

OT-OV

Lesson 120

1. Earlier I began an overview of the book of Daniel. We are going to review some of that learned and then pick up with new material at point 9 below.
2. Daniel was written by Daniel from Babylon in about 534. Daniel from Babylon tells of the struggles of the exile while providing remarkable prophecies of five world empires and their relationship to Israel.
3. So far I have given you an expanded translation of chapters one, two, three, four and five where we found a history of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being taken hostage by Nebuchadnezzar and how they adapted to their new surroundings and prospered as young men under various trials and triumphs.
4. Chapter one recall tells of the exile of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, their training and acceptance as men of outstanding character.
5. Chapter two tells of Nebuchadnezzar's dream where he saw a giant statue; Daniel not only tells the King what he dreamed but the meaning of that dream.
6. Chapter three tells of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego being tested and placed in a fiery furnace.
7. Chapter four tells of Nebuchadnezzar's zoanthropy, his recovery and salvation testimony.
8. Chapter five tells of the writing on the wall, Daniel's explanation and the demise of Babylon; the Medes and Persians are seen replacing Babylon as an empire just as Daniel predicted in chapter two.
9. We are now ready for Daniel chapter six.

Dan 6:1 Darius, at the urging of Cyrus, decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces with a triumvirate of regional managers.

Dan 6:2 Daniel was a member of the triumvirate. A purpose of the regional managers was to make sure the rulers of the provinces paid their taxes.

Dan 6:3 Daniel so distinguished himself as a loyal and effective administrator that Darius let it be known he planned to promote his Jewish friend to vice president of the entire empire, second only to the king himself.

Dan 6:4 Then the other high ranking appointees, motivated by jealousy, sought to destroy Daniel by either finding or conjuring some “error” in him; they carefully critiqued with a “fine tooth comb” all of his decisions and associations, but could find nothing deserving of criticism. As a loyal man of doctrine, he was impeccable, consistently displaying expertise ahead of his contemporaries; in fact, the reports returning to his peers revealed they could find no fault in him whatsoever.

Dan 6:5 Having carefully scrutinized all of Daniel's activities and decisions, one of the conspirators said, "We have been unable to find anything against Daniel; there is only one hope and that is to use his religion against him."

Dan 6:6 Then these regional managers and governors of the respective provinces came together in an official convocation before the king, and they greeted him with the words, "King Darius, live forever."

Dan 6:7 Lying, they said, "Your regional managers and all of your military leaders have decided you need to promulgate a royal decree: Anyone who petitions to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, shall be cast into the den of lions as punishment.

Dan 6:8 Now, O King, establish the decree and sign the writing so that it cannot be changed; according to the royal law of the Medes and Persians, your decree, O King, cannot be altered by anyone.”

Dan 6:9 Accordingly, King Darius, consumed by approbation lust, agreed to their proposal.

Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel read the law, he went into his house for privacy; the window of his chamber being opened toward Jerusalem, he knelt and prayed three times a day, just as God's Word demanded. He prayed intensely for himself and his people. This he had done for sixty-eight years.

Dan 6:11 Then the conspiratorial “heroes” sent several of their servants to Daniel's house in order to spy on him and there they found Daniel praying for deliverance.

Dan 6:12 Armed with this information, the plotters assembled before Darius and spoke to the king concerning the royal decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who shall ask a petition of any god or man shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered, "This is true. According to the law of the Medes and Persians, the promulgation cannot be changed."

Dan 6:13 Then the conspirators and enemies of Daniel reported to the king, "Daniel is not a Persian nor is he a Mede but he is a foreigner, a Jew, and he has no regard for you or the decree you just recently signed. He continues to pray three times a day to the God of Israel."

Dan 6:14 When the King heard these words, he was completely disgusted with himself; he realized that he must sentence a person he admired greatly. Therefore, he put his mind to work to devise a plan to deliver Daniel; he labored throughout the day to this end, but to no avail.

Dan 6:15 The plotters were persistent and again assembled before the king and said, "Know, O King, that the law of the Medes and the Persians clearly denies modification or retraction of a law promulgated by the king; it cannot be changed by anyone.”

Dan 6:16 Sadly, the king gave the order; he had no alternative but to command that Daniel be brought forth and cast into the den of lions. Hoping that Daniel would understand his position in this matter, Darius said to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve so well, will no doubt deliver you."

Dan 6:17 Daniel was thrown headlong into the pit and a large stone was placed over the mouth of the den. Darius' secretary brought the legislation under which Daniel had been prosecuted, and the king of Persia placed his seal on the document. "There" said the conspirators, "it is done and no one can change what Darius the Great has sealed."

Dan 6:18 Darius returned to the palace and spent a miserable night without eating; he even refused the usual beauty pageant where he customarily selected his lady of the night. He got into his bed, but he could not sleep.

Dan 6:19 At the break of dawn, the king put on his royal robe and hurried down the stairs to the lions' den.

Dan 6:20 When Darius and his entourage arrived in the basement of the palace, just above the den of lions, with an anxious voice he screamed out to Daniel: "O Daniel, servant of the living God whom you have faithfully served continually, was your God able to deliver you from the lions?"

Dan 6:21 With the greatest of calm, Daniel said to the king, "O King, live forever!

Dan 6:22 My God has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, Who has delivered me from the lions; they have not hurt me. O King, I have been faithful to you, and to Jehovah God."

Dan 6:23 Darius was overcome with joy; he gave orders to get Daniel out of the lions' den. When Daniel was lifted out from the pit, the king's physicians examined him and determined he had not so much as a bruise. Daniel was delivered because he had earlier placed his trust in Christ for salvation and doctrine for temporal deliverance.

Dan 6:24 Again the king issued a command, and those men who had accused Daniel were brought forth and cast into the den of lions, together with their children and their wives. They had not reached the bottom of the pit when the lions seized them; the conspirators and their families were torn apart and the lions ate them, bones and all.

Dan 6:25 King Darius, now a believer, addressed a message to all the racial, geographic and linguistic entities within his jurisdiction, saying, "The peace and prosperity of Jehovah God be multiplied unto you.

Dan 6:26 I hereby issue a decree: In every dominion of my kingdom men shall tremble and fear the God of Daniel, for He is the living God, the same yesterday, today and forever; even though nations and empires come and go, His dominion will never cease. God's eternal kingdom shall not be destroyed.

Dan 6:27 He not only provides spiritual deliverance in salvation, but physical deliverance in time. It is the God of Israel who has physically rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

Dan 6:28 So, by the grace of God, Daniel was caused to prosper throughout the reign of Darius.

Daniel, Chapter Seven – This time Daniel has a dream in which he sees four terrible creatures.

Dan 7:1 In the first year of the Babylonian co-regency of Nabonidus and Belshazzar, in c. 556 B.C., I had a dream. I was lying on my bed when I saw several visions. I recorded the visions, in summary fashion, in my diary.

Dan 7:2 I, Daniel, was lying in my bed. I looked up and saw the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. It was clearly the Mediterranean Sea.

Dan 7:3 Four dreadful creatures, each different from the other, came out of the sea; the sea represented the vast confused gentile world.

Dan 7:4 The first was like a lion; it had wings like an eagle. This first creature represented Babylon. I watched until its wings were ripped off and it was made to stand on its two back feet like a man. The heart of a man was given to it. The bizarre series of events pointed to Nebuchadnezzar's bout with his zoanthropy, his temporary demise as ruler of Babylon and his recovery after his regeneration.

Dan 7:5 I saw a second awful creature; it looked like a bear. The second beast represented the Medo-Persian Empire. The giant grizzly rose up on one of its sides. Between its teeth, and protruding from its mouth, were three ribs. The three ribs represented Babylon, Lydia and Egypt; these were three nations recently conquered by the Medo-Persians. A command from one of the angels standing nearby declared, "Get up and eat more!"

Dan 7:6 And then I saw another beast rise out of the sea, one that looked like a leopard. On its back it had four wings. This beast also had four heads. It was given authority to rule. The nature of the leopard with its winged back spoke of Alexander the Great's speed of conquest. He conquered the world in 12 short years. The four heads represented Alexander's four generals who, after Alexander's death in 323 B.C., ruled four Hellenistic empires.

Dan 7:7 In a terrifying night vision, I saw a fourth beast, more terrifying, and frightening and powerful than the other three. It had huge iron teeth. What it didn't grind with its teeth it smashed with its feet. It was different from all the former beasts; it had ten horns coming out of its head.

Dan 7:8 While thinking about these horns, a little horn appeared before me. Three of the beast's horns were pulled up by the roots to make room for it. This horn had the eyes of a man speaking boastfully of the things that it would do; the little horn was particularly critical of God.

Dan 7:9 Suddenly my eyes were directed toward heaven. There I saw thrones being set in place by none other than God the Father, the Ancient of Days. He took His seat in the middle of the throne room. He wore a robe, as white as snow, signifying His absolute Righteousness; the hair of His head was white and thick like wool, a sign of His earned respect. His throne was elevated, surrounded by flaming fire. The throne had wheels that were all ablaze, as a symbol of His omnipresence and severe judgment upon all who deny His authority, rule and protocol.

Dan 7:10 I saw a river of fire flowing, like a sea of lava, from the throne room of God. Vast numbers of angels stood before Him. I estimate their numbers in the billions. It was announced that the Supreme Court of Heaven would soon be in session. A large set of books was brought into the heavenly court room.

Dan 7:11 I watched, in amazement, as the little horn, the Antichrist, boasted of his greatness and power. I kept on watching until he was slain at the Second Advent of Christ. I watched further, as Christ ordered that the Antichrist's body be thrown into the blazing fire of Hades.

Dan 7:12 Satan and his demons were allowed to live. They were chained for the greater part of one thousand years. At the end of the Millennial reign of Christ, they were released, but only for a short period of time.

Dan 7:13 I continued to dream. I saw the Messiah. He looked like the Son of Man, the incarnate Christ. He came clothed in the clouds of heaven, and was led before the throne of the Ancient of Days.

Dan 7:14 The Ancient of Days gave Christ all authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language were required to worship Him. The dominion given Him was an everlasting one; one which would not pass away, a dominion that would never be destroyed.

Dan 7:15 My vision caused me to become overwrought. I did not understand the meaning of what I had dreamed, and worse, I felt terrible pain for my people Israel.

Dan 7:16 I asked one of the angels, "What is the meaning of what I have dreamed?" An angel began an extensive explanation of my dream.

Dan 7:17 "The four great beasts are four world empires which will rise out from the turmoil of planet earth.

Dan 7:18 Ultimately, however, God's forever family will take possession of a new earth. They will live forever in a state of absolute happiness."

Dan 7:19 I was greatly puzzled and wanted to know more of the fourth beast. This beast was different from all the others. It was certainly more terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws. It crushed and devoured its victims, trampling them underfoot. This beast showed no mercy whatsoever.

Dan 7:20 I, Daniel, also wanted the angel to tell me more about the ten horns. I was especially interested in the horn that looked more imposing than the others; the one that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully against all authority.

Dan 7:21 While I was looking, this little horn, the Antichrist, attacked and defeated God's chosen people.

Dan 7:22 God, the Most High, the Eternal One, then intervened in favor of His chosen ones. The time had arrived for the people of God to receive Christ's earthly kingdom.

Dan 7:23 Then I was told by an angel standing nearby, "The fourth beast will be the fourth kingdom to appear on earth. It will be different from all the others. It will trample the earth and crush it to pieces.

Dan 7:24 The ten horns you saw are ten kings ruling ten sovereign nations. They will align themselves by treaty, forming a federation. From one of the lesser kingdoms the Antichrist will arise. He will quickly strike and conquer two of the ten nations. He will be a military and political genius; as a result, this little horn will be elected chairman of a powerful European federation headquartered in Rome.

Dan 7:25 "He speaks against God and oppresses those who profess Christianity. He even changes the calendar and replaces national laws with international laws. Under the permissive will of God, the saints of planet earth are handed over to him for three and one-half years.

Dan 7:26 The Antichrist will establish himself as the military, political, religious and economic ruler of all the earth. In the third heaven all attention is directed to the throne room where the Supreme Court sits in session. The court rules that all power is to be taken away from the Antichrist. The Antichrist and his associate, the False Prophet, will be cast into the lake of fire.

Dan 7:27 The kingdoms of the earth will be placed under the saints of God. Christ will be made ruler over both heaven and earth. He will rule all peoples and nations. Their leaders will worship and obey Him.”

Dan 7:28 And there it ended. I, Daniel, was in shock, and deeply troubled by what I had seen. I was like a man who had seen a ghost. I decided to keep the matter to myself.

End Lesson