:12-16)?

v. 16 An overwhelmingly intense vision. He falls to the ground, his face is deathly pale, he mourned for three weeks…..

10:20 Archangel Michael Gabriel the angel of Israel.

11:2 Three more kings… Cambysses 530-522 Darius I 522-486 Xerxes 1 Attacked Greece Artaxerxes biggest attack on Greece

v. 3 Then a mighty king will come. This is Alexander the Great

Parceled out to the four winds. Not go to his descendents. These are the four successors to Alexander

Again, how did Daniel know all of this hundreds of years before the events?

v. 5 The king of the South will become strong. (the Ptolemaic dynasty under Ptolemy 1)

v. 5 But one of his commanders will become stronger… Seleucus I Nicator

Daniel 11:5-20 is a detailed, blow-by-blow account of the battles between Ptolemy and his successors (the kings of the South) with Seluceus and his successors (the kings of the North) for details see my book Daniel, Prophet to the Nations p. 196.

11:21 begins the material on Antiochus. All of this is confirmed by I Macabees and by Josephus.

v. 28-30 Ships of the western coastlands (The Romans intervene to save the balance of power!)

 Antiochus returns frustrated and angry to attack Israel

Read 1 Maccabees 1:10-16 also 1:41-64 4:36-40

v. 31-32 Antiochus desecrates the temple

v. 33-34 The Maccabees/Hasidim will have many defeats, and it will look very bad for a while.

v. 35 (also Daniel 8:25) Encouragement for the faithful Jews. God is in control. Do not fear. A great theme passage for Daniel: Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

v. 36-45 Rome vs Greece. The fulfillment of v. 35. The end of Greek power. Fulfilled in the battle of Actium 31 BC

v. 36 He will exalt himself above every god.

Rome allowed all kinds of gods, as long as you would also worship the god Roma Rome!!!

v. 38 he will honor a god of fortresses. Roma (which later morphed into emperor worship)

v. 39 client kings. This was Rome’s principle mode of conquest and control.

v. 40 The battle of Actium. The greatest sea battle in history up to that time.

Octavian (Autustus) vs Marc Antony and Cleopatra.

Why is this here? God is judging the Greek power which persecuted the Jews. God is in control. Do not fear.

v. 41 Edom Moab and Ammon will be delivered (true)

v. 44 Reports from the North (the Parthians attacked some outposts) All of these details are exactly what happened when Octavian (Augustus) defeated Marc Antony and Cleopatra, bringing the Ptolemaic Dynasty to an end.

CHAPTER XII THE TIME OF THE END (still part of the vision)

Daniel 12 ↔ Revelation 20-22

12:1 persecutions under Rome?

12:3 Those who are wise (like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego)

 will shine…. Theme of Daniel?

Those who lead many to righteousness. … Do not forsake sharing your faith!!

How do I know I will be raised from the dead? Because it was the 11th emperor of Rome…

v. 5,6 How long will it be? He is asking about the events of AD 70 (see v 7 When the power of the holy people (Jews) is broken)

v. 8 Daniel asks what will happen?

Reply: Daniel, mind your own business. Just trust in God. God is in control. Do not fear. Some will be wise. Some will stubbornly oppose the truth. You, just keep your head and trust in me.

God’s final encouragement to Daniel (and us) You will rest and live with me forever.