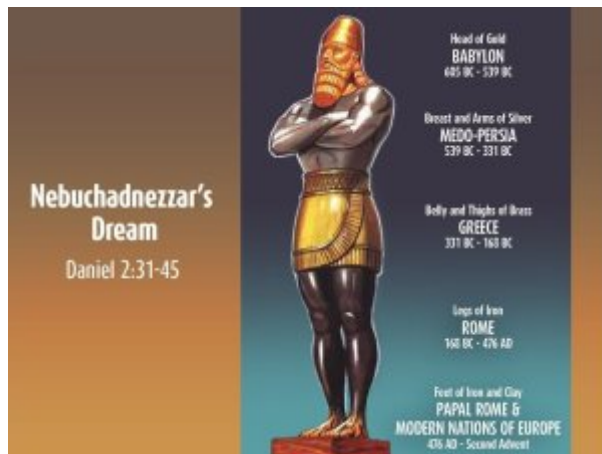


Daniel Chapter 2, an Outline of World History from Babylon to the Present and Beyond



Chapter 2 of the Book of Daniel is probably the easiest to understand of all the prophecies of Daniel, and the interpretation of it is probably the least controversial among Christians! The only people who may question the Book of Daniel are atheists and people who deny the Divine inspiration of the Bible. That's because Daniel two is an outline of world history of the empires that existed hundreds of years after Daniel was alive. The Lord showed Daniel the empires that would follow the Babylonian empire. There is no way Daniel could have known or shared these things with Nebuchadnezzar unless God, Who knows the future, had revealed it. Because the prophecies of Daniel 2 were all fulfilled after Daniel which history clearly shows us, and because that proves the Divine inspiration of the Book of Daniel, unbelieving academics and scholars have tried to argue that Daniel chapter 2 was written much later than Daniel actually lived, and therefore Daniel could not have written it. They're wrong. Who would you rather trust? The recorded Word of God or the opinion of some unbelieving academic? I choose the former. Jesus Himself gave credibility to the Book of Daniel when He said in Mark 13:14:

*"But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, **spoken of by Daniel the prophet**, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:"*

Jesus is talking about the latter half of Daniel 9:27 which says:

*...and for the overspreading of **abominations he shall make it desolate**, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the **desolate**.*

I taught Daniel 2 once during an evening Bible study to my Christian fellowship. I think most of them understood and appreciated it.

Daniel 2:1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his

sleep brake from him.

Nebuchadnezzar II, also spelled Nebuchadrezzar II, (born c. 630–died c. 561 bce), second and greatest king of the Chaldean dynasty of Babylonia (reigned c. 605–c. 561 bce). He was known for his military might, the splendour of his capital, Babylon, and his important part in Jewish history. (Source: [Britannica](#))

I don't like using BCE, before common era, and CE, common era. I'll just stick with BC, before Christ, and AD, after Christ. I heard Neil deGrasse Tyson, the famous American astrophysicist, author, and science communicator say he also prefers to use BC and AD. ☐

The second year of the King Nebuchadrezzar of the Book of Daniel was therefore 606 BC.

I hope you read the entire chapter 2 from your Bible on your own. I will sum up verses 2 – 30:

King Nebuchadrezzar had a dream he considered important and meaningful, but upon waking up, he couldn't remember the dream. He therefore called his wise men, the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell him what he dreamed. They of course could not. King Nebuchadrezzar wanted the wise men to tell him both the dream *and* the interpretation of it! He said if they could tell him the dream, he would know they would tell him the correct interpretation of the dream. When the wise men said there was no way they can tell the king his dream, Nebuchadrezzar then threatened them and their families with execution! This would have included the prophet Daniel and his Hebrew friends as well if they did not tell the king his dream. Daniel wasn't in the king's presence at the time.

The wise men said,

Daniel 2:11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

The king then became furious and ordered all the wise men to be killed! Daniel found out about the king's order from Arioch, the king's captain, and went to the king to ask for time to learn both the dream and its interpretation. The king granted his request. Daniel then asked his Hebrew friends to pray that the God of Heaven reveal to him both the dream and the interpretation. Daniel received it by revelation that night and the next day told the king both the dream and the interpretation.

Nebuchadnezzar's dream

Daniel 2:31-35 ¶Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet

part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

The interpretation

Daniel 2:36-38 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

The “image” Nebuchadnezzar saw was a statue of a man. The “head of gold” of the statue represented King Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom that ruled from 626 BC and ended 539 BC. Nebuchadnezzar was king during this time from 605 BC to 561 BC.

The Neo-Babylonian Empire or Second Babylonian Empire, historically known as the Chaldean Empire, was the last polity ruled by monarchs native to Mesopotamia. Beginning with the coronation of Nabopolassar as the King of Babylon in 626 BC and being firmly established through the fall of the Neo-Assyrian Empire in 612 BC, the Neo-Babylonian Empire was conquered by the Achaemenid Persian Empire in 539 BC, marking the collapse of the Chaldean dynasty less than a century after its founding. (Source: Wikipedia)

Daniel 2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

The second kingdom of Daniel 2:39 symbolized by the statue’s breast and his arms of silver and is the dual empire of Medo-Persia which is also known as the Achaemenid Empire or Achaemenian Empire. Persia was the stronger of the two, just as in the body one arm is stronger than the other!

Toward the end of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, the Persians began to become a powerful force and under Cyrus II Media was conquered in 549 b.c. and was combined with the empire of the Persians to form Medo-Persia. The combined strength of the Persians and the Medes led to conquest of Babylon in 539 b.c., with the resulting extension of their empire over much of the Middle East until the conquest of Alexander the Great in 331 b.c. (Source: [Bible.org](https://www.bible.org))

The third kingdom of Daniel 2:39 symbolized by the belly and his thighs of brass is the Greek empire founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC. Daniel

lived to the beginning of the Medo-Persian empire but the Greek empire came 200 years later! The Greeks were interested in philosophy and religion or spiritual things. And it is held by the Greeks and by almost all religions that the seat of the spirit is in the belly. As Jesus said, "Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit.)" (John 7:38,39)

In 334 BC, Alexander the Great invaded the Achaemenid Persian Empire and began a series of campaigns that lasted for 10 years. Following his conquest of Asia Minor, Alexander broke the power of Achaemenid Persia in a series of decisive battles, including those at Issus and Gaugamela; he subsequently overthrew Darius III and conquered the Achaemenid Empire in its entirety.

The first empire was represented by the head of gold, Babylon. The second, the dual empire of Medo-Persia represented by arms of silver. Two arms represented the dual kingdom. First Cyrus II of Persia, commonly known as Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon, but Cyrus let Darius the Mede be ruler of it in the beginning. The Bible tells me so!

*Daniel 5:30-31 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. 31 And **Darius the Median** took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.*

Next, the fourth kingdom:

Daniel 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

The fourth kingdom represented by the legs or iron was the Roman Empire. Rome, the tough, iron-fisted kingdom which clamped down with iron military rule over the entire known world in the days before Christ, was one of the longest-reigning empires the world has ever known. For nearly one hundred years there were no major wars, no one even being able to muster a force against the Roman rule. The armies of Rome marched all over the known world which gives meaning to the legs of iron. Rome conquered the Greeks in 27 BC. In its decline it was divided into an Eastern and Western Empire. The Western Empire was ruled by Rome, and the Eastern Empire, ruled by Constantinople, was called the Byzantine Empire. So even the parts of the image itself symbolize the kingdoms of man, and this becomes extremely significant as we go on to the feet.

Daniel 2:41-43 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed

with clay.

This brings us up to the present. Kings ruled the earth until the American Revolution and the French Revolution which brought democracy to the world. The iron rule of the Roman empire continued through the "Holy Roman Empire" by the iron rule of the popes of Rome and their control over kings. Personal liberty and freedom of conscience was suppressed. It's still hated by the Pope and the Vatican till this day!

The clay can represent the democratic republics such as America which supposedly protects the rights of the individual. The iron may also represent dictatorships, both fascist and communist governments. Germany under Hitler was fascist and the Soviet Union was communist. Both were dictatorships. The people were suppressed. China is of course run by the Chinese Communist Party. There was some freedom when I visited China in 1998 and 1999, but nobody even then discussed politics! I wouldn't want to visit China today.

Another interpretation of the iron and the clay, and this is my own personal interpretation: I think it may be symbolized by bones in person's feet and the tissue covering the bones. This reminds me of so called democratic governments today. All nations of the world including democracies have a hidden dictatorial iron core of rule which is covered by the democratic (clay) process. GWB told the American people they had no say in his invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq. It would happen no matter if the vast majority of the American people were against it. That's democracy?

*Daniel 2:44-45 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that **the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands**, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*

The Stone cut out of the mountain without hands represents the Lord Jesus Christ. His coming will break in pieces the kingdoms of this world, the existing governments of man, and He will set up His kingdom on earth to replace them. This, I believe, is very close the time we are living in now! When will it happen? I'm not into date setting but I can't see how the world can last much longer the way it's going! I see judgements on nations that have legalized abortion and are promoting the LGBTQ agenda, judgements such as fires, floods, extreme heat in the summer, extreme cold and snow in the winter, tornados, hurricanes, and earthquakes. It was Obama who was the first American president that came out with his acceptance of gay people, and Biden has taken it to a whole new level promoting transgenderism. And besides abortion and the LGBTQ agenda, I'm hearing a lot more evil going on, things I cannot ennumerate in this article. If you have seen the "Sound of Freedom" you know what I'm talking about.

Let's all be busy for the Lord in service to His Kingdom so we will not be ashamed at His coming!

Revelation 22:20-21 ¶He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Who is the “He” of Daniel 9:27 Who Confirms the Covenant with Many for One Week?



Up to the beginning of the 20th century, Daniel 9:27 was considered a Messianic prophecy of the 7 years of Jesus and His disciples' ministry of giving the Gospel to the Jews. This article is my best attempt to explain in my own words why the “he” of Daniel 9:27 is referring to Jesus Christ in as clear and concise a manner as I know how.

The Fourth Kingdom of Daniel Chapter 7 – Rome



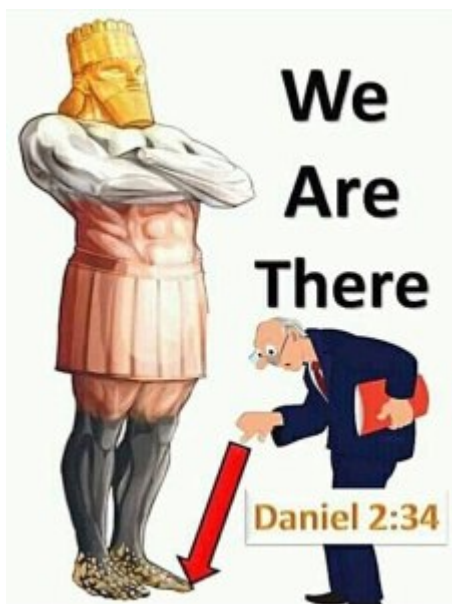
The fourth Kingdom of Daniel chapter 7 is the Roman Empire. It continues to this day through the Vatican, the so called Holy See.

The Ten Horns of the Books of Daniel and Revelation



The Ten Horns of the Book of Revelation identified as 10 modern nations!

Daniel Chapter 2 – An Outline of 2500 Years of World History!



Daniel chapter two is a prophecy of four empires of world history, and three of these empires, the Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman empire hadn't happened yet!

Adam Clarke's Commentary on Matthew 24



This chapter contains a prediction of the utter destruction of the city and temple of Jerusalem, and the subversion of the whole political constitution of the Jews; and is one of the most valuable portions of the new covenant Scriptures, with respect to the evidence which it furnishes of the truth of Christianity. Every thing which our Lord foretold should come on the temple, city, and people of the Jews, has been fulfilled in the most correct and astonishing manner; and witnessed by a writer (Josephus) who was present during the whole, who was himself a Jew, and is acknowledged to be an historian of indisputable veracity in all those transactions which concern the destruction of Jerusalem. Without having designed it, he has written a commentary on our Lord's words, and shown how every tittle was punctually fulfilled, though he knew nothing of the Scripture which contained this remarkable prophecy.

**The Prophecy Jesus Told His Disciples
on the Mount of Olives was ALL
Fulfilled in 70AD**



This article is from communication with a friend who wrote:

I'm very interested in your comments about Jesus's Olivet prophecy saying it does not refer to our future but to AD70 when the Romans sacked Jerusalem. (I hope I'm not misrepresenting your position but please correct me if I am.) I know you've mentioned it before to me. Can you explain to me in layman's terms, how we know this refers to AD70 and not to our current future? I believe it relates to the years in Daniel? Thanks, and sorry I'm very muddled on this.

My reply:

You are presenting my position correctly when you said I believe it was all fulfilled in 70 AD.

If we agree that Matthew 24 Mark 13 and Luke 21 are all talking about the same thing, meaning the Olivet Discourse, it behooves us to compare these passages with each other to see if the account of one Gospel writer may shed more light on the account of another Gospel writer. It seems to me most contemporary teachers of the Olivet discourse have not done that!! And this has resulted in two very serious misinterpretations. One of them has resulted from a mistranslation of Matthew 24:3. Let's compare that verse with what Mark and Luke have to say.

Matthew 24:3 (KJV) And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Mark 13:4 (KJV) Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?

Luke 21:7 (KJV) And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?

Notice that Mark and Luke does not say "the end of the world." A better translation would be, the end of the age, meaning the Jewish age.

Other translations confirm this:

<https://biblehub.com/matthew/24-3.htm>

I don't recommend modern English translations but I think some of the translations are better than the KJV in some verses. Most King James only people would not want to accept that. But I do see some errors in the King James version. For example, In the book of Acts, it uses the word Easter but it should say Passover. The Passover is not determined by the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox as Easter is.

In 70 AD the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and all the records of Jewish lineage. And that means there is no person who claims to be Jewish today who can tell you what tribe of Israel he is from. Dr Chuck Baldwin does the most thorough job of any preacher I have ever heard in [explaining the Olivet discourse and the meaning of it.](#)

It's long but worth reading if you can take the time. It answers very clearly the second serious major misinterpretation of the Olivet discourse: The meaning of the Abomination of Desolation.

I will sum it up for you as succinctly as I can.

Most evangelicals today believe the Abomination of Desolation is the End time Antichrist erecting an idol in a rebuilt Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. And this is connected to false doctrines of so-called Christian Zionism. This was a popular doctrine in the Scofield Reference Bible and has misled millions of English-speaking Christians. And again to find the truth all we have to do is compare what Matthew has to say with one other Gospel writer, Luke and what he has to say:

Matthew 24:15-16 (KJV)

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Luke 21:20-21 (KJV)

20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

Luke clearly identifies the Abomination of Desolation as Jerusalem compassed with armies – Roman armies. And both Matthew and Luke tell the followers of Jesus who witness that event what to do: Flee into the mountains. From where? From Judaea. Why? To avoid the slaughter of the Jews by the Romans. To me, that's as clear as crystal. The followers of Jesus who believed in the

prophecy left Jerusalem and Judea and survived the Roman attack. The unbelieving Jews who remained were killed.

In this prophecy, Jesus was referring to the final words of Daniel 9:27.

Daniel 9:27 (KJV) And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The "overspreading of abominations" is talking about the attacking armies of Rome, and "make it desolate" is referring to the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. The problem evangelicals make is that they also include the prophecies of Daniel 11, and they are completely different prophecies and were already fulfilled before Jesus was born on Earth. I also talk about this on my website but I don't want to give you too much to read right now.

Another point: Matthew refers to it as great tribulation, but Luke refers to it as *days of vengeance*.

Luke 21:22 (KJV) For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Days of vengeance on whom? On the Jesus of Nazareth rejecting Jews who crucified their Christ, their Messiah. This is brought out very clearly in Dr. Baldwin's talk and it makes a whole lot of sense to me.

Evangelicals today are always talking about a future coming great tribulation of people. Some say this includes believers as well if you believe in a post-tribulation rapture. I cannot see how you can come up with this doctrine when you read Luke chapter 21, because it's clearly referring to God's judgment on the unbelieving Christ-rejecting Jews!

Anyway, there's a lot more to talk about on this subject, and you're only going to learn it if you take the time to read what Pastor Chuck Baldwin has to say and or read other articles about it on my website. I have written extensively about it:

<https://www.jamesjpn.net/?s=Matthew+24>

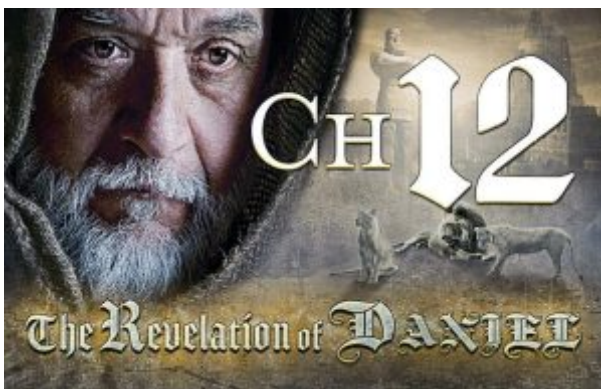
And of course, you can say all of the above are *also* really interpretations but please know that this was the standard Protestant interpretation up to the end of the 18th century. Bible commentators up to that time have all said Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 are fulfilled prophecies. This is not the same thing as Preterism! The preterists say that ALL of the Bible prophecies have been fulfilled, including all of the Book of Revelation, and I certainly don't believe that.

The “Taken” of Matthew 24:40 is NOT Talking about the Rapture of the Saints!



The “left” of Matthew 24:40 is talking about those who were not killed by the Romans, those who survived the Great Persecution.

Daniel 12 Explained in the Light of History



The text below is from [Philip Mauro](#)’s book, [THE SEVENTY WEEKS AND THE GREAT TRIBULATION](#).

MICHAEL THE GREAT PRINCE. THE TIME OF TROUBLE. MANY AWAKENING. MANY RETURNING TO AND FRO. KNOWLEDGE INCREASED. HOW LONG THE END.

The first four verses of Daniel 12 should not be disconnected from Chapter

11, for they are an integral part of the prophecy, there being no break at all at the place where the chapter division has been made. These concluding verses of the prophecy read as follows:

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people, and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time; and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise (lit. cause to be wise) shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”

These are the last words of the long prophecy, and they bring it to an appropriate climax. They tell what will happen “at that time,” emphasizing this by repetition. This expression connects the passage directly with verse 40 of the preceding Chapter, where the words “at the time of the end” occur. The same words are repeated in verse 4 of Chapter 12, just quoted. There is, therefore, no room to doubt that the events here foretold were to occur during the very last stage of “the latter days” of Jewish history. Moreover, the statement of verse 7, that when the power of the holy people should be scattered, then all these things should be finished, absolutely confines the fulfillment of the entire prophecy to the period anterior to the capture of Jerusalem by Titus. We specially ask attention to the great oath recorded in this verse, and trust that our readers will not miss the meaning of it.

Four things are specified in the passage last quoted. They are:

1. The standing up of Michael, the great prince who stands for the children of Daniel’s people.
2. A time of trouble such as never was at which time those found written in the book were to escape.
3. Many to awake from the dust of the earth, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt, in which connection is given a great promise to those who cause to be wise, and who turn many to righteousness.
4. Many to run to and fro, and knowledge to be increased.

Michael the Prince

Many able and sound expositors hold that Michael is one of the names of the Lord Jesus Christ and hence that this part of the prophecy was fulfilled by His first coming. But the reasons that have been advanced in support of this

view do not seem to us sufficient to establish it. This prophecy makes several references to great angelic beings, which are deeply interesting. Thereby it appears that national destinies are in some way presided over, and shaped, by mighty angels; and that Michael is specially charged to care for the interests of the people of God.

Jude speaks of "Michael the archangel" as contending with the devil about the body of Moses (Jude 9); and in (Revelation 12:7), Michael is again seen in conflict with the devil. Paul mentions the archangel (without naming him) as having to do with the resurrection of the saints (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

In Daniel there are three references to Michael, all in this prophecy given by the angel who appeared to Daniel on the banks of the Tigris. The first reference is in (Daniel 10:13,) where the angel says that the prince of the kingdom of Persia had withstood him, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to his aid. Again in the same chapter (Daniel 10:20-21) are the words: "And now I will return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Greece shall come ... And there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince."

From these words it appears that the political destinies of the great heathen nations of earth are presided over by mighty beings, who are rebels against the authority of God, high potentates in the Kingdom of Satan. None of those angelic beings stands for God "in these things" i.e., the affairs of the world except Michael, the archangel. This is in accord with the words of the Lord Jesus who speaks of the devil as "the prince of this world" (John 14:30, etc.).

Commenting upon Daniel 10:20-21, Dr. Taylor says:

"Then resuming his former theme, the heavenly revealer indicated that he had to return to fight again with the Persian evil angel, and that while he was going forth for (or continuing) that conflict, the prince of Greece would come, and a new battle would begin with him, in which the representative of God's people would be left to his own resources, with the single exception of the assistance of Michael.

"This description of the conflicts in the spirit world between the rival angels foreshadows the opposition encountered by Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah and their compatriots during the reigns of the Persian kings Darius Hystaspes, Xerxes and Artaxerxes, and also that which, at a later time, the descendants of the restorers of Jerusalem met with at the hands of the Syrian representatives of the Greek Empire. It prepares the way, therefore, for the literal statements which follow (Chapter 11) and from which we learn that, while the Persian kingdom lasted, the enmity of the World power to the people of God would be largely restrained, and the monarchs would be either positively favourable to them, or at least indisposed to harm them. But

with the Grecian Empire, especially in one of the four divisions into which it was to be broken up, a different course would be pursued, and the descendants of Israel would be reduced by it, for a season, to the most terrible extremities."

There is no revelation of the precise part taken by Michael, the great prince, in the affairs of God's people in the critical days to which this part of the prophecy relates, that is to say, the beginning of New Testament times; for Michael is not mentioned by name in the Gospels or Acts. But it was a time of manifest angelic activity; and we may be sure that Michael had a leading part in the events which were connected with the coming of Christ into the World. Moreover, we read that "the angel of the Lord" appeared several times to Joseph; that "the angel of the Lord" came to the shepherds on Bethlehem's plain, announcing the birth of the Savior; that "the angel of the Lord" opened the prison doors, setting the apostles free (Acts 5:9), and again released Peter from the prison, into which he had been cast by Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12:7); that the same "angel of the Lord" smote that king upon his throne when, upon a great public occasion, he gave not glory to God (Acts 12:23); and the same angel came to Paul at the time of the great shipwreck with God's message of deliverance (Acts 27:23). If this "angel of the Lord" was Michael, then we have many instances of his "standing up," in behalf of the people of God "at that time." But especially at the great crisis of danger the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies, which was particularly and definitely revealed to Daniel would there be need of intervention by those celestial beings who "excel in strength," and no doubt Michael then "stood up" for the deliverance of Daniel's people, even on behalf of "as many as were found written in the book."

It should be stated, in this connection, that the expression "written in the book" had been known since the days of Moses (Exodus 32:32) as a figurative description of those whom the Lord acknowledges as His own.

A Time of Trouble Such As Never Was

The prediction of "a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time," is the last thing in the chain of national events revealed in this prophecy; and in perfect agreement with it is the well known fact that the Jewish nation came to its end with a time of tribulation, distress and sufferings, of a severity beyond anything that was ever heard since the world began. Of this period of unparalleled tribulation Josephus says, in the introduction of his Wars of the Jews:

"It had come to pass that our city Jerusalem had arrived at a higher degree of felicity than any other city under the Roman government, and yet at last fell into the sorest of calamities again. Accordingly it appears to me that the misfortunes of all men from the beginning of the world, if they be compared to those of the Jews, are not so considerable as they were."

The sufferings of the Jews had this peculiar characteristic, namely, that they were mostly inflicted upon themselves by the warring factions within the city, concerning whom Joseph says in another place:

"It is impossible to go distinctly over every instance of these men's iniquity. I shall, therefore, speak my mind here at once briefly: That neither did any other city ever suffer such miseries, nor did any age ever breed a generation more fruitful in wickedness than this was, from the beginning of the world" (Wars V. 10:5).

This "great tribulation" is commonly in our day assigned to the future; and this view was held by the present writer himself until he made a personal study of the question. Our observations on this point, however, belong to the second division of our subject, the Lord's Prophecy on Mount Olivet (Matthew 24), so we will only say at present that so conclusive to our mind is the proof that the "great tribulation" of Matthew 24:21 was the then approaching siege of Jerusalem, that we are bound to believe that competent teachers who relegate it to the future have never examined and weighed the evidence.

Mr. Farquharson on this point says as follows:

"Our Savior certainly referred to the tribulations attendant on the fearful destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersion of the Jewish people by the Roman arms under Titus; and when we understand Daniel's time of trouble as belonging to the same events ... then the whole of his prophecy in Chapter 12 can be easily demonstrated to have received a signal and complete fulfillment in the Advent of Christ, in the deliverance wrought by Him ... in the awakening of men from the death of sin ... in the prophecy itself not being understood until explained by Christ (and then not understood by the unbelieving Jews, but understood by the Christian converts), in the continued impenitence and increasing wickedness of the unbelieving Jews, in the judgments at last sent upon them in the Roman war, in the duration of that war, and in the immediate abatement of the sufferings attending it upon Titus getting unexpected possession of the last strongholds of Jerusalem."

In the last clause of the above quotation the author had in mind the words of Christ "and except those days should be shortened there should no flesh be saved" (Matthew 24:22), upon all of which deeply interesting matters we hope to comment in the second part of our work.

Many Awakening Out of the Dust

The words "and many that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake," etc. are commonly taken as referring to the bodily resurrection of the dead, and this is one reason why the entire passage is frequently relegated to the future. But there is nothing said here about either death or resurrection. On the other hand, it can be abundantly shown that the words "sleep" and "awake" are common figurative expressions for the condition of those who are at first oblivious to the truth of God, but who are aroused by a message from Him out of that condition. Isaiah describes the people of Israel as being under the influence of "the spirit of deep sleep" (Isaiah 29:10); and again he says, "the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell

in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined" (Isaiah 9:2), which words are declared by the evangelist to have been fulfilled by the personal ministry of Christ in Israel (Matthew 4:14–16). Paul paraphrases another word of Isaiah (Isaiah 60:1) as having the meaning, "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" (Ephesians 5:14). And the Lord Himself declared that the era of this spiritual awakening had come, when He said, "The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live" (John 5:25). In both these last two passages the reference is to those who were spiritually dead, as all would agree.

The whole nation of Israel was "awakened" out of a sleep of centuries through the ministry of John the Baptist, followed by that of the Lord Himself, and lastly by that of the apostles and evangelists, who "preached the gospel unto them with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven." It will be observed that the prophecy does not indicate that those who are "awakened" shall all be saved. On the contrary, it says that for some the awakening would be "to everlasting life" and for others "to shame and everlasting contempt." In agreement with this is the fact which the Gospels so clearly set forth that, although multitudes came to John's baptism, and "all men mused in their hearts concerning him," and while multitudes also followed Christ because of the miracles done by Him, and for the sake of the loaves and fishes, yet the outcome was that Israel was divided into two classes, those who "received Him," and those who "received Him not." Thus "there was a division because of Him." His own words distinguish the two classes: "He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed on the Name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18). The former class awoke to "everlasting life" (John 3:16), and the latter "to shame and everlasting contempt" (John 3:36).

To the same effect the apostle John writes: "Nevertheless, among the chief rulers also many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue. For they loved the praise of men, more than the praise of God" (John 12:42–43). These, though awakened, refused to meet Christ's simple conditions of salvation by confessing Him (Matthew 10:32); therefore they awoke unto "shame," even as He Himself declared, when He said: "For whosoever shall be ashamed of Me, and of My words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He shall come in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:26).

The next verse of the prophecy strongly confirms the view we are now presenting; for there we have mention of the reward of those who "cause to be wise," and who "turn many to righteousness." What class of persons could possibly be meant but those who spread the truth of the gospel? There are none others, and never will be others, who cause their fellows to be "wise" unto salvation, and "who turn many" from sin "to righteousness." Seeing, therefore, that we have the awakening foretold in verse 2 connected closely with a clear reference to those who preach the gospel of Christ, we have good reason to conclude that the passage had its fulfillment in that great and wonderful era of Jewish national existence, "the time of the end" thereof, during which Christ was announced and manifested, was rejected and crucified,

was raised up and glorified, and finally was preached to the whole nation in the power of the Holy Ghost.

The nature of the reward promised to those “who cause to be wise” and “who turn many to righteousness” helps also to illustrate the meaning of the passage. These are to shine as the brightness of the firmament and as the stars forever and ever. This reminds us that the people of God are to let their light shine before men, and that they are “the light of the world.” In holding forth the word of life they “shine as lights in the world.” Once they were darkness, but now are they “light in the Lord;” and their reward shall be to shine as the stars for ever and ever; for as “one star differeth from another star in glory, so also is the resurrection of the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:41–42).

Many Shall Run To and Fro

Various meanings have been assigned to the words “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” These words bring the prophecy to an end; and it is not difficult to see the resemblance they bear to the final words of the first Gospel, “Go ye, teach (or make disciples of) all nations.” Another Gospel records their obedience to this command; for it is written that “They went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them” (Mark 16:20).

The word “run” in Daniel 12:4 is not the usual word for the action of running. Strong’s Concordance says it means primarily to push, hence to travel or go about. What helps fix the meaning is that, in nearly all its occurrences in the Bible, it is joined, as here, with the words “to and fro,” which signify a complete covering of the ground. Thus, the prophet said to King Asa, “The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth” (2 Chronicles 16:9). Jeremiah says, “Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek,” etc. (Jeremiah 5:1); and again, “Lament, and run to and fro by the hedges” (Jeremiah 49:3). Amos says, “They shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it” (Amos 8:12), this being just the reverse of the Word of the Lord seeking after them. Zechariah also has the expression, “They are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth” (Zechariah 4:10), signifying His discerning presence in every place.

By these scriptures, therefore, it appears that the words we are considering are most appropriate to describe that worldwide activity in spreading the truth of the gospel which the Lord specially pressed upon His disciples, and to which the apostle Paul refers in the words, “How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things” (Romans 10:14–15, quoting Isaiah 52:7). The gospel messenger is frequently figured as one who runs, because of the urgency of the tidings he bears (Habakkuk 2:2–3).

And what was the purpose, and what the result of this going forth of the disciples to every part of the world with the gospel? It was the increase of

knowledge; and certainly, in such a prophecy, it is the knowledge of the true God that is spoken of (John 17:4; 1 Corinthians 15:34; Colossians 1:10). The world lay in the darkness of ignorance. Paul describes those times as "the times of this ignorance," wherein even the cultivated Athenians erected an altar to "the Unknown God" (Acts 17:23-30); and God Himself had said, even of the Jews, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). Thus we see the direct relation of the two clauses, "Many shall run to and fro," and "knowledge shall be increased," and how both are clearly fulfilled in the activities of the first gospel preachers.

As to this Mr. Farquharson remarks:

"The Divine 'knowledge,' which the apostles and first Christians ran to and fro to communicate to all nations, maintains, and ever will maintain, a lofty and unapproachable superiority over all the knowledge that man can discover for himself ... In this way then the prediction of Daniel was literally fulfilled. The day spring of true knowledge from on high waited upon the footsteps of the apostles of Christ, as they traversed the Gentile world, dispelling darkness, and doubt and fear, and diffusing light, and confidence and joy over every condition of human life."

Thus understood, the words "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased," bring the prophecy to a most appropriate conclusion, and one that is strictly in keeping with its announced purpose, and with its purport as a whole; whereas, to make those words refer to the multiplication of rapidly moving conveyances, as rail road trains, automobiles, etc., and to the spread of "education" by means of schools, colleges, and books, is to introduce into the prophecy an element that is incongruous, almost to the point of absurdity.

How Long the End?

With Chapter 12:4, the long prophecy, which had proceeded without interruption and without passing over any important event in the history of "the latter days" of the Jewish people, comes to an end. But a remarkable incident follows, and it affords help to the understanding of this part of the prophecy. At this point Daniel looked and beheld two others besides the one clothed in linen, which two were standing the one on the one side, and the other on the other side of the bank of the river (the Tigris). And thereupon one of these two put to the man who was clothed in linen a question, to which evidently it was desired that special attention be paid. Furthermore, the reply was given by the man in linen in the most solemn and impressive manner; for in replying he held up both hands to heaven, and swore by Him Who liveth forever. This further goes to show that we have here a matter of exceptional importance. Let us then give special heed to it.

The question was, "How long the end of these wonders?" In quoting it thus we have omitted the words, "shall it be to," which the translators have supplied, and which materially change the sense. We have seen that the

expression "the time of the end" means, not the actual termination, but the period of time at the very end, the last stage of the entire era of the renewed national life of Israel. Evidently it is the duration of that "time of trouble," spoken of in verse 1, and concerning which the Lord Himself when on earth was so deeply distressed and grieved, as we shall point out more particularly hereafter. It is the same period as that to which He was referring when He said, "these be the days of vengeance that all things that are written may be fulfilled" (Luke 21:22); and again, "And except those days be shortened there should no flesh be saved, but for the elects' sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:22). So it is concerning the duration of those days of unparalleled distress for Israel that the question was asked.

Let us then note carefully the reply of the one clothed in linen, which was in these words, "that it shall be for a time, times, and a half (or apart, margin); and when He shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished" (verse 7).

Here we have information, very clearly stated, which, if we give heed thereto, will make perfectly plain to us the time when this entire prophecy was to be fulfilled. For the celestial messenger, in answering the question, made known first what would be the duration of the closing period of "trouble such as never was," and second what was to be the end of the whole series of events, "all these things," predicted in the entire prophecy. The words are clear and precise. They tell us that the last act of all was to be the scattering of the power of the holy people, and that when God had accomplished that, and then would "all these things be finished." To the same effect are the words of Christ, Who, in telling His disciples what the very end of those "days of vengeance" would be, said that "they shall be led away captive into all nations" (Luke 21:24).

This makes it certain that the entire prophecy spoken to Daniel by the one clothed in linen, including the time of trouble such as never was, and the awakening of many from the dust of the earth, was fulfilled at and prior to the destruction of Jerusalem, and the scattering of the power of the holy people by the Romans in A.D. 70. It also affords substantial help in understanding the Lord's discourse on Mount Olivet, to which we will shortly come.

A Time, Times and A Part

But before the scattering of the holy people a judgment which Moses had predicted (see Deuteronomy 28:49-68, and particularly the words, "And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even to the other," verse 64) a certain period of extreme distress, "the days of vengeance," was to run. This is given by the angel as "a time, times, and a part," which is understood by nearly all expositors to be three full years and a part (not necessarily the half) of a fourth. But no event was mentioned from which this era of three years and a fraction was to run. So Daniel says, "I heard, but I understood not;" and therefore he asks, "What shall be the end of these things?" (Daniel 12:6)

In replying to this question the one clothed in linen gave information additional to that asked for; but we will notice first what he said in direct reply to Daniel's question. This is found in Daniel 12:11-12) where we read: "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth (i.e., survives, or endures) and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days."

It is to be noted that the two measures of time here given, 1290 days and 1335 days, both fall within the period of three years and a part, given in verse 7 as the full measure of the time of the end. This tends still further to confirm the view that by "a time, times, and a part" is meant three full rounds of the annual feasts of the Jews, and part of a fourth.

It will further be seen from this answer that Daniel's question had reference to the very last epoch of Jewish history; for it was in that very last stage of their national existence that the daily sacrifice was caused to cease, which was by them regarded (when it came to pass in the days of the siege of Jerusalem, as we shall presently show) the harbinger of some dire calamity.

The Taking Away of the Daily Sacrifice

We take the marginal reading (which is the more literal) as giving the sense, the words of the margin being "and to set up the abomination," etc. This reading would make the 1290 days the measure of time between the two specified events. But we have lately seen an interpretation, based on the text of the A.V., which makes the taking away of the daily sacrifice, and the setting up of the abomination that maketh desolate, simultaneous events, both governed by the preposition "from." But this obviously leaves the verse without meaning; for it gives a measure of time from two specified events, without stating to what that measure brings us.

The "daily sacrifice" was the sacrifice of a lamb every morning and evening. This was to be kept up by the children of Israel throughout all their generations, and a special promise was given upon condition that this offering be continued (Exodus 29:38-45). (It should be observed that the causing of the sacrifice and oblation to cease, as foretold in Daniel 9:27, is a very different thing.)

Now, as a matter of historic fact, the daily sacrifice was taken away during the siege of Jerusalem; and this was counted by the Jews an event of such importance, and such a portent of approaching disaster, that Josephus has recorded the very date on which it occurred, saying:

"And now Titus gave orders to his soldiers that were with him to dig up the foundations of the tower of Antonia, and make a ready passage for his army to come up, while he himself had Josephus brought to him; for he had been informed that, on that very day, which was the seventeenth day of Panemus, the sacrifice called 'the daily sacrifice' had failed, and had not been offered to God for want of men to offer it; and that the people were grievously troubled at it" (Wars, VI. 2.1.).

The Roman army, which, by comparison of the Lord's words in (Matthew 24:15–16 Luke 21: 20–21,) is clearly seen to be "the abomination which maketh desolate," encompassed Jerusalem before the failure of the daily sacrifice; whereas it might appear from the wording of the prophecy that those events occurred in the reverse order. But Mr. Farquharson shows that "there is nothing whatever in the verbs of the sentence to indicate which of the events should precede the other; the interval of time between them only is expressed."

The first approach of the Roman armies under Cestius is described by Josephus in his book of Wars, II17, 10. This was in the month corresponding to our November, A.D. 66. The taking away of the daily sacrifice was in the month Panemus, corresponding to the Hebrew Tammuz, and our July, A.D. 70 (Hartwell Horne's Chronological Table). Thus the measure of time between the two events was three years, and part of a fourth.

But more than this: the measure 1290 days is exactly 43 great months (30 days each, according to the Hebrew method of reckoning), and inasmuch as their practice was to reckon by even weeks, months, and years the fulfillment of this part of the prophecy is seen in the fact that it is just 43 even months between the two events, ignoring the parts of the two months in which the events severally occurred.

In verse 12 those are pronounced "blessed," or happy, who survive a further period of 45 days, and thus come to the 1335 days. In correspondence with this is the recorded fact that, about a month and a half after the daily sacrifice failed, the siege was ended by Titus' getting sudden and unexpected possession of the upper city, the last stronghold of the besieged. This last action took place, according to Josephus, the seventh day of the Hebrew month Elul, answering to our September; so that the further duration of the siege after the failure of the daily sacrifice was approximately one month and a half (Wars, VI 8, 4, 5).

That those days were "shortened" (as the Lord had promised) by some Divine interference, is indicated by the abrupt and unexpected manner in which the last stronghold fell. Josephus tells how the "tyrants" (the dominant faction in the city):

"Did now wholly deprive themselves of the security they had in their own power, and came down from those very towers of their own accord, wherein they could never have been taken by force. ... They left those towers of themselves; or rather they were ejected out of them by God Himself ... The Romans, when they had gotten on the last wall without any bloodshed, could hardly believe what they found to be true" (ibid).

As regards the promised blessing of verse 12 (Daniel 12:12), it may be observed that Titus immediately extended clemency to the survivors and he set free those who had been bound by the tyrants (Wars, VI, 9, 1).

But we agree with Farquharson that blessing of a higher sort is here intended. For we would recall words of like import spoken by the Lord when, referring to the same period of unequalled distress, He said, "But he that

shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13). As to this Mr. Farquharson says:

"Unquestionably this is His promise to the faithful and persevering and obedient in all ages of His Church; but, as being comprehended in His prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem, it has special reference to those who should endure under the trials peculiar to the last great war, in which that city was to be trodden down. Those trials, He intimated, would be very severe. He said, 'There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.'"

But to those who should endure all those trials there was the assurance of special blessing.

In concluding our comments under this heading we would observe that, in Daniel's deep concern regarding this time of "the end," as to which he inquired with such anxiety, we see a further and a convincing reason for the view that the period in question was that of the unparalleled calamities which were to accompany the extinction of his nation and the destruction of the beloved city, as foretold also in the preceding prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. It is most unlikely that Daniel would have evinced such concern regarding the end of some far off Gentile dispensation characterized by the wide diffusion of secular knowledge, and by the many automobiles and other swiftly moving conveyances of this present time. Daniel had the spirit of the Lord Himself in showing acute sorrow because of the unequaled distresses which were to befall his people and their holy city and temple.

The Period of Three And A Half Years

In commenting upon the period of three and a half years, and upon the various theories to which it has given rise, Dr. Taylor says:

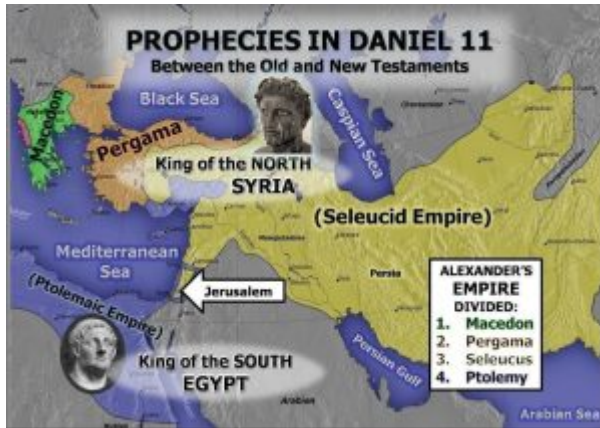
"We cannot pass this note of number without remarking on the singular coincidences presented by its frequent occurrence both in history and prophecy. The drought in the days of Elijah lasted three years and six months. The little horn which appeared on the head of the fourth beast was to have the saints given into his hands 'until a time, and times, and the dividing of time.' The public ministry of the Messiah was to continue for half a week (or heptad) of years; that is, for three years and a half. His Gospel was to be preached to the Jews after His ascension for another half heptad before it was proclaimed to the Gentiles. Then, in the Book of Revelation, it is said that the woman shall be nourished in the wilderness 'for a time and times and a half a time,' and that the holy city should be trodden under foot forty and two months, which are three and a half years.¹ "Now all these are marvelous coincidences, and they point to the existence of some hidden harmony which has not

yet been discovered. I might add that three and a half is the half of the number seven, which (found in the week) has been recognized as the symbol of completeness. The sacred lamp has seven branches; the seventh was the Sabbath year; and at the end of seven sevens came the Jubilee. So also the seventy years of the captivity were made the basis of the seven seventies of years which were to run their course from the time when the edict to rebuild Jerusalem went forth until the appearance of the Messiah upon the earth. I do not know what to make of all this. I frankly acknowledge that it baffles me to find a reason for it. I merely state the fact, and leave you to ponder it for yourselves, that you may learn how much there is, not only in prophecy, but also in history, which lies beyond our ken ...

“If any choose to regard all this as being not only applicable to Antiochus, but also through him, as typical of the New Testament Antichrist, and should take the days of the history of the one for years in the history of the other, I have only to say that I find nothing, either here or in the New Testament, to sanction such a procedure. For me, the interpretation which I have endeavored to give is sufficient. They who go further leave the domain of certainty for that of speculation, and the very number of their conflicting opinions is a warning to every expositor not to venture beyond his depth into these dark waters. For myself, I am content to stand upon the shore and wait, like him to whom were first addressed these reassuring words, ‘Go thy way; for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.’”

¹ Also God’s two witnesses (Revelation 11:3) are to prophecy a thousand two hundred and threescore days (the same period stated in terms of days): and of the ten-horned Beast it is said that power would be given unto him to continue forty and two months. (Revelation 13:5.)

[Daniel 11:21-45 Explained in the Light of History](#)



To correctly interpret Bible prophecy, we much have a good knowledge of history lest we think a fulfilled prophecy is yet to be fulfilled in the future.

The Seven Seals of Revelation Chapter 6 Shown to be Fulfilled Historically



The meaning of the 7 seals of the book of Revelation.