

DIAMONDS FROM DANIEL

by

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INTRODUCTION

KEY TO THE BOOK OF DANIEL

The Second Coming of Christ Is the Golden Key which unlocks the Book of Daniel. The Bible teaches the personal return of Christ to reign as definitely, simply, clearly and as unambiguously as it taught His first coming to suffer and die. The Bible teaches in plain language the actual, literal, personal, bodily return of Christ to this earth. There never will be peace on earth until the return of the Prince of Peace. There will never be a millennium of righteousness and rest until Jesus Christ returns. Not until Christ returns will injustice, inequality and selfishness cease.

- *Not until Christ returns* will the curse be lifted from man and beast.
- *Not until Christ returns* will righteousness cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.
- *Not until Christ returns* shall those who sleep in Him arise.
- *Not until Christ returns* will the groan be taken from the earth.
- *Not until Christ returns* will the bride and bridegroom immortal be united in holy marriage and celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb.
- *Not until Christ returns* will He sit upon the throne of His Father David (Luke 1:31-33).
- *Not until Christ returns* will the kingdoms of this world be destroyed and the Stone fill the whole earth.
- *Not until Christ returns* will God's will be done in earth as it is done in heaven.

Then and not until then shall there come a new heaven and a new earth, a new city and new nations, and sin, sorrow, strife, pain, death and war cease. All creation awaits the happy hour of Christ's Second Advent. The Smiting Stone is coming and from the depths of his unworthy heart, the writer cries "**Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**" Amen!

The Book of Daniel and His Critics

The Book of Daniel has been a veritable battleground for centuries. Carping, inconsistent critics both inside and outside of the pulpit have hammered away against this anvil upon which their hammers have been broken to pieces. Kuenen and Wellhausen with their inferior disciples of our own day have done their best to discredit Daniel and belittle the book which bears his name. They have all miserably failed. Their names will soon be forgotten while Daniel lives on, and his book blesses the world. As far as this insignificant scribe is concerned, the question of the authenticity, veracity, inspiration and authority of the Book of Daniel has never been questioned, nor even open for debate since he read Matthew 24:15.

This should be enough for every Christian. Our blessed Lord, the infallible Son of God mentions Daniel by name in his matchless marvelous message delivered on Olivet (Matthew 24:15). When our Lord uttered the words “**Daniel the Prophet**” he set his sovereign seal on both the writer and the book which bears his name. That the Book of Daniel was written and known before the advent of Antiochus Epiphanes is easily proved by remembering that the Septuagint or Greek version of the Old Testament, which was made before the time of the Maccabees, contains the Book of Daniel. The Book therefore antedates the time of Antiochus and gives one sure knockout upper cut to the critics.

Daniel, the Dissolver of Doubts

Daniel was distinguished for his deep piety, profound sagacity and religious consistency.

- He was skilful in wisdom, cunning in knowledge, an interpreter of dreams, a dissolver of doubts and of an excellent spirit.
- His heart was holy, his mind was pure, his body was clean and his spirit was guileless.

As a seer he stands without a peer.

- He foretold the rise and fall of Babylon, the fearful insanity of Nebuchadnezzar, the death of Belshazzar, the rise, progress, decay and doom of the Medo-Persian empire, the coming of Alexander the Great, the Conquests of Rome, the apocalypse of the Antichrist and the end of the world.
- He read, at once, to Belshazzar, the ominous, startling handwriting on the wall.
- He was a profound student of the prophetic scriptures.
- He unceasingly prayed and untiringly labored for his God and His people.
- He lived through the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius and at least through the first year of Cyrus and was finally assured by his Lord God that he should “**stand in his lot at the end of the days.**”

Daniel clearly reveals that the rise and fall of Ancient Empires were all preparatory to the coming of the Messiah. His predictions have been so minutely fulfilled, and so strikingly verified by subsequent history that some infidels and higher critics have been driven to despair and have alleged that the Book of Daniel must have been written after the events took place.

The Book of Daniel is also full of cheering instruction. It shows that the God of the Bible and the God of Israel presides over nations, that He wields their destinies, changes the decrees of mad monarchs, exalts the holy, abases the proud and works out His own will despite the depravity of despotic kings and peasants.

Hebrew prophets were inspired instructors of the people. They were holy men speaking in God's name to men and nations. Whether they expounded the histories of the past, enforced duties in the present or revealed mysteries to come they spake for God and in God's name. In the darkest days God never left Himself without a witness. Daniel was not by any means the least of those prophets, instructors, seers and witnesses.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

The Book of Daniel is the twenty-seventh book of the Old Testament, and contains twelve chapters. The book was written between 606-534 B.C. by Daniel whose name it bears. He prophesied during the whole of the seventy years captivity and now rests from his labours until the end of the days.

The outstanding evidence of the authenticity of the Book of Daniel is the testimony of our Blessed Lord Himself. He quoted from this book as recorded in Matthew 24:14, 15, 30; Luke 21:24 and again in Matthew 26:63-64. Thus our Lord clearly commends to us the reading and study of the Book of Daniel.

Author: Daniel.

- (1) Carried captive by Nebuchadnezzar.
- (2) Purposed in His heart to be pure even in the midst of impurity.
- (3) Honored by the God of heaven and the kings of earth.

Date:—606-534 B.C.

From Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, to Cyrus, King of the Medes and Persians.

Place:—Babylon.

Chief Purpose—

- (1) To show the sovereignty of the Lord God.
- (2) The success of world-power is but temporary.
- (3) The Kingdom of Christ shall finally triumph over all.

The one great object of the Book of Daniel is to bring out the power of God. The Sovereignty of God is shown on every page of this profound book of Prophecy.

1. GOD'S POWER is shown in the character and conduct of Daniel and his three Hebrew friends.
2. GOD'S POWER is revealed in the remarkable wisdom displayed by Daniel.
3. GOD'S POWER is pictured in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and the interpretation thereof by Daniel.
4. GOD'S POWER is declared in His deliverance of the true and trusting three companions of Daniel from the fiery furnace.
5. GOD'S POWER is set forth in his judgment dealings with Nebuchadnezzar.

- (1) Warning him.
- (2) Punishing him.
- (3) Restoring him.

6. GOD'S POWER is wonderfully displayed in the doom-sealing handwriting on the wall at Belshazzar's feast when the recklessness of Belshazzar brought upon him the retribution of God.
7. GOD'S POWER is seen in the deliverance of Daniel from the den of lions.

We have thus revealed the power and presence of God in all the affairs of men and nations. He wrought wonders for His people when they were captives in Egypt and He showed forth his mighty power when His people were captives in Babylon. World Rulers were compelled to confess that the God of the Bible and the God of the Hebrews was the only true and living God, the Most-High Ruler in Heaven and earth.

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

The Times of the Gentiles is that long period during which Jerusalem is politically subject to the rule of the Gentiles. It began with the Babylonian captivity of Judah under Nebuchadnezzar and it will end by the destruction of Gentile dominion by the Coming of the Lord in glory (Daniel 2:34, 35, 44—Revelation 19:11, 21).

There are three somewhat similar expressions in the Bible which ought to be clearly understood.

1. **“The Times of the Gentiles.”**
2. **“The Fulness of the Gentiles.”**
3. **“The Fulness of the Times.”**

The first phrase **“The times of the Gentiles”** is used to designate *that period of time during which the Gentile nations exercise dominion over the earth*. God told Adam to **“multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion.”** Adam lost that dominion through disobedience.

After the flood God told Noah to **“multiply and replenish the earth, and have dominion.”** The chosen race through Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Noah and Shem was thus given dominion over the earth. That dominion was lost by disobedience.

Such disobedience culminated in the building of the Tower of Babel which brought the judgments of God in the confusion of tongues. God then called Abraham and through Abraham promised THE KING whose dominion would be an everlasting dominion. God's chosen race was to rule the earth. The disobedience of God's people brought disaster and dissolution culminating in the captivity in Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon was the first Gentile world ruler to subdue God's people after their establishment in the land of Canaan.

Nebuchadnezzar overturned the throne of David and carried away the people and the Times of the Gentiles began. Such times will go on until the return of Christ as King. The Times of the Gentiles will continue until the apocalypse of the Antichrist who will be the last Gentile World Ruler. Our Lord himself said **“Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”** (Luke 21:24).

The Times of the Gentiles thus began with Nebuchadnezzar and will end with the destruction of the Antichrist by the personal appearance of Christ as King.

The expression “**The fulness of the Gentiles**” is altogether different. Romans 11:25 “**For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.**”

Israel has been and is now hardened in heart and blinded in eyes and shall so continue until the elect number of the Church has been called out and completed.

Acts 15:13-17 “**And after they had held their peace, James answered saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.**”

The purpose of God in this age is thus clearly set forth:

- (1) God is now visiting the Gentiles (The Times of the Gentiles).
- (2) God is now taking out from among the Gentiles a people for his own name (The Church).
- (3) The return of Christ.

After the return of Christ the Kingdom will be restored to Israel and the millennial reign of Christ will begin. The “**fulness of the Gentiles**” thus deals with the completed Church which began on the morning of the Resurrection of Christ and is to end at the rapture of the Saints.

The phrase “**The fulness of the Times**” which may be found in Ephesians 1:7-10 refers to the eternal state when all things shall have been fulfilled and summed up in Christ.

To briefly recapitulate

1. THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES has reference to the dominion of the Gentiles.
2. THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES deals with the calling out and completion of the Church of Christ.
3. THE FULNESS OF TIMES sets forth the eternal age.

ANALYSIS OF DANIEL

1. The Personal History of Daniel – Chapters 1 and 6
2. The Dreams of Nebuchadnezzar – Chapters 2 and 4
3. The Three Hebrews – Chapter 3
4. Belshazzar’s Great Feast – Chapter 5

5. The Visions of Daniel – Chapter 7 to 12

I. The Personal History of Daniel

(1) *The first test was of Daniel's faithfulness to God.* Daniel was taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah. He was one of the children of Israel and of the king's seed who was chosen for a special course in the college of Babylon. The national sins of Judah had brought upon the race the inevitable judgments of God and Daniel with his three companions suffered captivity with the rest of the nation. Daniel came face to face with a real test to his trust in the God of the Hebrews during the first semester of his college career in Babylon. A daily provision of the king's meat and of the king's wine was one of the necessary courses.

Daniel requested that he might not defile himself while purposing in his heart to be true to God and God's word. After ten days of trial the countenances of the Hebrews appeared fairer and fatter than all other students. The first test was thus passed and God gave Daniel and his three friends knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom.

(2) *The second test came as a result of the dream of Nebuchadnezzar.* The dream had stirred the despotic king and realizing the importance of obtaining an interpretation thereof, he demanded such from his wise men. His own professional wise men having failed him in the crucial hour he sent out an edict that the wise men should be slain. Daniel asked for time, prayed mightily to the Lord God and was rewarded by having the secret revealed to him. The dream and also the interpretation were given to the king and Daniel was made chief governor of Babylon.

(3) *The third test was the result of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the great tree.* As usual the king turned to the wrong source for help. The magicians and soothsayers failed again. Daniel again rises to the occasion, gives the interpretation of the great tree in the midst of the earth, exhorts the king to break off his sins by righteousness, shew mercy to the poor and thus lengthen his tranquility. Ample proof is here afforded of the devotion to God, faithfulness to truth and fearlessness in witnessing for the Lord before the mighty monarch of Babylon. No wonder Daniel was a man greatly beloved by God.

(4) *The fourth test was after the ruin and restoration of Nebuchadnezzar.* Belshazzar made a great feast and drank wine before thousands of his lords and subjects. In a drunken frenzy he profaned the sacred vessels of the Lord which brought upon his unholy head the judgments of God. A man's hand wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the palace, the king's countenance was changed and conscience stricken and trembling from head to heel the terrified trifler cried aloud for his professional wiseacres, offering scarlet clothes, gold chains, and high honors to anyone who shall read the writing. When all else had failed God's holy Daniel was brought in before the king. Daniel preached a master message to a great audience which included a great king and at least a thousand of his leading lords and ladies.

Daniel thunders out the charge against the profane Belshazzar accusing him of pride, sin against light, and profanity, and forthwith pronounces his doom. In that night Belshazzar was slain.

(5) *Daniel's fifth test was during the reign of Darius the Median.* Darius promoted Daniel making him chief executive, chancellor and premier of the great empire of the Medes and Persians. The loftiest mountains have the most storms to endure, the tree that bears the best fruit is always the most shaken and stoned, and hence Daniel was headed for greater storms and tempests.

Having been preferred above all the presidents and princes, and having proved himself honorable and trustworthy, the king proposed to set him over the whole realm. This was too much for the jealous office seekers and holders. A storm of hurricane proportions began to brew.

Daniel was only a youth compared to some of them. He was also a foreigner, and that of course was an unpardonable sin to many narrow-minded professional patriots. Then again he was just a slave and really should be shining the shoes of the sovereign and his satraps. Again, he was with the Babylonians and therefore would never be a loyal Persian.

Last, but not least he could not possibly pray three times a day without neglecting his departmental duties. These and other reasons could easily be hashed up against him, but perhaps they could all be answered and thus Daniel would win the day.

After carefully weighing all the facts and evidence they came to the conclusion that the only possible way to trap Daniel and find occasion against him would be through his religious convictions. They fooled the king into signing a decree prohibiting all prayer to any person except Darius. The penalty for a first offence was the den of lions. Daniel knew the writing was signed. Returning to his private residence he prayed and praised just as he had previously done. Daniel and Darius were trapped.

Daniel unflinchingly and unhesitatingly chose death rather than compromise with his conscience or conduct. The God of Daniel again proved Himself as the one able to deliver. The lions were given the lock-jaw because Daniel believed in God. Daniel's triumph was complete. Daniel honored God and God honored Daniel.

II. The Visions of Nebuchadnezzar

(1) The Great Image.

Nebuchadnezzar dreamed that he saw a great image with its head of gold, its breast and arms of silver, abdomen of brass, legs of iron and feet part iron and part clay. A stone cut out without hands crashed into the image and smashed it to pieces. The smiting stone became a great mountain and filled the earth. The great-terrible-man-image-dream was interpreted by Daniel. The head of gold was Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar, the breast and arms of silver was the Medo-Persian Empire under Cyrus and Darius, the abdomen of brass was the Grecian Empire under Alexander the Great, the legs of iron set forth the Roman Empire while the feet represent the present mixture of autocracy and democracy. The stone represents Christ in superhuman, supernatural, smiting power, smashing to smithereens the empires of man and setting up his own glorious millennial kingdom.

(2) The tree in the midst of the earth.

Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in his house, prosperous, pompous and proud in his palace. He dreamed a dream which made him afraid. He saw a great, growing, spreading, fruitful tree in the midst of the earth. Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit was plentiful. It provided shelter for beasts and fowls and was world famous. Suddenly an ax is lifted and the tree is felled to the ground and in the crash and collapse, the King awakens out of his dream.

The interpretation is revealed to Daniel. The tree was a symbol of Nebuchadnezzar as king of Babylon, world famous ruler of a worldwide empire. The leaves were the people; the fruit were his children, beautiful and prosperous. The hewing down of the tree and the ruin of its fruit was the outcome of the direct decision of watching spirit-angelic-agencies.

The sin of Nebuchadnezzar was to be punished by the dissolution and destruction of the Empire and by the temporary insanity of the King. Imagining himself an animal, Nebuchadnezzar was to live under the open canopy of heaven, eat grass instead of grouse and chaff instead of chicken until he learned that the Lord God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that those who walk in pride He is able to abase. What the goodness and grace of God had failed to accomplish an insane asylum out of doors was to accomplish. For seven years Nebuchadnezzar was to be insane until he knew that God was God and man was only man. Twelve months grace was given wherein the king might find time to repent, but man is slow to learn.

While the proud monarch with boastful lips was congratulating himself upon his self-made greatness and glory, the judgments of God fell. Driven from men, he became the companion of senseless unclean beasts till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws. It does not pay to go against God.

III. The three Hebrews cast into a fiery furnace

Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great terrible-man-image had evidently left an indelible impression on the mind of the mighty Monarch. He conceived the idea of a colossal image of gold, ordered its manufacture and creation and then issued a proclamation that it should be worshipped. It was one more satanic attempt to damn the race wholesale.

Three Holy Hebrews refused to forsake the God of the Bible and His worship, either to keep their jobs, homes or heads. The mad monarch ordered the furnace heated to white heat, and the helpless holy Hebrews were flung into the fiery flames. They fell down bound into the midst of the merciless flames.

God, the God of the Hebrews, the God of the Bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Elijah and Elisha, stepped into the fiery furnace with His faithful followers and fully delivered them so that the fire had no power. Not even a hair of their head was singed nor the smell of fire passed upon them.

Truly, there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

There is history, profit and prophecy in this account. In a day that is yet to dawn another boastful ruler will make another great image and all the world ordered to bow before it and woe to the man or woman, who like the three Hebrews will dare to brook the wrath of that coming one. Nebuchadnezzar was a type of the coming Antichrist.

The image will not only be set up, but made to talk and the Great Tribulation furnace heated seven times more than has ever been experienced by mortal man. The faithful remnant of the closing days of the great tribulation will be taken through it and saved out of it. The God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego is to deliver his holy people in the latter days of the indignation. Truly there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

IV. Belshazzar's great feast

Refusing to profit by the example of Nebuchadnezzar's insanity and wrapped in false security, Belshazzar made a great feast. A thousand of his lords were with him, and while in a drunken frenzy he ordered the vessels that were taken out of the temple of God filled with unholy wine. Not content with this desecration of sacred things they praised the gods of Babylon and thus insulted the God of the Hebrews.

A man's hand wrote upon the plaster of the wall and the king saw the hand that wrote. The king's countenance was changed, his thoughts troubled him, the joints of his loins were loosed, his knees smote and terror-stricken, he called for help.

Belshazzar's sin had reached such a height that there was no remedy. No word of exhortation such as that given to Nebuchadnezzar was uttered. No call to repentance was sounded and no word of hope was given. Belshazzar had crossed the line between God's mercy and his wrath, his doom was at hand and that night the king of the Chaldeans was slain.

V. Daniel's Visions

(1) The Vision of the four great beasts. Daniel saw the rise and fall of the only four world empires which have ever swayed a sceptre over the earth.

- (1) Babylon
- (2) Persia
- (3) Greece
- (4) Rome

He also saw the future Antichrist who is to make war with the saints and spread desolation over the earth. He saw the Antichrist in all his fury prevail against the saints until Christ their king appear in glory to deliver them.

(2) Vision of the Ram and the Goat. Daniel gives a prophetic foreview of the whole future history of the Medo-Persian kingdom, the rise and fall of Alexander the Great, and the fierce, murderous, Jew hating Antiochus Epiphanes.

Daniel was so affected by this divine revelation that he fainted and for a few days was unable to attend to his state duties. God knows the end from the beginning. The future is as clear to God as the histories of the past.

(3) The closing vision vouchsafed to Daniel concerns the doings of kings and nations from the days of Cyrus to the opening of the New Testament Scriptures. The leagues and conflicts between the kings north and south of Palestine are minutely foretold and history has verified the prophecy.

The final revelation deals with the apocalypse of the Antichrist. He shall be a real person, shall do according to his own will, exalt himself, and declare himself to be God. He shall be a boastful blasphemer, an apostate Jew, defiant of the God of his fathers. He shall be an avowed enemy of Christ, an outstanding militarist and dictator (Read v. 36-39). He shall be a Napoleon, Nero, Mussolini, Pope, Lenin, and Hitler all in one.

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