

teemit For Children

Bible Lesson Quarterly

Year 1 - 3rd Quarter - "DANIEL, THE PROPHET"

In this series of Bible Story Lessons we are going to learn something about the wonderful things that happened to a boy named Daniel. When Daniel grew up God gave him some special messages to write down for people in our times. We are going to learn all about it!

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible, just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days. There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

Weekly Bible Lesson #1: "DANIEL, THE PROPHET"

MEMORY VERSE: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11.

Sunday

Text: Daniel 1:1,2 "In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god."

After the death of good king Josiah, Judah quickly went back to heathen sun worship worse than ever. This is why God allowed their enemies to attack them. Jehoiakim even took the words of the prophet that God sent to warn him, and cut them up and burned them. God said that because he had done this, he would not be honoured, but be buried like a donkey.

If you look in Matthew 1 were it tells about the earthly ancestors of Jesus, it says, "Josias begat Jechonias" Now actually Josiah was

his grandfather, but Jehoiakim, his father is left out of the record. The Bible warns "if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life," Revelation 22:19.

It is a dangerous thing to reject or destroy the words of the prophets from God, either in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy writings. The people that make the modern versions of the Bible, which change and leave out many things, had better repent or they will be in big trouble!

Thought - God wants to bless His children, but if they refuse to obey Him, and reject every way He tries to instruct them; He finally has to allow Satan to have his way with them.

Monday

Text: Daniel 1:3,4 "And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children

of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans."

Nebuchadnezzar was a wise man. He realized that the most precious treasure he could get from the lands that he conquered, was skilful and intelligent people to serve him. So he told his generals to watch out for smart young men and bring them to be schooled to work in his kingdom.

Daniel and his friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: were among some of the first people to go into captivity from Judah. Even though the leaders and most of the people in Judah were following heathen ways and sinning against God, Daniel and his friends had been raised to honour and obey God.

In their homes they had been taught useful work, good manners, scriptures and health rules and above all, to trust God and put Him first in their lives.

In Babylon they were given new names "he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego"

Thought- They must have wondered why God allowed them to be taken away to Babylon; but God had an important work for them there.

Tuesday

Text: Daniel 1:5, 8 "And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. **8: But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of**

the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

The four young men found themselves in a difficult place. The king thought he was doing them a special favour. After all, they were captive slaves, and here he was feeding them from his own table! And they felt they had to refuse that diet. No doubt they may have considered "Well, we better just do what we are told, or we may be killed." But Daniel decided that he would honour God no matter what.

You see there were some problems with the king's diet.

- 1: It was offered to idols.
- 2: It contained unclean meats.
- 3: It was rich and spicy, not good brain-food.
- 4: It included alcoholic wines.

There may have been other problems also.

Daniel knew that if he wanted to stay well and strong, as well as alert and smart, he needed a plain, vegetarian diet with lots of pure water to drink. Here he was in a heathen palace and he knew there would be lots of temptations and satanic tricks to watch out for and avoid. He needed an alert mind and a healthy body, so he would always honour God in all that he did.

Thought - If you want to be strong and smart, follow the health laws! There's no other way.

Wednesday

Text: Daniel 1:12, 13 "Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants."

The Bible tells us, "Now God had brought

Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.” He had become friends with this man through being kind and showing courtesy and so Daniel asked for them to be excused from the king’s diet.

Now this was a problem to the men in charge of Daniel and his friends because they knew if the young men appeared sick or weak, and the king found out his orders were not obeyed, no doubt the prince over the eunuchs would be executed! He didn’t want to risk it.

But God helped Daniel, and the man in charge of them agreed to test them for 10 days and see what would happen. If they did well on the diet they requested, OK, but if they were not as healthy as the captives on the king’s diet, then they must agree to eat from the king’s table.

Thought - God will always open a way so His children can obey Him if they determine in their hearts to do so.

Thursday

Text: Daniel 1:14-16 “So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king’s meat. Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.”

Pulse meant what we would call a vegetarian diet. After the 10 days, Daniel and his friends were the picture of health and when compared to the students eating the rich unhealthful dainties of the king’s table, all could see the difference. God blessed them for standing true to Him that is for sure. But the fact is, that if any group of people were divided into two groups, and one group given rich food, with meats, fat and spices along with alcohol, and the other group given plain natural vegetable foods with pure water— you would see the same results.

Remember, God is the one who made us. He loves us and wants us to be happy. His ways always lead to health and happiness even if they seem to be a problem at first. It is just because we are naturally inclined to sin that God’s rules seem to go against what we think will make us happy. But if we trust Him and surrender ‘self’ and decide to obey God, no matter what, we will never be sorry.

Thought - It is a great temptation today to eat sugary ‘treats’ and refined foods and those ‘yummy’ fast foods, as they seem to be everywhere. But you will never have your best health unless you put good, clean, natural foods into your body, and plenty of pure water.

Friday

Text: Daniel 1:17 “As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”

Day by day they studied all the learning of Babylon. And there were some interesting sciences there to learn! Some of the secrets of building the Babylonian hanging gardens, called the ‘wonder of the world’, and some of the ancient methods of building are not known today; they are lost to us.

After a period of years in which Daniel and his friends studied in Babylon there came the day when the king himself would talk to them and examine them. This was sort of their final examination. And what was the result? “And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.” Daniel 1:20

The natural diet was one reason for this, but also knowing God and studying scripture will make a mind smarter, while the heathen worship, being actually the worship of devils, makes both body and mind unhealthy.

It is interesting that because Daniel and his friends put God first, they stood faithful

through all other temptations that came their way. Daniel is one of the few people that the Bible contains no record of his sinning. If they had compromised and decided not to 'make a big deal' out of the diet issue, they would soon have given up everything else and become more heathen than their captors.

Thought - It seems so easy when all around you are doing something that you know is not good, to just sort of go along with it, so they don't think you are odd. But by doing this, we lose God's blessing and His protection; and no one can resist Satan in their own power! = ^..^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #2: "THE KING'S DREAM"

MEMORY VERSE: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19

Read the whole story in Daniel 2

Sunday

Text: 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."

The King called for his wise men and magicians. As soon as they came before the King they were worried; the king was upset and angry like a lion; this was a problem! Quickly the king explains the situation. "I have dreamed a dream."

Perhaps at this the 'wise men' relax a little. A Dream? Well they were experts at making up pleasing explanations for dreams. "Let the King tell the dream and we will explain it" they assure him.

"I tell you I can't remember the dream!" he shouts, "You tell me my dream AND what it means!"

All faces pale at this; they had no problem with making up lying explanations, but if they made up a lying dream—the King would know and goodbye heads!

Shocked to the core, they begin to reason with the King that his demand was impossible. "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." Daniel 2:11

Now they had really goofed! They were

always claiming that they could talk with the gods and had all knowledge. You know; 'Great Swami; sees all and knows all', and here they admit it's all a pack of lies. No wonder the King was furious!

"For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon." Daniel 2:12

Thought - If one is in the habit of telling lies, someday he will get caught in them!

Monday

Text: Daniel 2:13 "And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain."

The pagan wise men of the land were really foolish in many ways. The Bible tells us the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and those who worship idols are not smart. (Pr 9:10. Isa 45:16) So they hadn't even begun to be wise; they were jealous of Daniel and his friends, keeping them out of the affairs of the king as much as they could. Now here they were, being marched off to be executed; they didn't feel so good about that.

Even though Daniel and his friends didn't get called to appear before the King, they were still included in the decree for the execution, and here came the chief executioner pounding on their door, still early in the morning: "Get up and go to your execution!"

Talk about a bad day!

Because Daniel knew he belonged to God, he remained calm and asked what the problem was. Then he assured the chief guard that if the King would just give a little time, he would be able to talk with the God of heaven, and tell the King what he wanted to know.

The time was granted, and Daniel and his friends fasted and prayed that God would reveal the secret to them for His honour and glory. That night God gave Daniel the same dream as was seen by the King. Read Daniel's prayer of thanks in Daniel 2:20-23

Thought - If God gives a prophetic dream to a heathen, he sends a man of God to interpret it. Magicians and fortune-tellers are not able to understand the things of God.

Tuesday

Text: Daniel 2: 30 "But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart."

Coming in before the king, and being careful to give all the credit for knowing the dream, to the God of heaven, Daniel tells the strange dream of a great image made of different metals; 'The form thereof was terrible'. The head was gold then the chest and arms were silver, the belly and thighs were brass, and the legs iron, but the feet were made of iron mixed with clay.

Then in the dream, a great stone appeared, cut out with hands from a mountain, and hit the image on the feet, causing it to crumble into dust, which was then blown away and seen no more. The rock grew larger and filled the whole earth.

The King was sitting on the edge of his throne, amazed and excited. Daniel continues telling him what the dream meant: "You were thinking about the future and God of heaven has sent you this dream to tell you about what will happen." Daniel tells the king

that the head of gold is his kingdom, "Thou art that head of gold." But he goes on to say that another kingdom will follow and it would not be as great as Babylon. Then a third kingdom of brass, followed by a fourth of iron, but then the story changes there is to be no fifth world kingdom, instead the iron kingdom breaks up.

The image progresses from the valuable and beautiful head of gold, Babylon the golden kingdom; all the way down to clay and iron, ugly and almost worthless, showing each kingdom lower in value to the one before it. Now if this was something made up by man, they naturally would say that the kingdoms got better and richer, wouldn't they? Men think that things get better and better on this earth don't they? But God tells the truth; it is getting worse and worse!

Thought - This amazing prophecy is one of the strongest proofs that the Bible is the true Word of God. No man could have made this up, and it is still true today!

Wednesday

Text Daniel 2:42, 43 "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."

'Every nation that has come upon the stage of action has been permitted to occupy its place on the earth, that the fact might be determined whether it would fulfil the purposes of the Watcher and the Holy One. Prophecy has traced the rise and progress of the world's great empires, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. With each of these, as with the nations of less power, history has repeated itself. Each has had its period of test; each has failed, its glory faded, its power departed.' *Prophets & Kings*, page 535.

Now here is another amazing thing; if a man was making this story up and there had

been four world kingdoms, would he not have said there would be a fifth? But No, God said there would be only four, and the Iron kingdom of Rome would just crumble into a mixture of strong and weak pieces.

The final part of the image is where we are today, the feet mixed with iron and clay. Now as the Bible says, Iron and clay do NOT mix together. They won't cleave, that is stick to each other. Iron is strong but clay is weak and so our world is made up of nations, some strong and others weak.

Daniel went on to explain to the king that in those times of the clay and iron, the kings of earth would try by having their daughters and sons marry each other, to unite the countries into one again, but it would not work. The Kings and Queens of Europe for hundreds of years did this, until all the ruling families were related to each other, but still they would not 'cleave' one to another!

Many great rulers have tried to put the kingdoms back together and rule them all; there were Charlemagne, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm and Hitler but they all failed and perished.

Thought - God's Word will never fail! We can trust it to guide us right and know that everything written there will come true! God has given us the prophecies so we can see that He is God, and He knows what is happening. His people can rely on Him!

Thursday

Text: Daniel 2: 40,41 "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. 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."

This terrible Iron Kingdom of Rome ruled the world as described in the prophecy, with

harsh cruelty. Then the iron and clay brings us to the time of Papal Rome and we are told it represents the mixing together of church and government. In Papal Rome the church used the government power to force the people to obey it. This is wrong and brings the most terrible trouble to the world. You cannot mix iron and clay together and have it work; the mixture is good for nothing as the clay spoils the iron, and the iron ruins the clay. When people try and put the worldly governments together with God's church, it spoils both the government and the church.

'The kingdoms that followed (Babylon) were even more base and corrupt. They deteriorated because they cast off their allegiance to God. As they forgot Him, they sank lower and still lower in the scale of moral value. The vast empire of Rome crumbled to pieces, and from its ruins rose that mighty power, the Roman Catholic Church. This church boasts of her infallibility and her hereditary religion. But this religion is a horror to all who are acquainted with the secrets of the mystery of iniquity. The priests of this church maintain their ascendancy by keeping the people in ignorance of God's will, as revealed in the Scriptures.' Youth's Instructor, September 22, 1903.

Thought - God's kingdom is never, never to be ruled by force or worldly power. God only accepts those who serve Him because they want to.

Friday

Text: Daniel 2:44 "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."

The last event in the dream was the Rock, cut out without hands, that hits the image and grinds it to powder. This Rock is Jesus' kingdom, which at His coming will destroy all of man's proud glory, which will blow away

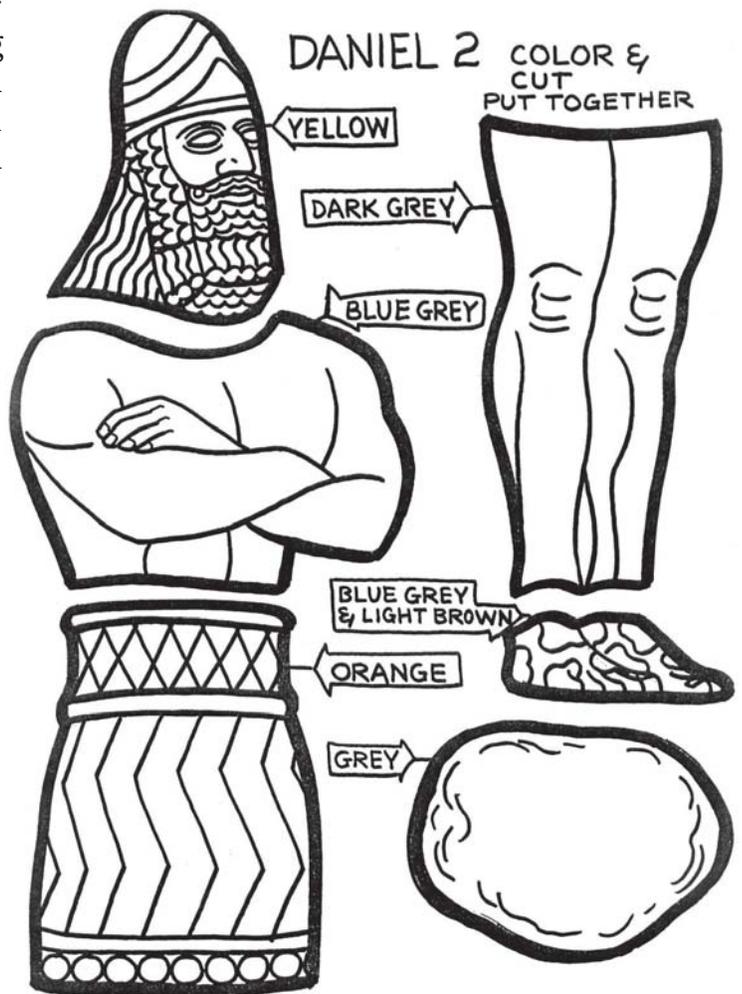
like dust. Jesus' Truth, his Word will overcome all, and those who trust in Him shall never be ashamed, and will never be sorry that they gave all their hearts and lives to Him. But the people who reject God and spend their time on the things of the world, wealth, power, possessions, fun and entertainment, will be sorry, for it will all be crushed to powder and blow away, leaving them lost for eternity.

In the lessons to follow we are going to learn more about the prophecies of the book of Daniel. There are four sets of prophecies in Daniel and each one tells the same story as the Kings dream, but each one adds more details and shows us more clearly what God said about the future. When you study the prophecies and history together and see how clearly and simply God showed, thousands of years ahead of time, just what would happen, in detail; your faith will grow stronger and you will know we serve a great, living God. The pioneers of the Adventists did study and understand those prophecies, and that was what gave them great courage and

hope. This knowledge will give you courage and hope also.

'The Lord was working in the Babylonian kingdom, and communicating light to the four Hebrew youth, in order that he might represent his work before the idolatrous nation. He would reveal that he had power over the kingdoms of the world, power to enthrone and to dethrone kings. The King over all kings was communicating great truths to the Babylonian monarch, and awakening in his mind a realisation of his responsibility to God. Nebuchadnezzar saw clearly the difference between the wisdom of God and the wisdom of the most learned men of his kingdom.' Youth's Instructor, September 8, 1903.

Thought - The wisdom of God's Word, the Bible, is higher than man's ideas as the stars are higher than the earth! = ^ .. ^ =



Weekly Bible Lesson #3: "THE FIERY FURNACE"

MEMORY VERSE: "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Isaiah 43:2

Read the story in Daniel 3.

Sunday

Text: Daniel 3:1 "Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon."

Even though Daniel being able to tell the King what he wanted to know had spared their lives, the wise men of Babylon hated Daniel and his friends. They were idol worshippers, and as such, they really worshipped Satan, and he guided them to try and get rid of the true worshippers of God. He has always done this and always will, until he is finally destroyed.

We are told that for a while the King turned to the worship of the true God, but it didn't last long; soon he was back worshipping idols and more into his heathen worship than ever before. Now the heathen priests could influence him, and they suggested that he make an image, like the one in his dream, but ALL of gold, to show that his kingdom would last forever!

This was really telling God He was a liar, but Nebuchadnezzar liked the idea and so he made a huge, tall, golden image on the plains of Dura. It must have been an awesome sight!

Now, it took a lot of work for this image to be made, and so for a long time furnaces blazed and men laboured on the building of the huge image. This gave warning to the people of God that they were soon going to have a terrible trial come upon them. The wise ones prayed and asked God for courage and strength to always obey Him. The foolish just pretended it wasn't happening.

Thought - We know that trials are ahead of us today, and so we need to seek to know

God's will and ask for boldness always to obey Him.

Monday

Text: Daniel 3:2 "Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up."

Now in this story for some reason Daniel was not there when the King had all the rulers gather to worship his image. Maybe the King arranged for him to be elsewhere, we are not told. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, Daniel's three friends were there though and they stood on the plain of Dura with all the other people who had come from all over the world to dedicate the king's great image.

This statue was about ninety feet in height and nine in breadth, and really looked awesome to those people who worshipped idols! And the King had arranged for all kinds of music to be played at the event to have an effect on the people to make them feel even more like worshipping this great idol. Satan also uses music today to get our minds thinking in wrong ways. We must be careful what kind of music we listen to!

Shadrach; Meshach; and Abednego, (their Babylon names) obeyed the King as much as they could without disobeying God. They were there with the rest of the people from all over the world. Now with all these rulers from other countries gazing at the amazing image, the scene was set and the universe watched to see if the people of God would

honour God or man.

Thought - If these three young people had not stood for God in the matter of their diet, they would not have been able to stand for Him now!

Tuesday

Text: Daniel 3:6 “And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.”

We can imagine that there were some huge furnaces right handy there, where the metal to make the great idol had been melted, and the King had arranged to have one of them burning red hot, just to impress people that he meant what he said.

The moment of crisis came! The music sounded and everybody fell down and worshipped that great image. Yes, everybody—except three young men, Hebrew slaves; there they stood as tall as ever! They didn't even pretend to bend over and tie their sandals! No! They had decided no matter what happened; they would honour their God.

Now just think about that scene; the huge image towering above the plain; the music playing; hundreds and thousands of great men all worshipping with their faces to the ground. All except two groups; the three Hebrews and the wicked Priests who had plotted to get them killed. They were worshipping, yes; but also watching the young men so they could tell on them. After all, with so many people there, the king might not notice. As soon as they could they ran up to the king to snitch on the young Hebrews.

Thought - Are we ready to stand tall for God and honour Him in all we do?

Wednesday

Text: Daniel 3:12 “There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy

gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

The King angrily ordered that such bold breakers of his law be brought before him so he could look at them. When he saw that it was the young Hebrews that had helped him before, he decided to give them a second chance.

“Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? Daniel 3:14,15

But the three young men didn't need a second chance, courteously but plainly they told the King that they would not worship his image, no matter what he did. “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.” They said, “But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

Now the king was so angry his face was red and all twisted out of shape! He ordered the furnace be made as hot as it possibly could be, and then he ordered these young men tied up, and his strongest soldiers to throw them into the raging fire.

Thought - All those great men from all over the world were watching to see what was going to happen!

Thursday

Text: Daniel 3:24,25 “Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men

bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”

The fire was so hot, that the men who were ordered to throw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the fire, were killed by the heat! Nebuchadnezzar watched to see those who had dared to disobey him go up in smoke. But suddenly his mouth dropped open in amazement as he saw people walking around in the raging flames. And not just three, but FOUR people loose and walking around unhurt.

He knew about the Creator God, as Daniel had taught him at the time when he had interpreted the King’s dream. He knew also, because of seeing the difference in the lives of the true followers of God, compared to the Idol worshippers. And he recognized that this fourth Person— was none other than the Son of God!

Now all his plans to exalt himself, and have people worship the way he told them to, had come to nothing. He was standing in awe at the display of the power from the great God of Heaven! Going as close to the fire as he dares, he calls to them, “Come out, O, ye servants of the most high God”, and they come out of the fire and stand before the King.

They are examined and there is not even the smell of fire on their clothes! Only the cords that they had been tied up with, were burned off.

Thought - God honours those who honour Him! If obeying Him gets us in trouble, we can know He will be with us, even if we don’t always see Him.

Friday

Text: Daniel 3:28,29 “Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and

Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.”

Remember that all the great men from all over the world-wide Empire of Babylon were there on the plain, and they were very impressed with what had happened. God had changed what Satan and his wicked followers had meant to be a blow against the True people of God, into a victory for Truth! As they all later returned to their various countries, they carried the decree and the story they had seen with their own eyes, all over the world.

Even as far away as in China, people worshipped the true God and kept the seventh-day Sabbath in honour of Him.

Nebuchadnezzar had been taught a great lesson, but he still had lots to learn about God’s ways. We see here that he was still ready to use force to make people worship God. It is not the way of God that anybody be made to worship Him. Whenever we see force being used to make people worship or go to church, we know that Satan is having his way there, not Jesus.

Thought - “Important are the lessons to be learned from the experience of the Hebrew youth on the plain of Dura. In this our day, many of God’s servants, though innocent of wrongdoing, will be given over to suffer humiliation and abuse at the hands of those who, inspired by Satan, are filled with envy and religious bigotry. Especially will the wrath of man be aroused against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment; and at last a universal decree will de-

nounce these as deserving of death. The season of distress before God's people will call for a faith that will not falter. His children must make it manifest that He is the only

object of their worship, and that no consideration, not even that of life itself, can induce them to make the least concession to false worship." Prophets & Kings, pages 512.
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Weekly Bible Lesson #4: "THE MAD KING"

MEMORY VERSE: "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and His ways judgement: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase." Daniel 4:37

Read the story in Daniel 4.

Sunday

Text: Daniel 4:1-3 "Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation."

This is an amazing chapter of the Bible. It was written by Nebuchadnezzar himself, and it tells about a lesson that he had to learn the hard way. When he wrote this, he was the richest and most powerful man on earth. He was smart too, and highly educated. He had lots to be proud about, we would admit. But God changed him from being a proud monarch, boasting about himself, to a humble child of God.

Already God had taught a few important lessons to Nebuchadnezzar. In the dream of the image, God had shown him that God is the one who sets up and brings down kings and kingdoms.

Then the haughty King had tried to defy the dream by making it appear that his kingdom would last forever but God had defeated his plans right in front of the great men from all over the world.

But the lesson had still not completely

sunk in. So now we see Nebuchadnezzar awakening from another disturbing dream. He could remember this one so again he sent for the wise men.

Thought - You can understand someone like Nebuchadnezzar being proud, but pride is something that every person has a problem with, even you and me!

Monday

Text: Daniel 4:5,7 "I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof."

It is a fact that if God sends a prophetic dream to a person who is not a follower of God, they will have to find a true worshipper of God to interpret it. The psychics and astrologers will not be able to do it. They do not understand spiritual truths. It was that way back then; and it is that way today.

"The king was greatly troubled by this dream. It was evidently a prediction of adversity. He repeated it to the magicians, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers; but although the dream was very explicit, none of the wise men would attempt to interpret it. Those who neither loved nor feared God could not understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. They could not approach unto the

throne of Him who dwelleth in light unapproachable. To them the things of God must remain mysteries.' *Youth's Instructor*, November 1, 1904.

So again the King sent for Daniel and told him the dream that had made him to feel afraid. Now this King was a mighty warrior, he did not scare easily. But when God chooses to scare someone, even the bravest man trembles!

Thought - If you are a true follower of Jesus, you can always ask Him for wisdom and understanding and He will give it to you.

Tuesday

Text: Daniel 4:10 "Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great."

'Nebuchadnezzar had another dream, which filled his heart with terror. In a vision of the night he saw a great tree growing in the midst of the earth, towering up to the heavens, and its branches stretching to the ends of the earth. In it the fowls of the air dwelt, and under it the beasts of the field found shelter. As the king gazed upon that lofty tree, he beheld a "watcher, even a holy one," a divine messenger, similar in appearance to the One who walked with the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace. This heavenly being approached the tree, and in a loud voice cried, "Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit; let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches; nevertheless, leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass." Second Advent Review & Sabbath Herald, February 1, 1881.

Daniel 4:15-17 "Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart

be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."

The King told the strange dream to Daniel and then asked him for the meaning. But Daniel didn't answer right away. For 1 hour he was 'astonied'. He didn't know what to say. It was not an easy thing to tell to the king.

Thought - Sometimes God's people have to tell people things that are not easy to say, but they are true and have to be said.

Wednesday

Text: Daniel 4:19 "Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies."

Slowly Daniel explained the dream. "The great tree that you saw where the birds nested and the beasts found shelter is you and your government." The tree in the dream making shelter for birds and beasts was what a government is supposed to be.

"Nebuchadnezzar was at one time a superior ruler, a man more compassionate toward his subjects than was the ruler of any other heathen nation, and his rule was symbolized by a lofty tree. But the man who thinks it is his prerogative to command his fellow men and says, "You shall," and "You shall not," is entirely out of his place. He takes upon himself that which was never given him and lords it over God's purchased possession. Every man is accountable to God for his actions. The man in a position of trust

who is guided by the spirit of God will always protect the weak, relieve the needy, and look after the widow and the fatherless.” Manuscript Releases Volume 12, page 142.

But Daniel continued to tell about the Watcher, the Holy One who commanded the tree to be cut down and only leave the stump. But the stump was to be bound with brass and iron. Solemnly he told the king that he would be driven from men and eat grass like an ox and live with beasts out in the dew and rain for seven ‘times’. (years)

Thought - When Daniel said this to the king it seemed impossible that it could ever happen. The king had powerful body guards; who could drive him away?

Thursday

Text: Daniel 4:27 “Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.”

Now Daniel knew that God is very gracious and forgiving, so he advised the King to be humble, kind and gracious and consider the poor. He hoped by this that the terrible judgment would not happen to the King.

The king did this for a while, but he gradually forgot the fear he had felt when he saw the Watcher in the dream. A year later, he was walking in his palace and looking at the beauty and might of what he had built and he started again to boast:

Verse 30-32 “The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” While the word was in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and

seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Instantly the King went mad. He began to act like a wild animal. He didn’t know he was even human, much less a king. He didn’t know his own name, and he tore off his clothes and began to live like a beast.

They had no choice but to drive him out to the fields, where for seven years he ate plants and grass like a grazing animal. He even stayed out in the rain. His hair grew shaggy and matted and his nails like bird’s claws. What a change from the rich robes and well-groomed king to this thing, growling in the field!

Thought - Remember, there is a Watcher and an Holy One who sees each one of us, and each word and act is recorded. What record did He write about you today?

Friday

Text: Daniel 4:37 “Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.”

Now just imagine this picture; seven years later, here is the King-beast out in the field munching grass, and all of a sudden his mind comes back to normal. He remembers everything that happened before, and he looks at his body, his shaggy, matted hair and bird-claw hands. He is all dirty and scratched up from bushes. Now the truth comes home to him very clear; God is the one who is in charge of kingdoms and kings.

Here is the greatest miracle about this whole happening. When Nebuchadnezzar comes in from the field, gets cleaned up and dressed again. He goes back to his throne, and nobody has any problem with that. They accept him back as king again and he reigns for the rest of his life and his son after him.

This is amazing, because in those days a king had lots of enemies and people would

plot to overthrow him and take his throne. But God said in the dream that the stump would be bound with brass and iron and his kingdom would be returned to him, once he knew Who was God and Who really rules in the affairs of men. And so it was, just as God had said it would be.

At the end of this time his reason was restored to him, and looking up in humility to the God of heaven, he recognised the divine hand in his chastisement. The transfor-

mation had come. The mighty monarch had become the humble child of God, obedient to His will. The despot had been changed into the wise, compassionate ruler.' Manuscript Releases Volume 7, page 68.

Thought - Because these words honouring God and showing he had learned his lesson are the last recorded from Nebuchadnezzar, we will meet him in heaven if we are faithful. = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #5: "BABYLON FALLS"

MEMORY VERSE: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18.

Read the story in Daniel 5.

Sunday

Text: Daniel 5:1 "Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand."

The wonderful lessons that God had taught to Nebuchadnezzar resulted in his spending the rest of his days worshipping the true God and being a good and merciful king to his people. He died in 561 B.C., and was succeeded by his son Evil-merodach, who reigned only two years. Nabonadius, who became king in 555 B.C., shared the royal power with his son, Belshazzar. Nabonadius was away at war and the young king Belshazzar, was left to manage the great city of Babylon.

But although his grandson Belshazzar knew all about the happenings in the life of Nebuchadnezzar, it made no impression on his pride. Under his foolish rule, mighty Babylon, built at so great an effort by his fathers, was soon to fall.

It may be that Belshazzar, growing up when the kingdom was already conquered, surrounded by luxury, did not have to learn to work hard or to control his self. Maybe he was a spoilt child. Whatever the reason, he ended up being known as one of the most

foolish kings in history.

In this story we again see the 'Watcher and the Holy One' that Nebuchadnezzar trembled before in his dream. But for him there had been a second chance. Belshazzar would have no second chance. Why? Because he KNEW BETTER!

God expects us to learn the lessons of the Bible, history, and even what our parents and grandparents have learned in their experience. When Nebuchadnezzar was king he did not know any better than to be just like all the heathen kings, and God gave him lesson after lesson until he got the point.

Belshazzar knew Nebuchadnezzar, and he no doubt even told Belshazzar as a child, his stories about the True God and what He had taught him. He knew about the Watcher and Holy One. But he refused to obey God and just wanted to live for parties and fun!

Thought - It is important to learn the lessons God makes available to us in our childhood and youth. There is not always a second chance!

Monday

Text: Isaiah 45:1 "Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to

open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut."

Here is an amazing fact of the Bible that shows us that God is real! The prophet Isaiah wrote this prediction hundreds of years before Cyrus was born and told just how the city of Babylon would be captured.

There are some interesting things about the great city. It had been made in such a way that it could not be captured; at least it looked that way to man. The great walls were so thick that two chariots could race side by side on the top. They could never be knocked down.

They had huge storehouses full of carefully preserved food, enough for twenty years! The Euphrates River flowed through the city to provide water and had special gates so that no one could sneak in through the river. These are the 'two leaved gates' that the Lord describes in the prophecy.

Now Cyrus and his general were very clever. They pretended to lay siege to the city and they had soldiers camp where they could be seen from the walls of Babylon. These soldiers lounged around and didn't seem very serious about anything. This made the young and foolish king, Belshazzar very bold.

History tells us they even threw food out over the walls to show the soldiers they were not at all worried. Oh how silly man can be!

Thought - Babylon was like the 'unsinkable' Titanic that is out there off Newfoundland, on the bottom of the ocean.

Tuesday

Text: Proverbs 29:1 "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

Here we continue to see this foolish young king heading for destruction. An army is camped outside the walls determined to conquer the city and the king is so cocky that he decides to throw a huge party! He invites a thousand important people and all the pretty ladies. He is so sure that he is safe,

that he just wants to 'celebrate'!

Wine flows like water; rich food is heaped on the tables. Nothing is lacking in the Music and entertainment, nothing except truth and godliness! Then if all this were not enough wickedness, Belshazzar, drunk with wine, decides to show off even more!

He decides to prove once and for all that his grandfather's 'True God' is nothing! Maybe some of the older nobles had reminded him that Nebuchadnezzar's dream showed that Babylon WOULD fall, we don't know but here's what he did;

"Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein." Daniel 5:2

The sacred vessels from the temple of God are brought and alcohol poured into them and they drank out of them, laughing and joking about the 'True God' of the Jews.

Thought - Young people tend to be reckless. God warns; "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." Psalms 119:9

Wednesday

Text: Daniel 5:5 "In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote."

Just imagine the scene; everybody drunk and whooping it up; Foolishness and wickedness everywhere in the huge banquet hall; Music and noise and loud laughter; then suddenly somebody screams! Quickly the noise dies down, the musicians stop playing; all eyes turn to the site of a shining, bloodless hand, writing high up on the wall where all can see. The words it writes shine like fire!

"Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so

that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.” Daniel 5:6

Remember what Isaiah foretold about the ‘loins of kings’? The young king, minutes before so bold, was pale and trembling, he well may even have wet himself. He screams out for someone to read the words and tell him what it all means; but no one can.

Quickly the word goes through the palace until someone tells the old Queen, either Belshazzar’s mother, or more likely his grandmother. She comes and tells the terrified king, who doesn’t look so smart now, that he’d better send for Daniel who could read the writing for him.

Now Daniel had not been Belshazzar’s right hand man as he had been for Nebuchadnezzar. The foolish king, so determined to do things his own way, had no desire to have godly people around him. But now he sends word for Daniel to come right away.

Thought - When people seem to be so bold and sure of themselves, it doesn’t take much to change all that.

Thursday

Text: Daniel 5:16,17 “And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom. Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.”

Daniel wasn’t impressed by the promises of rich rewards. He told the wicked king to keep them for himself. But he would read the writing and tell him what it meant. Thus

Daniel, representing the living God, was brought before this foolish ruler to declare his doom.

It is interesting that for many years no one knew why Belshazzar only said ‘third ruler’ in the kingdom. Then when they found clay tablets and seals they learned that Belshazzar was second ruler, as his father was still also king.

Before Daniel reads the writing, he tells Belshazzar just what he should have remembered and never forgotten. He tells him all about the things that happened to his grandfather. He tells him that he should have known better than to do what he had done.

Then he begins to read. “Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin or Peres.”

Mene- God has numbered and finished your kingdom.

Tekel- You are weighed in the balances and found wanting. (not right with God)

Peres- Your kingdom is divided and give to the Medes and Persians.

“Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.” Daniel 5:29

Under the circumstances, it seemed kind of useless to make Daniel third ruler in a kingdom whose doom he had just announced. But I think God had a reason for this. Because Daniel was then made a ruler, the new king would get to meet him. Where if this had not happened, he may not. God takes care of His children who are faithful to Him!

Thought - For every person on earth there comes a time when they are ‘weighed in the balances.’ May we always be ‘right with God’!

Friday

Text: Daniel 5:30 “In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.”

While the enemy soldiers were camping outside of Babylon where they could be seen

from the city, most of them were working on a big project where they could not be seen from the city. They were digging a channel to turn the great river out of its bed. They finished this while Belshazzar had his big party. Then the army marched towards the city in the riverbed.

The way Babylon was constructed, there was no way to get in through the riverbed; an army would simply march through and out the other side and still not enter into the city itself— unless— the special ‘two leaved gates’ were left open. This is just what God had predicted and just what happened. Maybe it was because a lot of the wine that was supposed to be for the King’s party, ended up being drunk by the guards and watchmen, we don’t know, but the gates were left unlocked and the enemy soldiers swarmed into the city from the now empty riverbed.

Just a short time after Daniel pronounced the sentence of God on the wicked and foolish king; the soldiers entered the banquet

hall and killed Belshazzar.

‘You may plan for merely selfish good, you may gather together treasure, you may build mansions great and high, as did the builders of ancient Babylon; but you cannot build wall so high or gate so strong as to shut out the messengers of doom. Belshazzar the king “feasted in his palace,” and “praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.” But the hand of One invisible wrote upon his walls the words of doom, and the tread of hostile armies was heard at his palace gates. “In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain,” and an alien monarch sat upon the throne. (Dan. 5:30) To live for self is to perish. Covetousness, the desire of benefit for self’s sake, cuts the soul off from life. It is the spirit of Satan to get, to draw to self. It is the spirit of Christ to give, to sacrifice self for the good of others.’ Christ’s Object Lessons, page 258.

Thought - God made Nebuchadnezzar to become a beast for a while, but Belshazzar made a beast out of himself. = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #6: “IS YOUR GOD ABLE?”

MEMORY VERSE: “My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, that they have not hurt me:” Daniel 6:22

Read the story in Daniel 6.

Sunday

Text: Daniel 6:3 “Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.”

Because God had arranged for Daniel to be brought to honour again just before the army of Cyrus took Babylon and executed Belshazzar, Darius who took the throne for Cyrus got to know Daniel. He was so impressed with Daniel’s wisdom and honesty that he made him chief ruler. He set up 120 Princes and over them was to be three presidents. Daniel was the chief of the three.

Daniel was the one they all had to answer to.

So now we see him again in a position where heathen rulers were forced to have a worshipper of the True God as head over them. Satan didn’t like it. The heathen rulers didn’t like it. But they were stuck with it. Darius was very pleased with his new friend, Daniel.

Then they got a good idea. They decided to watch him very closely and surely they would be able to catch him making a mistake or being dishonest. They watched him in everything he did. They wanted to catch him in something that they could use to get him fired or better yet, executed. But they couldn’t get anything to report that was bad

about Daniel.

Thought - God cares for His faithful children even in their older years.

Monday

Text: Daniel 6:5 "Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God."

Now you would think that they would have been ashamed to try to harm this dear old man who did his work so well and faithfully; but they were jealous and determined to get rid of him. They realized that the only way they could trap him would have to be "concerning the law of his God".

'What a lesson is here presented for all Christians. The keen eyes of jealousy were fixed upon Daniel day after day; their watchings were sharpened by hatred; yet not a word or act of his life could they make appear wrong...The more blameless the conduct of Daniel, the greater was the hatred excited against him by his enemies. They were filled with madness, because they could find nothing in his moral character or in the discharge of his duties upon which to base a complaint against him.' *The Sanctified Life*, pages 42-43.

So they got their heads together and they started to flatter king Darius. They told him what a great king he was, and what he could do to make himself even greater. "Why don't you make a law that says for 30 days nobody can ask anything from any man or even any god except you; and if they do, they will be thrown into the lion's den."

That was really silly, don't you think? But they had flattered him so much and made him feel so proud of himself that he just fell for it. Quickly they put the 'law' before him and he signed it and sealed it. He never dreamed it was just a plot to get rid of his best friend.

Thought - If anybody ever starts flatter-

ing you and telling you how wonderful you are; watch out! They may be setting a trap for you.

Tuesday

Text: Daniel 6:10 "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."

Daniel was a man of prayer. Three times a day he knelt before the Lord; and Satan told his enemies that they could use this to destroy him. Daniel knew about the decree, he knew it was designed for one reason only, to get him.

Now Daniel could have just prayed secretly for a month. He could have just prayed in his head in the bathroom or something. But he would not dishonour his God like that. He knew also that no man has any right to tell another man how he is to worship his God. To even pretend to go along with it would deny and insult God.

So he opened his windows just like always, towards Jerusalem and he prayed. Not once, not twice but three times a day, just like always. And hiding where they could watch the whole thing, were those wicked, jealous rulers. Daniel knew it; but he committed himself to the Lord and went about his business anyway. He was no different in this time of danger, than when all was well with him. Just like his three friends had years before, he trusted God and left the problem in His hands.

That law seemed silly, but it was meant to destroy God's faithful one; the Sunday Law in the last days is silly also, but it is Satan's plan to get rid of God's true children.

Thought - Like Daniel we can obey God and leave the results with Him. He will care for his obedient children.

Wednesday

Text: Daniel 6:13 “Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.”

As soon as they said it, the king saw his mistake. King Darius realized that all along it had been just a plot to get rid of Daniel. He knew they were jealous of him and now they had their weapon to use against Daniel and he foolishly had given to them.

14 “Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.”

Now there was a very interesting law that the Medo-Persian Empire had made for themselves; they had passed a law that no law that they made could be changed. In other words they felt they could never make any mistakes. They thought they were infallible; like God Himself! So the king couldn't just pass another law and not put Daniel in with the lions. Those rulers would have made big trouble for him if he did that.

Thought - There is another power today that claims to be infallible. Do you know who it is? Yes, it is the Pope of Rome. He thinks he is like God also. But was Darius really infallible? Hadn't he just made a terrible mistake? Yes indeed! And so will the popes of Rome find out someday that they have made a terrible mistake by persecuting God's people.

Thursday

Text: Daniel 6:6 “Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.”

King Darius gave the order and went with

Daniel to the lions' den. In those days kings liked to have caged lions, and throwing people to them was a good way to get rid of people they didn't like, and help to feed the hungry lions. But the king had learned something about Daniel and his God, and he assured him that his God would protect him.

Daniel was thrown into the den, and a stone was brought and placed on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own seal. It seems King Darius was not as worried about the lions, as he was about the wicked rulers coming and stealing Daniel out of the den and perhaps killing him or taking him away; and everybody would think he was eaten up. So he made sure the den could not be opened without breaking that seal.

Then he went back to his palace and spent a sad, miserable night. He felt very ashamed of himself that he had allowed the rulers to trick him like they did. He kept thinking about his dear old friend out there in the den of nasty lions. He would not eat or listen to music and just counted the hours till morning.

Thought - It is not easy to face the truth when you have made a bad mistake, but if we admit it, Jesus can give us strength and forgiveness.

Friday

Text: Daniel 6:20 “And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?”

The first rays of dawn saw the worried king hurrying out to the lions' den. He called out to his old friend and was overjoyed to hear the polite reply of the faithful servant of God. “My God has sent His angel and has shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me.

Quickly the king orders the stone removed and Daniel taken up out of the den. He was

examined carefully and there was no hurt on him. Not even a scratch or a bite.

Now Darius ordered the wicked rulers who had tricked him to be brought with their whole families and thrown into the lions' den, 'and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.' Those big cats just crunched them up like everything. So their evil plan came back onto their own selves.

The king then sent around a decree telling the story of the great God of heaven. "I make a decree, that in every dominion of my

kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."

Because of this, the message of the true God went around the world again.

Thought - Never join in with someone who is planning a cruel joke or trick to hurt somebody. It will come back on them sooner or later. = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #7: "AWESOME BEASTS OF PROPHECY"

MEMORY VERSE: "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth." Daniel 7:17

Read the story in Daniel 7.

Sunday

Text: Daniel 7:2,3 "Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another."

Belshazzar had come to the throne of Babylon, and as we saw before, he didn't want people like Daniel around his court. What Daniel's job was at this time we are not told. One night God gave him a dream, and in the dream he saw a raging sea, tossed by the four winds, and out of that sea came four strange beasts, one at a time following each other.

In this lesson we are going to begin learning how to understand the great prophecies of the Bible. This is a wonderful study and you will really enjoy it. The books of Daniel and Revelation are really part of the same prophecy and they help us to understand what the prophecies mean.

There is a big rule in prophecy, that you must learn if you don't want to get all mixed

up. We must always find the meanings of the prophecies in the Bible itself. If we just read something and then I say, "I think it means this", and you say, "I think it means that", we will get all mixed up. This is what most people do when they read prophecy and it gets to be a mess.

In prophecy the waters or 'great sea' means all the people and nations on earth: Re 17:15 "...The waters which thou sawest, ... are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

The 'four winds' mean war, trouble and strife: Re 7:1 "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree."

When we see the beasts come up out of the water when the winds blow, we know they came to power by war and battle.

'To Daniel was given a vision of fierce beasts, representing the powers of the earth. But the ensign (symbol) of the Messiah's kingdom is a lamb. While earthly kingdoms rule by the ascendancy of physical power (force),

Christ is to banish every carnal (manmade) weapon, every instrument of coercion (force). His kingdom was to be established to uplift and ennoble fallen humanity.' God's Amazing Grace, page 15.

Thought - Forcing people to worship or obey God, even in something that in itself is right, is not what God wants. He only wants people to serve Him because they want to and choose to.

Monday

Text: Daniel 7:4 "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it."

The winged lion showed power and speed. It represented Babylon and was even used as a symbol by Nebuchadnezzar. I have seen stones from Babylon with winged lions on them. Under Nebuchadnezzar the kingdom was swift and powerful but later it became weak and foolish under Belshazzar. This is what the wings being plucked and the lion standing up with only a timid man's heart, showed.

Luxury and soft living changed the mighty lion into a weak sissy.

Daniel 7:5 "And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh."

Next came this bear, which was higher on one side than the other. This was Medo-Persia and it was a combination of two powers and the one power, the Persians were stronger.

It had three ribs in its mouth, which meant the three areas that Medo-Persia conquered to come to rule the world; Babylon, Lydia and Egypt, which were especially ground down and oppressed by this power. It was a cruel and vicious nation and killed

many people. That's why the verse says "Arise and devour much flesh".

The character of this power is well represented by a bear. The Medes and Persians were cruel and greedy, robbers and spoilers of the people.

Thought - Seeing how God showed His prophet exactly what would happen many years before it took place helps us to know that the Bible is God's true Word.

Tuesday

Text: Daniel 7:6 "After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it."

This was the kingdom of Greece under Alexander the Great. It conquered the world so fast, that the leopard beast is shown with four wings. A leopard is a fast animal without wings, but with four wings God showed it would be very fast.

The four heads represented the four generals of Alexander the Great, which took over the kingdom following Alexander's death just after he had conquered the entire world.

It is important to know how he died as there is a lesson there for youth. He could conquer nations but he could not control his appetite, passions and pride.

He worshipped the gods Hercules and Bacchus (god of wine) and tried to imitate what they were said to have done. He claimed to be a god himself and when one of his generals died he told people to worship him as a god. He delighted in drinking and parties, and when drunk could fly into a rage and kill even his friends. He did many cruel and bloodthirsty acts, once burning a city on the suggestion of a wicked woman.

He encouraged such excessive drinking among his followers that on one occasion twenty of them together died as the result of the party. At length, having sat through one long drinking spree, he was immediately invited to another, when after drinking to each

of the twenty guests present, he twice drank full, says history, incredible as it may seem, the Herculean cup containing six of our quarts. He thereupon fell down, seized with a violent fever, of which he died eleven days later, in May or June, B.C. 323. He was only thirty-two years old.

Thought - Compare Alexander the Great with the prophet Daniel who decided not to eat the king's rich food or drink his wine.

Wednesday

Text: Daniel 7:7 **After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns."**

Now came up out of the angry sea a beast so terrible that no real animal could represent it! Different from the other beasts, it was very strong and devoured and broke nations to pieces.

The iron teeth remind us of the iron of the legs and feet of the great image of chapter 2. You see there are four series of prophecies in Daniel. Each one tells the same story, but each one gives more detail to the story. In Daniel 2, the image showed four world kingdoms. Babylon; head of gold; winged lion. Medo-Pesia; arms of silver; bear. Greece: Thighs of brass; winged leopard. And the Iron Legs; Rome; The terrible Beast.

Rome was different (Diverse) because it was a Republic and the other 'Beasts' had kings. Rome had elected 'dictators' which were supposed to obey certain laws and answer to the people of the nation; like USA presidents are supposed to do. But later the Caesars didn't do this and became very much like what the Pope would later be: not a king but rather a god. They combined Church and State and God has forbidden this.

Thought - God can tell so much in the

prophecies in just a few words!

Thursday

Text: Daniel 7: 8 **"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."**

Now this Roman terrible beast had ten horns on his head and Daniel looked closely at these horns. All of a sudden he saw another little horn come up and it plucked up three horns. Horns in Bible prophecy are kings or kingdoms. (See verse 24)

It is interesting the Roman government had ten parts and then later as Rome began to fall it split up into ten nations. Then Daniel saw a weird thing, the little horn had eyes and a mouth speaking great things.

It "had eyes," showing that claimed to be the household of faith; "eyes" meaning faith, and "mouth speaking great things," showing that the church would claim infallibility; "whose look would be more stout than its fellows," showing that he would claim authority over all other churches, and even the kings, the other horns.

Before the Pope of Rome could totally rule the world, there were three nations that had to be destroyed. It happened in the years 508 AD-538 AD.

Thought - 'The Holy Spirit represents worldly kingdoms under the symbol of fierce beasts of prey; but Christ is "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.'" John 1:29. In His plan of government there is no employment of brute force to compel the conscience.' Christ's Object Lessons, page 77.

Friday

Text: Daniel 7:25 **"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and**

think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”

Daniel was really worried when he saw the things this ‘Little Horn’ would do against God’s true people. 15 “I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.”

In this verse we see the first time in the Bible where a time prophecy that shows how long Papal Rome would rule the world is found. This same number is found in seven different places in the Bible; it comes to 1260 days and because in prophecy a ‘day’ means a real year, it is 1260 years.

The last of the three horns was ‘plucked up’ in 538 AD and when you add 1260 years to that, you come to 1798. What happened in 1798? Well, Berthier, one of Napoleon’s

Generals, was sent to Rome where he took the Pope captive and Rome lost its power to rule the Nations. The Church of Rome continued as a religion but lost her power to rule as a government.

During the years Rome ruled the world it did ‘wear out the saints of the Most High’, by persecuting and killing millions of true followers of Jesus. God knows what is happening and He will care for His people. Even though many dear Christians died, Jesus was close to each one to give him strength and help him.

We will learn more about this chapter next week.

Thought - If we are faithful to the end, we will see these dear ones in heaven and hear their stories. No one will be sorry that he died for Jesus. = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #8: “GOD WILL JUDGE”

MEMORY VERSE: “But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.” Daniel 7:18

Read the story in Daniel 7.

Sunday

Text: Daniel 7: 9 “I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.”

Last week we studied Daniel’s vision in which he saw four great beasts rise out of an angry sea with winds blowing on it. We learned they were governments or kingdoms. First Babylon, the Medo-Persia, followed by Greece and at last a terrible beast with iron teeth, which was Rome.

But Rome has two parts; first there was Pagan Rome and then the Papacy grew up and ruled in the same city. The Papacy was shown by the strange ‘little horn’ with eyes and a mouth. The little horn plucked up

three other horns and then started to rule the earth. Daniel was worried about this ‘little horn’ because it persecuted God’s people for 1260 years! This week we will learn more from Daniel 7.

In our text today we see a wonderful scene. It is a judgment scene. It seems that God wants very much to tell us that, even though this terrible beast was going to make things hard for God’s people, God knew all about it and He would judge fairly.

Here we see God coming in and sitting on a judgment throne. The words ‘thrones were cast down’, means that seating places were placed in the room, like you would ‘throw down’ a big cushion for someone to sit on. We see more of this judgment in verses 10 & 11:

“A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was

set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.”

So Jesus lets Daniel know that the beast would not always get away with his cruel work against God’s people. He would be judged and executed.

Thought - Over and over in the Bible Jesus tells His people that He is in charge and will win at last.

Monday

Text: Daniel 7:12 “As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.”

Now in this verse we see that it says although their kingdoms ended, their ‘lives’ were prolonged’. This is interesting as when we study the fourth Beast and especially the little horn kingdom, we can see things from all the other kingdoms in this Roman Papal kingdom.

Babylon had what was called the ‘mysteries’ or the ‘mystery religion’. This came from the time of Nimrod and his wicked wife but the ideas of this secret religion of the priests came down through the ages. When the Jews were in captivity in Babylon, some of them learned this ‘mystery religion’, and they brought it into their own religion and called it the ‘Kabala’. It was ideas of magic and special words and numbers and was really just a bunch of Satan’s lies. But many things today use this same stuff. Masonry, witchcraft, some of the Jews, Eastern religions, Wicca, Satanists, and much of it is in regular Catholicism.

Medo-Persia claimed that when it made a law, no one could change it. That meant they could make no mistakes; they were infallible. The Papacy also claims to be infallible.

Thought - When a man claims he is infallible, he is claiming to be God. Remem-

ber how the king of Medo-Persia tried to force people to pray to him? You can’t talk to the Pope without first worshipping him and kissing his ring!

Tuesday

Text: Daniel 7:21,22 “I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.”

Greece developed forms of philosophy and religion that still plague us today very much. Our whole worldly system of education is based on Greek philosophy, and this makes it hard for people to understand the real truth of the Bible. Remember Paul said the Greeks thought the truth about Jesus was ‘foolishness’? 1 Corinthians 1:23

Of course much of the religion and ways of Rome came right into the papacy. So much so that the Bible doesn’t even use a new beast to show Papal Rome, but just a horn on the same terrible beast. The Roman priests were called ‘Pontifex Maximus’ which means ‘Great Bridge Builder’.

Later when the Roman Pagan religion was outlawed, the emperor took this title. But the last emperor felt it was not right for a man to maintain this haughty title, which claimed to have the right over men’s souls after death, so he refused it. Immediately the Bishop of Rome snapped it up, and from that time on, the Popes were called ‘Pontiffs’.

Thought - We have wickedness from all these kingdoms with us today. We need to study God’s word and not be fooled!

Wednesday

Text: Daniel 7: 25 “And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”

We see four points here that help us to know for sure who this 'little Horn' power on the Roman beast really is.

1- He will speak 'Great Words' and Blasphemies against God.

2- He will 'wear out' God's people; persecute them.

3- He will think he can change God's laws that have to do with time.

4- He will rule for 1260 day/years (that's what it works out to)

There is no other power on earth that can fit this description except the Roman Papacy.

Thought - God wants us to be sure in what we believe so He gives a lot of evidence.

Thursday

Text: Daniel 7:26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

Jesus assures us in this chapter 4 or 5 different times that this beast with the bold horn will come to it's end in the judgment. Here are the sins of this power:

1- Blasphemy. The Catholic Priests claim to be able to forgive sins every day in the confessional, which is a little room were the people go to confess their sins to the Priests, who pretend to forgive them.

The popes claim to be the vicars of Christ, that means they claim to take His place on earth. Jesus said the Holy Spirit, who is God, would take His place on earth. This is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

The Pope also claims to be God and have all the rights of God. 'The Catholic Encyclopedia Vol. 6 p.48, which describes the pope as: 'not a mere man, but as it were God and the vicar of God.' Pope Leo XIII in one of his encyclical letters wrote: 'We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.' Pope Innocent III wrote: 'The pope is not simply a man but rather God on earth.' He also wrote: 'The pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ but he is Jesus Christ Himself, hidden under the veil of flesh.'

2- Persecution. The Western Watchman, a Roman Catholic magazine (December 24, 1908) stated: 'The church has persecuted. Only a tyro in history will deny that... Protestants were persecuted in France and Spain with the full approval of the church authorities. We have always defended the persecution of the Huguenots and the Spanish Inquisition.' Dr J. Dowling, History of Romanism, pages 541-542, states: 'From the birth of Popery in 606, to the present time, it is estimated by careful and credible historians, that more than fifty millions of the human family have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by popish persecutors, an average of more than forty thousand murders for every year of the existence of Popery.'

3- Claim to change God's times and law. Catholic literature consistently moves from the first of the Ten Commandments to the third, which is counted as number two. The Second Commandment, forbidding idolatry, is not found in the Roman Catholic catechism. (It is in the Catholic Bible)

For many years, the consistent teaching of the Roman Catholic Church was that Sabbath was changed to Sunday by the action of the Catholic Church. e.g. Geiermann: Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, 1946 ed. page 50. 'The church substituted Sunday for Saturday by the plenitude of that divine power which Jesus Christ bestowed upon her... The Third (really the fourth but they leave out #2) Commandment commands us to sanctify Sunday as the Lord's Day.'

Thought - The Roman Church claims that changing God's Law and putting the Sunday in place of the seventh day Sabbath, is the 'Mark of her power'!

Friday

Text: Daniel 7:27 "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most

High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."

Remember in our lesson about Daniel 2 and the Great Image, we learned about the Rock that was cut out without hands and would destroy all the kingdoms and rule forever? Well here we see the same thing. Jesus is telling us that His kingdom will be set up after the time of the judgment and will never fall.

The 'saints' will be given the kingdom of Jesus, to be their kingdom, and they will never more have to worry about terrible beast kingdoms, which persecute them and kill them for serving Jesus.

On earth the saints may have been poor

and despised. They were often killed or thrown into dungeons without even a trial. They saw their beloved Bibles torn up and burned and their children killed or made slaves. It was so unfair, but God has not forgotten even one of His dear children.

The wicked ones, who killed them, often thought that nobody knew what they did in those dark dungeons, but angels were there, and it is all written down. God's children will be honoured and those who persecuted them will have to pay for their deeds unless they repented while they lived.

Thought - God's side of this Great Controversy WILL WIN! Even if the entire world tries to stop it. Make sure YOU are on Jesus' side of this war! = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #9: "THE GREAT TIME PROPHECY"

MEMORY VERSE: "And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:14.

Read the story in Daniel 8

Note for younger readers: I want to tell my younger friends not to be discouraged if you find some of these lessons about prophecy a bit hard to understand yet. These are the important points:

1: Jesus loves His people and sends dreams and visions to His prophets to show us what He is going to do.

22: In the dreams, Jesus used animals and other things to mean nations and powers. He shows us what they will do by what happens in the prophet's dreams.

3: When we learn how Jesus has shown us what will happen hundreds of years before it happens, shows that He knows all about us, and will take care of us.

4: Our memory verse is the text that started the Advent movement. It tells us when Jesus started deciding who He was going to be able to take home with Him when He comes back. He started doing this in 1844.

Sunday

Text: Daniel 8:2 "And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai."

Two years have elapsed since Daniel's previous vision. Daniel was now an old man. He had been in captivity a total of about fifty-five years; and as he was probably around sixteen or eighteen years of age when brought to Babylon, he would now be well over seventy. His vision about the four beasts in chapter 7 came to him while he was in bed, but this vision occurred while he was awake and beside a river.

It was the third year of Belshazzar and Babylon had not yet fallen. But that was going to happen so soon, that Babylon isn't mentioned in this vision. Daniel sees a great ram with one of its horns higher than the other one. It is pushing with its horns west, north and south and nothing could stand

before it.

This ram is Medo Persia as we look back in chapter 7 we see that the bear raised up on one side; so this ram had 2 horns and one was higher than the other. This was to show that the Persian part of the empire was stronger than the Medes, their partners. Like a bully, the Medo-Persian ram charged “westward, northward and southward,” in that very order.

Now here is something interesting; in the vision of the four beasts Daniel was shown the nations and what they would do to the world. But this vision is different; it is to show what the nations will do to God’s people and his truth. We know this because the animals and symbols in this new vision are all from the sanctuary. Rams, Goats and horns are all found in the sanctuary services.

Thought - In a prophecy we need to notice all the details to understand it right.

Monday

Text: Daniel 8:5 “And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.”

There was the ram, who had conquered everything, standing there so proud. Then all at once, came a he-goat, with one big horn between his eyes, he went so fast he didn’t touch the ground. (Remember the leopard with the four wings?)

He ran right into the ram and knocked him down. He broke off his horns and stamped on him. That ram could do no more. Now this he-goat was the Greeks and the one big horn represented Alexander the Great, the leader who swiftly conquered the world. It is interesting that the Greeks did use a goat as one of their symbols just like Babylon did use a winged lion.

Now we see that rough goat standing so powerful and proud, but something happens; while he is strong, the big horn is broken off

and four horns come up instead. Now we would not expect that to happen when the goat is strong, but remember Alexander the Great died just after he had conquered the world.

His four Generals divided the empire between them, as he had no adult son to rule after him.

Thought - Doesn’t it make you feel safe to know that God knows all what will happen before it does? And He never makes a mistake.

Tuesday

Text: Daniel 8:9 “And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.”

Now I have to tell you a secret that even many grown up people that read prophecy don’t know. It makes a lot of difference to how we know what God is telling us in these prophecies.

In some languages they have what is called ‘gender’. This means that words are considered either feminine or masculine. That means male or female. English does not have this like some languages have. In English if I say ‘his’ you know I mean a boy or male. If I say ‘hers’ you know I mean a girl or female.

But if I say tree or house, you do not think of them as male or female; but in French, and Greek and Hebrew they do have gender, and we know by how the sentences are written if the word is masculine or feminine. This was written in Hebrew, and so knowing the gender helps us to understand the meaning.

In verse 8 it talks about the four horns and these are masculine, and it talks about four winds and these are feminine.

Now in verse 9 it says ‘out of one of them’ and people think it means out of one of the horns, but it doesn’t, because in the sentence ‘them’ is feminine. It means out of one of the winds. And it means out of one of the four

directions in the world.

Thought - The more we learn about Bible Prophecies, the more wonderful they are.

Wednesday

Text: Daniel 8:10 “And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.”

Remember the terrible fourth beast in Daniel 7? How it stamped with its feet? Yes, this is Pagan Rome who here is seen stamping on God’s people and His truth. Remember that Rome was ruling the Jews when Jesus was born.

Daniel 8:11 says; “Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host,” It was by Pagan Rome’s authority that Jesus, our Prince was crucified. So we know this is Pagan Rome. Now in the next few verses we have the gender thing again. Pagan Rome is masculine and another power that follows it is feminine, this is Papal Rome.

The verse goes on: “and by him (feminine) the daily {sacrifice} was taken away, and the place of his (Masculine) sanctuary was cast down.

You see that word ‘sacrifice’ in your bible? It is put in *italics in the King James translation*. That means the word is NOT in the Hebrew. The translators added it because they THOUGHT it should be there, but it does NOT belong there.

I am just going to tell you what the verses mean and when you get older you can study why they mean that.

The ‘Daily’ means Paganism and the Papacy would be the one to remove it and cast down Paganism’s sanctuary in Rome where they kept all their heathen gods.

Thursday

Text: Daniel 8:13,14, “Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How

long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.”

Now Daniel hears two heavenly beings talking about these powers that were going to tramp on God’s truth and His people and they ask, “How long is this going to go on? How long will evil tramp on the Good?”

Then the answer comes; “Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Remember when Jesus was on earth how He went into the temple and drove out the wicked ones who were disobeying God? Well this verse tells of a time that God had set from way back, and when that time came, He would begin a special work that would lead to the end of all cruel and wicked powers.

We learn that this time prophecy of 2300 days was to start when the law was given to allow the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem. (See Daniel 9:25) This happened in 457 BC.

We know that in time prophecies a ‘day’ means a real year of time. So 2300 days mean 2300 years. When we figure out from 457 BC and add 2300 years it takes us to 1844. This was when Jesus went from the Holy Place in heaven to the Most Holy place and a special work started called the ‘cleansing of the sanctuary’. We call it the investigative judgment.

Now what do all these big words mean to you and me? It means that God had set a time when He would begin to look at the lives all those who had claimed to be His people from the beginning. By looking at the records of their lives, He could find out if they really loved Him and were His children. Then all those that had truly given their hearts to God, and believed on Him, and obeyed Him, would have their names kept in the Book of Life to be taken to heaven when Jesus comes back again.

Those who claimed to belong to God but

did not let Jesus change their selfish hearts and remove their sins would have their names taken out of the Book of Life and they will not be able to go home when Jesus comes back.

All those cruel powers that claimed to be doing work for Jesus while they were really killing and hurting God's dear people would not be in the Book of Life unless they, like Paul, had repented and stopped doing this.

Thought - It is good to know that God will only let the cruel and wicked things go on for a short while; soon Jesus will put an end to what hurts His dear children and take us home.

Friday

Text: Daniel 8:27 "And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it."

Daniel wanted to understand what all the things he was seeing in the vision meant, and so he asked. In verse 16 he says, "And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision." Jesus

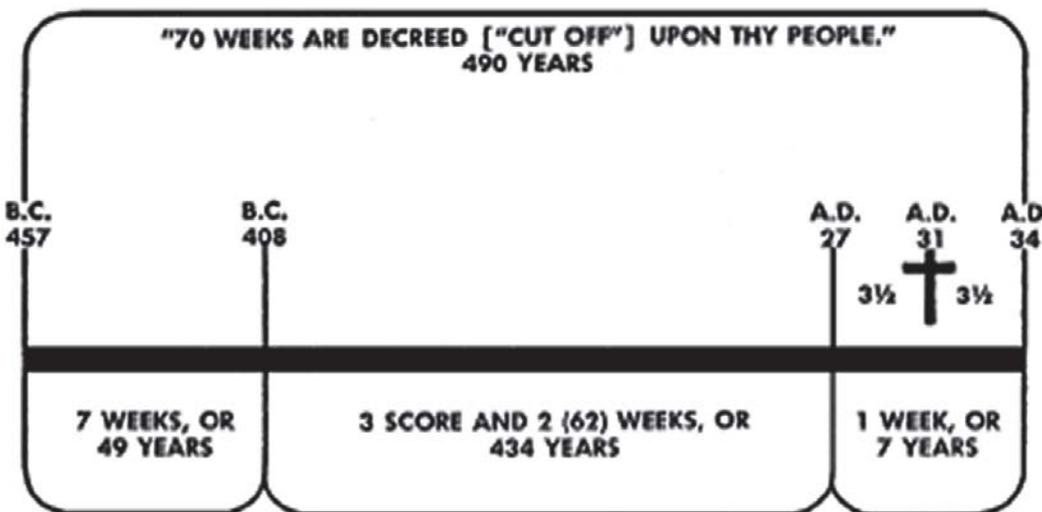
was the one who asked the angel Gabriel to explain to Daniel what the vision meant.

Now Daniel knew that God had told the Prophet Jeremiah, that the Jewish people would be kept in Babylon as slaves for 70 years, and then they would be allowed to return to Jerusalem. Daniel knew that soon those years would end and had been praying about it.

Now as the angel explains to him about long periods of time, (many days; verse 26) Daniel is shocked and afraid that maybe the Jews would not be returning home after all. It bothered him so much that the dear old man fainted.

But God was really telling Daniel things that he was to write down so His people that live on earth today, in the last days of time, would be able to know what God was doing. Daniel's messages were for you and me, and they tell us that God is in charge. If we give our hearts to Him, and choose Jesus to be our own dear Saviour, then we can know that we will be loved and cared for by Jesus and our dear Heavenly Father, and someday go home to heaven when Jesus comes again.

Thought - The prophecies show us God's love that He tells His people what He is going to do so they can know and trust Him.
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A chart of the "seventy weeks" which were decreed to God's people. Christ's advent proved the prophecy true.

Weekly Bible Lesson #10: "JESUS' TIME PROPHECY"

MEMORY VERSE: "... Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Mark 1:14,15

See the Chart on the previous page.

Sunday

Text: Daniel 9:2 "In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem."

The first part of Daniel 9:2 has many lessons to teach us. Daniel was studying the prophecies of the other prophets. He did not feel that because he was a prophet himself, he could just wait for God to tell him what He wanted him to know. No, if a true prophet needs to study his Bible and pray to know God's will, each of us need to do so even more!

Here's another lesson in verse 3 "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:"

Daniel saw that the time was about right for the Jews to be allowed to return to Jerusalem. But he did not just say, "Well, this will happen, and I don't have to worry about it at all. No! He started to pray earnestly for God's prophecy to be fulfilled. He did more than just drop a prayer or two, he fasted, put on sackcloth, which was a coarse garment people wore when they mourned for their dead, and he would place ashes on his forehead as a sign of sorrow and humility.

Now what was Daniel sorry about? Read his prayer in Daniel 9:4-19. We have here a sample prayer left for us to see and learn from. Daniel was sorry for the sins of his people. He did not say in his prayer, "Lord forgive THEM", no way, he said "Lord forgive US!" He included himself in the prayer as a

sinner, he asked God to forgive all the sins of himself, his people, and his forefathers. He knew the captivity in Babylon came because the people of God refused to listen to the warnings of the prophets and obey God. He included himself, as guilty of the sins of his people.

Thought - Daniel is one of the few people in the Bible that we have no recorded sin that he ever did, but he still felt the need to repent and confess and to be forgiven.

Monday

Text: Daniel 9:21 "Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation."

Why was Daniel praying so earnestly for his people? In the vision he had in chapter 8, the angel told him about 'many days' and dear old Daniel fainted away at the thought that maybe, because many of the Jews were still not interested in obeying God, that God would have to leave them there in Babylon longer. It was a terrible thought and he just passed out.

Here we see the angel, called here the man Gabriel, coming to help Daniel understand the vision he had been given in chapter 8. Gabriel is the angel that stands in the place that Lucifer lost when he rebelled against God. God hears our earnest prayers!

Read with me verses 22 and 23 "And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou

art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.”

Here we see the love of Jesus for His dear children. Gabriel tells him as soon as he started to pray, the order came for Gabriel, the head angel standing next to God, to hurry down from heaven and help Daniel understand. How quickly he came from the centre of the universe to Daniel’s side.

We see also the kind thoughtfulness of the angel as the text says the ‘man Gabriel’. He did not appear as the shining angel he is, but in the form of a man so Daniel could talk to him and not be overcome by brightness.

Thought - Angels of God NEVER show off; they just quietly go about their work, giving all the glory to God.

Tuesday

Text: Daniel 9:24 “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”

These last few verses of Daniel 9 are some of the most important verses in the whole Bible! Read them carefully and see how much you can understand, as I explain to you what they mean. So many people get all mixed up about what these verses mean, but when we let the Bible tell us what they mean, and we pray for God’s Holy Spirit to guide us and teach us, then they are simple. Simple and wonderful!

Remember we learned about 2300 days last week, which meant 2300 real years? Well these 70 weeks of years in this verse are part of those years. It means that God was allowing the Jewish people to have 490 (70 X 7) years to still be His special people. It says ‘to finish the transgression’; this means God knew ahead of time that they would continue

to disobey Him, and He would finally have to turn away from them as His special nation. But still He would give them every chance He could.

Then it goes on, ‘to make an end of sins, bring in righteousness (right doing; obedience) and seal the vision and anoint the most Holy.’ This is talking about the work of Jesus, the Messiah. He would pay the penalty for sins, and live a life always obeying His Father.

Seal the vision? Well, when we see the way Jesus’ life and death fits perfectly into time, right where the prophecy said it would, we know that the prophecy is from God. No man could have given it. It is sealed by God that it is true.

Anoint the most Holy? Jesus was the Most Holy One, the Son of God. When He was baptized, the Holy Spirit was seen coming down and resting on Him. This was His being anointed for His task by God. (Messiah means ‘the anointed one’)

Also His blood later shed on the cross for sins, in symbol, anointed the Most Holy place in the sanctuary in heaven.

Thought - All these things were going to happen in those 490 years.

Wednesday

Text: Daniel 9:25 “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.”

Now none of these wonderful prophecies would do anybody any good at all without what this verse tells us! Why? Because this verse tells us when the prophecy will START. If we don’t know where it starts, we can’t know any of the other parts and we can’t know where it ends.

But here we are; it will all start when the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem

is made. Then the verse goes on to tell the most important secret this world ever needed to know; the very time when Messiah would begin His work!

Seven weeks, (49 years) three score and two (a score is 20 so this is 62 weeks = 434 years) Together they come to 483 years.

In Ezra 7:1-27, we are told when this decree was made. There were two other little decrees before, but this one was the big one, and it is where the prophecy starts. It happened in 457 BC. When we take away 457 from the 483 years (BC. times are backwards) we get 26, but because there is no year 0, we really come to A.D. 27.

What does the Bible tell us happened in AD 27? Why that was when Jesus was baptized by John and anointed by the Holy Spirit for His task of saving mankind.

Thought - You see, the Bible has proof within it, that what it teaches is truth!

Thursday

Text: Daniel 9:26 “And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.”

Here is more information on the work of Jesus, our Messiah. It says He shall be ‘cut off’ But not for Himself. This is saying He was going to die for us, to pay for our sins. It was going to happen after the 69 weeks of years, and before the end of the 70 weeks of years, that were set-aside for the Jews. The next verse tells us more about this.

It goes on to give a glimpse of a very sad thing that would happen after Jesus’ death. God knew ahead of time, what the people would be like, and what they would do, and He knew that there would come the time when, because Jesus had done everything He could for them, but they still would not listen, that the armies of a ‘prince that would

come’ would destroy Jerusalem again. We know from history and other prophecies that this ‘prince to come’ would be Rome and her armies.

Jerusalem was totally destroyed in AD 70 by the armies of Rome lead by Titus a Roman general. (Not the Titus that Paul knew)

Thought - Because God knows what will happen, does not mean that He forces the people to stay wicked so He can destroy them. No- He does everything possible to help them to be obedient, so He can save them. But He wants to tell us that He knows how things will work out.

Friday

Text: Daniel 9:27 “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.”

Some of these verses are full of big words and things a bit hard to understand. Don’t let that worry you, just try to see how much you can understand and as you keep studying and growing, after a while you will be surprised what wonderful things you will be able to see in prophecy!

What this verse is saying is that the last week of the seventy weeks, was going to be very special. It went from A.D. 27 to A.D. 34. During this time Jesus was going to ‘confirm the covenant’. That means He was going to be there, fulfilling all the promises that were made to God’s people about the Messiah and the plan of Salvation.

Now Jesus was ‘anointed’ in the fall of A.D. 27, and the year that ended the 70 weeks was A.D. 34 in the fall (because the decree to rebuild Jerusalem was in the fall) Now where would the very exact midst (middle) of that week of years be?

Why it would be the spring of A.D. 31. What happened in the spring of A.D. 31 at the Passover? Why that was right when Jesus was crucified and died on the cross at the very hour the Passover lamb was to be killed! This is how He caused 'the sacrifice and the oblation to cease'. No more was it necessary to offer lambs, as Jesus, the 'Lamb of God' had come and fulfilled those symbols.

You see, we don't have to guess about our

Saviour, Jesus, the Messiah; we KNOW He is just what He said He was. This wonderful time prophecy proves it forever!

Thought - When you hear people say that Jesus was just a 'good man' or He was just one of many prophets, or any of these lies of Satan; you can KNOW Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah of the Promises and He is Your Saviour— if you choose to give your heart to Him! = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #11: "THE LATER DAYS"

MEMORY VERSE: "Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, and said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me." Daniel 10:18-19.

Sunday

Text: Daniel 10:2,3 "In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled."

Again we find Daniel fasting and praying for to understand the vision that had been given to him. Notice that fasting in the Bible does not always mean going totally without eating; in this case Daniel ate very plain food, nothing fancy. He prayed earnestly for help.

He was still worried that the Jews might not get to return to Jerusalem as the prophecy had said. He knew God was true, and His word never fails, but he also knew that many of the Jews were still in rebellion against God, and were not obeying Him.

Thought - This is one of the important differences between a 'psychic' and a real prophet of God. A psychic just goes into a trance and gets his information from evil angels, whenever he wants to; a true prophet must wait for God to see fit to give him information. But remember, God's information is always true!

Monday

Text: Daniel 10:5,6 "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude."

Turn over to Revelation 1 in your Bible and read there the description of what Jesus looked like when He came to see John; then you will know Who it was that Daniel saw. It was Jesus, who evidently came with the angel Gabriel to Daniel.

"This description is similar to that given by John when Christ was revealed to him upon the Isle of Patmos. No less a personage than the Son of God appeared to Daniel. Our Lord comes with another heavenly messenger to teach Daniel what would take place in the latter days." *The Sanctified Life*, page 49.

Now Daniel was down by the river 'Hiddekel' (the Tigris) and he had people with him. They did not see what Daniel saw, but

they knew something was happening. They were afraid and quickly ran away to hide!

○ Notice what happened to Daniel:

Verses 8, 9, "Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground."

There he was on his face on the ground helpless. Then he was given strength and the angel helped him up. But even then he 'stood trembling.'

Then again he became dumb (couldn't speak) and fell on his face again. The angel touched him so he could speak, and tried to comfort him, telling him the words of our memory verse. Then the angel changed and appeared as a man and finally Daniel could stand after being strengthened again.

○ **Thought** - If you meet people who boast that they know God, and yet they are proud and like to brag; you can know for sure that they don't really know God, they have never really come close to Him; because anybody who really talks with God, will be quiet and very humble.

Tuesday

Text: Daniel 10:12, 13 "Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."

○ Now we see a very important thing here; Gabriel tells Daniel how his prayers had been heard right from the first day, but Gabriel also tells him that he had been working with Cyrus to get him to fulfil the prophecy, and

allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem. But Satan was working there also to try and stop it; and for three weeks the king seemed more interested in listening to Satan.

But then it says Michael came to help him and the battle was won. Who is Michael? It is Jesus. The true meaning for 'Michael, one of the chief princes,' is 'Michael, the chief or first of the princes.' The name 'Michael' means 'He who is like the Most High.' This title was coveted by Lucifer, (See Isaiah 14:14) But it rightly belongs to the One we know as Jesus Christ.

Then Gabriel tells Daniel that he is going to stay with Cyrus fighting to have him follow the will of God and when he would leave, then the Medo Persian kingdom would fall to Greece.

Thought - I want you to always remember that no matter how dark and scary things in this world may be; that God is in charge and He will only allow Satan to go so far and no further. If you are surrendered to Jesus, you are safe under His wings!

Wednesday

Text: Daniel 10:14 "Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days."

This was the reason Gabriel was there to talk to Daniel, to help him to understand. God wants us to understand what He has shown to us in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. He will help us also if we pray and ask Him to teach us.

Here are some more facts about Gabriel: "The words of the angel, "I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God," [Luke 1:19] show that he holds a position of high honour in the heavenly courts. When he came with a message to Daniel, he said, "There is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael [Christ] your Prince." Daniel 10:21. Of Gabriel the Saviour speaks in the Revelation, saying that "He sent and signi-

fied it by His angel unto His servant John." Revelation 1:1. And to John the angel declared, "I am a fellow servant with thee and with thy brethren the prophets." Revelation 22:9, R. V. Wonderful thought, that the angel who stands next in honour to the Son of God is the one chosen to open the purposes of God to sinful men." *Desire of Ages*, page 99.

Thought - Don't ever think that you are not important to Jesus; He would send every angel out of heaven to come and help you rather than have one of His true children overcome by Satan!

Thursday

Text: Daniel 10:21 "But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince."

"The Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants and prophets." While "the secret things belong unto the Lord our God," "those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever." Amos 3:7; Deuteronomy 29:29. God has given these things to us, and His blessing will attend the reverent, prayerful study of the prophetic scriptures.' *Desire of Ages*, page 234.

There seems to be a lot of people running around these days that are quick to tell you that there is no sense for you (especially if you are a child) to try and study and learn the Bible prophesies and truths, because only the important people with many years in worldly schools can tell you what they mean.

This is a lie, and it is the same lie that allowed the Roman Papacy to control the people for so long. They didn't let the people read the Bible for themselves but told them only the important people; the church leaders could understand it.

Don't be fooled by this now! As soon as you can read, you can start to learn the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy for yourself! And

if you pray and ask God to send his angels and the Holy Spirit to teach you and let you be in Jesus' school; He will do it for you! Oh, you may not see the angel, but after a while, you will get to know he is there.

Thought - God wants you to KNOW, don't let anyone take that away from you!

Friday

Text: Daniel 10:17 "For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me."

This is another sign of a true prophet of God; they do not breathe the whole time they are in vision! We do not know how long Daniel was in vision, but Sister White was sometimes in one for more than an hour and she DIDN'T BREATHE the whole time. Even doctors often proved this!

Now there is another thought I want to share with you:

"If one angel from heaven caused the Roman guard to fall as dead men, how can those who are unprepared, unholy, bear the sight and live, of seeing Jesus in the glory of His Father and ten thousand angels accompanying Him. O how can sinners bear this sight! They will cry for rocks and mountains to fall on them, and hide them from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb." *Youth's Instructor*, April 1, 1854.

Remember how the people who were with Daniel when the vision came were terrified and ran to hide themselves? They were probably not believers in God. In order to be able to bear the presence of heavenly beings, we must totally belong to God.

But even Daniel was overcome by the presence of the heavenly beings. BUT, and here is the good news; God strengthened him. If Daniel would have been living a sinful life, he would have died when the heavenly beings came to him. But he belonged fully to Jesus.

There are church leaders today who are telling young people; “Oh, don’t worry about your life. Jesus understands. You can do whatever you like and just ask Jesus to forgive and you will still go to heaven.” This, dear TEMKIT readers, is a LIE, and those who tell it are working for Satan whether they know it or not!

As you read the Bible and get to really know God’s truths, you will learn that no sin that is NOT forsaken (that means you haven’t stopped doing it) is forgiven! To be

ready to meet Jesus; there must be no sins left that we know about, that we have not asked Jesus to forgive AND allowed Him to remove from our lives.

Thought - Jesus only forgives those sins we are willing for Him to REMOVE from our lives. What if you are not willing to give up a sin? Don’t despair— just ask Jesus to make you willing; tell Him “I am willing to be made willing”. Then things you think you can never give up— will be easy to throw away.
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Weekly Bible Lesson #12: “PROPHETIC DETAILS”

MEMORY VERSE: “Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7

Sunday

Text: Daniel 11:2 “And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.”

Chapter 11 is a wonderful chapter. The angel Gabriel is the one who is speaking. He is explaining in detail to Daniel events that will take place down through history; right to the end. It isn’t a new vision, but clearer information about the visions in Daniel 2, 7 and 8, but this time in plain language instead of symbols.

In order to understand this story, we need to look at the events of history as they happened from Daniel’s day to now. It can be hard for us today to find a good history book that will tell us the true happenings, as there have been many people busy changing the history books. Also, History is no longer taught in school as much as it used to be.

Why is this?? Well, Satan is planning to get people to do some things that history plainly shows are wrong and stupid. He is getting the leaders of the world to give the

power back to the pope of Rome that he had in the Dark Ages. If people knew all about what happened in the Dark Ages; they would not be so happy to go along with this idea. SO— Rome’s agents get busy and rewrite history— get rid of important history books from libraries and tell people a bunch of lies instead.

One book that you can get that will help you to understand the first 36 verses of this amazing chapter, is ‘Daniel and Revelation’ by Uriah Smith. You see, he still had lots of those true history books to look at in his day, and so he tells us what these verses mean. I first read this book as a teen and it is amazing!

However, after verse 36, he had a problem; he wanted something different to say about verse 36 than what other pioneers were saying; and he made a mistake that confused his thinking. As a result he couldn’t see clearly what the rest of the verses are saying about the ‘King of the North’ and what he will do.

Thought - We have to be careful with prophecy; our own ideas can lead us away from truth.

Monday

Text: Daniel 11:33 “And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.”

Our lesson would be much too long if I were to try and tell you what all the verses mean, but I will show some examples of the wonderful way God tells a lot of history in just a few words.

Here we are shown the ‘church in the wilderness’; the true believers who had to flee to the mountains in those days. It says in verse 32 that they ‘know their God’. What a wonderful tribute to those faithful ones!

Our verse tells us how those faithful ones worked hard to teach others and keep the Word of God alive during those terrible years.

It also tells of the many ways that wicked men, under Satan’s control, took the lives of those dear faithful believers. This is describing the 1260 years of Papal rule from 538 AD to 1798.

Daniel 7:25 says, ‘they (the faithful) would be given into his hands’ for these years. Have you ever wondered why God allowed this cruel power to do all this in the name of religion? Well, God has a purpose; he has allowed Satan to show what his kind of government is like. All the angels that remained in heaven, and the other worlds that did not sin, can see just what Satan’s rule brings. He can’t fool them any more.

But why is Satan still fooling people on earth? It is taking a longer time for people on earth to learn the lesson, because most of them still choose to believe Satan’s lies and enjoy his so-called pleasures. God’s true people will know that Satan is a liar and a murderer.

Thought - I hope it can be said of each one of us that ‘we know our God’!

Tuesday

Text: Daniel 11:34, 35 “Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a

little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.”

Take a good look at these verses, because they show that although God allowed Satan to have his own way in the world for a while; God had decided to allow it for only a certain time period; the 1260 years. The ‘time of the end’ that this verse talks about is the end of that time prophecy of the 1260 years.

The warning is seen here, that some of the faithful would be fooled by people who pretended to be their friends, and flattered them. Then they were tricked and killed. This happened to the Waldenses, and in France at the time of the St. Bartholomew’s massacre; also it happened in Ireland. When Rome is friendly—watch out!

The angel tells about some help that God would send to His dear ones. This ‘little help’ was the reformation, which began hundreds of years before the end of the 1260 years. It slowed down the persecution a bit at least.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:22 “except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.” Again, it was the reformation that ‘shortened those days’.

Thought - Even when sad, bad days come, we can know our Father is in charge and will ‘shorten the days’ in love.

Wednesday

Text: Daniel 11:36, 37 “And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor

the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.”

Let's take a quick look at the verses that got the writer of 'Daniel and Revelation' confused and see what we can learn from it.

Now he thought that this could not still mean Papal Rome because they claim to honour God. BUT—we also know that Rome claims to be able to CHANGE God's very LAW— which even God says He won't do! (Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.)

Is it not 'magnifying himself above every god' to tell the people to ignore God's Holy Word and obey him instead? Calling himself the one who speaks for God on this earth? This power certainly speaks 'against the God of gods'.

Yes, this 'King of the North' is still the Papacy just like the final power in all the other visions of Daniel.

Thought - Knowing that King of the North is Rome fits in with the other visions.

Thursday

Text: Daniel 11:38 “But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.”

To understand this verse we need to look at the Hebrew words. 'God of forces' in this verse can also mean 'goddess of fortresses.' Now if you see a picture of the goddess Dianna that Paul talks about; you will see that she has a castle on her head. Yes she wears a tower for a hat. She was called Goddess of Fortresses.

This was to show her power. Now the early Roman church needed to bring in a Mother and Child symbol into the church, as the sun-worshippers loved their goddess of fortresses and her child, the sun-god, Apollo. SO, they changed the name to Mary, mother

of Jesus. They created a new god, 'whom his fathers knew not'; and honored her with money and so on. So we still see Papal Rome here in these verses.

Thought - Remember, prophecy is given to show us that God loves His people and we can have faith in Him. What He said would happen, has happened—exactly!

Friday

Text: Daniel 11:40 “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.”

Now when Daniel says 'time of the end', he means the end of a time prophecy. What time prophecy tells us about Papal Rome and what it will do? Well, it is the 1260 year time prophecy. It ended in 1798.

If what we said about the 'King of the North' being Papal Rome is true, we should see something happen in 1798, somebody should 'push at him'. And we can know that the power that pushed, is the power the Bible calls 'King of the South'.

Did it happen? Yes; France after declaring there was no God, (the word for this is Atheism) sent a General and captured the pope, taking away all his power to rule as a king.

The next question is, when did Papal Rome strike back against 'atheism'? Well we have a long period of time between the King of the South pushing, and the king of the North coming like a whirlwind. The first thing happened in 1798; the next part just happened in 1989, when the Pope with the help of USA brought the fall of the 'Atheist' power, the USSR.

Thought - If you want to learn more about these wonderful prophecies – Vist <http://www.remnant-prophecy.com> = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #13: "MICHAEL STANDS UP"

MEMORY VERSE: "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." Daniel 12:1

Sunday

Text: Daniel 11:45 "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."

Daniel 11 and 12 are really one, 12 just continues the angel's words explaining to Daniel the meaning of the visions he had seen earlier. People get mixed up in their understanding when they don't realize this fact.

We want to take a close look at this final verse of chapter 11 and see the picture-story God has placed there for us. After the time of the cross, the prophecies have a spiritual meaning, and apply world-wide rather than to the real nation of Israel.

So we see the King of the North taking a stand here. The words 'plant the tabernacles of his palace', in the Hebrew mean that he will pitch his war tents. He is going to take a stand; and where is he standing?

Now people get all confused when they keep looking to the real land of Israel for something to fulfill these words; but it has spiritual meaning. The King of the North is spiritual Babylon; who's that? It is Rome and all the churches who join with her.

Who are the 'seas'? Seas represent people, nations and so on. (Re 17:15) What does the 'Holy Mountain' mean? It means the true people of God.

In verse 44, it talks about 'tidings' that make this power angry. This is a message that comes from the people of God to the nations of earth. It warns against what this power is trying to do, and tells people to come out of her. And it also tells that Jesus is about to return.

Hebrew scholars say the verse should read 'between the seas AND the glorious holy mountain'. So here sits this wicked power between the nations of earth and God's Holy people trying to stop God's message from reaching earth's millions.

But he comes to his END! Glorious promise!

Thought - In the 1260 year prophecy, God's people were 'given into his (Rome's) hand' In the final time of trouble they will not be; instead the power comes to its end as it tries again to wipe out God's children.

Monday

Text - Daniel 12:1 "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."

Michael stands up! Who is Michael? We know it is our mighty Saviour, Jesus. This is the name always used when He wars against Satan. He stands up for His people. There is another place where we see Jesus stand up; it is when Stephen was stoned; (Acts 7) he saw Jesus standing by the Father's throne. He wasn't taking this sitting down! Probation ended then for the Jews as a nation. (They can still be saved as individuals, of course.) When He stands up this time; probation will close for the world. Everyone will have decided and will either belong totally to God, keeping His commandments, or be in total rebellion against Him.

‘I want to be among that number who shall have their names written in the book, who shall be delivered. I want the overcomer’s reward. The masterly temptations of Satan will overpower many who now profess to believe the truth. Their unworthy course of action, their denial of Christ, will make it necessary for God to blot their names from the book of life. But O, may it not be so with us!’ Review and Herald, March 26, 1889.

‘In the time of trouble just before the coming of Christ, the righteous will be preserved through the ministration of heavenly angels; but there will be no security for the transgressor of God’s law. Angels cannot then protect those who are disregarding one of (God’s Commandments)’ *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 256.

Thought - Jesus will be with His dear children who trust in Him and Satan cannot overcome them!

Tuesday

Text: Daniel 12: 2 “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.”

Just before the actual coming of Jesus in the clouds of heaven, there will be a special resurrection. The people of God who die in the final persecution before the close of probation, and those who have believed the 3 angel’s messages, will be raised to see Him come.

Also the ones who crucified Jesus, and ones who have been the worst persecutors of God’s children through the ages, will be raised to watch in horror as Jesus returns, not now as a humble man, but as King of Kings! Remember Jesus warned the high priest about that? Matthew 26:64 “Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”

Imagine how terrible will be this sight to

those wicked ones! But think how wonderful it will be for God’s dear children as they see Him coming and know that soon they will be forever free from those who want to force them to disobey their dear heavenly Father!

Thought - Those wicked people will die three times, the earthly death, then, when they see Him come they will die of fright, and finally in the lake of fire they die forever.

Wednesday

Text: Daniel 12:4 “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.”

The angel told Daniel that his book was not going to be understood until the end of those great time prophecies in the book. Then ‘knowledge would be increased’. This knowledge doesn’t just mean worldly knowledge; it means understanding the book of Daniel.

As the time prophecies neared their end, God’s Holy Spirit drew people’s attention to them, and helped them to understand what they meant. ‘Running to and fro’ does not just mean people travelling around a lot, it means to study the scriptures, ‘running here and there’ in the Bible and putting texts together to understand the great message of the Book.

As the 1260 year prophecy and the 2300 year prophecy neared their end, people all over the world began to study the book of Daniel and learn wonderful truths out of it. The prophecy was perfectly fulfilled.

Thought - The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation as well as the other prophets in the Bible, have special meaning for us now in the end times. God wants us to study and understand His messages to us.

Thursday

Text: Daniel 12:7 “And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters

of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.”

The ‘Man in linen’ is Jesus our High Priest; the heavenly beings asked him how long the wicked powers would persecute God’s true people. He answers with another prophecy of the 1260 years, which ended in 1798.

You see, this power that is seeking now to get control of the whole world again, has already been rejected by God. They have had their time and did wickedly. It will seem like it is going to succeed again, but just when it takes control in the world and seeks to blot out God’s people, it will quickly come to it’s end.

Thought - The ‘beast power’ may roar and pass his laws to force God’s people to break God’s commandments—but they won’t do it—Jesus will give them power to stand for Him.

Friday

Text: Daniel 12:11-13 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, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. But

go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

Here we see 2 more time prophecies! The first is 1290 day/years: It is from the time when the ‘daily’ is taken away, this ‘daily’ desolating power is paganism. (the word ‘sacrifice’ doesn’t belong there and is not in the Hebrew text) The ‘abomination’ power that would begin then to be set up is Papal Rome.

It meant when Pagan Rome lost its power and Papal Rome began to be set up the prophecy was to begin. This happened in 508 AD. 1290 years from that point comes again to 1798.

Then we see 1335 years, they start the same place and it comes to 1843! Jesus says there is a blessing on that year. What happened in 1843? Well, the message of the time prophecies of Daniel, were preached with great power. We call it the ‘midnight cry’ message.

Daniel ‘stands in his lot’; this means that at those times, and in our day also, the prophecies of the book of Daniel, would be understood and do a great work in the earth. This happened in 1843. BUT it is also to happen today. The final message to the world will have its great power from the time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

So you can see that understanding prophecy is not only interesting for us, it is very important too.

Thought - Daniel and Revelation are really one book given by Jesus. He gave the first part to Daniel and the second part to John on Patmos. = ^ .. ^ =

