

I. DANIEL'S PROPHECIES

A. A Tour of the Prophecies

1. Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Statue
(some interpretation; stretches to end)
gold head = Babylon (Dan 2:48)
silver chest & arms, app Medo-Persia (8:20)
bronze belly & thighs, app Greece (8:21)
legs of iron
feet of iron/clay
stone cut without hands, God's kingdom (2:44)

2. Daniel 4: Nebuchadnezzar's Tree
(some interpretation; fulfilled in past)
great tree = Nebuchadnezzar (4:22)
cut down, etc. = loses power (4:24-25)
stump, roots remain = will be restored (4:26)

3. Daniel 5: The Handwriting on the Wall
(cryptic writing; fulfilled in past)
MENE, MENE, TEKEL & PARSIN
MENE = mina or numbered
TEKEL = shekel or weighed
PARSIN = half, Persia, divided

4. Daniel 7: The Four Wild Beasts
(some interpretation; stretches to end)
winged lion plucked, raised, human heart
bear, tilted, gnawing three ribs
leopard w/ four heads & wings
terrible beast, iron teeth, bronze claws
ten horns and eleventh
thrones, Ancient of Days, Son of Man

5. Daniel 8: The Ram & the Goat
(some interpretation; fulfilled in past)
ram w/ two large horns, one larger than other
goat with one horn defeats ram
horn broken, replaced by four horns
fifth horn, casts down stars, defeats saints
desolates sanctuary

destroyed, not by human power (8:25)

6. Daniel 9: The Seventy "Weeks"
 - (cryptic speech; stretches to end)
 - 70 weeks to finish transgression, etc.
 - 7 weeks (to rebuild city?)
 - 62 more to Messiah being cut off
 - 1 week covenant confirmed
 - in midst of week, sacrifice abolished,
 - abomination of desolation set up
 - end decreed poured out on him

7. The Kings of the North & South
 - (cryptic speech; stretches to end)
 - rather complex sequence which seems to match events from Daniel's time (about 600 BC) to Maccabean period (about 168 BC)
 - then seems to skip to end of age

B. Daniel's Future Predictions Compiled

1. The Empires	Daniel 2	Daniel 7
Neo-Babylonian (609-539 BC)	Golden head	Lion w/ human heart
Medo-Persian (539-331 BC)	Silver breast & arms	Bear raised on one side
Greek (331-30 BC)	Bronze belly & thighs	Leopard w/ 4 wings & heads
Roman (30 BC-300 AD)	Iron legs	Terrible beast iron teeth
Divided Roman (300 AD-present)	Iron/clay feet	[not detailed] (Horns of beast)

2. The Messiah

see 70 weeks chart; cut off after 69th week begins

3. The Gaps

Dan 2 & 7 jump from Roman empire to end-times empire
 Dan 9 jumps from Messiah's 1st coming to 2nd

Dan 11 jumps from Antiochus 4 to Antichrist

Are these jumps from closest ancient example to end-time feature? End empire closest to Roman? Jesus unique, only like himself? Antichrist closest to Antiochus?

4. Daniel's Prophecies Picked Up in New Testament

Jesus and Abomination of Desolation (Matt 24:15)

Paul and Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-11)

John and Beasts (Rev 13)

II. HOW NEAR IS THE END?

A. Introduction

Isaac Asimov, *A Choice of Catastrophes*
Middle East turmoil: Gulf War, Israel
Six-thousand year theory of human history
Adam: c4000 BC; Abraham: c2000 BC;
Jesus: 0 BC; 2nd Coming: AD 2000

B. Can We Tell?

Not exactly:

Matt 24:42-44: be on alert; don't know when; when you don't expect it

24:36: no one but Father knows day or hour

1 Thess 5:2: day of Lord comes as thief in night

But should be able to recognize its approach:

Matt 24:32-35: parable of fig tree

(misuse to calculate year, 1988)

real meaning (cp Luke 21:29: all trees)

signs indicate approach

1 Thess 5:1-6: though like thief, shouldn't surprise believer, since not in dark; stay awake!

C. Signs of the End

Jesus' message on Mt. of Olives (Matt 24):

3: sign of coming, end of age

4-6: false Xs, wars, etc, but not yet end

7-8: nations at war, famines, earthquakes, beginning of "birth pangs"

9-14: persecution, general hatred of Xns, betrayal, false prophets, increased lawlessness, love growing cold, Gospel preached to all nations

15-28: The Great Tribulation

Abomination of Desolation

Dan 9:27; 11:31 (Antiochus); 12:11

get away quickly

nothing to match it in human history

continued appearance of false Xs and false prophets

Lord's return will be unmistakable

29-31: Christ's Second Coming

Paul's predictions: moral collapse & Man of Lawlessness:

2 Tim 3:1-5: compare Matt 24:12

2 Thess 2:1-12: apostasy and Man of Sin (antichrist)

compare Matt 24 on abomination of desolation

vv11-12: God will allow delusion as judgment

John's predictions of world government & religion:

Rev 13: one world govt under beast (antichrist)

666 in 13:18 probably symbol for Serpent's Christ

D. Where Are We Now?

Technology

unprecedented: one-second communication, few hour travel has produced one world & possibility of one-world govt; has also speeded up spread of Gospel to whole world

population growth due to medical & agricultural advances has put severe strain on resources and environment, making famine, disease & environmental disaster more severe if anything goes wrong

allows larger scale, more disastrous wars; danger of nuclear proliferation; these favor one-world govt as solution

Scientism (Evolutionism, etc.)

undermines all traditional religions & their concepts of moral absolutes

Ecumenism

desire to unite all religions, partly to avoid conflict, assisted by loss of absolutes

Israel

regathering has produced tensions in Middle East, which superpower confrontation and oil embargo have spread to whole world; may be setting stage for abomination of desolation

Disasters

not much yet, some famines, usual earthquakes, tho even San Francisco type
earthquake would be far more destructive to human life today, and much
bigger earthquakes have occurred (New Madrid, MO, 1811)
AIDS is feared by some to reach proportions of Black Death

E. What Should We Do About It?

How near is the end? Don't know, but it may be close
Whether the end of the age is close or not, your end may be close
Repent! Recognize that you won't make it on your own when you stand before God to answer
for everything you've done or thought
Trust in Jesus: he obeyed for us and paid for us
explain how to trust in Jesus
Live like each day is important