

## **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<br>(609-539 BC)    | Golden head              | Lion w/<br>human heart             |
| Medo-Persian<br>(539-331 BC)      | Silver breast<br>& arms  | Bear raised<br>on one side         |
| Greek<br>(331-30 BC)              | Bronze belly<br>& thighs | Leopard w/ 4<br>wings & heads      |
| Roman<br>(30 BC-300 AD)           | Iron legs                | Terrible beast<br>iron teeth       |
| Divided Roman<br>(300 AD-present) | Iron/clay<br>feet        | [not detailed]<br>(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