


# ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION

## DANIEL INTRODUCTION

This is a genuine ABC production  authored by *Bob Coffey* and may not be reproduced or transmitted in any manner for financial profit

*Sir Isaac Newton* said "To reject Daniel is to reject the Christian Religion". The tie-up has to be that close. The intimacy of Daniel with "The Man in linen", Daniel's prayer life which is virtually journalled in his writing and the vital pointers toward the Kingdom of Christ which our LORD quoted are joined as house to house with the message Jesus commissioned. Moreover Daniel was a soul-winner and among the trophies of grace he won to the LORD was Nebuchadnezzar and Darius and doubtless numerous others whom we will not know till that day -when we will meet the ransomed in glory.

I have worked painstakingly and word-by-word through the text and found it somewhat like a horse-ploughing competition. One needs to go deep and keep straight at the same time. After working on the Hebrew of Moses writing for a year I found Daniel's Aramaic (half the book is in Aramaic-the lingua franca of Babylon) presented different nuances, an incommensurate number of "D's" and had to relearn the vocabulary after over-indulgence in NT Greek. You will find regular reference to Aramaic and Hebrew and should avail yourself of *Hebraica II* font to develop the full presentation of the CD.

Much heavy weather is made of the dating but it is perfectly plain as I have endeavoured to show from *Robert Dick Wilson's* unassailable command of linguistic factors in the dating of OT literature that the text is securely housed in the first years of the Medo-Persian era. Scholars attracted to the circa 350BC date are reflecting the widespread use of the book in the mushrooming synagogues of Alexandria which city was developing into the world's No.1 literary centre at that time.

I have given a title to each chapter. The titles reflect my appreciation of the contents of the book. The 12 titles are these:-

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>1 Remaining Wise</b>             | <b>7 The Parade of History</b>                        |
| <b>2 Living for</b>                 | <b>8 Antichrist</b>                                   |
| <b>3 Conviction</b>                 | <b>9 Prayer</b>                                       |
| <b>4 Humility</b>                   | <b>10 The Death of Christ &amp; Spiritual Warfare</b> |
| <b>5 Opportunity &amp; Disaster</b> | <b>11 Divine Sovereignty</b>                          |
| <b>6 Thanksgiving</b>               | <b>12 End Times</b>                                   |

I have enumerated the specific occasions that Daniel considered vital to record in his journal. It would seem obvious that these vital times- moments fraught with danger opportunity and challenge-were held before God as he faced situations that would make a lesser character cringe. He knew the LORD intimately and is one of the few to whom God spelled out the events of the next 350 years in detail. Despite this he is not numbered among the prophets of Israel. His end-time relevance makes him a prophet of the Church to whose writing Christians turn more frequently as the day of the LORD approaches closer.

Chapter 11 as you will notice is full of bracketed "f's" (f). This is a device to cite passages that combat the view that the book was written say in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes and rather classifies as history written after the event than prophecy. The nature of Jewish literature is such that to alter the tense of so many verbs would not have been even contemplated by scribes-it would have been sacrilege. This single device undermines that approach showing over 100 future verbs in use in one chapter. There are 36 historical episodes detailed in this chapter which prove beyond question the full sovereignty of God in history. I think you will also be interested to read the comments in Chapter 10 on Spiritual Warfare and the involvement of angels with empires.

A valiant heart and unswerving faith commands the heart of Daniel. He is a man from whom we stand to learn lessons to improve our walk with God. I myself have sought since writing this commentary to keep a trice daily tryst with God and live more thankfully.

I commend the commentary to the reader. "His dominion shall not pass away!" Hallelujah!

## THE TIME OF WRITING

### THE ROCK-LIKE CONCLUSIONS OF ROBERT DICK WILSON

To settle matters of biblical origins Robert Dick Wilson made himself conversant with as many as 45 languages and every language into which New Testament was translated till 600AD. No other scholar has ever equaled that feat. His magnum opus was "A scientific investigation of the Old Testament" Now half of the book of Daniel is written in Aramaic-the spoken language of 35 tribes that lived east of Babylon and indeed everywhere nearby for hundreds of years before the Babylonians used their language.

#### WILSON'S METHOD

If you were to come up with a book making reference to the first *astronaut* you would be able to date it firmly in the second half of the twentieth century. The same principle would work for mention of *Napoleon* or *the Great Wall of China* or indeed any easily recognised & identifiable historical event. By tracing the import of foreign words into the writing of Aramaic it is possible to date the book because as **WILSON** discovered **ancient Aramaic** borrows no Greek or Latin words and **Aramaic of the period of Daniel** has minimal Greek elements and some Persian. **Later Syriac** unlike Daniel has hundreds of Greek words.

Daniel in fact has only three words (names for musical instruments) borrowed from the Greek language so it simply could not have been written by a pseudo-writer in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes.

Daniel was written in the early Persian period when the man Daniel was largely retired from public life and living at the palace of SHUSHAN or SUSA. Clearly he made arrangements for the returning exiles to have scrolls which he had prepared. Daniel would have been conversant with publication since he occupied the position of "Master of the rolls" which served up written edicts verbally pronounced by the Babylonian kings. The date of the book is some time after the fall of Babylon in 538BC. Daniel may well have kept a personal journal as he spent three times apart with God daily and we can extrapolate that he recorded much information on papyrus from the precise "times" that he notes in his manuscript once and again.

The scribal epilogue at the end of the book (cf. Chapter 12) tells us they believe the book to have existed from the era before Alexander the Great-357BC-just 25 years before the building of Alexandria and the amid the settlement of Jews which probably was already there-whose synagogues in the growing city were numerous. The book was probably used most extensively over Old Testament time among the Jewish community of Alexandria. The scribal note virtually confirms this and attests the antiquity of the book itself besides.

## DANIEL 1-THE CHALLENGE TO REMAIN WISE

#### BACKGROUND TO THE EARLY EXILE

*It was in 606B.C.that Daniel and his fellow exiles were marched off to Babylon, which continued as an Egyptian vassal state until 598B.C. The prophets of the day were Jeremiah and HABAKKUK. EZEKIEL records that Egyptian ritual became part and parcel of Jewish religion beginning in this era (Ezekiel 8 5-17). At the time of this **early exile** Nebuchadnezzar had defeated Egypt and taken control of territory to the margins of Egypt. Egypt won an engagement with Babylon in 601B.C. It was when the king acted against Jeremiah's advice and led a rising against NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S garrison troops that Babylon swooped in with Syrian Ammonite and Moabite protégées for a warning raid (598B.C.) followed up by the siege of Oct-Dec 598 which ended in the capture of temple effects and the carrying*

away of noble youth like Daniel and, as captives left the city, to the notable death of JEHOIAKIM just outside the city as predicted by Jeremiah. Jerusalem itself survived for 11 more years.

## **AN ACT OF SACRILEGE 1-2**

In the third year of the monarch JEHOIAKIM king of Judah NEBUCHADNEZZAR King of Babylon came and laid siege to Jerusalem. *(Note that according to Near Eastern dating systems the Babylonian chronology here differs from the Jerusalem account in Jeremiah 6.1 by 1 year-that is because the system used in Babylon was different by exactly that margin from that used in Judah)*-and Daniel was written in Babylon whereas Jeremiah was written in Judah And the LORD gave JEHOIAKIM King of Judah into his hand and gleanings from articles of the house of God and they were borne to the land of SHINAR the house of his god and they became items in the treasure store of his god. *Two implications followed-the worship of God in Jerusalem was affected and the holy furnishings were put in a "junk room" of religious articles whose possession was supposed to show the superiority of Babylonian gods.*

## **DANIEL TO BE TAUGHT CHALDEAN SCRIPT 3-6**

Then the king spoke to mandate ASHPENAZ chief royal officer to bring from among the Israelite youth from the seed of the (Davidic) monarchy and from the old noblemen [*mymtrp* Persian for "elders"] They were to be youths who had nothing with them of any blemish; good looking and very skilled in all **practical and spiritual wisdom** and personal **experience of wisdom** and **comprehension of the larger religious system** or law or things pointed out to them [*tdm*] -those who had the capability in them to serve as ministers in the palace of the king and to be taught and read CHALDEAN literature. *The clear predominance of religious capability should be observed. The Babylonian system maintained ancient philosophical and astrological learning as a priority in its classical learning. Babylon was top-heavy with prognosticating wiseacres and priests and the king may well have been trawling the earth to improve the astrological capability of his day. He had need like any other leader then and now to discern the shape of the future.*

And for their development [*to nourish them to greatness*] the King also allocated to them a constant limited weight of **carved meat** [*qb-tp*] from day to day and an allocation of wine from that he drank for three years at the end of which they were to stand as ministers before the king.

## **PAGAN NAMES CHOSEN FOR THE PRINCES 6-7**

And there were among them sons of the tribe of Judah DANIEL, HANANIAH, and MISHAEL AND AZARIAH. The leading courtier of the eunuchs placed names on them. He called DANIEL BELTESHAZZAR and HANANIAH SHADRACH, MISHAEL MESHECH and AZARIAH ABEDNEGO. *It is suggested that they had the equivalent of name discs or names embroidered on their robes. The change of name meant that:-*

- (1) "God is my judge" became "prince whom BEL favours"
- (2) "The LORD has given grace" became "Rejoicing in the way"
- (3) "Who is straight as God" became "Possession"
- (4) "The help of the LORD" became "Servant of Mercury"

## **DANIEL INSISTS ON TESTING A PLAIN DIET -EXPECTING GOD TO SUPPORT HIS CAUSE AND GIVE REVELATION 8-13**

But Daniel placed it upon his heart that he would not pollute himself [*laq*- "require blood-redemption"] by the carved meat of the King and the wine he drank and he kept up his demand from the leading courtier of the eunuchs that he would not be polluted *It is of interest that animal sacrifice was essentially bloodless among the Jews so that the sacrifice itself was not a blood sacrifice but the "shedding of animal blood" before it was offered was symbolic of Christ's "shed blood". The Babylonian meat was saturated with blood and was not permitted to be eaten by the law of the LORD.* And God gave Daniel covenant mercy and cherished affection in the sight of the leading courtier of the eunuchs. And the leading courtier said to Daniel "I am afraid of my Lord the King who has allocated

what you shall all eat and drink. Because why should he see you're indignant or "gloomy" [p[z] faces so different from the other young men who are in your exultant circle? Besides you will constantly put me at the risk of losing my head the King taking my head. But Daniel said to the "officer of the treasury" or of wine [rxlm] that the chief courtier has allocated to DANIEL HANANIAH MISHAEL AND AZARIAH "Please do a ten day trial of your servants and give us vegetable and fruit and we will eat it and water and we will drink it. Then our appearance will be watched by you compared to the appearance of young men who eat the carved meat of the king and do with your servants according to the appearance or "revelation" [hart] *We learn that Daniel was a resolute young man with clear entrepreneurial capability. He may well have been conversant with the benefits of green foodstuff and fruit from his background and from reading the history of Israel in Egypt. It is to be noted that the "officer in charge" [rxlm] of the Jewish princes may well have been over the treasury-if that were so then the items taken from the temple would come under their care.*

He listened to them on this matter and tested them for ten days. And after ten days he saw for himself that their appearance was better and the look of their flesh was better than that of all the young men who had eaten the carved meat of the king. And it came to pass that the officer lifted the carved meat and wine that he gave them to drink and gave them vegetables.

## **THE HEBREWS OBTAIN WIDE-RANGING COMPETENCY 17**

These were four youths and God gave to them knowledge or personal experience and skill in all writing and wisdom and Daniel was "The" adjudicator or interpreter in every vision and also dreams.

## **THE HEBREWS EXCEL IN UNDERSTANDING 18-21**

At the completion of the days which the king mandated when they should be brought in the leading courtier brought them before NEBUCHADNEZZAR. And the King talked about matters with them and he did not find any more complete than DANIEL HANANIAH MISHAEL and AZARIAH and they took up their ministry before the face of the king. Thus in every matter of wisdom and understanding or mediator based judgment which the king kept seeking from them he found them ten times better than all the sacred scribes and enchanters or magicians [pva] in his entire kingdom. And DANIEL was there until the first year of CYRUS the king. *Daniel had a period of service that extended over the entire administration of NEBUCHADNEZZAR from 606B.C. till 539B.C.-sixty seven years in all. He became the most respected and sought after adviser in the world of his day. Clearly he stood before the king even during the time when Jerusalem was sacked and over the whole period when the puppet kings played out the remaining regal history of Judah till 539B.C.*

## **DANIEL 2-LIVING FOR OTHERS**

In the course of work on the somewhat complex Chaldee script of Daniel I thought it good to run off some copies of this chapter to stir among friends a kindred devotion courage and prayerfulness as that exemplified by Daniel.

We cannot disconnect Daniel from the earlier prophets Jonah and Jeremiah the story of whose lives inspired the Jewish exiles. Jeremiah sent Baruch's brother the scribe to throw his prophecy into the Euphrates but I am certain that that good man or his brother copied the work of the senior prophet and it became known among the exiles. Besides it was publicly read before it was consigned to the sweet Euphrates

Jeremiah refers a few times to Jonah and the rare success that attended his reluctant ministry in Nineveh doubtless inspired the Hebrew youths as well. As you will read for yourself Daniel sets out the timely truths he would have his readers digest within this chapter. I have concluded my comments by appending the lessons in order of occurrence.

I trust you enjoy reading the Chapter in this form and may the LORD bless you in your walk with HIM.

Dare to be a Daniel  
Dare to stand alone  
Dare to have a purpose firm  
And Dare to make it known

## A MOST DISQUIETING DREAM 1-4

In the second year of the reign of NEBUCHADNESSAR, NEBUCHADNEZZAR dreamed a dream *The Hebrew  $\text{tmlj}$  is plural-the King is dreaming a lot. Now the word "dream" in Hebrew is HALAM and it denotes "an egg" or "egg yoke" in rabbinic thinking. That speaks of that which is "new". King NEBUCHADNEZZAR was witnessing something quite novel in his thoughts by night. It was we might say extraordinary stuff. Professor Lee gives us "cheese" as the etymology of HALAM-and we do make a connection between cheese as a milk product and "dreaming". That bit of lexicography conveys humour but little of value since it disconnects dreams from revelation and indeed reality-but the dreams of NEBUCHADNEZZAR were as we say "very real" in import.*

He had been agitated over and over or struck as with a hammer blow [ $m[p]$ ] or it was as if he "heard a bell ring" or "stuck his foot against a stone" *He was intensely disturbed. This was no little annoyance - this was not like an uncomfortable pillow. He was waking with a start again and again.*

**His spirit and his sleep were struck in this way.** *We would say it was "getting to him". In the inner sanctum of his soul he became a shaken man-edgy and overwhelmed by something vast beyond his own thinking and planning though he was born to be master of the world.*

## ALL FOUR SCHOOLS OF LEARNING CALLED 5-7

So the King mandated the calling of

- (1) The sacred scribes [ $frj$ ]
- (2) The enchanters or magicians. [ $pva$ ]
- (3) The praying enchanters who muttered songs [ $pvk$ ]
- (4) And the CHALDEAN magi or astrologers [ $dvk$ ]

*The event was so sizeable that he brought together the combined capability of an army of interpreters. He was going to consult history, evil powers, the gods and the stars. He called them to explain his dream to him and they came and stood to minister before the King. And the King said to them "I dreamed a dream and my Spirit was agitated or struck to know how the dream affected me. And the astrologers took the matter up for the King in Aramaic "O king may you live for ages-declare the dream to your servants and we will contemplate or "reveal" it [ $hwj$ ]"*

## THE TEST -KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD 8

The King answered and said to the CHALDEANS "My order is- watch - you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation -you depart cut in pieces-your houses will be destroyed-they will be astonishing waste piles of dirt. And Look -but interpret and **go on revealing** what is seen and gifts [ $mtm$ ] and a bounty [ $hbzbn$  NEVIZBAH Persian for "bounty"] valuables [ $rqqj$ ]and greatness[ $ayqv$ ]-so continue to set before me [ $lbq$ ] what was before me therefore the dream and the interpretation of what I was shown-my life [ $hwj$ ]They answered a second time and said "the King will declare it to his servants and they will continue to reveal the interpretation [ $rvp$ ] The King answered and said "It is more than certain or settled [ $bxy$ ] **he discerns**-pray what is the basic thing?-you are buying all that's coming to you. What is your vision? Why are you leaving my mandate? *The Chaldee is quite dense and we are not helped by the fact that NEBUCHADNEZZAR who has a racing mind and processed decisions rapidly speaks as he thinks. He seems to be saying that **God knows** or even that Daniel will know. He may even be giving a clue about the feet of the image-in the Chaldee which might mean, "What is the base?"*

## THE ASTROLOGERS DEVICE IS CONDEMNED 9

When you do not make the dream known to me- there is one edict for you -**you have been "fixing"** [ $nmz$ ] **eloquent lying discourse and corrupt words to say before me until (or) when the time prophesied changes** -nevertheless tell me the dream and go on making known the interpretation -get it revealed to me! *NEBUCHADNEZZAR is growing impatient and has arraigned these advisers for their previous*

*incompetence-they were always buying time-telling him they could reveal things as they came closer to hand.*

## **DANIEL SAVES THE DAY & MANY LIVES 10-18**

The astrologers answered the king by anticipation-there is not a man upon earth's dry land who discoursing is able to bring to life all that went before or was in your presence. [*l bq*] When has any king great and mighty in dominion spoken like this querying the entire magic circle enchanting fraternity and astrological establishment? And what the king asks is rare and difficult [*r qj*] and there is none another who will have it live before the king except the gods and their circle or habitation is not with flesh. On account of all this the King was angry and very [*ajgv*] wroth and mandated the destruction of all the wise men of Babylon. And the decree went forth that the wise men were to be killed [*literally "were killed"*] and they asked or sought for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

### **(1) DANIEL CONSULTS WITH ARIOCH THE COMMANDER 14-15**

**(a) At that time** Daniel returned an answer with wisdom or advice or consultation and "edict discernment" [*Chaldee m[f the word is used of the "master of the rolls" who was involved with the edict itself.]*] to ARIOCH the captain of the Royal guard who had gone out for the slaughter of the wise men of Babylon *It may be that Daniel could not be found because he was already moving along in the chain of state authority and that he actually could put the case from within the department on how the decree would proceed.* Responding he said to ARIOCH the empowered official of the King "Why a decree so very hasty or urgent from the King's presence?"

**(b) At that time** ARIOCH made known to Daniel the serious mandate.

### **(2) DANIEL GIVES RE-ASSURANCE TO THE KING AND BEGS FOR TIME 16**

And Daniel went in and requested from the King that a fixed time be given him and there would be a definite interpretation [*arvp-emphatic of "interpretation"*] for the matter shown [*hwj*] to the King.

### **(3) DANIEL'S ALLIES IN PRAYER - HIS COMPANIONS 17-19**

**(c) At that time** Daniel departed to his house and to HANANIAH MISHAEL and AZARIAH his friends and made known the declaration. You seek or obtain mercy or compassion that comes with much pleading from before the God of heaven over this destruction or secret [*zr is Chaldee for "secret" hzr is Chaldee for "woe" and in a sense the intercession is on two counts*] in order that Daniel and his friends should not be destroyed with the remnant of the wise men of Babylon. *The other three HEBREWS seem to have been gathered with Daniel. It may be they were housed together as Eunuchs. It may be the crisis brought them together. In any case they were used to praying together and on this occasion they were asked to engage in a vigil of prayer with great urgency. Not only did Daniel pray "three times" but he also prayed at length and knew what it was to seek the presence of God.*

## **GOD REVEALS THE SECRET: DANIEL GIVES THANKS 20-23**

**(d) At that** the secret was revealed continually [*ylg Chaldee Peal of "action continuing in the past"*] to Daniel in a vision of **the night.**

**(e) At that time** Daniel blessed the God of heaven

Daniel responded and said,

To HIM whose name is to be adored with great blessing

From everlasting to everlasting

Supreme spiritual and practical wisdom and warrior strength is what belongs in HIM.

He is the Great Changer or Renewer (as seasons repeat) of the "progress of time" [*nyd[]*] and "set times" [*mmz cf. Daniel 6.8-11-the "three times" Daniel prayed were set times of God!-the time God gave him in the morning and during si8esta and after work-time not for man but for God-not leisure time but prayer time*]

He abolishes [*hd[]*] kings and raises up kings

He gives wisdom to the wise  
 And great knowledge or amazing personal experience to those who have known distinctions [hnyb]  
**Daniels "distinction" concept comes from the mediating umpire.**  
*He reveals the very deepest things (emphatic) and the most secret things (emphatic)*  
*He knows what is in the great darkness*  
*And light lodges or begins flowing or streaming from Him*  
**I give you great thanks O God of my Fathers and I laud or boast of YOU [hbv]**  
*Who has given me great wisdom and great warrior standing*  
*But now YOU have been causing me to know what we asked from you*  
*What the declaration or announcement to the King was YOU have caused to be made known to us*

## **"THE" DREAM -A STATUE WITH HEAD OF GOLD & FEET OF IRON & CLAY MAKES SENSE IN REVELATION 24-49**

### **(1) DANIEL GIVES HONOUR TO GOD 24-28**

*We are bound to acknowledge at the outset that the greatness of prophecy lies in the glory of God and the greatness of the prophet in his humility. Daniel gave glory to the LORD*  
 Entirely on account of this [hnd lbq lk-a phrase that shows that had not the foregoing taken place the wise would have died; the dream would have been unknown and believers of each age-and the church of today would never have known this high prophetic mystery revealed-had it not been for "going to God" and HIS immediate answer to prayer]. Daniel "weaved his way" up to [lza the allied Chaldee root is used of "spinning" or rolling"-its English equivalent is "troll"-to "trail a fishing line"-so Daniel had to "fish out" ARIOCH. He did not rush to the king as before-he approached the matter with wisdom. He consulted ARIOCH -the man who had a commission without a decree and first got him on side.] ARIOCH whom the Great King empowered (Chaldee "gave") to destroy the wise men of Babylon and honestly or rightly spoke to him "About the wise men of Babylon-"do not destroy"(them) [dba this is an APHEL future in Chaldee-a virtual imperative. Daniel actually takes command-as he said in his prayer while he praised the LORD for giving him great Warrior courage-he acts with that God given courage-and just maybe he is "master of the rolls"-that I have earlier hinted may now have been his position-notwithstanding he acts both courageously and diplomatically] Take me up before the Great king and I will make the mighty interpretation of the great dream for him Three emphatic Chaldee words appear in this phrase.

**(f) At that time** ARIOCH in haste took Daniel up before the Great king and on this basis said to him "I have found a man of courage among the sons of the exiles of the Jews who will reveal to the Great King what he was caused to know or "what he must know." [The future APHEL indicates the King's absolute quest for an answer-which ARIOCH got right-the phrase he uses may be diplomatic-meaning also that Daniel must know or he would not be so confident-ARIOCH has an absolutely accurate assessment of Daniel too. The phrase thirdly revealed that Daniel had made ARIOCH aware of the source of his knowledge-hence "caused to know"]. The matter of "haste" shows that Daniel probably had a furious chariot ride and a dramatic entrance.

The Great King responded and said to Daniel who was named BELSHAZZAR (a)"Are you? (b)Able to cause me to know the Great Dream which I dreamed (c) and reveal it? The King was utterly dumb-founded at the thought. The audience can be fairly compared with that of David before Saul. The aptitude of the youth in both cases seemed unsuited to the momentous challenge of the occasion.

Daniel responded before the Great King and said "The secret of which the Great King has inquired no wise men, enchanters, sacred interpreters of written mysteries, (sorcerers) or soothsayers could have the ability to reveal to the Great King. But [literal root of mrb meaning "interwoven" (with it)] there is ELAH (ELOHIM in Hebrew) Great God of the Majestic heavens Revelator of mysteries and He has made known to the Great King NEBUCHADNEZZAR ("Prince of the messenger god Mercury") what and when [Chaldee awh yd hm "What when it must be"- the significant words MAHDI are used by Persians today of the "Coming One"-the source in scripture is in this verse Daniel 2.28. Ancient Chaldee and Old Persian have much in common] it must have come to pass.

## THE REASON FOR THE REVELATION 29-30

Your dream and the visions of your head on your bed are these outstanding matters. [*Chaldee emphatic of "these"*] "You O Great King were with (your) thoughts [*Chaldee h[r]*] upon your couch-the **WHAT AND WHEN** it must be [*MAHDI*] "came up" [*Chaldee q/s "were caused to ascend" a term used in Daniel 2.29 3.22; 6.24; 7.3 and bearing some relation to rsn (eagle) in the matter of "rising" or lifting straight towards heaven-suggesting to us that the statue of Daniel 2 suddenly rose to dizzy heights-far beyond a human creation*] After this the Great Revelator of mysteries caused to be made known to you **WHAT AND WHEN** it must be.

- (1) And **I** -not because of wisdom which is in me more than in all others who are alive was this secret revealed to **me**-
- (2) But on account of what the Great interpretation of that which was made known to the Great King is
- (3) And because of the thoughts you have experienced in your heart or mind.

## THE DREAM INTERPRETED 31-33

**You** O Great King looked and behold "you were become" [*tymh Chaldee Peal 2nd person singular*] a sharply delineated or single statue-a precise likeness or of great gloom and darkness. *The statue because of its head had frightened NEBUCHADNEZZAR-for it delineated his features exactly in its face. The greatness of the statue is of a dynamic or growing sort. [Chaldee ayqC] The effect seems to be something shining with great luminosity.* And this immense great image was beautiful healthy shining [*hhz*] Besides it had arisen in front of you or to meet you or it has arisen on account of you and its appearance is terrifying [*Chaldee lhd "that which made one creep away"*] He was a great statue or likeness. His head was of good gold. His breasts [*yhwjdj*] and his arms [*yhw[rd]*] of silver; his belly [*yhw[m A plural-"bowels" or "bellies"]*] and his thigh(s) [*mhm Chaldee singular-so "thigh" Dec. 5b alternative to "thighs" dual construct which translators wisely prefer*] were brass. *To take the translators position is to take the "upper leg" as brass-since qmw details from "knee to foot"(cf. Jud. 15.8) and this agrees more easily with the syntax (i.e. the verb). The "singular" fails in face of "the dual construct" and is unsatisfactory because it leaves the character of the other upper leg unexplained.* His "legs" [*from knee to ankle*] [*yhwqv*] of iron; his feet [*yhwlgr*] a proportion of iron and a proportion of earthenware [*psj*]

## NEBUCHADNEZZAR SEES THE END OF WORLD GOVERNMENT 34-35

You were continuing -watching until when a stone which had been cut out or "formed" [*Lamentations 4.7 uses the word hrzq for the human form so that the stone of judgment is more nearly likened to the Christ (cf GIZEH-where Egypt's skilled stone figures and crafting is exemplified)cf. Also Gen.49.24*]- which stone was not cut by (human) hands persisted to strike the great image upon its feet of great iron and Great earthenware and it caused them to be ground to powder or broken pieces

(g) **At that time** the united mass of iron -mass of clay, mass of brass and silver and gold were progressively broken in pieces and became as chaff from the threshing floors of the harvest. A Great Wind lifted them and the entire place belonging to them was not found. But the Great rock that struck the statue became a great "range of mountains" [*Chaldee rwf TOR cp TABOR*] and filled the entire earth.

## DANIEL'S INTERPRETATION (36-49)

### THE GOLD 36-38

This was the dream and its interpretation I will speak in the presence of the great king. You O King are a king of great kings to whom the God of heaven has delivered the "burden" of [*bhy "trouble"*] great kingdoms the "power to possess" [*nsj*], "firm authority" [*pqt*] and "rare esteem" [*rqq*] with all the sons of men, beasts of the open field [*rrb*] and birds of the vast heavens whom HE has given into your hand and yours is the ruling power over the totality. You are the head which is finest gold.



### **THE SILVER 39a**

Separate from you [*Chaldee rtb* "cut" or "divided"] a different later kingdom shall rise much inferior by comparison

### **THE BRONZE 39b**

And a third later kingdom which is of bronze will build up rule [*Chaldee Peal*] over all the earth.

### **THE IRON 40-41**

And there will be a fourth kingdom oppressive-obstinate [*Chaldee pqt*]-mighty as iron. Because that which is iron breaks or beats small [*qqd*] and pounds or enfeebles [*lvj*] everything so as iron it will loudly shatter all these to pieces it will keep grinding small and continually break do evil or hurt. When (41) you saw the feet and the toes were from proportioned or weighed out earthen ware sherds of the potter and from a proportion of iron; it will be a kingdom divided from its pedestal or fixed standing place that belongs to it which is iron. *The description of the clay is complex. It is a rather ad hoc cementing of sherds which came from one pot or another that was broken. This is not a description of two religions but of one ethnicity deriving from heated ore-or iron and another series of ethnicities which seem to have linkage in the term ARAB.*

### **THE IRON-CLAY MIX UNSETTLES 41b-42**

Because [*Chaldee lbk lk*] you saw the iron come apart from "the mix" [*Chaldee br*] or "intermeddling" or "surety" or "Arab" with (or) in the earthen ware of potter's clay. As the toes and feet were weighed or proportioned of iron and clay -**at the extreme end or limit** of the vast kingdom it will be powerful or strong and authoritative and from its allotment or (weak) part of the whole it has been brittle or fragile.

### **THE DISFUNCTIONALITY OF LATTER DAY SOCIETY 43**

When you were looking at the iron as part of the "mixed" pottery "sherds" [*the phrase might equally well read "Arabized" or "intermingled"*] of potter's clay their companion mix was purposed to have continued by the seed of man or the common people but they will not relate as constantly adhering one to another-this with that; look just like a bulk of iron will not companion in a mix (or Arabize) with mass earthenware. *The point being made is that the "big battalions" of the latter day would not gel or integrate as one society. The idea that ordinary people would solve the integration issue by marriage was to prove false.*

### **THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM 44**

But in the days of those kings or counsellors the God of heaven will set up HIS kingdom which is for ages and will not be destroyed and it will not be left to another or different people and it will grind to dust and cause all those kingdoms to be terminated or accomplished but it will stand for great ages. *The emphatic of the "ages" of Messiah's kingdom is to be laid alongside the fact that its head is judge of all kingdoms and from the OT time but more especially from the days of the iron kingdoms or NT period shall this kingdom increase towards its glorious climax.*

### **A CHRIST CENTRED VISION 45**

**Because of this vision of the rock** or stone which had been cut out without human hands from the great mountain and broke in pieces the mass of iron bronze and clay bulk silver and gold the Great God of heaven has made known personally to the great King what must be afterwards and the dream will stand as a conqueror or settled and true [*Chaldee bxy*] and the interpretation or spreading out or specific is caused from the Amen.

### **NEBUCHADNEZZAR EXPRESSES FAITH 46**

**(h) At that time** King NEBUCHADNEZZAR

(1) Fell on his nose and fell down before Daniel again and again, and

(2) Mandated that both bread offerings and libations of league or close union be his. The Great king answered Daniel and said

(3)"From dividing aright or weighing it up" who are your Gods?

(4) He is **God** of gods and **Lord** [*arm*] of kings

(5) And one who lays mysteries naked

(6) For you were able to make an amazing revelation of this very great secret.

## **DANIEL BECOMES PREMIER FOR A MOMENT & CONFIDANT FOR LIFE**

**47**

(i) **At that time** (This is the NINTH time factor that Daniel would have us note in the episode) the great King gave to Daniel exaltation or multiplied power [*hbr*] and gifts and multiple power or first ministerial position with increase [*brbr nayqv*] and the premiership over all the province of Babylon and made him chief or prefect of all the wise men of Babylon and Daniel petitioned the King and he appointed over the great ministry or service of the province of Babylon SHADRACH and MESHACH and ABEDNEGO and Daniel was at the palace door of the king. *Daniel appears to have accepted the authority he was given over the wise men-but probably with a pinch of salt since again this commission was without written decree. Nebuchadnezzar had advisedly put him in a position to regulate or govern (as if that were possible) the sacred scribes, magicians, enchanters and astrologers. This put him in an important but somewhat invidious position as to the occult and the mystics. It certainly gave him an unequalled opportunity to influence Babylonian cultus. Taken together with his life-bond or league with the king it opened doors for witness to the faith of the God of Heaven and his sovereign power and good purpose.*

*Daniel's response tells us four things:-*

(1) *Daniel wished as a doorkeeper like David-to be available daily to the King and to serve*

(2) *Daniel wished to be at the centre of things for the sake of his nation.*

(3) *Daniel deeply respected and loved the three men who stood with him in prayer and acknowledged their part in moving the hand of God*

(4) *Daniel desired to do his bit to increase faith in Nebuchadnezzar and spread the truth of God where it mattered-in accordance with Jeremiah's heart expressed in the words-"We would have saved Babylon."*

### **"TIMES"**

### **COMETH THE DAY COMETH THE MAN!**

### **NINE VITAL LESSONS**

### **FROM NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM IN DANIEL 2**

### **NINE VITAL TIMES NOTED FOR OUR LEARNING**

*Daniel was just like you and me-he had to meet circumstance. His sure touch in decision making came from his walk with God and the wisdom God gave him. He is the antitypical fulfilment of Rudyard Kipling's depiction of the hero in plain clothes that we meet in his poem, "If".*

*If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;*

*If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't vie way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:*

*If you can dream—and not make dreams your master:  
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim:  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same*

*If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none to much:*

*If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
'Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!*

1. There is a time to **CHALLENGE THOSE WHO ACT IN HASTE**. Daniel challenged ARIOCH with wisdom and used what weight and position he may have had to query the unusual act of proceeding without decree. *We live in a busy world. Daniel studied options and acted decisively*

2 Daniel acted with courage and absolute **FAITH** or confidence in God as to the answer to a mighty prayer as yet un-prayed—that to him would be made known the secret of the King's dream. *The ever-ready spirit of Daniel emerged out of a daily walk with God. He was hard to wrong foot.*

3 Daniel who used his morning noon and evening leisure for prayer may have lived alongside the other Hebrew youths—at any rate he called them to a night of prayer—a prayer quad. They prayed in unison. **UNITED INTERCESSION IS VITAL** *Daniel believed in the community of believers*

4 Daniel was a man who depended on divine revelation. He may have had the Psalms and the Torah and some of the writings of Jeremiah—or Jonah's story—at the very least he knew tracts of these writings by heart. Nevertheless he believed in a God who was daily active revealing HIS will. *Daniel walked with God and even in the night seasons he received **VISION** and like the Pilgrim Fathers believed God had still truth to spring forth from HIS word and from HIS heart.*

5 Daniel is aware how much we must live **WITH THANKFULNESS**—especially when we are shielded from great danger and when our prayers are answered— *Give thanks always! It is the will of God that we live gratefully.*

6 Daniel took the trouble to weave his way to ARIOCH with a message that would spare many lives. **HE MADE HASTE WITH THE GOOD NEWS**. *We all must be broadcasters of the vital message we hold. Nobody can duck responsibility under Matthew 28.19 "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature..."*

7 Daniel was a prophetic figure. He had a deep interest in the Babylon of his day but did not prejudice his interest in or understanding of the ultimate outworking of God's will and kingdom by being stuck in a time-warp. He was thrilled to speak of the **FINAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST** of which today God's people are essentially ignorant. *Will you join with me in sounding out in these end-times the vital prophetic challenge of the scriptures?*

8 Daniel was dedicated to soul winning and the **SPREAD OF GOD'S GRACE** in Babylon. *Ask yourself, "How can I brighten the corner where I am by spreading the message people around me need so direly and dismiss so lightly?"*

9 Daniel was a man of great humility and committed to the continued **WELFARE OF THE JEWS** in Babylon in the face of which promotion meant nothing to him. He lived his life with God and **FOR OTHERS**

*Lord, help me live from day to day  
In such a self-forgetful way.  
That even when I kneel to pray,  
My prayer shall be for "Others."*

## **Conclusion**

### **DANIEL 3**

#### **NEBUCHADNEZZAR 'S CONVICTION**

*This great chapter marks a deep change in the appreciation of the reality of the Almighty as THE Saviour of men in the thinking of Nebuchadnezzar. It declares the special admiration that Daniel had for the heroic triplet of Jews who would not bow. Daniel himself who stood by the King would seem to have been spared the drill of genuflecting and bowing to the music. The multiple changes of circumstance are marked in the chapter. The highlight of the chapter is the appearance of the Son of God-the WORD.*

*In the Pelican series "Ur of the CHALDEES"(1952) Prof. Leonard Woolley relates that Nebuchadnezzar provided a sacred area 400 yards long by 200 yards wide where previous secret rituals had taken place-and now made the priestly open air altar offerings visible to the people. This area lay between the citadel and the summer palace-as distinct from the Plain of DURA location but the same industry to inspire public worship is evident. Around the sacrum was a double wall 33 feet wide with a military way over the middle chambers that were inbuilt around its square area. It had 6 gates. This area for public worship demonstrates how Nebuchadnezzar reformed worship-doubtless around his own image. This particular square Woolley believed to be constructed for the worship of NANNAR.*

*Dr. Victor Pearce believes that in the case of the golden image we have an instance of Nebuchadnezzar's "swelled head". He constructed an image akin to the image of empire in chapter 2 -but in this case made it all of gold and created it as a depiction or image of himself. Pearce imagines that even at a mile back crowds would have easily seen the image shining in the sunlight.*

#### **A TIME OF TESTING-THE GOLDEN IMAGE OF THE KING**

*Nebuchadnezzar reacts to prophecy with pride instead of humility*

Nebuchadnezzar the king himself worked on an image of gold sixty cubits high-its breadth was six cubits. He set it when he caused it to be raised in the valley or plain or DURA ["round"-a valley with a wide circumference centring on the image] in the province of Babylon. Pride in his great kingdom and ideas from his dream may have spurred him to this idolatrous idea of an "all gold" effigy. The fact that it was 60 cubits by 6 shows immediately the imperfection it represents. Six is the number that symbolises incompleteness and is reflected in the 666 of the Apocalypse.

Then Nebuchadnezzar the King sent messages to assemble the chief officers of the court (Satraps), the chiefs (Prefects), the governors (Deputies) the noble judges [who decided case law], the treasurers, the statute law-makers, the magistrates who open the law books and all who had provincial authority to come or continually come [The "peal" expresses perhaps an order of preference] for the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the King had raised up. **At that time** the courtiers, governors, judges, treasurers, law-makers magistrates and all the powerful provincial people assembled for the dedication of the image Nebuchadnezzar has raised up. Then the herald [Chaldee 𐎠𐎢𐎩 like the Greek κηρυξ] called with strength and terror "All you great united nations peoples and tongues these declarations apply to you.

## A TIME FOR DECISION-ANSWER NO.1

(1) **At the time** you hear the voice of the horn, the flute, the zither, the strings, the harps, the bagpipe or symphony and the whole variety of music you must continually fall down and continuously worship the image of gold which king Nebuchadnezzar has raised up.

(2) And whoever will not continually bow the knee and worship at that hour will be cast into the middle of the smoking furnace or bright fire that continually burns.

Therefore at that fixed time when all the united nations heard the voice of the horn flute zither strings harps bagpipe and all kinds of music all the united nations peoples and tongues were falling down and worshipping the image of gold which Nebuchadnezzar the king had raised up.

## UNGRATEFUL ASTROLOGERS 8-12-ANSWER NO.2

*The astrologers react to being spared with animosity instead of kindness*

Therefore when that time came pugnacious astrologers came to encounter devour piecemeal or slander Jews. They answered and said to King Nebuchadnezzar "O king live for ever; You O King have set forth a decree that whatever man hears the sound of the horn flute zither strings harps bagpipes and all kinds of music shall fall down and worship the golden image and whoever does not will be thrown into the smoking furnace of bright fire that continually burns. But there are Jews fighting against (the decree) - to whom you have divided the charge of the service of the province of Babylon-namely SHADRACH, MESHECH and ABEDNEGO. These "belligerent men" do not obey your decree O King nor cleave to your Gods and **they are not bowing** to the image of gold which you have set up. *Behind this language there is a dispute which was engendered by the astrologers who tried to bully the Jews into submission but found them resolute -like heroes!"*

## NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S GRACE RUNS OUT FAST DANIEL'S COMMENDATION! 13-15

### A TIME OF UNPOPULARITY

**At that time** Nebuchadnezzar in angry agitation and wrath said that SHADRACH MESHECH and ABEDNEGO were to be brought (to him). **In that time** these courageous men or heroes were brought before the king. So Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them "Is it your intent SHADRACH MESHECH and ABEDNEGO not to serve my Gods and not to worship the gigantic [emphatic] gold image I have raised up? Now -Look- you be prepared at the moment [*Chaldee anda "prophetic moment" or "moment of birth" -a vital time for them*] when you hear the sound of the horn flute zither strings harps bagpipes and all kinds of music to fall down and worship -there is grace. But if you do not worship in that moment of grace[ *Chaldee h[v -a very short time when favour smiles*]you will have yourselves cast into the bright furnace of fire that continues to burn and **who is that God who can keep on rescuing you from my hand?** [*YESHIZABINKON-This statement gave rise to a Hebrew name of similar structure which was borne by a returned captive of the time of Nehemiah-cf. Nehemiah 3.4, 10.22 & 11.24-cf. especially 11.24. "He whom the LORD set free" PETHATHIAH son of MESHEZABEEL was at the hand of the King-the LORD -he was son of this man -who survived the captivity -named from this very event in the early captivity in testimony to "God who could continually deliver from the hand of Nebuchadnezzar*]

## ANSWER NO.3 GOD'S GRACE IS BEYOND MEASURE AND EXTENDS TO ALL ETERNITY 16-18

SHADRACH MESHECH and ABEDNEGO answered King Nebuchadnezzar-"We do not need again and again to return answer on this decree. Watch-the God whom we worship is continually able to deliver us magnificently or absolutely [emphatic Chaldee] from the continuous smoky fierce furnace and He will deliver us from your hand O King. *Here was trust in Grace far greater-grace that could save their bodies from the flames-grace that could deliver them from this evil world-from this hell on*

*earth and any other dangers. This faith ascends to the zenith of all faith to trust in the living God of Salvation who is known and who can deliver after the fashion of Romans 8.39*

And look-has it not been very well known to you O King that we will not worship your Gods and we will not fall down before the image of fine gold that you have raised up? *The Chaldee shows not a defiant "We will not" but a testimonial consistent "We have not".*

## **ANSWER No.4 THE KING ANSWERS MEN OF FAITH BY TERROR 19-20**

### **A TIME OF INJUSTICE AND FAILURE OF FRIENDSHIP**

**At that time** Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath and his face became doubly angry-he had become an enemy of SHADRACH MESHECH and ABEDNEGO.

(1) **He answered** and said "find for the furnace -make it fierce by seven times-above the burning we see"

(2) He said to the strongest of the strong of his forces "bind SHADRACH MESHECH AND ABEDNEGO to cast them into the blazing furnace that burns on and on.

## **GOD RESPONDS BY THE PRESENCE OF THE ANGEL OF GOD 21-23**

### **A TIME FOR FAITH AND COURAGE**

**At that time** these very courageous men bound in their trousers, wide linen tunics, cloaks and vestments were thrown into the middle of the burning furnace that burned away. Because of the spoken mandate of the King was urgent the furnace was kindled exceedingly-the rest of the very mighty soldiers who threw SHADRACH MESHECH and ABEDNEGO in were killed by the fierce flames of the immense fire. And these three heroic men fell into the midst of the **bright** [*Chaldee armm*] burning furnace bound.

### **A TIME OF TERROR FROM A CALLOUS SINFUL ACT**

**At that time** King Nebuchadnezzar was "amazed" [*Syriac of the same hwt means "repented"*]-he had been terrified or alarmed [*Chaldee Peal lhb*]

## **ANSWER No.5 - 24 AN ANSWER THAT HINTS DANIEL'S WHEREABOUTS**

He answered and said to his legal or prophetic advisers [*"men of words"*]"Were there not definitely "three" men definitely "thrown in" [*both the noun and the verb are emphatic*] bound to the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the King "That is absolutely true O King!"

## **ANSWER No.6 - 25 AN APT REMARK ABOUT THE SON ON GOD**

He answered and said-

(1) "Look, I see four shining men (or) four loose men (or) four men as if in pleasant surroundings [*Chaldee hrv*]

(2) Walking around in the midst of the fire and free!-

(3) And they are not in the house of ease.

(4) And the appearance of that definite fourth is similar to a **Son of the gods** [*Chaldee rb meaning "begotten" "chosen" separate"rrb is cognate to arb and hrb.*]

## **ANSWER No.7 -26-27 SERVANTS RECEIVED BACK WITH JOY**

### **A TIME OF CONVICTION AND DESIRE FOR GOD'S WILL**

**At that time** King Nebuchadnezzar went near to the gate of the continuous burning furnace answered and said "SHADRACH MESHECH and ABEDNEGO servants of the true God most high move out and come to me.

## **A TIME WHEN EVIDENCE OF GOD'S POWER WAS CLEAR TO ALL**

**At that time** SHADRACH MESECH and ABEDNEGO came out of the midst of the bright furnace and the courtiers, prefects, governors and prophetic or legal advisers of the king assembled around these heroic men and saw that the fire had not had power [*Daniel is writing with a certain sense of humour-- his choice of language under the Spirit of God is ironic -showing to the powerful men that the power of fire had no "rule"(flv) over the children of God*] over their bodies nor was a hair or the hair of their head singed and their clothes or trousers had not altered and no smell of fire had transferred on to them.

### **ANSWER No.8 -28 - GOD IS BLESSED**

Nebuchadnezzar answered and said "Blessed be the God of SHADRACH MESHECH AND ABEDNEGO who has sent HIS angel priest or messenger [*Jal*] and saved his servants who trusted [*The Chaldee xjr is a radical closely associated with "wash" so to "trust" and "be washed" are similar roots*] in HIM and violated the decree of the king and handed over their bodies when they would not worship any god as theirs but their own God. Because of that I establish an edict [*m[f]*] that any people of nation or tongue that says anything in error or negligence [*hlv-"that which draws from" or "is negligent of"*] the God of SHADRACH MESHECH and ABEDNEGO shall be cut in pieces and their houses destroyed and made like a dunghill because there is no God who is able to save as can this God. Nebuchadnezzar now learned the power of divine "salvation". The Most High could deliver from death and lived in another dimension. Nor was He subject to his (Nebuchadnezzar's) whims for He did not come from the fire with the three. The King realised the angel was too mighty and too holy and glorious to command. He was "a son of the God."

### **A TIME OF SUCCESS & PROSPERITY**

**At that time** the King advanced SHADRACH MESECH AND ABEDNEGO in the province of Babylon. *The word "advance" literally means "to cross the river". These three had their promotion so that the area of their power was extended.*

### **SIMILIE**

*The "continuous fire" of Nebuchadnezzar is the nearest picture given in scripture of hell. There Christ can enter. There men can live. It is not passing strange to anyone who studies this event that the LORD can create a state of being of which few except these three and those who witnessed it still have little concept.*

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **THE OPEN LETTER ABOUT HUMILITY**

#### **Introduction**

*The "seven seasons" or "times" of this chapter are seven years during which time EVIL MERODACH the son of Nebuchadnezzar ruled the empire. The years when Nebuchadnezzar ate grass and lived with the beasts of the field according to Jerome were 569-563 B.C. As Larry RICHARDS states in his "Baffling Bible questions answered" there is no historical corroboration of a seven year period of insanity. He suggests that the Aramaic for "season" is best understood as "3 months" so that the period involved would be less than two years. Upon his recovery to sanity Nebuchadnezzar imprisoned EVIL-MERODACH his son along with JEHOIACHIN- with whom he became friendly. This need not conflict with the co-regency of Belshazzar who reigned 17 years alongside his father and 23 years thereafter-40 years in all. Upon his release he freed the Jewish king and was kind to him. When Nebuchadnezzar recovered he had only one year of his life remaining before he died in*

**562. He made best use of this year and drew Daniel back into his presence. He wrote this glowing testimony of his conversion to Yahweh for the whole world to read.**

King Nebuchadnezzar to all united nations peoples and tongues who have continued to dwell in the home of all the earth may your peace (with me) or security and prosperity continue to grow. It is so pleasant (or) beautiful [*literally "such a dawn"*] that **almighty sovereign God** has **acted as a servant** to work **to cause there to be** in my very presence (and/or) earlier great signs and tremendous miracles of surprise. *The King is acknowledging not just the signs but the very presence of the LORD who came as a servant of His own servants. I hazard the guess that Daniel who records this letter as his last record of Nebuchadnezzar had seen the script which went to the world. Besides I have not much difficulty believing that Nebuchadnezzar had come to faith. It may even be that Daniel was able to communicate with Jeremiah at this time and that the letter itself was read in Judah before the fall of Jerusalem- although we cannot rule out the fact that it may have been written after 587B.C. The King died in 562B.C.*

His signs are very great beyond compare and his wonders Mighty (or) prevailing like nothing else. His kingdom is a perpetual kingdom and his dominion [*Chaldee flv "rule" "mastery"*] from generation to generation

I Nebuchadnezzar was carelessly at ease or quietly prospering in my home and fresh and flourishing in my palace. *The northern summer palace was some distance along the Euphrates and the Kings citadel home presumably in the central fortress of the city.* I received repeated revelation by dream and I was constantly troubled on my bed and the revelations of my head terrified or ruined or hastened me along continually. Therefore I made a decree to have all the wise men of Babylon brought in before me that they should make known to me the interpretation of the dream.

### **NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S RECOGNISES DANIEL'S WALK WITH GOD 7-12**

**At that time** there were brought before me the sorcerers or mystery interpreters [*frj*] the enchanters [*as ASHPENAZ pva*]the Chaldeans and astrologers who computed by the stars [*rzq*]*These four sets represented two groups-the first of which consulted unseen powers and the second of which worked by books of signs and star positions.* I explained my dream before them and they were unable to make known the interpretation to me. And until or "again" the "tarrying Daniel"[*Chaldee nyrja*] was in my presence whose name is BELTESHAZZAR like the name of my god but who has the Spirit of the Holy God [ELOHIM] in him and I told the great dream I had earlier. O BELTESHAZZAR -you chief of the interpreters of mystery- I know that the Spirit of the Holy Gods is in you and any secret is not a trouble to you-these are the visions of my dream that I dreamed. Interpret it for me.

*We need to observe the difference between Daniel's lack of alacrity on this occasion of appearance. First Nebuchadnezzar introduces him as Daniel-even as the "tarrying Daniel". The King has become used to the fact that Daniel does not rush into his presence but makes much of the presence of God. Daniel in sweet converse with God is one step ahead of history not one step behind. He is a truly prophetic person of great holiness of life. His God is apart-the "Holy God".*

These are the visions of my head upon my bed. I looked and Oh there was a tree in the very centre of the earth and its height was immense. The high tree grew great and became strong and its top arrived at or reached to heaven and it was seen at the ends of the whole earth. Its branches were beautiful-its fruit was very great and on it was food for all. The beasts of the field had their abode under its shadow and in its branches the birds of heaven made their nests and from it there was food for all flesh.

### **THE DISSOLUTION OF AN EMPIRE 13-15**

I watched the revelations in the visions of my head on my bed and behold a watcher and a holy one from heaven alighted or rested or waited or was left or delighted (me) [*Chaldee jmm*] He called with strength and thus He said "**Keep cutting down the great tree** and cut the ends off its branches. Shake off its flourishing boughs and scatter its fruit. Let the animals wander away from their abode under it



and the birds from its branches. **Nevertheless let the stump of its roots remain in the earth imprisoned or in bonds of iron and bronze among the tender grass of the field.**

### **THE SEVEN SEASON HUMILIATION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR 15b-18**

**Let it or him be wet or coloured with the dew or heaven and let his lot be as the oxen eating herbs or vegetables of the earth. Let his heart and mind change from that of man and the heart and mind of a beast and seven times or years pass [like flourishing springs and summers or "opportunities" hd[ ] by over his head.**

(1) According to the decree [*Chaldee rzy*] of God as opposed to *m[f*] of Nebuchadnezzar-the difference being that the former involves divine separation of the unfruitful or cutting down whereas the latter is "tasty" to the king] of the messengers

(2) The holy ones proclaim the important written decree

(3) Until the word of inquiry [*amgtp*] which the living one will keep on getting to know or progressively grasp-that the Most High holds dominion over the kingdoms of men and belonging to which whoever He pleases [*abx* "determines"] He will keep providing-even the lowest of men He will set over them. This is the dream that I Nebuchadnezzar the king saw and you O BELTESHAZZAR interpret -tell me because of all the wise men of my kingdom none is able to make clear for me its interpretation. But you are able because the Spirit of the Holy God(s) is with you and in you.

### **THE DREAM RE-TOLD WITH ACCURACY AND RESPECT 19-23**

**At that time** Daniel whose name was BELTESHAZZAR was astonished or desolated as he looked in the Kings face [*h[vk]*] once and his friendly pastoral thoughts alarmed and terrified and caused him to hurry. [*l[hb]*] *Nebuchadnezzar's testimony was given to Daniel in consultation and is here set out in writing to the world in the context of that affection the prophet had for the king and the genuine care not to hurt him.* BELTESHAZZAR answered and said "My Lord would that the dream concerning your enemies and the interpretation related to your adversaries. The tree which you saw which was great and mighty with authority and its peak reached the sky and was seen through the whole earth. The tree also had beautiful foliage and a wealth of fruit nourishing everyone, a restful habitation for the beasts of the earth whilst its branches became a nesting place of the birds of heaven-it is you O King. It is you who have become great and strong -your greatness has increased so that it reaches to the heavens and your dominion reaches the "seaweed"[*Chaldee pws*] of the earth.[*An expression for the "sea weed" of the Arabian gulf on the one hand and "the rushes" of the Mediterranean mouth of the Nile on the other*] And you O King saw a messenger[*Chaldee ry*] [*"a rapid one"-a "guardian" -"one from the city of God"-an "ardent one"-used in Syriac liturgy for archangels*] and a holy One caused to come down from heaven and he said "**Cut down the tree** and keep laying it waste or damaging it or measuring it out [*Chaldee lbj*] ...**Nevertheless let the stump of its roots remain in the earth imprisoned or in bonds of iron and bronze among the tender grass of the field. Let it or him be wet or coloured with the dew or heaven and let his lot be (separate) as an animal... until seven times or years pass over him [Nebuchadnezzar]. Daniel records the kind interpretation and out two passages.**

(1) Daniel omitted the stripping of leaves scattering of fruit and flight of animals and birds-obviously these matters were entailed in the surgery and felling.

(2) Daniel more importantly left out the detail about the king's mind being affected. Here kindness put it simply-"Your lot is to be **separate** with the animals" for "seven times"

(3) Daniel introduces the serious stuff in the interpretation where he calls for thorough repentance! Daniel reports 24 words verbatim as the messenger from heaven proclaimed them in the dream and omits 23 words and softens one-namely "Beast" to make it "animal" and instead of the "expression eating herbs" he puts "being solitary" as the animals. All this Nebuchadnezzar as he writes recognises as in character with Daniel's wisdom and kindness.

### **THE DREAM INTERPRETED WITH A CALL FOR REPENTANCE 24-27**

This is the interpretation O King. This is the decree to cut down that the Almighty has arrived at against my LORD the King. Concerning yourself-you will be driven out as by a tempest from men and your dwelling will be with the animals of the field searching for green herbs for yourself as the pigeons and taste or discern (as the animals) and you will be wet and coloured with the dew of heaven upon you and seven seasons will pass over you [ "change" or "revive" you Chaldee [plj] until you allow yourself to recognise or become aware in personal experience [Chaldee Niphal of [dj] that it is the Almighty who holds sovereign dominion in the kingdoms of men and to whomsoever HE pleases HE gives them. And that which **they said** [The plural shows that two witnesses came-one "a holy one"-the pre-incarnate Christ it would seem-and the other a great angelic messenger] concerning the leaving of a root or family stock [rq[] of roots of the tree -there will be a rising again of your kingdom from when you allow yourself to recognise that heaven has dominion. Therefore O King let my counsel be acceptable [like a beautiful trumpet rpv] lift up your sins [in burnt offering Chaldee hl [?] in righteousness and tear from yourself your iniquity in continually showing grace to the poor and surely your prosperity will be extended. *Daniel was at his bold best-a veritable Elijah and John the Baptist of his era. He stood before the lion and announced the need for an immediate lifestyle change-a genuine repentance with fruits-but presumably like Agrippa he was heard but not obeyed.*

## **TWELVE MONTHS LATER-THE HEAVENLY DECREE TAKES EFFECT NEBUCHADNEZZAR ANSWERS DANIEL ON THE ROOF A YEAR LATER! 28-33**

All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months it came to pass when he was walking above the royal palace which is in Babylon. The **king answered and said** "Is this not Great Babylon which I have built for a residence of the king by the might of my riches or power and for the honour of my splendour?"

The words were still in the mouth of the King when a voice came from heaven "It has fallen upon you as was spoken King Nebuchadnezzar-your kingdom has passed from you." You will be driven tempestuously from men and will abide with the beasts of the field. You will taste and eat herbs like the oxen till seven seasons pass over you -and until you acknowledge that the Most High has dominion over the kingdoms of men and to whom HE pleases he gives it. In a moment of time [Chaldee h[v] the words were complete or accomplished prophecy about Nebuchadnezzar and he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen and the dew of heaven moistened and coloured his body until his hair was increased as eagles'(feathers) and his nails were as claws *This is a "self-portrait" by the King who describes himself as having taken on the look of an eagle. Perhaps the worst part of this isolation was the King's estrangement from his friend Daniel whom he had not sought for a year and was now to miss over a period of up to seven years.*

## **THE SEVEN SEASONS END IN PRAISE AND HUMILITY 34-37**

At the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar had lifted my eyes toward heaven and my self consciousness returned to me and I had blessed the Most High -I praised or boasted of Him who lives for ever and honoured HIM whose dominion is an eternal dominion and HIS kingdom from generation to generation and all the peoples of the earth are as a ruin or as pining. HE works as HE pleases with the powers of heaven and the generations of the earth. No-one can hinder or restrain [Chaldee ajm] HIS hand or say to HIM "What have you done?"

At the time my self-consciousness or sanity returned to me my honour and healthy complexion returned to me for the esteem of my monarchy and my eloquent men and captains or skilled leaders searched for me or requested audience. [Chaldee h[b] I redeemed my throne or kingdom and more excellent greatness "was added" to me.

So now and on from now I Nebuchadnezzar **more than boast** of and **more than exalt highly** and **more than glorify or honour the King of heaven**

- (1) Because all that he does is weighed out right by the scales of justice
- (2) And HIS great pathways are righteous judgment
- (3) And those who walk in pride HE is able to bring low.

## DANIEL 5

### SPIRITUAL DISASTER-OPPORTUNITY LOST

#### A CHRONOLOGICAL BRIDGE

*This chapter begins so differently from the end of the previous chapter that it is necessary to supply a bridge between the two by which the reader may pass to new considerations. Nebuchadnezzar ruled for 43 years until 562B.C. What happened next? First EVIL MERODACH took over and after some short years BELSHAZZAR(earlier co-regent) and the skilled dowager queen mother took over power from 556. Much debate surrounds the succession. You can tease out the profound complexity of this topic under my file on "Babylon". I calculate from notices in the ancients that Belshazzar was around 50 years of age at this time. I have to accept the truth of Jeremiah's prophecy (27.7) and the plain statements of scripture in this chapter against the whole phalanx of commentators who deny that Belshazzar is son of Nebuchadnezzar.*

#### WALL WARNING REPEATED TO KHOMEINI

*The year was 539B.C. and it was to be the end of the Neo-Babylonian empire-signalled by a sign upon the wall-written by the finger of God. In 1988 an Iranian newspaper reported a mysterious glowing cross on the wall of the Ayatollah Khomeini's residence. The spiritual leader of the country was irate. He had the wall demolished only to find the glowing cross re-appeared on the wall behind the one he had removed. The LORD signals from time to time HIS purpose to bring rule to an abrupt end. The true story that follows is an epic case of this sort.*

#### COMMENTARY-WRITING ON THE WALL 1-2

King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his captains or leaders and in the presence of a thousand (witnesses) drank foaming "fermented wine" [*rmj* "heaped" or "effervescent" wine] Belshazzar ordered by decree that the fermented wine be in vessels of **gold and silver** which his "father" [*yhwba*] Nebuchadnezzar caused to be brought from the temple which is in Jerusalem and the king and his captains, the "women he lay with" [*ht/gv*] and the "obscene concubines by him" [*ht/jl*] drank from them. *Both sets of women are described by a DAGHESH LOCALE as lying lasciviously by Him.*

#### MARK THE MOMENT - SIGNALLING CHRIST'S COMING 3-5

**(i) At that time** they caused the vessels of **gold** which had been taken from the house of God at Jerusalem to be brought and the king and his sleeping partners and obscene women drank from them. They had been drinking again and again the foaming wine and had toasted the gods of gold; toasted the gods of silver; toasted the gods of brass; toasted the gods of iron and the gods of wood and stone. *Two things are evident. First the servants had brought only the "gold" vessels". Professor Rowley remarked on the basis of "explicit evidence" that the temple of MARDUK (where the vessels were stored) was the first major building in the centre of the city to be captured. However if this were so an alarm would have been raised-unless the leaders of the banquet were so drunk they could not effectively process information. Secondly the toasts and credits mirror the descent of civilisations represented in the statue of the dream and they also mirror the vessels on the banqueting tables. Could it be that the king was so far gone that he was toasting out of every vessel before him?*

At that moment of toasting the gods of stone "fingers" [*n[bxa]*] of the arm of a man issued out and wrote near the fire-light lamp stand upon the burnt limestone of the wall of the palace of the king and the king saw and felt "the extremity"[*sp*] of the emphatic hand which was writing *I observe that it was when*

*Belshazzar began to toast "stone" which in his father's dream represented the coming of Messiah as judge that the hand appeared. Circumstantially the chosen point of writing is of interest first because it the message stood out white against the smoky plaster and was illumined by the torchlight. The "arm of the LORD is involved-and the verb of vision "he saw" also means he felt the effect of every word in his soul and spirit.*

*The permanent lesson of "The hand of God" is that we should be prepared to meet our Saviour with a heart that is right with God and a conscience that is instructed and quickened.*

***Death and judgment draweth nigh***

***To the arms of Jesus fly***

***Be in time***

## **FEAR, FATE AND FECKLESS FELLOWS 6- 9**

**(ii) At that time** the healthy appearance of the king changed and his companions will have been terrified and the joints of his loins were wrestling and loosed [*the Chaldee hrv is used of macerated grapes-it is as if his joints went to water-the experience compares with that of Jacob and is of the nature of that experience David describes when he prophecies the cross-Belshazzar is in the midst of judgment and he knows it*] and his knees smote one against another. The King called loud and strong for the enchanters, the Chaldeans and the soothsayers to come up and the King answered and said to the wise men of Babylon that "any man who reads this writing and interprets it I will cause to be clothed in purple and I will apportion gold sufficient to surround his neck and he will be third in power in the kingdom

**(iii) At that time** all the King's wise men entered but they were not able to announce what was written and interpret it for the king's information.

**(iv) At that time** King Belshazzar became a greatly "terrified and confused man" [*lhbtm "A man of confusion"*] and his healthy complexion changed and his captains were "absolutely perplexed"[*cbc*].

## **THE DOWAGER QUEEN SUGGESTS THAT DANIEL BE CALLED 10-11**

The queen at the sound of the discourse of the King and his captains came up to the house of drinking -the queen answered and said "O king live for ever -don't let your friends be agitated-and your happy look be changed. *With a maternal heart she entered to take control and to suggest a way out-a woman who was quite self confident and in one sense had answers-but this one was beyond her great skill-in fact her scheme on the lake reservoir had probably led to the success of the surprise attack which was just then closing in on the palace.*

There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the Holy Gods in him and **in the days of your father (First notice of Father -Son connection)** he shone like a light or was like the Euphrates [*wryhn*] he had prudence and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods was found in him and the Great King your father made him as head over the magicians enchanters Chaldeans and diviners-**your Father was a great king. (Second notice of Father -Son connection).***There is something approaching chiding in this expression. I have read the comments of John PHILLIPS of Moody who believes this queen was promoting a well known facade through the association with Nebuchadnezzar. The text does not read that way as I understand it. The dowager queen who was probably the second wife of Nebuchadnezzar and the mother or step-mother of Belshazzar was reminding Belshazzar of facts he should have known and of his error in side-lining Daniel.*

## **WHY THE PROLONGED DIATRIBE ON DANIEL'S NAME? 12-18**

Because a spirit of excellence and surpassing experience or knowledge and success or cunning in interpretation of dreams and the showing or significance of "riddles"[*d#j*] and the untying of "difficult questions"[*rfq*]was found to be in him -in Daniel-to whom the King gave the name BELTESHAZZAR-call Daniel and he will cause the interpretation called out for you. *The queen laid emphasis on the similarity of the prophet's name to the name of the king's son. There was only one letter of difference.*

(1)BELSHAZZAR means "Nebo's stomach"(NABONNEDOS) "Whom BEL heaps up"

(2)BEL(TE)SHAZZAR means "He whom BEL-the Lord favours" The letter (T)in the middle that makes the difference is TETH which taken numerically means "nine" and taken as a symbol means "hand" or "covered over" or "plaster". From this designation it would seem that the reference of NITOCRIS (The dowager queen) to the name of BELTESHAZZAR was not gratuitous but that she now saw something uncannily prophetic in the "f" within the name her first husband gave Daniel.

Here after the passage of 23 years in the year 539BC Daniel was coming in at a vital moment -the end of the Babylonian Empire in fact and reading the writing written buy "the hand" on the wall of "plaster" and showing what was "hidden". This greatest queen ever in the history of Babylon was instructed enough of the Holy Spirit to see God bring to life the Aramaic name of Daniel and his relevance for the realm in an astonishing manner.

(v) **At that time** Daniel was caused to be brought up before the king and the king answered and said to Daniel "Are you that Daniel who remains from the sons of exile of Judah **whom my father the king caused to come from Judah?** (*Third notice of Father -Son connection*) I have heard enough constantly in the past that the Spirit of the Gods is in you and a river of light and devout success or prudence and wisdom absolute pre-eminence has been found in you. And now the wisest and distinguished enchanters were brought to read what the writing was and interpret it that I might understand it and they were not able to cause the interpretation of the saying to come to life. And I have heard close by you when you would have been able [*HOPHAL "you were caused to be able" (or) PEAL future of l ky "you would have been capable"*] to interpret explanations [*Literally "from and "to" m l*] and to act as one who has untied difficult questions.

Now look if you will have the ability to read the written message a fantastic neck chain of gold will be on your neck and you will hold authority as the third ruler of the great kingdom. *This statement brings to mind the statement of Satan in the last temptation. The comparison serves to show the deep awareness on the part of Belshazzar and Satan that outside of the help of the person before them they had no future.*

(vi) **At that time** Daniel answered before the king "let your gifts be for yourself and give your gifts [*hbzbn*] to another *In this acute and intriguing statement Daniel uses a Persian word as above and most tellingly remarks that what kingdom Belshazzar has to donate should be given to "another"-someone who will be "delayed" -in effect Cyrus who arrived several weeks later came in as the triumphant ruler of the kingdom. How extraordinary!* But I will read the writing to the King and make known the interpretation. It is you O King. The most High God gave a great kingdom and greatness and preciousness or **a precious vessel** and honour or respect to Nebuchadnezzar your father (*Fourth notice of the Father -Son connection*)

## ONE OF HISTORY'S MOST DETERMINED LEADERS 19-21

And from the Greatness which HE gave him all the united peoples and nations and tongues trembled and feared before him.

(1)Whoever he was **determined** and desirous of killing he killed

(2) And whoever he was determined and desirous from them lived

(3) And whoever he was determined and desirous of raising up was raised

(4) And whoever he desired and was determined should be humbled he humbled. *Daniel the aged painted a true picture of a fearsome autocrat who followed his own strong mind and desires. And when his heart became high and proud of spirit or tempestuous oppressive in overwhelming insolence he was divided from the throne of his kingdom [*Literally "cut from it"*] and his honour and splendour were weighed or separated. [*hmm*]Daniel is preparing the king for the first word "how weighty" or rather "how light" he is in the sight of God. He was driven before a tempest from among the sons of men and his mind or heart was associated with the beasts of the field; his shelter was with the wild donkeys; he tasted or ate herbage as the oxen and the dew of heaven dampened or coloured his body*

(5) **And he will have been afflicted or at war** or until "**he will have determined**"[*The ITHPAEL future of abx has two possible meanings from the radicals but the pointing suggests "determined" as correct*] that he would recognise that the Most high God has dominion in the kingdoms of men and

(6) Whoever he determines HE sets over it.

## **PRIVILEGE AND OPPORTUNITY WASTED 22-24**

But you his son [*hrb*-"*his begotten*"; "*His beloved*" "*His true son*"] (***Fifth notice of the Father -Son connection***) Belshazzar have not humbled your heart though you were personally aware of all this. You have raised yourself up against the LORD of heaven and the vessels that belonged to his house came before your presence and you and your captains your partners and your concubines or obscene ladies drank foaming wine with them. And you praised or boasted of the gods of silver and gold, brass and iron wood and stone who cannot see or hear or understand and belonging to the sovereign God who places you in HIS hand and **all your ways** [*The major paths you have taken*] **belong to HIM**-you do not honour HIM.

(vii) **At this time** from HIS presence HE sent the extremity of his arm and wrote what has been recorded. *Daniel is saying that what appeared on the wall is part of the judgment registered in heaven-giving us grounds for understanding that the minutest deeds of kindness and of sin are known to God.* And this is the writing which has been recorded.

## **MENE MENE TEKEL UPHARSIN 25-30**

This is the interpretation of those words:

- (A) MENE-God has weighed your kingdom and it is cause to be finished or recompensed
- (B) TEKEL-You have been weighed in the "balances of consideration" [*nza*] and you have been found too light
- (C) PERES-Your kingdom is divided in two and has been given to the Medes and Persians.

(viii) **At that time** Belshazzar issued a mandate to clothe Daniel in purple and set a chain of gold around his neck and he was raised up so that he became the third ruler in power within the kingdom. In that night Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans was slain.

## **MOMENTOUS TIMES UNDER BELSHAZZAR**

### **1. TIMES WHEN HOLINESS MEANS NOTHING**

**Unholy times they were-the vessels of the presence of God most high were filled with foaming wine that bites like an adder and put to the lips of obscene women and a careless dissolute king**

### **2. TIMES OF FEAR**

**Belshazzar's knees knocked. His companions trembled. The whole of the military top brass were in shock. Such times are upon us again. Leaders and army chiefs are at the maelstrom of a world in turmoil**

### **3. TIMES BEYOND COMPREHENSION OF THE WISE**

**The whole estate of men of learning and science combined could not fathom that it was the end of an era and indeed of the world's greatest power. Just like the demise of Babylon the demise of America and the present power structures is essentially unseen -but the days of the present power structures are numbered.**

### **4. TIMES WHEN BELIEVERS SEEK THE SPIRIT OF GOD**

**Amid the terror the great dowager queen whose life work had covered the empty years of Belshazzar with provisions because she had not lost sight of Daniel's God nor of the need of the people. She remembered her husband's testimony and her work in irrigation and putting in flood protection and creating circumstances for plentiful harvests had single-handedly shored up a**

weak regime. She pointed to Daniel as the prophet the nation needed-but her influence was so little despite her greatness. It is ever so.

#### **5. TIMES WHEN THE FORGOTTEN PAST IS REMEMBERED**

Belshazzar recalled Daniel. He should have continued to use him when he came to power in 560 BC and then there could have been 21 years of joy and faith. Instead this faithful Daniel continued with other exiles that lived on doing what he could but away from the handles of power.

#### **6 TIMES WHEN THE MOST PRECIOUS THINGS ARE GLIMPSED**

Daniel was not bothered about gold and purple and power. He knew from God that the kingdom was already divided. He had kept up his devotions from the earliest years (604-5-539-65 years) and was as in touch with God as ever. He reminded Belshazzar that he had not only a "precious vessel" before him on the table but he had a life which he had filled likewise with debauchery. He had a precious mother who had sustained all the burden of the state-he had a precious father who left a document of testimony and withal he had been found to live lightly -without any spiritual character that pleased God.

#### **7 TIMES OF WARNING AND JUDGMENT**

God sent a finger of warning. Nebuchadnezzar as Daniel told his son was given 1 year before he was cut off temporarily or for 7 years or times. Belshazzar was given just a few minutes or hours. We don't know if he even got to bed.

#### **8. TIMES OF RARE RECOGNITION**

Belshazzar did not ditch Daniel. He kept his promise. He gave him what he could. He made him "Third Ruler". It seemed good but it was too late. We will never know if the king had taken to heart the message of the prophet and is a case of death bed repentance. That must wait for another day-but the warning is clear.

Be in time Be in time  
While the voice of Jesus calls you  
Be in time  
If in sin you longer wait you may find no open gate  
And your cry may be too late-be in time.

## **DANIEL 6 THANKFUL LIVING AND PRAYER**

*NOTE: I have come to understand through study of the prophetic book that Daniel was a man who thanked God by prolonged prayer in the morning at midday and in the evening for his great providence. He captured the "passing moments"(Chaldee *nydab*) much like Murray McChayne and they stand out as "times of turmoil, change, danger and need when he would consult God supplicate and intercede. He records historical notes in his writing which I believe Daniel kept as a prayer Diary-or at least to which sessions before God he could bring his mind back readily. In this chapter you will find Daniel thankful and at prayer for:-*

- 1 His new role as supervisor above Babylon's three top officials-and for God's Spirit to guide him*
- 2 For grace to witness despite insult*
- 3 Thankful for fellowship with God and prayerful for courage to keep witnessing amid criticism*
- 4 Thankful that he was chosen to witness and prayer for courage against the sinister move of his underlings*
- 5 Thankful that he could witness even to spies*
- 6 Thankful that he had another day and prayerful for the King who was under great pressure*

**7 Thankful to be still alive and walking with God and praying that the LORD would work all things for His glory**

**8 Thankful that he has another time with God and prayerful for his enemies and the king**

**9 Thankful that the king's heart was for him and prayerful for grace as he faced the lions**

**10 Thankful for the best night of his life with the Christ and prayerful for the distracted king**

**11 Thankful Daniel gave thanks as morning broke for another day and prayed again for Darius & his friends**

**12 Daniel had kept confessing his weakness and sin and thanking God for rescue-interceding too**

**13 Daniel must have put in a prolonged thankful session and prayed for the conviction of thousands as Darius said he would tell the world of the LORD. No wonder Jeremiah said "We would have saved Babylon!"**

## **THE UNCORRUPTED MAN HATED BY CORRUPT PEERS 1-9**

And Darius the Mede had taken over the kingdom as a man of sixty two years of age. It was acceptable before Darius to cause the kingdom to be constituted and that there should be 120 satraps or Persian officers [*The nprdvj* had both civil and military powers-the word means "lion-kings"] over the whole kingdom. And he put over these three supervisors [*Literally "servant princes"*] of whom Daniel was one. The Satraps brought their burdens or problems [*bhy*] to them and the edict or judgment or perceived assessment of the king would not be damaged or suffer injury [*qzn*]

**(1) At that time** Daniel had caused him to be excellent above the Supervisors and satraps because of another Spirit that was in him and the king had intended [*tv*] to cause him to be promoted over the whole kingdom.

**(2) At that time** the Supervisors and Satraps had been repeatedly insulting towards Daniel to find something contrary to the royal affairs and they were unable to find any pretext because he was faithful and they had not found any fault or corruption concerning him.

**(3) At that time** these men said "We will not find any pretext [*hl*] against Daniel in these things. We will search the law of his God for a pretext against him.

**(4) At that time** these Prince-servants and Satraps descended as a crowd on the king and thus they said to him-"King Darius live for ever "all the Prince-servants of the kingdom, the Prefects, Satraps and Deputies have taken counsel that the King should have raised an edict and to have given authority that anyone who asks a petition from any God or man for thirty days except from you O king shall be bound and thrown into the den of lions.

Now, O King, issue a binding decree and sign the written document into force that it is not able to be changed according to the laws of the Medes and the Persians which are not abolished. Because of this King Darius signed the legally binding document.

## **DANIEL PRAYS WITH OPEN WINDOWS AS USUAL 11-19**

As soon as Daniel became aware that the record was signed he went up to his house and he had his windows opened in his house towards Jerusalem. *This upper window had a southern aspect. The verb is Peal-he opened every window he had on that side of the house.* Three times in a day he lowered himself to his knees and he kept on praying causing himself to thank God because he had done so (habitually) before this time.

**(5) At that time** these men went as a group and watched for Daniel seeking God and giving thanks before God.

**(6) At that time** they approached and spoke before the king about the royal edict. "Did you O King not publish a written record that any man who prayed to any God or man excepting yourself until thirty days expired would be thrown into the den of lions?"

The King answered "The decree stands firm and settled according to the laws of the Medes and the Persians which do not pass (or)are not abolished or mere ornaments[*hd*]

**(7) At that time** they answered and said before the king that Daniel who is from the captivity of the Jews is not listening to you O King or to the binding [*arsa*] decree that you have written [*mvr*]-he still prays three times daily. When the King listened to these and like words erring greatly through ignorance [*agv*] he was distressed over the hidden ness or secrecy [*nl*] over Daniel and set his heart to rescue him



until the going down of the sun he had **exerted himself to the point of rebellion** [rdc] to deliver Daniel. *Darius actually thought of altering the concept of Law employed by the Medes and Persians-he thought of overthrowing the whole government structure by using the army but he was hampered by his co-regency with Cyrus. He may even have thought of silencing the opposition. His options were too revolutionary and clearly he felt they would not work and would be draconian and equally wrong as the plot itself.*

**(8) At that time** these men went to the King as a group and said to the King "You must be aware O King that the statutes of the Medes and the Persians are of such that they all stand unchanged and that the edict the King has issued will have to stand -it is not to be caused to change. *The effect of this further delegation was to "hem in" the King and press him to enforce the law. The king may have hoped that he might be accorded discretion in applying the law-but this was not the case.*

**(9) At that time** the King commanded that Daniel be brought and (when) they had him thrown into the den of lions the king answered and said to Daniel "Your God whom you set apart or to whom you set apart time in a circle [arydyb *The "revolving" days of his whole life are to be understood-it is not alone 24/7 but day on day year on year all his life*]-HE will (or)may HE continue to rescue you. **A single stone** was brought and placed on the mouth of the den and the King sealed it with the signet of his ring and the rings of his captains so that the determination [abx] about Daniel (or) Daniel's case could not be changed. *The "stone" made the den a virtual tomb and no-one in the OT came out of such tomb alive - nor did any save Lazarus whom Christ called and the master himself come from behind the stone in the NT.*

**(10) At that time** the king "spun away" [lza -*the word is appropriate to the furious wheels of a chariot*] and passed the night fasting [awf] and no musical instrument was brought into his presence as was regular nor did he change his soiled garment. [tdn]*The King had been deeply distressed-he had gone to the very cage of the lions-his clothes which were daily changed remained on him all through the night.*

## **DARIUS' CHARIOT RUSHES BACK TO THE LIONS' DEN 20-22**

**(11) And 34th of 40 turbulent days to this point in the Book which passed by the intervention of providence moving in conjunction with prayer.) At that time** in the brilliance of the dawn the King rose and went spinning swiftly in great splendour of raiment and in great terror and haste he sped to the den of lions. *The morning dawned beautiful. The four syllable Chaldee word BESHAPRA has a massive letter P (Hebrew letter for "mouth") in the second syllable of the word because "mouth" was in his mind-the "mouth of the lions" as they roared before Daniel went in-in its third syllable is a "diminutive p which pictures the lions breathing but not opening their mouths to feed or roar. The second "P" is testimony to the harmless mouths as the LORD shut them to protect Daniel HIS servant. The elegance of dress is hardly likely to convey the king's mourning. I believe like Abraham he offered up Daniel by faith and was now living out his faith-no sackcloth-the finest robes! However, there was yet one more hope-for which he may quietly have prayed to God in secret-just like Daniel did-and now was the chance to see if Daniel's God would answer him. This is my reading of why he acted as he did and why he fasted-as he must have known Daniel habitually did as he prayed. But as he approached near on the outside of the den the King cried out in a voice of labour or grief and answered and said to Daniel "Daniel servant of God who lives - has your God whom you are devoted to-whom you have set apart in the circle of your life been able to rescue you from the lions?"*

**(12) At that time** Daniel was with the king. He had been saying again and again "O King live for ever" *There is some curiosity about this expression in the Peal. It tells us that the prophet had been in close fellowship with the King even when in the den. It tells us he had been praying even before he met him-or had been aware that the king would return and was awaiting that return-what an example to us-and especially to our brothers in acute trial of our times. How could Daniel be close to the King? By meeting at the throne of grace is the obvious answer! The seen or unseen presence of "The Angel of the LORD" gave him great cheer. He was probably informed on what would happen in the morning before it occurred. These men conversed through a stone-and Daniel was as much alive as Darius-so it is with the church triumphant and the church militant.*

My God sent the "Angel of His presence" and shut the **P** Mouths of the lions like bolted gates and they have given me no travail or writhing because before HIM purity or "cleansing of myself" was found in me. *Daniel was in a lions den-not a clean place-and Darius had slept in soiled clothes-but God does not look on the outward. He saw the heart of both men and their motives. Daniel's prayers never failed on account of impurity. He kept short accounts with God-he made confession of anything that disturbed his peace with God. And before you O King I have done no crime. Clearly Daniel had broken the edict of Darius but he challenged Darius and was well aware from the King's words that Darius did not consider the edict good law or true law or law at all.*

### **THE GREAT JOY OF DARIUS & HIS ACT OF RETRIBUTION 23-24**

**(13) At that time** the king was immensely glad over and over again. *The Chaldee word is of the same form as the Hebrew for "Happy". The King was as happy as he had ever been. It was a day of thankfulness and Daniel was to be back at his upstairs window after the Morning Prayer session in the den. The King mandated that Daniel be brought up out of the den. And Daniel was lifted from the den. No wound could be seen upon him because he was caused to trust in his God. The unscathed Daniel was aware as were others that his rescue was down to a faithful God who gave him confidence and direct support. And the King mandated that those men who had devoured and "chewed Daniel to pieces" [xrq] be brought and they cast them into the den of lions-along with their sons and their wives. And they had not arrived at the earth or bottom of the den before the lions took them in their power and they ground small all their bones.*

### **THE LETTER OF DARIUS 25-28**

**(14) At that time** Darius wrote to all nations and peoples and tongues that dwelt in the whole earth "May you have great prosperity" [Shalom] From my presence I establish a decree that in all dominions of my kingdom there is to be continual vexing of self [ [wz]we would say repentance] and reverencing [ l ] d we would say worship] of the God of Daniel for HE is the living God and rises or stands to eternity or for ever and HIS kingdom shall not be destroyed nor his dominion is until the end [Literally apws "snatching away] HE rescues and "snatches away" and works signs and wonders of service in heaven and earth. He has rescued DANIEL from the paw and power of lions. And Daniel the exalted "Judge" or "Ruler" [hnd] flourished [Literally "Crossed the river"-or surmounted the difficulty like Abraham and Jacob and the Children of Israel before him] in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian. Darius the great executive of the Medo Persian Empire like Nebuchadnezzar before him had been compelled by the evidence and the Spirit of God to faith. After 1 year in 537 at 63 he was defeated by Cyrus at PERSEPOLIS following army defections and became prisoner of his brother-in-law. He may have been put under house arrest at SUSA-where he built the palace. He lived on for a further 8 years. We know that thereafter for years CYRUS spent his summers at SUSA and also that Daniel's monument marking his grave is located there. It may be that Daniel spent his last days with the believing king. Daniel himself would have been in his mid-eighties since he was marched to Babylon as a youth in 606BC. Darius ruled Media (559-538) Babylon 538-537 and Cyrus ruled Babylon alone from 537-530 when he died near **MURGHAB** (Afghanistan). We do not know if Daniel outlived Darius and Cyrus in SUSA. Cyrus died some 7 years after Daniel's likely move to SUSA and some 1000 miles to the east in N-W Afghanistan by the "River of the birds". Daniel may very well have outlived both Cyrus and Darius and if so might have lived to circa 90 years of age. Since Cyrus holidayed annually at SUSA and DARIUS spent his last days somewhere in that province it is not beyond the possible that the great prophet was able to reconcile the two leaders although the strife that separated them as brothers-in-law had been embittered by military and power considerations. We are told that Daniel "prospered in the reign of Darius and during that of Cyrus which meant that he lived with the respect and obvious support of Cyrus. By the end of Cyrus reign he would have been about 91 assuming he was 15 when taken to Babylon in 606BC. By that time it was just 67 years from 587 when the bulk of the Jews had been carried captive. There were 3 years to run till Jeremiah's words on the 70 year exile were fulfilled. Did Daniel live on from about 91 to 94 to witness that return? From chapter 12 and the other references to 3

plus years it would appear the LORD reassured him he would stand in the city after the tribulation but we do not know for sure whether he lived out a similar toll of years till his fellow Jews returned from Babylon to that city he cherished as a youth.

## DANIEL 7 THE PARADE OF HISTORY

### DANIEL DREAMS OF WORLD GOVERNMENT TILL THE REIGN OF CHRIST 1-3

In the first year of Belshazzar King of Babylon (555BC-18 years before Chapter 6 & 2 before chapter 8) Daniel beheld a vision [*hzh "to see by vision" unlike hzh "to dream or talk in one's sleep" it indicates a play of visual imagery of a sort ordered by God*] and revelations (cf in particular v 16 ff) of his head upon his couch. *It is confirmed in vv 7 & 13 that these are night visions not visions received at siesta or any other daytime.*

**At that time** he wrote "the dream" [*Chaldee amlj*] discoursing on the chief or summary of the matters or declarations. Daniel answered or testified and said "I saw prophecy or received revelation I was there **in my dream during the night**. Look the four winds of heaven converged or blew in unison towards or into the great sea (the Mediterranean) or the West and four living creatures -**PRINCES** or nobles ascended or rose from the sea or west-different one from the other. *Each of the powers was to extend their bounds to the Mediterranean. The idea of separate "Night Visions" is highly suggestive of a brightening and then fading away of one empire view in the face of another coming up. The process of revelation would seem not unlike our process of fading in computer images one after another. It was as if Daniel was glued to windows of wide screen visions in succession.*

### BABYLON -THE FIRST EMPIRE 4

The first earlier or eastern was as a lion and had wings of an eagle. **I had been there** (Daniel was alive through the Babylonian regime) watching until its wings were finally plucked. *This represents Daniel as present at Babylon until it was denuded of military power at the time of the Medo Persian assault. It was caused to be lifted from the earth and caused to rise and stand on its feet as a man and the heart of a man was given to it. The powerful empire of Nebuchadnezzar whose hair grew as an eagle's and whose hold on power continued for 43 years is aptly presented. He was the first **PRINCE** spoken of in the dream. His "understanding" or "heart" was returned to him and he acknowledged as man should his creator and his own humble humanity.*

### MEDO PERSIAN CO-REGENCY-THE SECOND EMPIRE 5

And behold another living beast-a second-which was like a bear and belonging to the magistracy or dominion that belonged to it of unity [*Chaldee dj as Hebrew dj a "the co-regency of Darius and Cyrus*] Darius and Cyrus were the second **PRINCES** revealed in the dream. **Daniel does not say he was there-but obviously he also witnessed the Medo-Persian Empire at its peak too.** *The root of the word "Bear" means that which "creeps up quickly" and pounces without roaring. It was thus that the Persians entered Babylon. The three "ribs" were Lydia Babylon and Egypt. The Persians crushed all these kingdoms.*

*The "bear-like" empire was characterised by "overwhelming force". Example of the immense armies it fielded to romp after its adversaries are:-*

- (1)The Scythian campaign-a military force of 7,000,000 men*
  - (2)The Greek campaign of Xerxes 2,500,000 men from 56 nations (Herodotus count)*
  - (3)Battle of ISSUS 500,000 defeated-but a Persian re-engagement fielded 1,000,000 men*
- And this is what they (the princes) were saying to it "Arise consume much flesh"

### GREECE- THE THIRD EMPIRE 6

To the west of this or hindered by this **I was there with desire** or interest seeing and behold a later one as a spotted leopard or cheetah and it had four wings like a bird on its back and four heads revived to preserved it alive and it was given dominion. **Daniel was aware of the increasing power of Greece so his interest in the further western future was there.** *The Greek empire is symbolised by a leopard (or cheetah) which is an animal of marked speed. The Cheetah is the fastest land animal and can reach speeds of 70-75 mph over 400 metres. It can accelerate faster than most high speed cars up to 60mph in 3 seconds. In just a decade Alexander had rolled back the entire Medo-Persian Empire and avenged the costly struggles at Marathon and Salamis. The four wings on its curved back by which it continued to exercise power after Alexander the Great were...*

(1) CASSANDER -ruler of Greece and Macedon

(2) LYSIMACHUS-ruler of the Hellespont -Asia Minor and Thrace

(3) SELEUCUS-ruler of Syria and Northern Asia with Babylon and the orient

(4) PTOLEMY-who held power over Egypt Palestine and the Arabian territories.

Alexander was given a vision of one invested as a Jewish High Priest in linen, purple, scarlet and with a mitre. The Man in the vision told Alexander to make no delay but boldly pass over the sea to Asia and assured him that HE would conduct my army and would give me the dominion over the Persians.

Alexander actually visited Jerusalem-met the high priest-worshipped God-put his army under God and exhorted his great general PAMENIO with this encouragement and went forward with this belief undaunted. He had been shown the book of Daniel and believed himself to be the leader or **NOBLE** of whom it spoke in this very chapter. Alexander permitted world Jewry to exercise its laws with freedom

## ROME-THE FOURTH EMPIRE 7

**To the west of this or hindered by it I was there desirous as I watched** in my visions of the night and behold a fourth living creature that was bringing terror [ljd] -both dreadful [hmya the first person termination of the participle suggests Daniel dreaded it- the coming era of Roman persecution together with the crucifixion of Jesus the Christ though not portrayed yet in some sinister sense injustice and oppression could be seen ahead] and overpowering or obstinate [pqt] **It remained** or was left and it had great iron teeth. It was master or prince devouring and grinding to powder and **it trampled or brought into submission the remnant** under its feet. *The latter phrase connects this beast with the remnant of God and indicates a vintage war where the Jews are trampled like grapes in a press.* And it was a total change from the living creatures or beasts which preceded it and it had ten horns. *The horn represents "power" and so very great power is represented by 10 horns. Ten is the number of man and human government. Daniel never actually got to see this empire develop historically according to the vision but Rome was founded according to VARRO in the year 753BC and its existence in the West would have been known to Daniel. Daniel felt he had been witness to a terrible "submission" under the dominion of this empire. In a sense the prophet may have gained some sense of the darkness of the cross in this "night vision"*

## RE-CONSTITUTED ROME -THE FIFTH EMPIRE 8

**I had been there** prudently understanding or considering in the house of the horns and

(1) Behold a later or delayed or lingering horn or even last horn small [r[z] had come up among the horns and...

(2) Three of the former horns had been rooted out as a family of horns through its later coming or from its presence or from meeting it in a hostile manner and...

(3) Behold it had eyes like the eyes of a man in the house of this horn and a mouth declaring or mandating great things. *This latter day power will destroy three powerful neighbouring nations or rulers and be represented by a man who is described by Daniel as ENOSH-comparable in some way with BAR ENOSH of v.13.*

## SESSION OF CHRIST-PRELUDE TO THE SEVENTH EMPIRE 9

I was there viewing with deep interest till the **thrones or curved seats** were "put in place"[hmr as foundational witness to the divine righteousness cf Apocalypse 4.4] and the **Ancient of Days** sat down

to abide. *This might appear to be a synopsis detailing the time when the majesties of the earlier kingdoms fell but it seems rather to be a tribunal -perhaps of heavenly ones who were especially associated with the lives of saints and / or the writing of the books-and amid them Christ sat down after HE completed HIS work of redemption. This session may be viewed as a dramatic fact crunching and people handling event or a carte blanche declaration of welcome and reward distribution like the Oscars or it may be a long very personable and deep acquainting of the believer with the mind of the Master on his or her life occupying a deal of the heavenly ministry of Christ as the completion of his High Priestly role. We cannot know the manner of the divine judgment. There is, however, reference in the Apocalypse 4,5,6,7,11,14,15,18,19 and 20 to matters which sit well alongside an extended divine operation of welcome and settlement of matters of the Church Triumphant nor does this conflict with 2 Corinthians 5.10 for "we must(in whatever manner or at whatever era or time) all appear before the judgment seat of Christ" nor indeed with our "receiving" as recorded in Matthew 20.7; 1Cor 3.8,14; 2 Cor5.10; Col.3 24-25; James 1.12; 1Peter5.4; 2John 1.8 et alii.*

(1) Whose garment was white as snow and...

(2) The hair of his head as pure or guiltless [hqn] bristling wool and...

(3) HIS throne as kindling fragments of fire and...

(4) HIS wheels or "rolling away" a warm glowing [q/d] fire.

*Christ who comes again is righteousness itself; he is the pure Lamb of God; his seat of justice is holy and through HIM alone the "reproach" of men and nations is rolled away and HE himself is the lover of our souls who "transfers or rolls away our sin" and brings love and ardour into our lives. The "movement" of Christ is a movement of redemption and of atonement rolling through all time. A stream of shining light went before or corresponded to him as a counterpart and went forth in anticipation of HIM or in olden time.*

## **MULTI MILLIONS STAND BEFORE THE LAMB 10**

A thousand thousands- million(s) will have served him and 100,000,000 [hundred(s)] of millions **will stand before HIM**. [*mmqy is definitely a future of the word mmq "to rise"*] *The immense scale of the "rising" to judgment appears in the numbers. The court of judgment sits or the **One who was judged** and **who made defence** sits and the books have been opened. For those hundreds of millions who rise again and face the Lamb is the most solemn sight in the whole universe. This judgment is linked with the time of **the Antichrist** speaking upon earth and it would appear to be the closing session of a tribunal which may run contemporaneous with the life of the Church as part of Christ's high priestly work completing its work in the seven years prior to the final Advent of Christ. The aggregate "millions" who serve Christ (whatever their order or class) are a distinct group from those who later appear before Christ.*

**At that time** I was there: I had been watching [*Peal indicative of past action-this indicates a time before the judgment event that preceded*] because of the voice of numerous or showers of mandates which the horn had been speaking [*Peal participle hl lmm*]. *It is apparent that Daniel had been fascinated by the authority of the last world **PRINCE** and that in face of that particular judgment he spoke of this prince would be rampant and feared for his mandates(the closest modern equivalent might be "fatwas"). At this juncture of time the saints of God are "before him in myriads and books are opened for the reward of his beloved ones. The narrative of Daniel in vision runs on to the final judgment and the punishment of the Antichrist at this point.*

## **ONE EVIL PRINCE ESCAPES JUDGMENT AND ENTERS HELL 11**

I had been present watching with deep interest until when YOU had slain the beast and his body was caused to be destroyed consigned to the burning mass of flame. **In the Apocalypse 19.20 this same prince the beast is cast into the lake of fire before the millennium.** *It is to be assumed that we are not speaking of "cremation" but of a divine "destruction" of this last evil prince whom judgement bypasses and who goes straight to hell or more accurately "the Lake of Fire". He it is who sought to impose the "mark" of his authority on mankind.*

## THE TRIBULATION 12

And the remnant of the beasts-their dominion was caused to pass away or abolished [*hd*[ *Aphel*]]and there was a great prolonging [*kr*α-the word is associated with the eagle-is wing span-and with "long life"]of their lives... [*yph* -"the life of God in man's soul] *It is used in this long extended sense of the risen Christ-"He shall prolong his days" in Isaiah 53.10. In Job 6 10-11 Job muses how his life might be prolonged like "brass" or stone... for a set time or a stated time [mmz -an agreed time. The duration of this set time was not then stated but it appears to link specifically with the span between the "opening of the books and the final advent of the LORD-the existence of an agreement or covenant of this sort is sustained in Daniel 9.27and on the day-year principle its duration would be seven years in all ]... and a time [nd*[ This is the same word as is used in v.25 and it indicates a time for judgment or "meeting" so that it appears there is space-from the time of the opening of the books by the LORD as "defending judge" until the time of HIS final advent. From verse 25 we can assume it includes the 3.5 years there stated]

## THE GATHERING OF CHRIST'S OWN AND THEIR PRESENTATION 13

I was present watching in the house of visions of the night and Look- One like a son [*rb* "a selected" "chosen" "separated"(son)] of Man coming or entering with the **clouds** of heaven. *This One is unmistakable - he is a "Son" both in the sense of God's chosen and in the sense of the one "Separated" from man for centuries. He is back to gather HIS own*  
*What are clouds? They are gatherings of moisture from the earth and the seas which accumulate in the sky and then travel some distance before returning to the earth. The Hebrew word *mm* is the word for this "gathering". There is a second meaning as with many Hebrew/Chaldee words-"a very large army" which expression is found in Ezekiel 30.18 "a cloud (or **army**) shall cover her" and again in Ezekiel 39.9 Gog comes upon Israel "like a storm, like a cloud to cover the land". Jesus uses the expression in the Aramaic of Matthew 24.30 and it reads "They will see the Son of Man coming **in** the clouds of heaven"( If these were true clouds there would be no vision of Christ coming at all - for He would be in clouds) *mymvh ymm* [b ab mdah nb ta war It is very plain that the return of Christ is also with HIS army for these reasons. and HE came or arrived[afm]as far as or the Ancient of Days or the **Shining One** [qyt[] of Days and they caused him to come near before HIM. This "bringing Christ" to the Father is as to present Him as their "offering" or "sacrifice".*

## MESSIAH RECEIVES HIS KINGDOM 14-16

To HIM HE gave dominion and rare honour or dignity.[*rqy* is the word for "precious life" -it is used in 1 Samuel 26.21 thus-"My life was precious to thee". The Father gave Him absolute magnificence because he had spared not HIS precious life]and rule or KINGSHIP and that all combined nations and peoples and tongues should set HIM apart or make HIM illustrious or "serve" HIM or "worship" HIM as God[*j* | *p*]. His dominion is an age long dominion which shall not be abrogated [*through being deposed* *hd*[ ] and HIS kingdom one which shall not have been corrupted or destroyed or "be in vain" or be "overturned" [*l* *bj*]. I Daniel had been pained or grieved in my spirit and in the body or the carcass of the sheath *Daniel was thinking of himself as a "spiritual creature" watching spiritual creatures -but he was as we say "in this house of the body" like "a sword in a sheath".* And the visions of my head had agitated, amazed, alarmed or hurried me on [*l* *hb*] *the purpose of vision is to take man into the future. Daniel was taken in one night over a period of two and a half millennia. He was finding it hard going. He did not have the milestones that we have today. There was simply so much to digest and to think about. The finish was good but along the way there were deep dark sections in the night vision of revelation. I had kept coming near to ONE of those had risen or stood fast or gone forth and stood as a conqueror [bxy]* I searched or requested a weighing up or a part of the whole wide sweep. *Daniel wanted to get a grasp of the gist of it all. The LORD had placed him close to the right informant (Whether angel or prophetic man) so he spoke to me and interpreted the matters that he might enable me to grasp the meaning for myself.*

## THE VICTORIOUS ONE EXPOUNDS THE MYSTERY 17-18

These four great beasts-they are four kingdoms which four kingdoms will rise from the earth but the saints of the Most High **will have taken** the kingdom. *The victorious one is explaining that the whole number of the citizens of the four realms will one day rise to judgment but long before that "White Throne" event the saints of God will have received the kingdom. And they will be caused to possess the kingdom for an AION and for ages of ages.*

## THE FINAL EMPIRES -ESPECIALLY THE REALM OF ANTICHRIST 19-20

At that time I had chosen or was determined about resolving:

(1) The matter of **the fourth beast** which was different from all those. It had been terrifying pre-eminent(ly) -its teeth were iron-its claws were brass. It devoured and broke in pieces and stamped the remnant with its feet. And I was determined to resolve...

(2) The matter of **the ten horns** which were in its head.

(3) And **the other or later one** which came up and before whom three had fallen [*𐤇𐤏𐤍 "dismounted" "prostrated themselves" or "fallen in battle" The Peal suggests attrition or a long rear-guard process-possibly of diplomatic strife*].

(i) **And about this horn that had eyes...***although "eyes" can imply the presence of a "face" this is not so here because two specifics of the face are the sum of its appearance. The "eyes" are the light of the body and have been associated with prophets-2Kings 6.17 and Numbers 24.4. This horn either had "prophetic nonce" or a "vision" for rule of its own - I think the latter since the Antichrist as taught in scripture shall not appear before the mighty vision sustaining and hindering factor in modern history-the church- is raptured.2Thessalonians 2.6-7.*

(ii) **And it had a mouth speaking "great things."***-normally taken to be proud mandates or impious words. This "speech" is referred to in 7.8 as "continuous mandates in the past" and in this instance though differently pointed as a PAEL-however the verbal participle is used here whereas in v.8 it appears to be the nominative participle. This very neat detail suggests when first seen it boasted or proclaimed and as it continued in a new setting it put its words into effect. It was an authority not only by position but by creating law and change. The detail assumes importance as this Antichrist must exist before the "powerful hindering vision" dies with the rapture and the new vision rises to reality with the Antichrist.*

Scripture denotes this leader as follows:

1 "The Assyrian Isaiah" 14.25

2 "A king of fierce countenance" Daniel 8.25

3 "The prince that shall come" Daniel 9.26

4 "A vile Person" Daniel 11.21

5 "The wilful king" Daniel 11.26

6 "The man of Sin" 2Thessalonians 2.3

7 "That wicked, lawless one"

8 "Antichrist" 1 John 2.18

9 "Beast" Apocalypse 13.1

*The fact that so many references exist in the NT must underscore the importance of believers as disciples making themselves aware of the concept and relevance of **the doctrine of Antichrist**-which John the divine taught with care and precision in his epistle and Apocalypse. It was referred to in the constitutional formulae of the Anglican and Presbyterian churches but because of the current misapprehension that it was the Pope that teaching on this subject has fallen into disuse.*

(iii) His look or appearance was greater than that of his associates or "confederates" [*rbj*].

## DETAILED TEACHING ON THE ANTICHRIST 21-25

I was there watching and this horn had been imposing the servitude of war or cultivating and waging war or making a hostile advance against the saints and had been overcoming or prevailing against them [*Two PEAL participles are used in the Aramaic which indicates a process*] until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High and the time arrived and the saints took

possession of the kingdom. *Through all this Daniel had been looking for the time when Theocracy would be restored in the world. The time was very long and yet the heavenly counsellor drew his mind to the joy and certainty of that time. At length the "set time" or "appointed time" had come.*

Thus **HE** said "The fourth beast "will have been" [*as if the informant is speaking before the kingdom emerges and as if it were present and understood*]the fourth kingdom on earth which is different from all kingdoms and it will have devoured all the earth *It will be a world empire holding power over the entire globe.* And it will have crushed or threshed (*as at threshing time separating corn and chaff*) and it will have caused a grinding small. *This is to be understood as a taking to itself judgment making choice of persons for favours and a rendering people insignificant*

And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings who will arise and another [different] shall arise after them...

(1) And he will have been "transformed" [*as a "transformation" of person and era must be expected and this is easily cultivated on account of the "catching away" of the church*] from those before him

(2) And he will humble three kingdoms. *In March 25 1957 the Treaty of Rome was signed & the rebuilding of the fifth empire began. After 50 years it is the world's premier trading block...*

(3) And he will have mandated or proclaimed mandates to concerning or belonging to adversity against God on high...

(4) And he will have **wasted or taxed or worn out the holy ones** of the Most High [*a/b*]...

(5) And he will have purposed to bring about change of agreed times and edicts. *Daniel was aware of the impossibility of changing Medo-Persian law-but the specialty of this latter day Antichrist will be his capacity to change everything. Matters which were agreed about Israel appear to be referred to in v.25 and elsewhere a "covenant" (cf. 11.28 & 32 and in particular 9.27) and it will have been given into his hand or power for a time, times and part of a time. The untrammelled power of Antichrist is subscribed by this statement - he will bear rule for three and a half years. His special interest in the "Holy Place" suggests He supports an alternative ideology and one that centres on Jerusalem.*

## **THE MILLENNIAL AND ETERNAL KINGDOM 26-28**

But **the tribunal** will sit and they will have caused his dominion to be abolished and cause it to be destroyed to the very borders or end [*literally apWS -seaweed of the Arab gulf*]. And Kingdom and dominion and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Most High and that kingdom (with a h locale "in its position") is an age-long kingdom[*nl []*] and all rulers or dominions **will have worshipped** or served it and **they will have been** obedient to it.

Yonder or until then is the utter end of the matter. **I Daniel -my thoughts will have been greatly confounded or hastening to possess** and my appearance will have been changed on me but I kept matter as the mark to aim at in my heart. *This final phrase is taken from warfare and from the "long shot" and it reappears in the NT in Paul's writing. "I press towards the mark of the upward calling of God in Christ" Philippians 3.14 Daniel confessed not so much to terror but to the short haul view of history that he previously espoused. He felt as Dr. John Phillips of Moody reminds us that perhaps*

(1) *Daniel hoped as a result of the exile and repentance the theocracy would re-emerge.*

(2) *Daniel might have calculated that if the rise & fall of Persia and Greece were as that of Babylon Messiah might emerge after a few centuries.*

(3) *Daniel must have been shaken that the Iron Empire would come & then revive as a Fifth Empire-the time was just going to be so long. The Wheels of God were going to grind slowly-but the Shining One reassured him that the end would surely come and the saints would reign and Messiah would come. There is always need of patience when dealing with prophecy. But how Daniel would have thrilled to be so near to the coming of Christ as we are today and what a debt of gratitude we own to Daniel for asking the Great questions that elucidated answers concerning our times.*

## **DANIEL 8 ANTICHRIST**



## A VISION OF "THE VISION" OF RETIREMENT

In the third year of the rule of King Belshazzar a vision made its appearance to me- I Daniel-after the vision that appeared to me at the first [*literally "the opening vision"*] And I saw prophetically in vision and I was present in my prophetic vision and I was in SHUSHAN in the castle-palace [*ryb*] which is in the province of Elam and I saw in the vision I am living upon the stream or river or canal ULAI. *This is the ancient country of CHEDORLAOMER who attacked Sodom. It appears God gave his beloved servant a vision of how it would be in his later years! The capital SUSAN was to be the home of Darius upon retirement-but through his pugnacious wars with his brother-in-law at best he may have ended up in house arrest or with diminished status. I believe Daniel himself spent his later years in SUSAN. JOSEPHUS tells us (Ant. 10.11.4) that Daniel was removed to SUSAN in the third year of Cyrus. One river flowed east of SUSAN and the other to the south and they were linked by a stream which was a man-made canal that flowed by the city. The LORD gave Daniel encouragement that his latter days would be brighter than his beginnings and also showed him in a further HISTORY OF THE LAST DAYS a second phase of the earlier LAST DAYS vision of Chapter 7.*

## THE RAM

So I lifted up my eyes and looked ahead and behold a single ram standing before the faces of the stream and it had two horns and the horns were "great high" horns and the first was higher than the second great horn that grew up afterwards. And I saw the ram butting as a conqueror **westward** and **to the north** and **the south** and all the beasts could not stand before its face and none could rescue or escape from its power and it did as it pleased and wrestled to greatness [*l dq the Hebrew means "great through twisting"-for this chapter begins in Hebrew not Aramaic as if to show that Daniel is out of public service and viewing in his native language as he continues to serve God*]

*The ram is plainly the Medo Persian Empire. The second Horn was Cyrus who became greater than Darius. Cyrus trophies lay Westward in Babylon Mesopotamia Syria Asia Minor; Northward over COLCHIS Armenia Iberia and the Caspian region and Southward through Palestine to Egypt(Being made Pharaoh in 332BC) Arabia Libya and Ethiopia.*

- (1) And **I am living there** umpiring or deciding and behold a he-goat came from the "evening" or from Arabia [*the large area West and South of Palestine*] over the face of the whole earth and it was not touching the earth and the he-goat had a horn of revelation between its eyes.
- (2) And **it came to the ram** -the husband of two horns which I was looking at as it stood or endured or was instituted ministering before the river and it will rush hostile [*xmr*] into him in the heat of his power.
- (3) And **I saw** him injuring or violating [*gn*] the side of the ram. *Daniel just may have lived to see this critical time in SUSAN.*
- (4) For he had been embittered at him and he struck the ram and broke both his horns. *Darius had sent a peace proposal to Alexander that PARMENIO suggested he accept but he refused and from Egypt set out to humble Darius-which he did at GAUGAMELA after which engagement he entered Babylon in a bloodless coup as the city received him in triumph.*
- (5) And there was no power in the ram to stand before him and he will cause him to be cast down to the ground and trampled him and there was no means of deliverance for the ram from his power.
- (6) And the "strengths" or occasions of prevailing [*nyz*] of the he-goat became great through wrestling in war [*l dq-"greatness of twisting" or a "wrestler"-this is also applied to the LORD who wrestles with man and with sin*] to excess. *The Persian cities he took were SUSAN, PERSEPOLIS, ECBATANA, DRAPSACA, AORNUS, ZARIASPA and the remote area of SOGHDIANA. Victory after victory bathed his sword in blood and he even crossed the mile wide river OXUS to catch the killer and successor of Darius.*
- (7) And as he was mighty of spine the great horn was broken. Alexander finally reached India before an aged general persuaded an irate Alexander to turn back. He reached Babylon and was taken by the same over indulgence as Belshazzar - although a serious war wound and death may well have been hastened by a potion prepared by Aristotle conveyed by CASSANDER and administered by IOLAUS.
- (8) But you caused [*hnl [t cf. Judges 13.16]*] these four to grow up instead or "from underneath" [*jwt*] belonging to the four winds of heaven.

Alexander was a natural genius in war and displayed equal capability in managing empire. The Ten Greek cities evangelised by the GADARENES healed by Christ represent his era and PUSEY tells us he built as many as 70 cities strung out over his wide empire. This is a re-presentation of the four parts of Alexander's empire which fell to his generals CASSANDER (who gained Greece) LYSIMACHUS (who received Asia Minor) PTOLEMY gained Egypt and CYRENE with Cyprus whilst SELEUCUS ruled Babylon Syria and Media.

## THE SYRIAN ANTIOCHUS AND SYRIA'S LONG STRUGGLE 9-12

And from one of them came one small horn and it will become pre-eminently [rtj] great toward the south and toward the east and towards the GLORY [ybx used in Daniel 11 16 & 41; Jeremiah 3.19 and Ezekiel 20.6 & 15; 26.12 for Israel-the land where God's glory dwelt-and where in Daniel's later years the "shining glory of the gems" of the High Priest would again have been worn as he ministered under Cyrus repatriations and encouragement. Alexander certainly met the High Priest before his eastern conquests] And it will become great "until" or "during the host of heaven"(period) It would appear that Daniel is referring us to the "night vision" and the time of the coming again of Christ. This makes sense if the Antichrist shares Syrian or Assyrian extraction with Antiochus EPIPHANES. John Phillips prefers to keep the "small horns" separate but the Chaldee of 7 and the Hebrew of 8 are necessarily different.[hry[z yr] a nrq in Chapter 7.8 contrasting simply with the Hebrew of Chapter 8.9 hry[xm] tja nrq - and the point about "a horn a little" is simply a cumbrous translation of words that are differently positioned in Chaldee from English whilst the Prefixed m is not a "prefix of source" but it is a "prefix of separation" in this case from the other "horns" so this is a distinction without a difference and one subtlety to far to establish the theological point Phillips makes-a point which he himself makes to depend heavily on extraneous argument] **and it will cause to be cast down some of the host of stars(abxh Masculine of "The Priestly host") and trampled on them. And it will cause itself to become great in wrestling "until" the prince of the host(The Lord) and from it the daily offering lifted up [myrh] and he caused the legally established holy place to be overthrown or cast down.**

## ANTIOCHUS IV -A RELIGIOUS EPIMANES (his nickname)

And a host (NOT an army in any routine sense) "a **FEMALE** group of sacred priests" [abx feminine noun-cf. Davidson P.639 the "host would appear initially to be an army but the word is applied frequently also to numerous religious servants and even the Levites] gave HERSELF[Niphal feminine-Davidson P.766] against the daily sacrifice by or in breaking covenant or rebellion SHE shall "cast down" [Jlvt "overthrow"3rd person feminine Davidson P.780] the truth to the ground and SHE (the host) "forges ahead" or "works out newly devised or artificial plans" These would include Greek thought patterns and the worship of Zeus [htv[and SHE (the host) **must advance or prosper or succeed.** Antiochus IV made his impious changes in Jerusalem by occasion of 4 circumstances:-  
(1) He was an ardent worshipper of Zeus and desired to Hellenize-some nick-named him "the mad man"  
(2) He was pressured by power play of the PTOLEMIES in Palestine which he wanted to counter.  
(3) He was supported by a rump of Jews who were open to Greek ways of doing things.  
(4) He was occasioned to act by intrigue over the priesthood.

## THE ANTIOCHEAN DYNASTY

To give a little time to the lineage of this infamous son of the Seleucids is to understand how he came to think of himself as a god (EPIPHANES). The Seleucid dynasty fielded 13 rulers to follow Alexander over 156 years. It was weakened by attrition through the increasing power of Rome to the West. It was also unseated in Jerusalem by a long courageous MACCABBEAN campaign.

(a) **SELEUCUS I** took power as one of 4 commanders under Alexander the Great 323BC. Their western capital was Antioch-their eastern capital SELEUCIA on the TIGRIS-hence the dynasty had two titles-either or both of which might be chosen by succeeding monarchs

(b) **ANTIOCHUS I**, his son succeeded 292

(c) **APAMA I**, the son & co-regent succeeded in 280. He saved Asia Minor cities from the GAULS and was called "Saviour"-he warred with the Ptolemy Dynasty. He died in 261 reigning for 19 years

(d) **ANTIOCHUS II**, son of Antiochus I succeeded in 261. He freed Asia Minor provinces from the **PTOLEMAIS** and they called him "**THEOS**" (God) He divorced and banished **his wife LAODICE** to marry Bernice-daughter of **PTOLEMY II** -he died in 246 after 15 years.

(e) **ALEXANDER SELEUCUS III SOTER** continued to rule till 223 when he was assassinated.

(f) **ANTIOCHUS III**, the younger son of **SELEUCUS II** and grandson of Antiochus II succeeded in 223 and reigned till 187-36 years in all. After initial defeat by the **PTOLEMIES** he became their victor at Caesarea Philippi in 198 and consolidated Palestine under his rule-**going on to regain the East or SELEUCID are that had developed self-rule**. He gained the title "Great King". He divorced and banished **his wife LAODICE** and the Romans who defeated him at **MAGNESIA** took his son **ANTIOCHUS** (later **EPHIPHANES**) as hostage to Rome for his future good conduct.

(g) **SELEUCUS IV PHILOPATOR** succeeded

(h) **ANTIOCHUS IV**, the youngest son of **ANTIOCHUS III** succeeded his brother and reigned with his nephew-**PHILOPATOR'S** baby son-who was murdered in his absence by one **ANDRONICUS**. Intrigue over the Jewish high-priesthood by **JASON** and **MENELEUS** made a visit to Jerusalem essential and in 169BC he actually entered the "Holy of Holies" and carried off vessels used for worship. Egyptian leverage pressured him into Hellenizing and he replaced the altar with a Greek one in 167BC which was tumbled by the **MACCABEES** when **MATTATHIAH** re-consecrated the altar in 167-the year **EPIPHANES** met his death during a campaign in **MEDIA**. As can be seen from Daniel 8.12 **EPIPHANES** acted against the "truth" as written in scripture and probably destroyed sacred scrolls.

### **SOURCE OF INTERPRETATION- SAINTS AND THE SAVIOUR 13-19**

Then I heard a single saint continuing to speak and think or reason and another lone saint will say to the "unnamed distinguished saint pointed out" [mm/p] who spoke and reasoned "Until when is the vision of the daily sacrifice and transgression of the desolating one when the Holy Place and the ministering host (of Levites) is to be given the stampede or treading under foot (treatment)? *It should be noted that the word "host" in this instance is masculine as it speaks of the Levites whereas the word used in 8.12 is "feminine" as it is used of female priestesses. This precision serves to confirm that we are not talking of armies but of a change of ministry and priesthood. Commentators need to give relevance to this for the better understanding of a very complex vein of scripture.*

And he said to me "Until evening and morning-2,300 such-and the Holy Place will be purified [LXX has this meaning-the Niphal may also mean "shall be automatically be purified" or "self-purified"] And it happened that I Daniel in my prophetic seeing the vision and in my continued future search for understanding there appeared **ONE** standing to minister **before me** like a man or **WARRIOR**. And I heard the voice of **A MAN** between the **ULAI** *The voice seemed to come from between Daniel and the man-made canal* and HE called and said "**GABRIEL** You need to explain the vision to this one. And he came alongside where I stood and at his coming I became terrified and I fell on my face and he said to me "Understand son of Adam the vision is for the time of the end. But as he was speaking with me I sank down sleeping heavily [ndr can mean "snoring whilst sleeping on the back"-so deep unconsciousness] or astounded. And he touched or grasped me and caused me to stand at my appointed place or caused me to remain or stand still. And he said "Behold me while I let you know that which will happen at the uttermost end or latter time of the indignation for it belongs to the festival time or feast or set time or "assembly" or meeting" [d[mm] of the end or harvest. *Daniel had met Nebuchadnezzar and Darius and no doubt Cyrus and never quivered. Here before the awesome Gabriel he slumps to the ground. However it would from his "Look at me" that Gabriel is acting out the displeasure of the latter day-in which he will take a part- as he speaks. That renders the episode the more terrifying.*

### **MEDO-PERSIA GREECE AND THE LATTER DAYS 20-23A**

The ram which you saw with two horns represents the kings of the Medes and Persians and the hairy mountain goat is Greece. The great horn between his eyes -he is the first king. *Thus far the Angel had summarised the monarchies of Darius and Cyrus and Alexander in 20 words. That represents 521-323-200 years.*

And when that **breaks itself** [*a heavenly reflection on a life that overstretched and over-indulged*] then four will stand up in its place-four kingdoms will stand from a nation but they will not stand or endure with the same force power or authority. And in the uttermost or latter time of their realm transgressors are to **make ready** or **be complete** or **finish** or **cease** or **pay out** or **be consumed** [*mthk-The Hiphil has 6 meanings all of which apply!*]

## THE LAST WORLD RULER 23B-25

A ruler "fierce" or "resolute"[*z*] "*bold*" like a goat *cf. Alexander*] of countenance

(1) Who understands **enigmas** or **sublime spiritual discourse** [*dwj*] will stand up.

(2) And his power will be "binding" or "firm" but not through his own mighty vigour or wealth.

(3) And he will corrupt or spoil his actions or pervert "his own wondrous works"[*cf. Job 37.14 where this exact term twalpn is used*]

(4) And he will cause prosperity or success.

(5) And he is industrious or labours or executes or commands [*hvj*].

(6) And he causes the moral corruption or ruin or destruction of the mighty or kings or heroes or numerous people [*mymmx*].

(7) And people of holiness-or the holy people.

(8) And resting on or relying on his practical and religious skill prudence or intelligence he will advance guile[*hmr -a root of wide currency suggesting "tripping up" "betrayal"*] or cause it to succeed [*jlx has the root to "pass over a river"*] by his power.

(9) And in his designs or reasoning or he will act proudly or magnify him.

(10) And through peace he will cause the marring or moral corrupting or ruin of many.

(11) And he will stand up against the prince of princes.

(12) And by the extremity of a hand he will be broken. *This appears to be a reference to Belshazzar.*

## SICKNESS FROM THE LONG DELAY-AND LONELINESS FROM NOT BEING FREE TO COMMUNICATE IT

And the vision of the evening and the morning which was spoken (*cf. Chapter 7*) is true or faithful and you must shut or conceal the vision for it belongs to far off days [*many days (away)*] And I Daniel fainted or lived to myself sick and I was sick or feeble or grieved or exhausted or seeking mercy on my own[*hlj Niphal*] for days but I arose and was active for the business of the king and I was continually amazed or desolated or left solitary about the vision and was causing no-one to understand it.

## DANIEL 9

### PRAYER

#### DARIUS SON OF AHASUERUS

*The little known research of Isaac Newton showed that PAUSANIAS copied a mistake of Herodotus that affirmed ASTYAGES son of CYAXERES (AHASUERUS) reigned contemporaneous with ALYATTES king of Lydia. It is not the case. CYAXERES had a son who married ARIENE the daughter of ALYATTES and that son developed a coinage for Medo Persia called the DARIC after his name-DARIUS which coin was of gold and silver shipped from LYDIA which he conquered and made his province. DARIUS used coin that CROESUS actually invented changing its weight and value and re-circulating it in his realm. Newton gives the date of CYAXERES' reign as 600BC to 560BC. He represents the reign of DARIUS as from 559-537BC. He conquered Babylon as JEROME confirms "Babylon was taken by Darius king of the Medes and his brother-in-law Cyrus in 538BC. Thereafter as XENOPHON reports an old sore of HARPAGUS who helped CYRUS conquer CROESUS for DARIUS revolted and having been sent with an army against CYRUS turned traitor and defected to CYRUS upon which act DARIUS sent another force which was beaten by CYRUS at PERSEPOLIS. DARIUS became a prisoner of CYRUS. Darius was 62 when he took Babylon. Cyrus was 70 when he died in 529BC (Herodotus) so he also was 62 when Babylon fell. He became king of Persia just one year before Darius took Babylon.*

## DARIUS' ONE AND ONLY REMAINING YEAR 1-2

In the single year [*The Hebrew usage is tja which like dj a -the word used for the unity of God in Deuteronomy 6 has the force "the only one of it's kind-hence "FIRST AND LAST"*] that belonged to DARIUS the son of AHASUERUS from the seed of the Medes who became king over the kingdom of the CHALDEANS. *Daniel is well aware that Darius had reigned over the Medes for 21 years and what he is saying is that this was his first year as king over the Medes and also the Babylonians.*

In the "one and only" year of the king I Daniel understood through books *Hebrew prophetic literature* the number of years when the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet to continue in that count to fulfil [*Piel of al m*] the seventieth year of the desolation of Jerusalem.

## DANIEL'S UNDERSTANDING OF PRAYER 3-4a

And I gave my face to ADONAI ELOHIM to search continually and as a must (imperatively)

(1) **Searching prayer-[hlp-t "supplicating" that is "rolling" as in preparing bread-upon God and added to the llp is the t of the cross-for this Hebrew letter was anciently subscribed to a "bill of complaint"-so for us moderns bringing to God a "complaint" associated with "the cross" or the name of the Christ]**

(2) **Searching by plea for mercy [mymj t "cry for favour or grace" which comes from the root hnj meaning "incline towards" or "pitching a tent"-so grace "inclines" towards need and "comes to abide"]**

(3) **Searching by fasting [mwx -"shut mouth" -not just "nil by mouth" but rather a state where "silence mnd is at the root of the concept. The silence is that of "expectation" and confidence and listening.]**

(4) **And sackcloth and ashes [qs the thick hair clothing of the corn sack and rpa "ashes" -the white pulverised remains of burnt wood put in a band covering the head. These were added under the normal prayer tent or TALLITYH and significant of humility and repentance]**

(5) **And I will have been "praying"["Rolling" a burden upon] to YAHWEH ELOHI "my God"**

(6) **And I will have been "confessing" [hdythanking or celebrating by pointing with the hand-thanksgiving involved the hands and Daniel prayed with his hands three times daily.]**

(7) **And I brought (everything) to light. [rma "I said" Daniel opened his heart to God]**

## DANIEL'S PRAYER

### (1) DANIEL'S APPROACH

"**O** My Lord, The mighty God-The Great wrestling One-the "One who makes me tremble" [*ary with fear excitement joy*]-the Keeper of The Covenant and "the" covenant desirous love and benevolence or "sure mercies"(Isaiah 55.3) for those that love him [*who "delight in " Him-who "breath after" Him*] and for those who guard and heed his commandments [*rmb as one "guards" a garden or "watches a flock" or "keeps a house"-so the "obedient"*]

### DANIEL'S CONFESSION 5-6

(1) We have sinned [*afj*] and done iniquity [*m*] and caused guilt and impiety [*vr*] and have revolted [*drm*]and we have become apostate [*rws*] from your commands and judgments.

(2) Besides we have not listened to your servants the prophets who spoke in your name to our kings our princes our fathers and all the people of the land. *Daniel gives us a definition of the Jewish prophet*  
**A PROPHET IS ONE WHO CONTINUALLY SPEAKS TO KINGS , PRINCES, FAMILY HEADS AND THE ENTIRE POPULACE**

*Daniel revealed visions but he did not have the mission of a prophet nor proclaim to the whole land of Israel the message God sent. A prophet's calling was a life calling.*

### DANIEL APPEALS TO THE LORD 7-11

(1) **O** ADONAI to you righteousness belongs but to us shame of face as at this day-to a man of the tribe of Judah [*Daniel himself*] and to those who live in Jerusalem and to all who are of Israel near and far in all lands where YOU caused them to be driven because of the treachery or perversity by which they were faithless to YOU.

(2) **O** YAHWEH to our kings our princes our fathers belongs shame of face-who have sinned against YOU.

(3) To ADONAI ELOHENU belong the mercies and pardons for we have rebelled against HIM -

(4) And we have not listened to the voice of YAHWEH ELOHENU to walk in HIS laws which he gave to our person by the hand of his servants the prophets.

(5) And ALL ISRAEL have by-passed or transgressed YOUR law and deviated or turned or become apostate [*r/s*] so that they should not listen to YOUR voice and the curse will melt or pour over us and the oath which is written in the law of Moses. the servant of ELOHIM because we have sinned against HIM (*See Leviticus 26.14 & Deuteronomy 27.15, 28.15, 29.20&27*).

### **ISRAEL PASSED UNDER THE CURSE WITHOUT APPEAL 12-20**

And HE has made HIS word stand which HE continually spoke against us and against our judges who judged us to cause a great calamity to be brought upon us which has not been done under the whole heaven as it has been wrought in Jerusalem. This whole calamity has come upon us as it is written in the law of Moses and yet we did not keep on beseeching or seeking mercy [*Piel of hlj*] before the face of YAHWEH ELOHENU to turn from our iniquities and become skilled wise and devout in YOUR truth. So YAHWEH has lain sleepless and watching over calamity and caused it to come upon us because YAHWEH ELOHENU is righteous in respect of all the works he does and we have not obeyed HIS voice.

(1) And now **O** ADONAI ELOHENU YOU who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and has made a name for YOU as at this day-we have sinned -we have done wickedness.

(2) **O** ADONAI according to all your righteousness please let your anger and your hot wrath turn back from the city of Jerusalem YOUR holy hill-because by our sin and by the iniquity of our fathers Jerusalem and YOUR people are become a reproach to all around us.

(3) And NOW ELOHENU Hear the prayer of YOUR SERVANT... *Daniel himself is deeply optimistic that he will turn around the fortunes of Jerusalem-and indeed on account of the decree of Cyrus who by now must have been most respectful of him-a most generous decree was issued in favour of re-settlement of the exiles...*and my pleas for grace and let the light of your face be upon the sanctuary of your name for the sake of ADONAI to answer favourably O ADONAI or to continue the testimony O ADONAI.

(4)ELOHAI incline your ear and listen; open YOUR eyes and see... *The call is for vigilance not drowsiness-perhaps the nearest Daniel got to chiding the LORD...*our desolations and look at the city which is called by YOUR name for it is not on account of our acts of righteousness or out of our favouring acts that we fall before your face but because of the greatness of YOUR sure mercies.

(5) **O** ADONAI listen; **O** ADONAI pardon [*hl s*] cause yourself to be sharp and take action; do not get behind in YOUR own affairs **O** ELOHAI (my God) for the city and the people are called by YOUR name. *This from the aged Daniel is one of the most telling and sharp pleas of all scripture. It is enhanced by three powerful appeals and the suggestion that it is credible that the LORD is not listening and that HE is even become lethargic and careless of HIS affairs. The ensuing action lies in scripture to show us as the act itself proved to Daniel that this is far from the case.*

### **THE CHAPTER OF EIGHT "O's"**

I think it was SIDLOW Baxter who classed it a tragedy that *the church had forgotten how to say "O" to God*. Our formal prayers carry no appeal. We are well taught by Daniel who on no less than eight occasions utters his soul's desire with mighty appeals to the LORD.

### **GABRIEL MEETS WITH DANIEL 21**

And still more while I was going on and on speaking and "a man praying and praying"(a husband of continual prayer) and a " man of confessing over and over"(a man of confession) my sin and the sin of my people and down there on my knees making my appeal before the face of YAHWEH ELOHAI on behalf of the holy hill of ELOHAI-Yes while I was continuing to speak in prostrate prayer also the warrior GABRIEL whom I saw in the vision at the first ...*This takes us back to Chapter 8 and some 14 years when Daniel was in his mid sixties whereas he is now in his eighties. He immediately sees the warrior angel whom he previously met. We learn from this that Daniel did not pray with his eyes closed...being caused to go swiftly - even being caused to be weary in a hurry or swiftly struck me at the time of the evening offering of incense or bloodless sacrifice. The word "touch" has within its root the notion of gentle force. The act was not disciplinary nor to distract a man from devotion but to prevent further implicating the interest of God and to get Daniel on track. There is a sense in which the most devout through ardour some impatience and resolution can err on the side of "implicatory" prayer-i.e. implying some failure on God's part. The Great prayer warriors as Moses, David and Daniel may be cited in this respect. In this instance none can face down God's warriors who are close to the throne and know better reason.*

### **GABRIEL EXPLAINS THE DELAY 22-25**

And he made me understand through sustained conversation with me and said "Daniel I have come out to cause you to have the skill of understanding (or) explanation. *Gabriel was not just coming to speak of one topic but to totally renovate Daniel's capability in comprehending the eras ahead.* At the beginning of your appeal for grace the word came forth and I am come to make you fully aware for you are precious [*twdwmj* literally "precious vessels" "multi-precious"] so understand by the word and cause you to grasp by the vision. *Gabriel was referring to the two part vision of the beasts and the ram and goat and also to the word God sent which he confirmed. Seventy weeks [my[bv SHABUAIM my[byv SHIBHAIM literally "weeks seventy"] are determined & divided [Jtj] -a word with double meaning- both speaking about the period "determined" and the period as understood to be "divided"] for or over your people and your holy city to restrain or withhold or shut up and close down [a/k]the transgression and to seal up or make an end of [mtj]-literally "seal with a seal ring" as a completed matter]the sin and to make atonement for iniquity and to cause a righteousness or acquittal or justification of the ages and to seal or finish the vision and prophet [aybn refers to the One who then tells the whole future] and to anoint or appoint and consecrate the Holy of Holies. *This final purpose speaks not of a square area but of the "Holiest one of God".* **And you know and you have skill and intelligence from the going forth of the word or command to turn around and to build Jerusalem** until Messiah the Prince or Leader is **seven weeks and sixty and two weeks.** *Daniel knew of the decree of 539-8 but did not live to see those of 519 and 445BC. He was to understand that the current concession and edict in respect of the "holy Place" did not fulfil the reversal of the fall of Jerusalem nor was it the decree heralded by Gabriel.**

### **THE DECREE OF CYRUS & TWO SUBSEQUENT PERSIAN EDICTS**

*In 539BC (D.J.WISEMAN in the NBD has 539-PHILLIPS of Moody has 538.) Cyrus issued a very early decree -a mandate to rebuild the temple (not the walls cf. Ezra 1 1-4 who entered Jerusalem 467BC (NEWTON)) at Jerusalem. This was the start. The 50,000 exiles by May of 536BC [535 NEWTON] (within 3 years) had laid the temple foundation which was not completed till March 516BC. This decree of Cyrus was given whilst Daniel was still in Babylon and he most certainly knew of it. (See above) HYSTASPES in 519BC issued a further decree (Ezra 6.1-12) to promote the help of the exiles. In 445BC Artaxerxes LONGIMANUS issued the terminus ex quo decree (stated by AFRICANUS) which brings us to Nisan AD32 by the famous calculation of SIR ROBERT ANDERSON ["The Coming Prince" Page 128] (69X7=483 years or 173,880 days) Dr Tim LAHAYE in his "Popular Bible Commentary" indicates that by more accurate calculation Sir ROBERT is seen to be three days out by confusing his Gregorian and Julian "leap years". LAHAYE believes the decree that fulfilled Daniel 9.25 focussing on the "plaza and moat" was an edict in favour of Nehemiah 443 BC to which the AD QUEM date is 30AD.*

## **THE REBUILDING OF THE STREET ETC 26A**

**Seven and add sixty and two weeks** and it will change and the street shall be built up again or re-built and the trench and in distress or during trouble of the times or perhaps long periods of time [myt[]]. After Sixty Two weeks Messiah shall cause himself to be cut off or "make a covenant" [Niphal of trk] and not for Himself and the people of the leader or prince who is coming shall destroy both the city and the sanctuary. *This is a clear reference to the Romans and their leader Titus who became Emperor. He was brutal in the Jewish war and confessed "one sin"-perhaps that of allowing his evil brother Domitian to succeed him. His military campaigns in the East ran at length but his imperial reign endured just 2 years before ill health cut it short.*

## **THE END OF THE JEWISH SECOND TEMPLE ERA 26B**

(1) And the end or harvest will come in an inundation or "sweeping away"[pfv]  
(2) And until the "event prophesied" or the "cutting down" a war of desolations or astonishing devastations is decided or is what (they themselves) decided. *The Niphal is an indicator that as Josephus points out the city might have surrendered and multiple lives have been saved-but the zealots determined to fight to the death-which decision is reflected in the story of MASADA.*

## **THE END OF THE MODERN HUMAN GOVERNMENT ERA AND THE DEVASTATION ENTAILED IN ISRAEL & THE WORLD 27**

(1) And he (ROME OR ROME REDIVIVUS shall confirm the covenant with many -or cause a covenant to prevail - [rbg "strengthen the covenant"] for a single week  
(2) And middle of the week he shall cause the interruption or cessation or restraint or end or removal of **sacrifice and evening incense offering** *The Antichrist will ban critical Jewish religious rites*  
(3) And until the removal to distant parts or **the hiding** [pnk. *The expression relates to "wings"]. This may refer to the Rapture and also to the departure of large swathes of Jewish population in face of war.*  
(4) Contaminations [xqv] will have laid waste or desolated or astonished [Poel of mmv] to the end or the finish or the languishing.[hlk]  
(5) And that determined or active and sharp [xrj carries the sense of "something predetermined" "something bitter" something sharp and decisive" "something that will cut down a latter day harvest like a thresher"]will be poured or "melt upon" [Jtn] the desolating or the one who continues to desolate. *This mighty warrior angel is speaking about vials from heaven and of terrible punishment for terrible crime. This latter day war which we may expect in the lifetime of the rising generation could be little understood except in heaven. What is of interest is that the sanctuary of Israel is the primer and fuse for this great conflict and that because the international community and its latter day leader or "prince".*

## **DANIEL 10**

### **THE DEATH OF CHRIST**

#### **CYRUS MY SERVANT**

*The text of Isaiah the prophet states (1)"I will make a man more precious than fine gold, even a man than a golden wedge of OPHIR "(Isaiah13.1); (2)"He is my shepherd...he will accomplish all that I please-he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt" and of the temple "Let its foundations be laid"(44.28);(3) "This the LORD says to HIS anointed, Cyrus...whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him...to strip kings of armour to open doors before him" (45.1) All this Josephus tells us Cyrus knew. The Hebrew text was not too different from Chaldee and Daniel who prospered during his (early) reign and then lived in SUSA continued for some time as one of three rulers over the empire which was divided into 360 provinces by Darius.*

#### **DELAY EVENTING FROM SECRET SPIRITUAL WARFARE**



The *one sent in this chapter* reports an engagement involving the Persian Kings which involves the "*prince of Persia*" (an adjutant of Satan) and "One of the princes-*Michael*" and Himself. The chapter opens with a Hebrew expression "the war was a struggle-it is true or it was a real thing!" We are introduced most vividly to the way in which history is layered. There is the battle for the minds of men-the battle on history's stage itself and the spiritual battle waged by mighty angelic forces above and beyond what we can see. This situation has not changed over time and history is full of such triple-style polemathy. We can best understand it as we look at the big picture that emerges in each age and how this matches the prophetic pre-announcements. We get some cipher of the subtlety of secret warfare from the ploy of international espionage.

## DANIEL IN LAMENTATION FOR THREE WEEKS 1-2

In the third year of Cyrus King of Persia [Cyrus became King of Persia one year before Darius took over in Babylon in 538 so his third year was 537] a word was discovered or revealed to Daniel [*Niphal of hlq*] who was called or called himself by the name BELTESHAZZAR. **And the matter was true but the struggle or trial or war or even group of warriors was great or writhing and a tense struggle [lwdq abx] and he understood the matter and understanding (came) to him in a revelation or vision.** In those days **I Daniel was a man or husband of lamentation for three weeks of days.** *That is precisely 21 days. The year has to be a very significant year. It was the year following the message of Gabriel and the decree issued by Cyrus did not go far enough to require the rebuilding of Jerusalem. His continuation in Babylon may also have already been coming to an end-Josephus tells us it was in the third year of Cyrus. If this was the same year as seems likely there is a double reason for sorrow-i.e. lack of thoroughgoing decree and the end of service at the court without such closure and hope.*

*According to Josephus Darius in his first year carried Daniel to SUSA-Josephus says that Darius "kept him with himself"-however in this chapter one year later Daniel is by the HIDDEKEL (Tigris)-so whatever time he spent in SUSA he certainly is now found 250 miles West at Babylon.. Following the strife of Darius with Cyrus we do not exactly know the domestic setting of either Daniel or Darius-it probably was not the Palace after 537 but we do know that Darius kept Daniel with him and that is most likely.*

## SORROWING DANIEL SHOWN THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST 3-7

I did not eat desirable bread *Daniel was fasting* and meat and wine didn't pass my mouth and as to anointing I did not anoint myself until three whole weeks were fulfilled. In the twenty fourth day of the first month I was there above the bank of the great river HIDDEKEL.

**(1) Then I lifted up my eyes and I looked and behold A LONE MAN**

(1) Had clothed himself in fine white linen [*The best linen came from Egypt in the South*]

(2) His loins were girded with fine treasured or hidden gold of OPHIR. *Jerome has India and the LXX "Uphaz" ("island of pure gold") which is generally thought of as India in the East though some believe it to be the land we know as Zimbabwe and South Africa-certainly Solomon sent ships on a 3 year round trip to convey gold from this location. What we can say of this MAN is that he has been far away and has been used to the best.*

(3) His body...*the form used tmg means carcass-as if he were dead on first appearance...of topaz [literally vvr̄t TARSHISH-a stone from Spain in the far-off West]* and from his face lightning shot and his eyes were as torches of fire and his arms and legs as flowing **fountains of polished brass [llq means "polished" but a similar root means "cursed"]** *The arms and legs give the clue to who this MAN is. Today we know that Jesus Christ was crucified and was dead and is alive. We know that his arms and legs were pierced by Roman nails and from them blood flowed. The mixed metaphor of Daniel is prophetic and mighty as symbol of the MAN CHRIST JESUS who became as a "burnt offering" for sin-which connects him with the "brazen altar" and indeed links HIM with the "curse" that HE bore for us. As for the fountains in HIS limbs we know that from the crucified Saviour precious blood flowed and this reality connects HIM with the "fountains" imagery. Thus the praying fasting lamenting Daniel who*

may have something to mourn for in respect of Darius or Cyrus and Jerusalem but he has much more to think about in the portraiture of prophecy which beforetime presented the death and resurrection of Christ to Daniel in much the same form as to John the Revelator.

And the voice of his speech was as the voice of turbulent or "raging" waters. Like Daniel Jesus would speak Aramaic so He would immediately make HIM clear to the seer. The picture Daniel sees is of Christ angry with the nations-Christ who took the judgment appearing as judge.

## **DANIEL GOES THROUGH A RENEWAL EXPERIENCE 8-10**

And I Daniel in separation saw the vision and the heroic men who were with me did not see the vision-a "sweat" or "mourning" [*lba* as for the dead] and a great "trembling or concern and fear" [*rdj*] fell upon them and they shot away or fled like fugitives into hiding. And I Daniel was left as a remnant alone and I saw this great vision and there remained no remnant of strength within me and my beauty or majestic beauty [*dwh*] was converted or changed to become rottenness or putrid corruption [*tjv*] and I could command or retained no strength of body. *This is akin to that overwhelming conviction that compels us to Christ in conversion.*

**(2) And I heard the voice of HIS words and as I heard the voice of HIS words I was alive-just** lying sunk in deep sleep or senseless [*mdr*] upon my face and my face was to the ground. **AND BEHOLD A HAND** reached and took hold of me strongly and it caused me to move [*mm*] to my knees and onto the palms of my hands. *It is so like the action of a parent towards a young baby that we cannot miss the fact that this is a type of the renewal experience believers know when we meet with Christ*

## **GOD'S DELIGHT IN DANIEL IS EXPRESSED 11 A**

And HE [*Here Phillips following Gabellein makes the speech transfer to Gabriel-the vision and the explanation in this chapter appear to feature the LORD see NO.3-though bearing in mind that the message of the "love of God" as in the gospel is posited on the death of Christ-hence the preliminary vision-a messenger in line with apostolic practice is not impossible to imagine as continuing the explanation but there are no specifics to establish the view.*] said to me "**Daniel MAN OF DELIGHT- PRECIOUS MAN- BELOVED MAN** [*dmj* The Arabic "HAMAD is a similar usage as in the name of HAMAD KHASI -the ex-premier of Afghanistan] you must understand through the words which I am telling you and **stand or minister on your own standing or ministry.** *In a sense Daniel who ministered to kings was being ordained in later life to be a special ambassador of God. None but the LORD can so appoint. Daniel was given this sufficient picture of the LORD who was to die to cleanse and rise to justify-he went through what every sinner feels on meeting Christ and he was given "standing" and "ministry" which was not connected to the glory of his own robes but was of a totally different sort-he was to write for us upon whom the ends of the earth are come-and to be used among such persons as he had walked with on this very day.*

## **THE PERSON SPEAKS WITH DANIEL 11B-13**

**(3) For passing by at this season** [*ht* strictly "now" or even "presently" or "at an opportunity"] **I have sent** [*ytjlv* The verb is in **the active** form and past tense and is a past repetitive-and clearly refers to the sender of messages and messengers]**to you.** *The context and the language is tantalizing. The speaker refers to things immediate and ongoing in the explanation and talks of "having sent -a word comparable to the Greek αποστειλω so "to inform by messenger. And in HIS speaking this word to me I stood shaking. This was the zenith of revelation for Daniel. All previous visions came to him from the LORD and it seems at this season that he recalled his spiritual history and this now became deeply meaningful to him. Certainly the "Pual of "sending" in the Hebrew verb jlv needs to be accounted of-it could either speak of messengers past and present or "stretching out" the hand severally during this meeting with Daniel.*

**And HE** (the same speaker or a messenger continues though the "Model (of)Man" appears to remain and continue to confirm Daniel in his ministry by a love that strengthens) **said to me** "Daniel do not fear for

(1) From the first day when you **gave your heart or mind to understand**

(2) And to since you have continually **humbled yourself** or answered testified and sung before the face of God [*hml*] your words gained audience

**(4) And I have come** because of your words. But the **prince of the kingdom of Persia**[*The statement is diffuse: Cyrus who may be currently taking power is described by Isaiah as "God's servant" though Satan may also be muddying the waters by setting brothers in law Darius and Cyrus at odds*] was standing firm or appointing an office or confiding before me for twenty and one days and behold **MICHAEL a singular one of the chief or first princes** [*a term clearly used of angels*] came to help me (as an ally) and I myself remained or profited or resided there by the side of the kings of Persia. *The Message is that He was there where the kings of Persia were or over 21 days whilst the ministry of Cyrus emerged. This is highly suggestive of an angelic mission and of Gabriel. At the time of this three week silence a crisis occurred when Darius and Cyrus stove for ascendancy paralysing the Persian state.*

## **THE ONE IN WHOSE IMAGE WE ARE MADE STOOD WITH DANIEL 14-19**

**(5) But I have come to cause you to understand** what hostile circumstances will meet your people[*hrq* "befall" or be their hap" cf. Ruth 2.3-as to "where they will be"] in the latter days [*mymyh tyrjab* "extreme days" "uttermost days" last days". *The turbulence in Persia would be repeated in the latter days with untoward implications for Israel*] for the vision is still for (these) days. And when he had spoken in words like these I looked to the ground and I became silent & tongue tied. *A kindred crisis in the latter days would as the Lord implied require a final intervention on His part as the Son of Man.*

**(6) And behold ONE LIKE THE MODEL OR PATTERN OF SONS of man TOUCHING MY LIPS** and I opened my mouth and talked and said to the one who was standing ministering in front of me "ADONAI through the vision my writhing pains like those of a woman in childbirth have changed me and I have retained no strength. And how is it possible that this **servant of MY ADONAI** can speak with **THIS ADONAI**? For I from this moment there was no residual strength in me and there is no remnant of spirit[or anger] left in me.

**(7) And HE ADDED TO STRIKE OR TOUCH ME AGAIN-THE ONE WHO IS AS A MODEL OF MAN**-and I was strengthened. And he said "Do not fear O MAN GREATLY LOVED VERY PRECIOUS-prosperity yours. Be strong. And be strong.-(or) "stick fast" "stick fast" and **according to HIS word to me** I HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED or "I have been holding fast". *Daniel had a kingly relative who was also sick but he was fitted for some more years and in that vein Daniel would face the remainder of his days in the glorious divine company.* And I said "**Let ADONAI Speak** for I am bound together or have been caused to be strong.

**(8) And HE said "You know why I have come to you!** *I take this as a reference to Daniel's query as to why God was so slow to act. The LORD does not owe us any answers but is pleased to illustrate the problem he was having with the rulers of the day and the "prince" who motivated power. He had taken three weeks to make sure that Cyrus was supported to do HIS will against the temptations and problems of the moment-especially the very recent sore that had opened up with his brother in law Darius. Daniel was first to know that all was well-he could get on with his life and do well.*

And now I will return for an essential battle [*mj l j l the imperative of the Niphal plus the l of attachment or next location*] with the "**prince of Persia**" and when I will have caused myself to go or depart or "*bring it to an end*"(Usage of TARGUMS) also watch out -the "**prince of Greece**" will come. But I will cause you to be clear or make manifest to you [*dgn*] that which is recorded in the scripture of truth and **there is no single one** who is a "**husband of strength with me** about these things but **MICHAEL the prince of the Jews** i.e. your (plural) Prince. *This reference is to Michael as the only one recorded as meeting head on with Satan and in God's name delivering rebuke.*

# DANIEL 11

## DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY IN HISTORY

### REBUTTAL OF CRITICS

I have instanced the use of the future or *prophetic tense* by a lower case (f) for “future” this chapter (f) to avert the empty allegation of modern scholars that the text was written posterior to the events. The entire text in its original would never have been tampered with by scribes to produce what we have today. This would have been execration of the first order and NEVER occurred by intent in all Jewish history nor could it occur by mistake.

### DANIEL EMBARKS ON A NEW MINISTRY 1

And I in the one single year of Darius the Mede-**I STOOD MINISTERING TO STRENGTHEN HIM** Daniel sees a wonderful "door of opportunity with many adversaries" now opening. But he also speaks joyfully in it of his "spiritual ministry" which was given to him by the LORD as the previous chapter testifies. He is now a man of 80-84 standing to strengthen a man of 62 - but spiritually he is a giant of faith standing to strengthen a new-born child of YAHWEH. He stood also to be a "defence" or "Helmet" Psalm 60.9 for Darius. The man Daniel was now aware of the depth of spiritual warfare engulfing Persia and the implications for Israel. During this time Darius would send a force of soldiers against his brother-in-law Cyrus and be defeated. Despite this and the political eclipse or demise of Daniel other doors were open and it is of this ministry that he speaks as the great chapter on DIVINE OMNISCIENCE -Chapter 11 opens. Nowhere in the whole of the bible do we have so many events prophesied outside of the Apocalypse.

### METHOD OF COMMENTARY ADOPTED IN VIEW OF INTENSE DETAIL

I will *enumerate in this chapter historical developments* which are directly predicted by the LORD in this chapter. After each you will read **Q.E.D.-an indicator that what "must be proved" has an exact historical equivalent in each case** as a factual recognition of the truth of scripture and the omniscience of YAHWEH who **knows the hearts** of all men. These give testimony to the infallible and ineffable nature of God's sovereign purpose through a most contorted period of history as Persia cedes to Greece and both powers are halted in their tracks by an emergent Roman Empire. The rising empire clips the wings of EPIPHANES who **desolates the Jewish Holy Place** in revenge for distaste of his idolatrous Hellenism. In the latter day the Roman Empire reconstitutes or revives under a world-leader and brings terror to mankind and once more **intrudes abominations upon the holy people of the Jews.**

**All this detail off-loaded for Daniel and the church of the future makes the case definitively for the sovereignty of God over all history and assures us before time that even when the Antichrist emerges on the stage of history his doom is writ.**

I have divided the text into 36 historical cameos all of which shine light on the wonderful sovereignty of God over the years and from time to time the prophetic scriptures come in to strengthen the saints as in the days of the "wise" and the Maccabees.

### DANIEL IS TOLD OF THINGS ESTABLISHED TO HAPPEN 2A

And now I will explain the truth to you. *This short statement as to do with the promises and fidelity and integrity of the LORD demonstrated over a considerable period of history from that day 538 until the death of Antiochus EPIPHANES in 164- 374 years of polemathy.* Added to that we have a gap which we now know is in the region of 2000 and more years and then a detailed explanation of the last times of the Gentiles-the period of Antichrist's power prior to the emergence of the Kingdom of God upon earth. This is the "prophetic truth" tendered with explanation. Each (f) represents a future tense prophecy of which there are 118 in all at a rough count. There are 25 detailed prophecies of the Antichrist.

### A TRIO OF PERSIAN KINGS 2B

### THE POWERFUL XERXES IS ALSO STRENGTHENED

(1) Behold three kinds are still to rise (f) to administer the Persia

*These were CAMBRYSES, PSEUDO SMERDIS or Ezra's ARTAXERXES and Darius HYSTASPES*

**Q.E.D.**

(2) And a **fourth** will cause (f) it to be rich with riches beyond all other [*i.e.Xerxes husband of Esther*]

(3) And **according to his strength...** *THE REFERENCE TO STRENGTH TAKES US AGAIN TO VERSE 1 WHERE AS DANIEL STOOD WITH DARIUS ESTHER STOOD WITH XERXES. HE HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOD OF ISRAEL WHO BALANCED THE PENDULUM OF HISTORY-"IT IS HE WHO GIVES THE POWER TO GET*

*WEALTH OR POWER"(DEUT 8.18)... by his riches he will cause a stir or awakening (f) [ry[y] of all the city states or kingdoms of Greece. This "stirring" included his own invasion of Greece with 3 million men and provoking Carthage to take on the soft colonial under-belly of Greece in Sicily and Italy. Q.E.D. The brave men at the Pass of Thermopylae (where 1000 Greeks repulsed a force of almost 6 million men - many of whom were driven to war by the scourge) proved Greece was on the stage of history to conquer.*

*Other kings there were but none after Xerxes dared to field forces against Greece.*

### **ALEXANDER THE GREAT & THE FOUR GENERALS 3-4**

*The series of leaders now referred to are rulers and kings who succeeded to the government of segments of the broken empire of Alexander the Great.*

(4) And a great king shall stand (f) and rule (f) a great administration and do as he pleases

(5) And as he stands in rule his kingdom will break itself (f) and divide itself (f) to the four winds of heaven and not to those who come after him (in family).

*Alexander **burnt himself out** by battles and indiscipline in wine with perhaps a potion which ended the hope of replacing Greek ways with his new-fangled dalliance with Babylon-Q.E.D.*

*Alexander's four generals CASSANDER LYSIMACHUS PTOLEMY AND SELEUCUS NICATOR succeeded to claim his realm after an interim of twenty years following a series of 8 family murders that wiped out his family including a posthumous son. Q.E.D.*

(6) And not according to his dominion for his kingdom shall **tear itself up** (f) for other (princes) than these.

*PHILADELPHUS succeeded PTOLEMY and ANTIOCHUS II and the northern and southern kingdoms feuded using poison and assassination against one another. They hit the "self-destruct" button as the text predicted. Q.E.D.*

### **CALLINICUS (WITH BERNICE) VERSUS EUERGETES 5-10**

(7) And the king of the south **shall be strong** (f) and one of his princes **shall be stronger than he** (f) and have dominion -great dominion. *THIS "STRENGTH" AS ALWAYS COULD NOT BE ATTAINED WITHOUT THE ALLOWING OF GOD BALANCING THE*

*PENDULUM OF HISTORY. At the end of the years they shall join in alliance (f) for the daughter of the king of the south shall go (f) (in marriage) to the king of the north to make agreement (from evil schemes) but she shall not retain strength of arm nor will He stand nor his arm or power-she **shall be given up** (f)and those who caused her to come [*hyaybm*] (north) and **he that shall be brought forth** (f) (her son CALLINICUS) **shall be strengthened** in those times. *AGAIN THE ONE WHO ENABLES MEN TO GET STRENGTH IS SEEN INCOGNITO BALANCING THE PENDULUM OF HISTORY. The text prophesied a treaty which involved ANTIOCHUS divorcing his wife and marrying PTOLEMY'S daughter BERNICE. His first wife then poisoned ANTIOCHUS in favour of their son and he assassinated BERNICE. JOHN PHILLIPS quotes POLYAENUS who informs us that BERNICE'S retinue of women were slain before her eyes in the endeavour to save her in exact accord with textual prophecy. Q.E.D.**

(8) There shall stand up (f) from a branch of the roots of her stock [*mmk hmvrv -PTOLEMY EUERGETES her brother*] and shall come (f) with an army into **the fortress of the king of the north** and act (f) against them and cause himself (f) to be established or restored. [*qzj*] *As the text prophecies and*

*enraged at the murder of his sister he attacked CALLINICUS and took Syria and went on to become master of Babylon and south India. Q.E.D.*

**(9)** And also their gods with their molten images or libations with their precious vessels of gold and silver with the captives shall come (f) to Egypt and he shall stand to minister (f) for more years than the king of the north. *The hoard of trophies of EUERGETES included 2,500 molten images and 4000 talents of gold and 40,000 of silver. This "good work" earned PTOLEMY his cognomen from the priests of Egypt. Q.E.D.*

**(10)** The king of the south shall go (f) and shall return (f) to his kingdom. But his sons will have excited themselves (f) to fight and gather a multitudinous great force and will come (f) and sweep onward (f) as a flood [pfv] and pass over (f) and return (f) and he will have been excited to war against his fortress. *When CALLINICUS dies by an equestrian accident his sons ANTIOCHUS III ("The Great") and CERAUNUS with visions of empire attacked the city port of SELECIA and ANTIOCHUS then with a large force subdued the revolting eastern provinces before ANTIOCHUS alone overwhelmed PTOLEMY PHILOPATOR 'S generals in a three year campaign crowning his advance with the success as he overwhelmed GAZA-the fortress prophesied to fall in the text Q.E.D.*

## **PHILOPATER AND ANTIOCHUS THE GREAT 11-20**

**(11)** And the king of the south will be embittered and come out and do battle with the king of the north and he shall cause the great multitude to defend its position and to stop or surrender and the multitude shall be given into his hand. *This reversal prophesied is the precise shape of history for PHILIPATOR awoke to the threat of the hour and at RAPHIA on the threshold of Egypt ANTIOCHUS' 75,000 force was convincingly defeated. Q.E.D.*

**(12)** And when he (PHILOPATER) has carried away or seen off the horde his heart will be lifted up(f) and he shall make thousands fall(f) in defeat but **he shall not be strengthened.**(f) *He did indeed take Israel but instead of follow in up victory with an assault on ANTIOCHUS he treated with the enemy. As THIS PTOLEMY ruler demonstrates kings may win victories but remain dissolute-more than that this Pharaoh took over Israel and upon attempting to go into the Holy of Holies fell to the ground. His humiliation provoked in him indignation and he slaughtered 40,000 Jews when he returned to Egypt. He was not profited by contact with the people of God-but became their enemy. HIS LIFE LACKED SPIRITUAL STRENGTH AND FOR HIS GROSS INIQUITY HE WAS DECIDEDLY FORSAKEN OF THE ONE WHO AFFORDS TRUE STRENGTH. Q.E.D.*

**(13)** But the King of the North shall (f) return with a standing multitude greater than the first and towards the end of later years shall (f) surely come with a great force and great substance. *Thirteen years elapsed during which ANTIOCHUS built up power from PARTHIA to India and by overwhelming Arabia so that redolent with wealth he bank rolled a mighty force for pay back time against Egypt. Q.E.D.*

**(14)** And in those times many **will stand** (f) against the king of the south also the sons of the robbers who violate your people shall lift themselves up **to establish the vision** and they shall stumble themselves (over a stumbling stone). *The reference is to opportunistic Jews who deemed they might obtain independence from PTOLEMY by supporting ANTIOCHUS. Q.E.D.*

**(15)** And the king of the north shall come (f) and will pour out (f) [by wealth] (*as a man pours out prayer*) a mound or earth works and take a city of fortifications (f) and the arms of the south will not withstand (f) even his chosen people will not stand (f) nor will there be strength to stand (f) *ANTIOCHUS was defeated at PANIUM (Caesarea Philippi-or as Josephus calls the battle ground "the fountains of Jordan" Antiquities 12.3.3) so he pulled back to siege and capture the "fortified city" of Sidon where he wintered. Whatever efforts the new supremo of Egypt (PHILOPATER was murdered and his son a mere child)SCOPAS put forth by using crack troops (chosen ones) fresh from Egypt and three different commanders to unseat the entrenched SELUCID army it was to no avail Q.E.D.*

**(17)** He (ANTIOCHUS) that comes against him (SCOPAS) shall do (f) according to his pleasure and none shall stand before him (f) and he shall stand in the land of ornament or beauty (f) and by his hand it will be wasted or languish in tears (f) *ANTIOCHUS' army of 10,000 troops lived by confiscating food*

and pillaging what they desired while they criss-crossed Israel in the course of a 3 year campaign.

**Q.E.D.**

(18) He shall set his face (f) to come in the oppressive prevailing power [pqt] of his kingdom and the "just ones" with him. *ONIAS the Jewish high priest of the time was from a family called "The Just Ones" So he shall be active (f) and will give (f) him **the daughter of women** to cause her marring or defilement but she will not stand by him (f) **and she will belong & not belong to him** (f) A most affecting romance between the child bride Cleopatra offered by the wily ANTIOCHUS to THE MINDERS in Egypt for a wife to the seven year old Ptolemy EPIPHANES was so genuine that she held to her young husband and frustrated her father's plans by encouraging the Romans whose tails were up after victory in the Punic wars over Hannibal. Josephus refers to this inter-marital rouse in his Antiquities 12.4.1 The Romans had already stalled ANTIOCHUS by a diplomatic warning and now ANTIOCHUS was holed below the waterline by his daughter. This tale of young lovers was the first nail in ANTIOCHUS coffin. The young Cleopatra is described as "the daughter of women" because she was under nurse-tutors at the time of her betrothal. **Q.E.D.***

(20) Following this he shall turn his attention (f) to the Greek isles and captures many people but a **leader or prince** will cause (f) "his reproach" to be stopped -without his reproach (being established) he shall return (f) *ANTIOCHUS sent a 300 strong fleet to Greece and the islands and rebuffed Roman diplomats alleging his right to recover Alexander's empire. Reproach took the form of a diplomatic rebuke to Roman interest in Asia Minor for which ANTIOCHUS suffered defeat at THERMOPYLAE and MAGNESIA under Scipio and was put under tribute to Rome. ANTIOCHUS failed in his objective and his reproach to Rome was very costly. **Q.E.D.***

(21) He shall turn his face to the fortresses of his own land (f) but he shall cause himself to stumble or totter (f) and will fall and will not be found (f) *He turned to robbing heathen temples for tribute money and was killed by irate devotees. We read in 2 Maccabees that he spoke of "making Jerusalem the common burying place of the Jews" but while hastening toward Jerusalem fell off his chariot and shortly afterward showed symptoms of a painful fatal condition which caused him to vow that he would liberate the Jews, make them equal to Athenians and garnish the temple and even become a Jew himself and declare it to the world. **Q.E.D.***

(22) And an exactor of transferrals shall stand up (f) in his base -in the **glory or beauty of the kingdom** and in days that follow he will be broken (f) and neither by anger nor by war. *ANTIOCHUS had a son SELEUCUS PHILOPATOR whose life was a drudgery of finding tribute money for Rome. He attempted a solution by heavy taxation of the "lovely land" of the Jews which was in his realm. The encroachment of PHILOPATER'S tax official into the temple in search of wealth was greeted by a forbidding or angelic presence. PHILOPATER was subsequently poisoned so his life was not claimed in anger or battle. **Q.E.D.***

## **ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES RISES AT THE BASE OF SELEUCID POWER 21-31**

(23) At his power base a **vile person** shall stand up (f) one who will be an object of contempt (f) but they shall not give to him the glory of the kingdom (f) [*that belonged to Demetrius his nephew*] but he shall come in by sending booty [*bribery*] or injury [*silent treachery of hand*] and he will strengthen or repair the kingdom by flatteries (f) or gift portions. *The new "vile leader of the north was to be ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES. Opposite these words in the AV margin there is a rare reference to Maccabees 4 23-31 This section of the Maccabees refers to the double defeat of LYSIAS a noble whom ANTIOCHUS THE GREAT had left in charge whilst he went east in search of wealth. This LYSIAS suffered two defeats at the hands of Judas Maccabeus. Josephus in his book "The Antiquities of the Jews" (12. 7) writes about 60,000 choice troops and 5000 cavalry that suffer defeat under Judas Maccabeus.*

*ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES the pretender buttered up the king of PERGAMUM the Syrians and the Romans and was recalled at the request of his brother SELEUCUS who had succeeded ANTIOCHUS THE GREAT. While EPIPHANES was on his way home from Rome his brother was murdered by the infamous tax collector HELIODORUS **Q.E.D.***

(24) And the arms of the overwhelming flood they will sweep away before him (f) and they will be broken or break themselves (f) -also the prince of the covenant will be overwhelmed (f). *The prince of*

the covenant JASON was deprived of the priesthood and ONIAS MENELAUS set up by ANTIOCHUS who at the same time swept into PELUSIUM in Egypt with great forces and overwhelmed PTOLEMY. The Roman diplomatic charge and a stout defence of Alexandrian however halted ANTIOCHUS who retreated to Memphis **Q.E.D.**

(25) And when he had made joint agreement with him he will enact deceit (f) for he shall come up (f) and become strong (f) with a few people. *The reference is to EPIPHANES "fifth column" as JOHN PHILLIPS beautifully names it. He subverted the Egyptian court but PHILOMETOR caught him at his game with this "small group" Q.E.D.*

(27) He shall come into (f) the peaceable and fat or prosperous province and do what his fathers never did or the fathers of his fathers. He will disperse (f) booty spoil and wealth to them and against the fortresses he will devise (f) his cunning schemes but for a time only. *EPIPHANES captured PELUSIUM MEMPHIS and planned to take ALEXANDRIA but was baulked by PHILOMETOR'S brother EUERGETES who was the better soldier. Q.E.D.*

(28) And he shall awaken his strength (f) and his stout heart against the king of the south with a great army and the king of the south will have excited himself (f) to contend [hrq] in war with a great force and a body of men for too great and he will not stand (f) for they shall devise manoeuvres against him *ANTIOCHUS mounted a second and third attack south. Now PHILOMETOR AND EUERGETES joined forces and sent a warning message to ANTIOCHUS. Q.E.D.*

(29) And those who eat morsels in his midst shall break him (f) and his army will overflow (f) and many corpses will fall (f). *PHILOMETOR now debated with the wily uncle and behind the scenes having outflanked his forces was now outwitting him in diplomacy Q.E.D.*

(30) And the hearts of these two kings will both be set on evil (f) and at one spread table they will speak falsehood (f) but it shall not flourish (f) for still the harvest of it comes in its season. *PHILOMETOR pretended to agree with EPIPHANES but as previously stated consolidated a joint front with his brother when EPIPHANES left. Q.E.D.*

(31) And he shall return to his land (f) with great wealth with his heart against the holy covenant and he shall work (f) (a scheme—a plan to help PHILOMETOR depose his brother) and return to his own land. *This scheme was shrewd but his nephew was learning fast and it came to nothing Q.E.D.*

(32) At the appointed season he shall return (f) and come south and it will not be as a the first (f) or as afterward for the **ships of KITTIM** shall come against him and he shall become faint-hearted and return and be indignant against the holy covenant so he shall strive (f) and return and reach understanding with those who forsake the holy covenant *ANTIOCHUS faced with a Roman ultimatum ordering him from Egypt demurred but the Roman legate drew a circle round him and said "Before you step out of the circle you answer the senate" heard a false report of his death & joyful rejoicing among the Jews-Jason the good priest he deposed had revolted with 1000 paid fighters and so Q.E.D.*

(33) And men's arms shall (f) minister along with him and he shall do abomination (f) at the holy place of power & praise (the altar and temple) and he will remove the daily (f) (offering) and place there the abomination that astonishes or lays waste [mmv in Greek Βδελυγμα—used in Matthew 24.14 of the latter day Anti-Christ cf. 1 Maccabees 1.54 "In the 145th year they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar and built idol altars through the cities of JUDAH and burnt incense at the doors of their houses and in the streets. EPIPHANES attacked the city-killed 40,000 and did the most awful thing - he sacrificed a pig at the brazen altar and poured soup made from cooking it over the temple area. This identifies him as a type of the Anti-Christ. **Q.E.D.**

## **MATTHEW AND JUDAS MACCABAEUS 32-35**

(34) And those who act wickedly against the covenant he shall seduce (f) to apostasy [pnj] with flatteries or bribes but the people who know its God of strength will be strengthened (f) and take action. *They rent the books of the law & burnt them. Meantime at MODIN Matthew MACCABAEUS defied ANTIOCHUS ambassador thus "Though all the nations of the kings dominions fall away from the religion of their fathers yet will I and my sons walk in the covenant of our fathers." Matthew died speaking of Abraham Joseph PHINEAS JOSHUA CALEB DAVID THE THREE HEBREWS and DANIEL. His son Judas took the field tossing altars and defeating APOLLONIUS whilst other such*



things were done as the worship of Bacchus and harlotry in the holy place 2Macc.6.7. The temple was re-dedicated to Zeus Olympus and ANTIOCHUS demanded worship of himself. **Q.E.D.**

(35) They that are spiritually skilled among the people will cause many to understand (f) and they shall totter (f) by the sword and by flame and as captives and through booty of war for a long time. *Plain people inspired by good leadership began to keep the law. They killed adherents of the law each month. In the 25th of the month they sacrifices on an idol altar. They hanged infants and slew the parents who had circumcised them. The scriptures were read though the Syrians confiscated & burned them. These wise persons (MASCHILIM) could look at these words of Daniel and see the LORD foretold their days and they took heart. Because those holed up in a cave would not defend themselves on Sabbath 1000 man women and children died. (cf. 1Maccabees 2.36 "Neither cast they a stone at their enemies" cf. Also Hebrews 11.35-36. which without doubt pays tribute to these who died in faith who in dying said, HEAVEN AND EARTH SHALL TESTIFY THAT YOU PUT US TO DEATH WRONGFULLY" and the writer to the Hebrews fulfilled this word when he spoke of those that "wandered in caves and dens of the earth of whom the world was not worthy".* **Q.E.D.**

(36) And when they stumble they shall be strengthened (f) with a little help but many shall "adhere" as Levites to them(f) [hwl] with flatteries and from the wise some shall fall (f) to try or refine them [prx-as silver is "refined"] and to separate or "purge" [rrb] them and to make them white [nb] until the time of the end for it is yet some time until the appointed or festival time *The Maccabees gave the poor believers support and following successive victories cleansed the temple. (cf. the Feast of Dedication which originated at this time-and which our Lord attended cf. John 10.22)*

Six years built a strong army and unreliable allies leached on to them-but they and their priests stayed pure despite suffering. -Eleazar the scribe would rather die than eat swine flesh **Q.E.D.**

## **ANTI CHRIST AND THE END TIMES 36-45**

*The prophecy transitions from the Desolator of Maccabean times to the Desolator of the End times. For NT material on this figure consult 2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation 13 and 17*

And **THE KING** shall do (f) according to his pleasure and **HE** will have constantly lifted him high (f) and **HE** will have made himself great (f) over or beyond every god and **HE** shall speak *impious things* (f) against the God of Gods and **HE** shall gain success (f) until the consummation of the wrath (of God)... *The obvious end-time wrath is better known to us as "the Tribulation" of Matthew 24...for that which is decreed[Niphal] will take effect [Niphal] The LORD is stating to Daniel that his decrees will naturally come into play and take their course. This course is set as sure as the path of the stars.*

**HE** will not know (f) attend to or mark or teach or discern **the gods of his fathers** or know **the desire of women** and **HE** will not attend to (f) or teach any god but **HE** will constantly exalt or make him great. But on his base or appointed place [mk] **HE** will glorify(f) the god of forces and to the god whom his fathers did not know personally he will do honour (f) with gold and silver and precious stones and delights

**HE** shall enact this (f) in the strongholds of power with a strange [rkn-little known foreign or alien] god whom **HE** will cause to be regarded (f) or acknowledged and whose glory **HE** will increase (f) and **HE** will cause them to have dominion over very many(f) and **HE** shall allot the good land for a sale price(f). And at the time of the end or cutting of **the king of the south** will have butted (f) or pushed with or against him *This feature may indicate animosity on the part of the Pan Arab alliance...and the king of the north (ROSH-CUM-SYRIA) will have come against him as a rushing tempest [r[v] The text is instancing Egypt and probably what is now known as the Pan Arab alliance led by Egypt. The king of the North defines in terms of Syria... with many vehicles and drivers and he shall come into the lands (other territories invaded or used as staging posts in an advance) and overflow and pass.*

And **HE** shall enter (f) into the pleasant land (Israel) and many (countries) shall sink together (f) or fall but these shall escape (f) his hand-Edom and Moab and the chiefs of the sons of AMMON. *This means that present day Jordan which spans all that territory shall not be overthrown or suffer from this movement against Israel. This may be because Jordan is "in the fold" of Anti Christ.*

**HE** shall extend his hand (f) over countries and the land of Egypt shall not be (f) for escape by flight. *There is something secret in this phrase. It seems that Egypt is compliant and becomes subservient -*

abandoned by their allies Ethiopia and Libya [A very plausible reason would appear to be the "burnt earth" state of large tracts of Egypt at the time of the third world war according to Isaiah.

**HE** shall become master (f) over the store of treasure of gold and silver and over all the precious things of **Egypt and the Libyans and the Ethiopians** shall be in the path (f) [d[x the march or chase] of his marching (army). **But reports from the east and the north** will amaze hasten and terrify him (f) *The new difficulties in the North and what is taking place far to the East now dominates the strategy of the Northern forces.*

**HE** shall go forth (f) with great wrath to destroy [dmv] and to cause the devotion of hordes or great ones to destruction *The word HARAM is the word for "ban" which was used in the wiping out of the entire population of cities in the days of Joshua. Thus some sort of mass destructive power comes into play at this stage of the conflict. This going forth may involve ships and perhaps nuclear weapons.*

And **HE** shall plant (f) his field tents [literally tents of the plain] between the seas...*Between the Mediterranean and the Jordan at the hill of the splendour of holiness but HE shall come to his end (f) and there will be (f) no strengthener for him. With the sudden acute interruption of the LORD this vexed and possibly merciless nuclear onslaught ends and Christ takes up his power to rule.*

## DANIEL 12

### A BOOK FOR THE END-TIMES

#### MICHAEL

But at that time (of the Anti-Christ) Michael will stand up to minister - the Great Prince who stands constantly above the sons of your people and there will be distress rivalry hostility or anguish as of a prurient woman which has not come about [Niphal of h/h] since there has been a nation until this time-known to modern bible scholars as the "tribulation".

#### ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE & THE COMING JUDGMENT 1

**But in that time** your people will escape or deliver themselves. *The independence of Israel in the latter day is asserted. When in 1923 the Colonial Office issued the Balfour declaration its wording ran "Israel come to and lives in the country as of right and not on sufferance". The capacity of the nation to avoid entanglement in much of the international distress while remaining at the vortex may also be implied. Today Israel is not in financial distress-large finds of natural resources are available to strengthen her economy. She is not involved in international long term war as the USA and UK. She is not afflicted by natural disaster. But there is a further rider which suggests that the deliverance ultimately is good for those who are Christ's.*

Each (one) of **those found** written in the book. *The Niphal is again used-so the personal option of the gospel-which people must accept each for himself will yield this deliverance. The singular is used in this case to stress the need for personal faith in Messiah.*

#### TWO RESURRECTIONS 2

And great numbers from those sleeping ones or those who fall asleep of the dust of the earth or "red earth mourning dust" [Literally the "earth dust sleepers"] **will be caused to awake**-some or these for **lives of an age** (the terms of these lives is determined by the verb of unending being) and these for exposure and abandonment of great shame [plural of prj] and some for **everlasting** or **age-long** contempt. *This condition described the persons who sin during the millennium in Isaiah 66.24. I have concluded that the Isaiah state which is experienced during the millennium to be a state where life remains but is disconnected-like suspended animation. The Arabic of ar'd means "to excite evil"-Theodore (Aramaic) and the LXX have "shame" αἰσχρὴν which Greek expression is "shame experienced on account of shameful act(s) done." This latter "awaking" of either selection of the people is not apportioned a clear time frame. This "awaking" appears to encompass all nations- (cf. Revelation 20. 5 and 11-15).*

## **ETERNAL LIFE & BIBLE STUDENTS 3-13**

And **the wise** or skilled to understand in the writings shall be caused to shine as the brightness of the sky and those who cause the vast numbers to (seek) righteousness as stars **for ever and still**

But you Daniel stop hide or keep secret [*mts*] the words and seal up as a completed book the book until the time of the end. Many shall continue to "**run or literally "whip" through** (the book) [*Pilel of firv*] and personal knowledge or experience shall become great. *This is one of those parts of the bible where one can see the Almighty watching over bible students of the latter days - bible colleges and individuals pouring over scripture - leafing from one book to another as they would seek to compare scriptures and understand these great matters more clearly in a way Daniel could hardly imagine.*

Then I Daniel looked and two different or "other" ones standing - one at this bank of the river and one at that bank. And he will say to the man dressed in linen garments who is from above the waters of the river -what is the stretch till the end of these marvellous things? *The question has to do with the independence of Israel-the saved or wise of that people - the judgment(s) of that time - the resurrection the widespread understanding of scripture and mighty evangelism.*

And I heard the man dressed in linen garments who was above the waters of the river and HE caused his left arm to be held high towards the heavens and swore by HIMSELF [*Niphal of [bv]*]by the living One of everlasting that it shall be for a time or yearly festival - two times and half of a time and according to the accomplishments of the continual "**breaking down**" ( Hebrew  $\chi\rho\eta$  - a word used for "ceaseless rain") the power of the holy people all these things shall be completed.

And I heard but I did not comprehend and I said "My Lord (ADONI) what is the aftermath of these things? And he said "Daniel you must go for the words have been stopped or closed or remain secret and are sealed until the time of the end. Many will have been chosen and separated and cleansed -the Hithpael of  $\text{r}\text{r}\text{b}$  means "(many will have) cleansed themselves"; many will have constantly purged themselves of sin [*tbl* - "made white" like bricks ready for building] and many will be purified as gold is refined [*prx*] but the wicked shall do wicked things and none of the wicked shall understand but those skilled (in the book) or wise shall understand. *The word understand [Hebrew *nyb* has at its root the notion of an "umpire"-there is about the concept the idea of a divine umpire or guide].*

From the time the daily sacrifice or offering has been turned aside or caused to withdraw or been removed to the abomination or contamination that destroys is a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he who continues to wait [*Hebrew Piel of hkj*] or "tie himself to" and causes himself to touch or reach one thousand three hundred and thirty five days.

But you go -you will rest even to the end and you will stand in your inheritance that belongs to the last days or the end times.

## **THE END OF A THRILLING BOOK (OPEN TO ALL BELIEVERS IN THE END TIMES TO LEAF THROUGH FOR SPIRITUAL CAPITAL IN DARK DAYS)**

### **SCRIBAL ADDENDUM IN THE SHEPHARDIC BEN ASHER TEXT.**

#### **STRENGTH OR STRENGTHEN**

**qzj**

Part of the openings of the book of Daniel is 357 years (Alexander the Great built Alexandria in 332 BC). They (the portions or openings) are appointed because the Spirit of YAHWEH  $\text{y}$  in him or it (the book) blows or "drives away." (cf. Nebuchadnezzar) And its division or half portion or middle (i.e. centre cf. chapters 5, 7, 8) is in the night of the death of Belshazzar. And there is the ordering of its week or seven years or fullness.(cf. 12) There are also appointed that evil eyes will end vanish (Chapter

11-12) or be destroyed and a **SERVANT dba** be lifted up (cf. 7.13-14)-they will **divide** or **be apportioned** (cf. 12.2 *and they will await or gather strength from the expiry of a soul (ironically this scribal comment applies better to **the death of Jesus Christ** than Daniel's It is doubtful but not impossible that the scribes could interpret 10 .3-7 which does speak of the death of Christ ) This epilogue added by the scribes tells us they believe the book to have existed **from the era before Alexander the Great**-just 25 years before the building of Alexandria and that thus used by the settlement of Jews which probably was already there-whose synagogues in the growing city were numerous.*

*Further data on the age of the book can be found in my file on THE WRITING OF DANIEL.*

**FINIS**

## NEW TESTAMENT ENDORSEMENT OF DANIEL THE PROPHET

### **Daniel is quoted three times by our LORD in Mathew 24**

- (1) The Lord set his seal to the accuracy of Daniels warning about the Abomination of Desolation (**Matthew 24** and Daniel 9.27 with 11.31 & 12.11)
- (2) The Lord affirmed Daniel 12.1 confirming prophecy about the Great Tribulation
- (3) The Lord described his "Second Coming" using Daniel 7.13 and in Matthew 26.64 set the High Priest back on his heels by referring to his judgment yet to come.

Besides these references the Lord would have had Daniel 12.2 in mind when he described the Resurrection in John 5 28-9

Actual quotations from Daniel in the NT include Matthew 24.30, 26.64 with Mark 13.26 and 14.62 together with Luke 21.27. All have to do with the "end-times"

There are 129 allusions to Daniel in the NT for further details of which I refer you to the UBS Greek New Testament 1966-1983 Edited by Kurt ALAND Director of the Institute for NT research Westphalia working alongside Matthew Black Carlo Martini Bruce Metzger and Allen WIKGREN. These men together have possibly done more **MSS work** than is provided by the combined work of the world's universities on the bible. When the fruit of their labours first surfaced in the 1966 Greek NT I was privileged to be given one of the first dozen copies of the publication sold in Northern Ireland by Professor Ted Russell. In the 1980's I did some work on the 2573 bible references and allusions to OT scripture that they provided in the APPARATUS CRITICUS. We have one quotation from the OT on average in every three verses of the NT. and by working it out as an average 10 in every chapter. Actually in connection with APOCALYPTIC and speaking of the NT the book of Revelation has far and away the lion share of O.T. allusions containing as it does at 594 references in 22 chapters -74 (or more than half) out of a total of 129 allusions and references.

**Bob Coffey**  
**A BIBLE COMPANION**

## THEY HAD THEIR DOMINION TAKEN AWAY THE RUINS OF BABYLON



### **BABYLON - ITS GRANDEUR LANGUAGE & ROYALTY**

#### **BABYLON CITY LUSTERED WITH GOLD**

The image of BEL in the temple of MARDUK and the golden table of the temple weighed 22 1/2 tons. Babylon was awash with gold gathered from the whole world.

The city itself had 60 miles of encircling walls reported to be 300 feet high and 60 feet thick. Four chariots could race abreast around the walls at popular festival times. The city had 100 brass gates. It had a processional way 1000 yards long with enamelled bricks which depicted colourful lions, dragons and bulls. It had a banqueting hall that could seat 10,000 guests.

#### **GREAT BABYLON**

Queen NITOCRIS had constructed a tunnel under the Euphrates which by some accounts was 6 feet wide and others as wide as 15 feet and 12 feet high. She had also supervised the construction of a 40mile diameter lake which was used as an irrigation supply for the area. The present sandy plains to MOSUL once boasted 3 crops of swaying cereals per annum and yields of up to 300% according to



Herodotus. The Queen also introduced bends to the great River PHARPAR or Euphrates and built a bridge over it-which seems to have been anchored and could be opened by floatation. Besides the huge walls and open public worship areas that Nebuchadnezzar constructed in his drive against hidden religion the King also built the famous "hanging gardens" perhaps for the delight of his wife who missed her mountain home as a Mede.

## **ARAMAIC SPEAKING**

The language of Babylonian exiles was a vernacular Chaldee or Aramaic. Aramaic was the lingua franca of the Babylonian world. Embedded in the Aramaic are many Hebrew Babylonian and Persian words but not one Latin word and very few Greek words so as Professor Robert Dick concludes the language of Daniel is a dialect used in or about the time of the founding of the Persian Empire. Daniel 2.4-8.27 is an entire Aramaic dialect section in the prophecy. The remainder is Hebrew. The DERE ALA tablets which were written perhaps a century before Daniel are in Aramaic. Read chapter 8 and you will discover for yourself that the book was written by Daniel-the context of the chapter is about 601B.C. (the third year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign after Newton's chronology)

## **ALEXANDER THE GREAT**

Alexander had designs on rebuilding Babylon contrary to the prophecies of Jeremiah-but his untimely death humanly speaking prevented this purpose of heart being translated into reality on the ground. He had embarked on the project but his death in 323B.C. in the East put paid to all further plans and his successors were too busy carving up his empire to consider the project. Isaiah the prophet said of Babylon "No Arab shall pitch his tent there"(Isaiah 13.20). This was confirmed by the leader of a shooting expedition who invited an Arab Sheikh to overnight in the vicinity but was told it was "haunted" and no-one ever camped there. (This morsel of information comes from Victor Pearce's "Archaeology")

## **JEROME'S COMMENTARY**

The main benefit of his commentary was to blunt and demolish the criticism by Porphyry that the book comes from the times of ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES and was written in Greek. This position is supported by the supposed error of one year in dating between Jeremiah and Daniel's accounting of time which goes back to the fact that the original writer adopted the Babylonian dating model of his day-in the 5th century B.C. Josephus Antiquities 11.8.5 has a quotation which shows the book has considerable antiquity for its prophecies were shown to Alexander the Great.

## **THINKING THROUGH THE HISTORICAL CONUNDRUMS**

### **(1)WHO IS LABYNITUS?**

*Herodotus notes that Nebuchadnezzar (Father of LABYNITUS II) occupied the throne at the time of the eclipse of the sun at the end of the war of the Medes and LYDIANS in 585B.C. Scripture also is absolutely clear that Belshazzar is son of Nebuchadnezzar-although we need to think long and hard about who the Queen of the day really is. (Daniel 5.2)*

### **VIEWS ON LABYNITUS**

*NABONIDAS (Josephus NABOANDELOS Ptolemy NABONNEDUS Herodotus LABYNITUS II son of LABYNITUS I-scripture BELSHAZZAR son of NEBUCHADNEZZAR (Daniel 5.2)  
Herodotus in telling us that LABYNITUS WAS THE SON OF LABYNITUS is either stating that Belshazzar is son of Nebuchadnezzar or since he lived under the constraints of the time conceding the accepted riposte that Belshazzar had loose technical connection with Nebuchadnezzar as a grandson. There was no word for "grandson in Aramaic so "son" was used. However the prophetic text of Jeremiah (see below) remains as an immovable objection.*

### **(2) HOW IMPORTANT ARE INSCRIPTIONS?**

- (A) Cuneiform tablets state that Belshazzar was the son of NABONIDUS and co-regent
- (B) Bas relief is found of NABONIDUS worshipping the "moon God" and other symbols.
- (C) Babylonian chronicle missing from 595BC
- (D) Contemporary sources (H.H.ROWLEY)"New Year festival & renewal of Kingship suspended when NABONIDUS was absent 548-538-9
- (E) B.M. Document 11925

### **(3) WHO SUCCEEDED NEBUCHADNEZZAR?**

#### **(A) Was Nebuchadnezzar succeeded basically by his family?**

- (1) Scripture says "Yes" Jeremiah 27.7 "All nations shall serve him and his son and his son's son.
- (2) Daniel says "Yes" Daniel 5.2 "He gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple at Jerusalem.
- (3) Herodotus says "Yes"

Herodotus calls the last king of Babylon LABYNITUS and says that he was the son of a former LABYNITUS and of NITOCRIS an eminent queen of Babylon. By the father he seems to mean that LABYNITUS who was king of Babylon when the great eclipse of the sun of 585BC occurred at the end of the war of the MEDES & LYDIANS

- (4) Newton says Belshazzar was born and lived in royalty before the fifth year of JECHONIAH'S captivity 595BC-the 12th year of Nebuchadnezzar. He was over 34 years of age when EVIL MERODACH died in 560BC and he is none other than NABONNEDUS who takes the reins of power in 555BC according to Ptolemy. That would make him 50 at his death.

#### **(B) Was Nebuchadnezzar succeeded by strangers?**

- (1) Wiseman says "No"

PROF.D.J.WISEMAN in his article in the New Bible Dictionary (IVP) speculates that the Belshazzar of British Museum document 91125 is probably son of Nebuchadnezzar II (The famous King). This association can only be technical for WISEMAN'S dating for the beginning of the co-regency is 556 B.C. WISEMAN is emphatic on the link between Belshazzar and the story of NABONIDUS.

- (2) Browning says "No"

DAN BROWNING SUPPORTS D.J.WISEMAN'S POSITION

In "Holman's Dictionary" Dan Browning in his article on "Babylon" introduces NABONIDAS as an "enigmatic figure" who adopted a sort of Bedouin lifestyle and went to live in the Arabian Desert settlement of TEMA. The enigma of the Bedouin NABONIDUS requires another context-it has no place in Belshazzar's story.

- (3) Phillips says "No"

Following short stints of rule by EVIL MERODACH NERIGLISSAR & LABASHI MARDUK NABONIDAS -a fanatical worshipper of the moon god Sin and a total outsider took over power. His retirement to TEMA and refusal to renew authority by taking the hands of BEL or MARDUK as a man in his mid sixties is on account of his plan to diminish the power of the gods MERODACH BEL and NEBO. Phillips speaks of his final folly as gathering the gods of other cities to protect Babylon in her hour of need-angering those cities and the Chaldee priests of MERODACH besides. Phillips argues that Belshazzar's reference to the "third ruler" assumes a co-regency and favours the NABONIDAS-Belshazzar linkage. However the dowager Queen seems instead to have been an active ruler and any interpreter of the writing would take his place beside them. (cf. WHISTON'S Josephus 10.11.2 Note 1

#### **(c) The succession in perspective**

- (1) Nebuchadnezzar was immediately succeeded by his son AWEL-MARDUK (a worshipper of Nimrod (MARDUK-epithet BEL or BAAL "Lord") better known as EVIL-MERODACH as in 2Kings 25.27 succeeded him reigning only 2 years until 560B.C
- (2) NERIGLISSAR (Son-in-law of Nebuchadnezzar who married his daughter and is mentioned in Jeremiah 39. 3, 13 was present at the siege of Jerusalem in 587BC as a military officer) came next

ruling two further years from 560-558. He murdered EVIL MERODACH in a conspiratorial plot and seized the throne. (3) His son-the next king LABASHI-MARDUK was murdered as a boy in the sole year of his reign 557-556 BC (nine months in all) **This young ruler is included in the prophecy of (Jeremiah 27.7) as "son" or "grand-son"**

*Either Nebuchadnezzar's son Belshazzar comes next or the Babylonian outsider NABONIDAS with a son of the same name as co-regent. The inscriptions have been interpreted in favour of the first proposition -NABONIDAS a Babylonian. I consider that NABOANDELOS -NABONNEDUS NABONADIUS and LABYNITUS are identical as Elizabeth LIZA Betty and Bess and that they are Anglicised Greek for "NABO has piled up" (Greek λαβ' to hold as a husband or master (BEL or Baal) νητος ("heap" from νεω) Thus this name was given to Belshazzar and BELTESHAZZAR and as Herodotus showed it was even used of Nebuchadnezzar himself -and simply meant "Favoured one"(of BEL). The alternative is that NABONIDUS was a maverick outsider and BELSHAZZAR his son made speed to link himself to the royal line though not a son. This view has some considerable merit-it would explain the disconnect between foregoing rule and BELSHAZZAR.*

## **JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY**

*"And all nations shall serve him and his son and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves on him" Jeremiah prophesied a royal lineage of heirs apparent. (Jeremiah 27.7)*

## **BAS RELIEF**

*Dan Browning in "Holman's Dictionary" gives us a relief of NABONIDUS (Belshazzar's father?) worshipping symbols of the "sun" "moon" and "love". This would appear to be the religious inclination of the last kings of the Babylon.*

## **THE QUEEN MOTHER**

*You will read in this chapter of the Queen-that queen is NITOCRIS. I can give some interesting facts about her that I derived from reading Isaac Newton's "Revised History of ancient kingdoms" NITOCRIS fortified the passes from Media to Babylon. She introduced the bends to the Euphrates River to prevent flooding and created a circular lake 40 miles in diameter north of the city to act as a reservoir and to create an irrigation system which probably provided the means by which Cyrus redirected the Euphrates to end her son's regime. When the lake was complete she turned the Euphrates into a lake for a time to build a bridge over the river in the middle of Babylon and even created a six feet wide vaulted tunnel under the river. This then is the most skilful and intrepid Queen that Babylon ever had. The question is can we consent that this NITOCRIS is the same woman as AMYITE-wife of Nebuchadnezzar?*

*(1) Herodotus tells us that NITOCRIS was wife to NABONIDAS and thus mother of BELSHAZZAR.  
(2) AMYTIS the wife of Nebuchadnezzar is recorded as having died in the camp at SIPPORA in 547B.C.-the 9th year of NABONIDUS (Annalistic tablet)  
(3) NITOCRIS is thought to have been the widow (and second wife) of Nebuchadnezzar whom NABONIDUS (co-regent of BELSHAZZAR) remarried. John PHILLIPS of Moody thinks Belshazzar was her step-son and that she lent legitimacy to his regime. I find that in conflict with the fact that Belshazzar was co-regent with Nebuchadnezzar long years before this marriage. Any second husband of NITOCRIS Nebuchadnezzar's widow might well have been afforded through the power of NITOCRIS and the dissolute life of Belshazzar some status. If he shared the "co-regency" or the position of "second ruler" with his wife under Belshazzar or if he failed to return from the desert to take BEL'S hand annually and retain his position Belshazzar could offer Daniel the rank of "third" ruler"*

## **END OF ACCESSORY FILES**

**Bob Coffey L'shuvkha Marya**  
To the glory of the Lord  
Aramaic Bible Companion



# THE BOOK OF



# DANIEL

ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION  
WIND OF GOD  
COMMENTARY