

DOCTRINAL VALUE

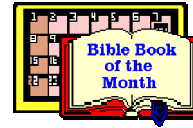
1. Isaiah tells us “how” the Messiah would be born— of a virgin; Micah tell us “where” – in Bethlehem of Judah; and Daniel tells us “when” – in the days of the Romans.
2. The book of Daniel magnifies God as the ruler of all nations.
3. The kingdom of God would be established and all dominion will serve and obey him (7:27).
4. The book foretells the coming of the Messiah in majestic terms (Daniel 7:13, 14).
5. The book presents the rewards of the righteous and punishment of the wicked.

SUPPLEMENT QUESTIONS:

1. What are the two divisions of the book of Daniel?
2. Where does Daniel’s fourth beast reappear?
3. What happened to the Greek empire upon the death of Alexander the Great?
4. What did Daniel see during the last “week” (or “seven”) of the “seventy sevens”?
5. What angel appears by name in chapter ten?
6. What is the subject matter of chapter twelve?
7. What was the special wisdom God gave Daniel?
8. The book of Daniel affirms in more than one vision the time of the Messiah’s coming was to be _____
9. What was to be the extant of God’s kingdom? (Dan. 7:27; 2:44; etc.)

This Printing: September 25, 2002

DANIEL – Part 2 (Prophecy)



Text: Daniel 7-12

Review

The first section of Daniel is historical and shows how God blessed his faithful servants: 1) in the court; 2) in the furnace; 3) in the lion’s den.

The second section of Daniel encompasses chapters 7-12 and we shall refer to it as the prophetical section.

The Vision of the Beasts – Ch. 7

During the first year of the reign of the Babylonian king Belshazzar, Daniel had a vision concerning four beasts. What is the first beast described in verse 4? _____; The second beast in verse 5? _____; The third beast in verse 6? _____; The fourth beast is exceedingly strong and has iron teeth and ten horns. Later in the chapter we learn these beasts represent the same kingdoms previously seen in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (in chapter 2).

The beasts represent Babylon, Persia, the Greek empire, and the Roman empire. This chapter again indicates that the kingdom of Christ would be established in the days of the fourth empire (Roman).

John in the book of Revelation sees again this fourth beast who has absorbed qualities or some characteristics of the previous three (Rev 13). Daniel’s vision helps us to understand the identity of the beast in Revelation for it is the very same nation.

The Ram and the He-Goat – ch. 8

The next chapter records a vision which came later to Daniel in Belshazzar’s third year. Daniel foresaw the conquest of the Persians by Alexander the Great. (He saw this when the Persians hadn’t yet conquered Babylon.) In vivid detail Daniel describes the lightening advance by the Greeks until there was nothing left for them to conquer (vs. 5-7). Daniel foresaw four divisions into which this empire later unfolded, for upon Alexander’s death his four generals each took a part of the kingdom to rule (vs. 8).

We’re not left in doubt as to this meaning, for Daniel tells us in verses 20-22.

The Seventy “Sevens” – Ch. 9

Question-1 Whose work had Daniel been reading and came to understand? (9:2) _____. What desolation did Daniel realize had been accomplished? _____

Question-2 While Daniel was praying and confessing the sins of Israel, who came to him? (vs. 20-22) _____. Why had he come to Daniel? _____

He explained to Daniel that seventy weeks were determined to make an end of sins and reconciliation for iniquity.

Some mighty important events and accomplishments were to occur (vs. 24) and Daniel is allowed to have an understanding about the time of the Messiah (vs. 25-27).

There were to be 70 weeks “from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem unto the Messiah.” As the Captivity had been seventy years, the period between the Captivity and the coming of the Messiah will be seven times that long.

Starting with the decree of Artaxerxes to Ezra in 458 BC (cf. Ezra 7:6-7), sixty-nine weeks of years (i.e. 483 years) brings one to 26 AD, the year when Jesus’ public ministry began (Daniel 9:25).

Verses 26 and 27 reveal what will happen in the 70th week. In the middle of that “week” (3 ½ years) the Messiah will cause the sacrifice to cease.

The Time of the End – Ch. 10-12

In chapter 10 Daniel begins to see some of the struggles of angels against wickedness and a part they play in the affairs of nations. Daniel is prepared for what follows.

Chapter 11 is prophetic of the turmoil and problems that fell upon the Jews during the inter-testament period when Palestine was a pawn between two elements of the decaying Greek empire.

The Seleucids of Syria and the Ptolemies of Egypt (descendants of Alexander’s generals) were constantly fighting and Israel was caught in the middle. These forces are pictured in chapter 12 under the terms “king of the north” and “king of the south.”

During the later part of the time between the testaments the Maccabæan rulers of Israel struggled against these outside forces trying to maintain some semblance of independent.

Chapter 12 deals with the “time of the end” and Daniel was not allowed to understand “what shall be the end of these things” but was told to close up the book and seal it till the time of the end (12:4, 8-9). In contrast, John in the Revelation is allowed to see the Book being unsealed by the Lamb of God (Rev. 6-8), because “the time is at hand” (Rev. 1:3).

Just what “end” was in view meets with a wide variety of interpretation. Was it “our” end, when Jesus comes back, or was it the “end” from the Jewish standpoint, that is, the end of the Mosical covenant and of the Jewish nation?

Summary of Daniel’s Power

God gave Daniel the special gift of interpreting dreams and visions (2:19, 23, 27-30, 47). He interpreted those of other men in chapters 2-5; and God gave him visions of his own in ch. 7-12.

Question-3 Research Question: Hebrews 1:1-2 indicates that in times past God communicated to his people through various ways and means, but how does the New Testament say God speaks to us today?

LESSONS:

1. Daniel is a great example to young and old alike on how to conduct their lives honestly before men and faithfully before God.
2. Daniel demonstrates how one can be absolutely unswerving in his convictions, yet be highly respected for it.
3. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego’s conduct in facing the fiery furnace shows what real faith is and what strength it can give one that has it (Daniel 3:16-18). (“Our God ... is able”)
4. The conduct and faithfulness of the saints can cause unbelievers to praise the name of the Living God. (See Daniel 2:47; 3:28-29; 4:34-37; 6:25-27.)
5. God in heaven knows the future and holds it in his control and can reveal it to his prophets (like Daniel). The evidence of predictive prophecy being fulfilled is the strongest proof of an omniscience GOD ruling the universe.
6. God knows what is in the hearts of men (ch. 4) even their pride and haughtiness and can bring powerful men low and raise the humble (examples are Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel.)