

Lesson 8 – Daniel 1-2, 7, 9 & 12 – God's Kingdom in History

As we prepare to investigate God's plan for the end of this world, let's consider the balance of His revelation of His kingdom and authority in history. The prophetic book of Daniel especially correlates to our study of Revelation. By God's revelation, Daniel foretold of empires and kings that rise and fall in the course of history – some fulfilled in centuries past and some still awaiting fulfillment. The truthfulness and accuracy of Daniel's visions reveal an amazing validation of the omniscience of God and His sovereign control of history. The historical fulfillment of these prophecies present evidence of our continuing confidence in God's Word, and thus, in God's later Revelation to John. The kingdoms of man rise and fall at God's command, but God's kingdom endures for eternity.

In addition, Daniel's prophecy culminates in the exaltation of the Son of Man (pre-incarnate Jesus), whom we witnessed in Revelation 1-3 and will be revealed in Ch. 5 as the "Lamb standing as if slain". Let's read the following passages – **Daniel 1-2, 7, 9 & 12** – to set his prophecies in history past while considering those prophecies with future fulfillment noting key/repeat words and phrases as well as the kingdoms revealed and still to come.

1. How did God bless the faithfulness of Daniel and his three friends in Dan 1-2? What did Daniel praise the Lord for in Dan 2 after Nebuchadnezzar's first dream? What does Dan 2:29-45 reveal about earthly kingdoms as compared to God's kingdom?
2. Describe what Daniel observed in Dan 7:9-14. How does the interpretation of this passage in v15-27 expose God's sovereignty and dominion over earthly kingdoms?
3. How does Daniel's expressed sense of being "deeply troubled" bring you concern or encouragement? How do you share similar feelings considering current world events?
4. What motivated Daniel's prayer in Dan 9? For what was he interceding? What was the answer to Daniel's prayer revealed by Gabriel? What did the number of weeks reveal?
5. In Dan 12, what will the angel Michael be doing in the Great Tribulation? What happens to those awakened by resurrection v2 and believers in eternity v3? Read Rev 20:11-21:8 alongside Dan 12:10-13. What do these passages reveal about the final state of the righteous and the wicked?