

project 4:4

one year one bible one church one lord

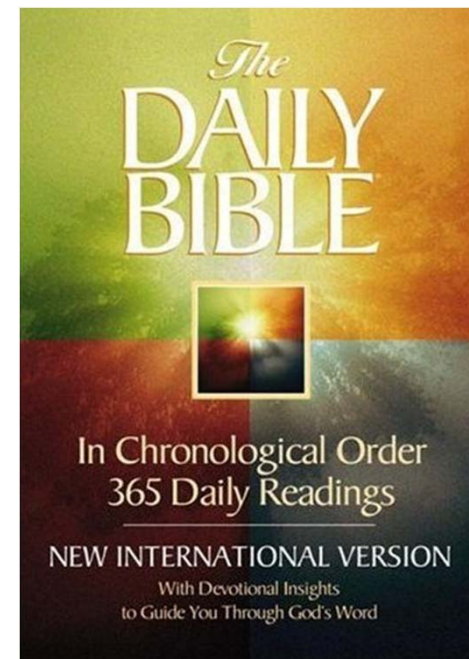
Daniel's Visions of Restoration Lesson 39

September 26, 2010

PV Pleasant Valley Church of Christ

This Week

- ▶ We'll cover readings for September 19-25
- ▶ Daniel, Ezra
 - ▶ Daniel's Apocalyptic visions
 - ▶ The four beasts and the ram and goat (7-8)
 - ▶ The writing on the wall (5)
 - ▶ The 70 "sevens" (9)
 - ▶ Daniel in the lion's den (6)
 - ▶ Daniel's last vision (10-12)
 - ▶ The Restoration Begins
 - ▶ First return to Jerusalem (Ezra 1-3)
 - ▶ Opposition to temple's construction



Background

- ▶ Jerusalem lies in ruins
- ▶ Both Israel and Judah are in exile
- ▶ Their national identity has been destroyed
- ▶ What happens now?



How We Got Here ...

▶ Psalm 106:1-7

- ▶ ¹Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. ²Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD or fully declare his praise? ³Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right. ⁴Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people, come to my aid when you save them, ⁵that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may share in the joy of your nation and join your inheritance in giving praise. ⁶We have sinned, even as our fathers did; we have done wrong and acted wickedly. ⁷When our fathers were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.



How We Got Here ... (cont)

▶ Psalm 106:8-16

- ▶ ⁸Yet he saved them for his name's sake, to make his mighty power known. ⁹He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; he led them through the depths as through a desert. ¹⁰He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them. ¹¹The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them survived. ¹²Then they believed his promises and sang his praise. ¹³But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his counsel. ¹⁴In the desert they gave in to their craving; in the wasteland they put God to the test. ¹⁵So he gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease upon them. ¹⁶In the camp they grew envious of Moses and of Aaron, who was consecrated to the LORD.



How We Got Here ... (cont)

▶ Psalm 106:17-25

- ▶ ¹⁷The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan; it buried the company of Abiram. ¹⁸Fire blazed among their followers; a flame consumed the wicked. ¹⁹At Horeb they made a calf and worshiped an idol cast from metal. ²⁰They exchanged their Glory for an image of a bull, which eats grass. ²¹They forgot the God who saved them, who had done great things in Egypt, ²²miracles in the land of Ham and awesome deeds by the Red Sea. ²³So he said he would destroy them— had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him to keep his wrath from destroying them. ²⁴Then they despised the pleasant land; they did not believe his promise. ²⁵They grumbled in their tents and did not obey the LORD.



How We Got Here ... (cont)

▶ Psalm 106:26-34

- ▶ ²⁶So he swore to them with uplifted hand that he would make them fall in the desert, ²⁷make their descendants fall among the nations and scatter them throughout the lands. ²⁸They yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods; ²⁹they provoked the LORD to anger by their wicked deeds, and a plague broke out among them. ³⁰But Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was checked. ³¹This was credited to him as righteousness for endless generations to come. ³²By the waters of Meribah they angered the LORD, and trouble came to Moses because of them; ³³for they rebelled against the Spirit of God, and rash words came from Moses' lips. ³⁴They did not destroy the peoples as the LORD had commanded them,



How We Got Here ... (cont)

▶ Psalm 106:35-43

- ▶ ³⁵but they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. ³⁶They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. ³⁷They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. ³⁸They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood. ³⁹They defiled themselves by what they did; by their deeds they prostituted themselves. ⁴⁰Therefore the LORD was angry with his people and abhorred his inheritance. ⁴¹He handed them over to the nations, and their foes ruled over them. ⁴²Their enemies oppressed them and subjected them to their power. ⁴³Many times he delivered them, but they were bent on rebellion and they wasted away in their sin.



How We Got Here ... (cont)

▶ Psalm 106:44-48

- ▶ **44But he took note of their distress when he heard their cry; 45for their sake he remembered his covenant and out of his great love he relented.** ⁴⁶He caused them to be pitied by all who held them captive. ⁴⁷Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise. ⁴⁸Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, “Amen!” Praise the LORD.



The Book of Daniel

- ▶ One of the most authenticated books of the Old Testament
- ▶ Translated from Hebrew into Greek in mid-200s BC
- ▶ Written **at least** 300 years before the arrival of Jesus Christ
 - ▶ Events in the book are from the mid-500s BC
- ▶ Very important to realize the importance and credibility of Daniel in understanding and confirming the attestation of the coming of the Messiah



Apocryphal Writings

- ▶ As with other recent readings, much of Daniel is written in apocryphal style
- ▶ My personal approach to interpretation
 - ▶ Never assign a far-reaching interpretation when a simple one makes sense
 - ▶ Not every prophecy in Scripture is about the “End Times”
 - ▶ I learned yesterday that I’m a “preterist”



Daniel's Vision

▶ Daniel 8:1-4

- ▶ ¹In the third year of King Belshazzar's reign, I, Daniel, had a vision, after the one that had already appeared to me. ²In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal. ³I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later. ⁴I watched the ram as he charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against him, and none could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.



Daniel's Vision (cont)

▶ Daniel 8:5-8

- ▶ ⁵As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground. ⁶He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at him in great rage. ⁷I saw him attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power. ⁸The goat became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up toward the four winds of heaven.



Daniel's Vision (cont)

▶ Daniel 8:9-12

- ▶ ⁹Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. ¹⁰It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them. ¹¹It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low. ¹²Because of rebellion, the host of the saints and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.



Daniel's Vision (cont)

▶ Daniel 8:13-

- ▶ ¹³Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, “How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled—the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?”
- ▶ ¹⁴He said to me, “It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated.”



For Discussion

- ▶ What is the purpose of this vision?
- ▶ What do these mean:
 - ▶ The Ram
 - ▶ The Two Horns
 - ▶ Why is one longer than the other?
 - ▶ The Shaggy Goat
 - ▶ The Four Horns
 - ▶ The Beautiful Land
 - ▶ The Horn that sets itself up to be as great as the Prince of the Host
 - ▶ The Prince of the Host



Daniel's Petition

▶ Daniel 9:1-4

- ▶ ¹In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom—²in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. ³So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. ⁴I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:



Daniel's Petition

- ▶ Daniel then goes on to confess the sins of the Nation of Israel
- ▶ Daniel recounts the behavior of the people and their current situation
- ▶ He recalls God's power and righteousness
- ▶ He petitions God for restoration
- ▶ And the answer to his prayer is ...
 - ▶ A visit from the heavenly being Gabriel



Gabriel's Message

▶ Daniel 9:20-23

- ▶ ²⁰While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill—²¹while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. ²²He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. ²³As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, **for you are highly esteemed.** Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision:



The Seventy “Sevens”

▶ Daniel 9:25-27

- ▶ ²⁵“Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. ²⁶After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. ²⁷He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”



The Seventy “Sevens” Defined

- ▶ 7 “weeks” and 62 “weeks” – can be interpreted as years
 - ▶ 49 years and 434 years
 - ▶ 69 “weeks” or 483 years
- ▶ The specific meaning of these “weeks” is hotly debated, but there is general agreement among one group of scholars that:
 - ▶ The first 49 years refer to the completion of the rebuilding of Jerusalem in “troubling times”
 - ▶ The remaining 434 years elapse before Jesus is declared King
- ▶ Luke 19:38
 - ▶ ³⁸“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”



Seventy Weeks (cont)

- ▶ Artaxerxes issued the decree to rebuild Jerusalem circa 458 BC
- ▶ 483 years later would be 25 AD (give or take)
 - ▶ By our calendar, Jesus was born in 6 BC
 - ▶ Jesus would have been 31 in 25 AD
- ▶ Not exact, but given the difficulty in dating events of 2500 years ago, it is close enough – at least in my book – to indicate that Daniel was being shown God’s timeline for the arrival of the Messiah



The Seventy Weeks (cont)

- ▶ What about the one remaining week?
- ▶ Some see that week as applying to events in the Roman Empire, leading up to the destruction of the Temple (and the remnants of the Jewish system) in AD 70
 - ▶ That would be us “preterists”
- ▶ Others see it as coinciding with the events of described in Revelation, occurring at the end of time
- ▶ Does it matter?



For Discussion

- ▶ What is the purpose of the visions that Daniel was shown?
- ▶ Why such detail in the visions?
- ▶ Why give them in apocryphal form?
- ▶ These things will happen long after Daniel is dead and gone
 - ▶ Why show Daniel these things?



Daniel's Final Vision

- ▶ In Daniel 10-12, Daniel is given one final – and profound – vision concerning events to come
- ▶ This vision is extremely detailed and is written largely without apocryphal language
- ▶ It concerns the rise and fall of kings and empires over the next several hundred years
- ▶ Why would Daniel be shown these things?
- ▶ What is their purpose for us?



Final Analysis

- ▶ These prophecies indicate God's sovereign power over the affairs of men, nations and the entire creation
- ▶ God grants Daniel insight into things that will take place in the future so that these things can be preserved for us
- ▶ These things were written for our learning and that we can believe that the things God says are true



Your Turn ...

- ▶ What insights have you gained from this week's study?
- ▶ What did you find in these passages that you have never seen before?
- ▶ How did the Lord speak to your heart through the Word this week?
- ▶ How will your walk with Him be different as a result?



Next Week

- ▶ Readings for September 26-October 2
 - ▶ Haggai, Zechariah, and the Rebuilding of the Temple

Questions?

