

# The Prophecies of Daniel

## Lesson 13

# Who is Daniel?

- Born: Israel, 626 BC. Raised by good Godly parents.
- Deported to Babylon with 3 friends in 605 BC when Judah conquered
  - The Southern Kingdom of Judah reaped a bitter harvest for their years of disobedience to God's word. Babylon invaded Israel and dispersed the population from their land.
- Daniel had no physical defects, was pleasing in appearance, intelligent, knowledgeable, quick to learn,.. Socially poised and able to live in the king's court without creating embarrassment for himself or others.
- In all probability, Daniel was made a eunuch
- Served in kings' courts his entire life.
- 3 years intensive training for King's Court Duties
  - Eunuch, language, Babylonian culture, religion, philosophy, science, knowledge, Babylonian identity.
  - Goal of the training: Turn these men into Babylonians by changing their way of thinking, their way of worship and their way of living.
  - Daniel understood that the Babylonian lifestyle was opposed to God and 'chose' to be faithful to God in spite of consequences.

# The Power of Daniel's Visions

Nebuchadnezzar's  
Dream:  
Statue  
World Kingdoms

Daniel's Dream:  
Wild Beasts  
Kingdoms of Man

Daniel's Dream:  
Ram/Goat  
The Fourth Kingdom

Daniel's Dream  
Seventy "Sevens"  
Countdown

Daniel's Dream  
Abomination of  
Desolation

# Israel Under Judgment For Faithlessness – Why Did Daniel Have Strong Faith?

- As a young boy, Daniel lived during the reign of King Josiah of Judah
- King Josiah was the vigorous reformer who attempted to undo 57 years of shameless apostasy under his father & grandfather's reigns.
- While the temple was undergoing repairs, the Book of the Law was found and read to the King and the people.
- A national revival swept the land. King Josiah determined that Judah would be faithful to God.
- The revival had no impact on King Josiah's sons. When they succeeded their father, they undid all of his righteous reforms.
- Judgment fell on Judah
- The revival in King Josiah's time had a deep and lasting effect on Daniel's family and assisted Daniel in his early-life decision to be faithful to God all his life.

# Why Daniel Underwent Training

- King Nebuchadnezzar ruled an empire comprised of many conquered nations which had to be ruled efficiently from Babylon.
- King Nebuchadnezzar looked for choice young men who could in time occupy important positions in Babylon, particularly in the administration of the conquered nations' affairs.
- The requirements for selection were high. Daniel and his friends had to be re-educated if they were to be of any value to Nebuchadnezzar in managing Israel.
- Daniel and his friends were to be indoctrinated or brainwashed so that they would no longer think or act like Judeans, but like Babylonians

# Chronology: Daniel's Babylonian Exile

- 605 BC Babylonian 3-year training begins.
- 605-604 BC Daniel challenges his trainers over food selection.
- 603 BC King Nebuchadnezzar's Statue Dream
- 587 BC Jerusalem is destroyed due to Israel's rebellion to Babylon
- 571 BC King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of insanity
- 570 BC Start of King Nebuchadnezzar's 7-years of insanity.
- 564 BC King Nebuchadnezzar's insanity ends
- 563 BC King Nebuchadnezzar's empire restored
- 553 BC Belshazzar becomes King of Babylon

# Chronology: Daniel's Babylonian Exile (2)

- 552 BC Daniel's Dream of God's View of the 4-coming Kingdoms
- 550 BC Daniel's vision of the coming Greek empire
- 539 BC Handwriting on the wall. Babylon overthrown by Cyrus the Mede
- 537 BC Daniel is thrown into the Lion's Pit
- 536 BC End of Israel's 70-year Exile from Judah
- 535 BC Daniel leaves Babylon but it is unknown where he went.
- 533 BC Daniel has his final prophetic vision
- 532 BC Daniel is believed to have died this year at over 90 years of age.

# Daniel 2: 31-45

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year King Nebuchadnezzar's reign.
  - Dream: An immense, dazzling statue was struck by a rock that grew into a mountain filling the whole earth.
  - The King was greatly perturbed.
  - No court counselor or advisor could reveal the dream or its interpretation to the King. All sentenced to execution.
    - Magicians (sacred writers or scholars)
    - Astrologers (enchanters or sacred priests)
    - Sorcerers (Witchcraft: those who used herbs, charms & potions)
    - Chaldeans (special group of priests and wise men)
  - Daniel hears of the execution orders and asks for a meeting with the king so he could reveal the substance of the dream as well as reveal its meaning to the king.

# Crisis Management

1. Daniel showed wisdom & discretion
  1. Guarded his speech
  2. Inquired as to why the king's decree was so harsh.
2. Daniel demonstrated great boldness & faith
  1. Persuaded Captain Arioch to arrange an audience with the King
3. Daniel and his friends prayed.
4. Daniel Praised God (for answered prayer)
  1. Wisdom and might are His
  2. He changes the times and the seasons
  3. He removes kings and sets up kings
  4. He gives wisdom to the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding
  5. He reveals the deep and secret things
  6. He knows what is in the darkness
  7. The light dwells with him

# Revelation of the Dream

- Gold Head
  - Represented Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar)
- Silver Chest & Arms
  - Represented another kingdom inferior to Babylon.
- Bronze Belly and Thighs
  - Represented a third kingdom that would rule over the whole earth.
- Legs of Iron, Feet of Iron/Clay
  - Represented a fourth kingdom strong enough to crush the others, but brittle at the feet and toes
- The Rock
  - Represents an eternal kingdom established by the God of Heaven.

# Daniel 7: The Second Vision

# Daniel's Second Vision

- God revealed a second vision to Daniel in a dream during the first year of Belshazzar's reign, about 553 BC
- Belshazzar apparently ruled as co-regent with his 'in absentia' father, Nabonidus, who was successor to Nebuchadnezzar.

# The Second Vision

## *Scene of the Beasts*

- **Lion:** The first Beast. ([Daniel 7:4](#)) looked like a lion with the wings of an eagle (symbol of the Babylonian Empire) The humanizing of the beast – which was lifted to its two feet and given the heart of a man – probably relates to Nebuchanezzar
- **Bear:** Second Beat ([Daniel 7:5](#)) looked like a bear with one side raised up and three ribs in its mouth (may signify conquest of surrounding nations).
- **Leopard:** Third Beast ([Daniel 7:6](#)) looked like a leopard with four wings (perhaps signifying speed) and four heads (indication division)
- **Terrifying Beast:** Fourth Beast ([Daniel 7:7](#)) was terrifying and very powerful, it had ten horns (cf the ten toes of [Daniel 2:41-42 \[13\]](#)) large iron teeth and crushed, devoured, and trampled its victims.
- **The Little Horn:** ([Daniel 7:8](#)) came up among the ten horns and uprooted three of them (perhaps indicating forced submission). It had eyes like a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully – an obviously human manifestation.

# The Second Vision

## *Scene of Great Kingdoms That All End*

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- The saints then possessed the kingdom

# The Second Vision

## *Scene of the Everlasting Kingdom*

- Thrones set in place
- The Ancient of Days took His seat
- Description of Ancient of Days' clothing
- Description of the Ancient of Days' throne
- River of fire
- Thousands of attendees
- Ten thousands times ten thousands standing before the Ancient of Days
- The court was seated
- The books were opened
- Boastful words of the little horn
- The Terrifying Beast is slain, its body destroyed and thrown into the other blazing fire.
- One of the 'son of man' approached and was led into the Ancient of Days presence and given authority, glory, and sovereign power. All peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

# The Ancient of Days

- Ended the Little Horn's fight against the saints of the Most High
  - God took His seat to pronounce judgment
  - Fire flowed before His throne
  - Multitudes attended God
  - The court was seated
  - The books were opened
- 
- Note: The Bible contains several references to courtroom-type scenes comparable to this passage ([Psalm 82:1, 8](#); [Psalm 89:6-7](#), [Psalm 94:2](#), [Isaiah 3:13](#), [Revelation 20:11-15](#))

# The Beast

- Was Slain & thrown into the fire
- The term 'beast' refers either to the terrifying fourth beast of [Daniel 7:7](#), or the boastful little horn that came up among the ten horns of [Daniel 7:8](#). The little horn fought the saints and although was winning, God stopped the fight and pronounced judgment on the beast.
- Compare these verses to the beast's last stand at Armageddon ([Revelation 19: 19-20](#))

# The Son of Man

- Came with the clouds of heaven and was brought before the Ancient of days to receive a kingdom that will never be destroyed.
- Note: When Jesus was questioned by the high priest, Jesus identified himself as the '**son of man**' coming with the clouds of heaven
- [Mark 14: 61-62](#)
- [Mark 13:26](#)

# The Second Vision

## *The Interpretation*

- What's Going On?
  - The four beasts are four earthly kingdoms who come and gone in their efforts to “rule” the world.
  - But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever.
- Who is that Terrifying Beast
  - The fourth kingdom is different from all other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth trampling it down and crushing it.
- What are those ten horns?
  - Ten kings who will come from the kingdom of the fourth beast.
- Who is the Little Horn?
  - An 11<sup>th</sup> King will rise to power and subdue three of the other kings.
  - This 11<sup>th</sup> king will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws.
  - The saints will be handed over to the little horn for a time, times and half a time.
- God's Kingdom is established
  - The court will sit and the beast's power will be taken away and completely destroyed
  - The sovereignty, power, and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole world will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High
  - God's kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey God

# The Second Vision

## *Who Are The Saints?*

- Who does Daniel have in mind when he uses the term “saints” in [Daniel 7](#) & [8](#)?
- At the time Daniel recorded his vision he would probably have understood “the saints, the people of the Most High” to mean the godly Jews who were faithful to God’s covenant. But in the providence of God, could New Testament saints (the term the apostles applied to Christians) also have been intended.
- Consider [Revelation 13:10](#), [12:7](#), [17:6](#)
- Who are the saints here?

# Daniel's Dreams

Daniel 2 <i>Four Kingdoms</i>	Daniel 7 <i>Four Beast Kingdoms</i>	Daniel 8 <i>Two Beast Kingdoms</i>	Kingdoms Identified
Head of Gold	LION With the wings of an eagle		<b>Babylonia</b> 626 – 539 BC
Chest & Arms of Silver	BEAR With one side raised up	RAM <i>From the east</i> With two horns of which one is longer than the other.	<b>The Medes &amp; Persians</b> 539 – 330 BC
Belly and Thighs of Bronze	LEOPARD With 4 wings and 4 heads	GOAT <i>From the west</i> With a large horn replaced by four horns	<b>Greece</b> 330 – 63 BC <i>Divided into four subkingdoms</i>
Legs of Irons  Feet of Iron & Clay	TERRIFYING AND VERY POWERFUL BEAST With 10 horns..... among which a little horn arises		The Roman Empire 63 BC →

# Daniel 8: Third Vision

# Daniel's Third Vision

- God revealed a third vision to Daniel in a dream during the third year of Belshazzar's reign, about 551 BC
- In this vision, Daniel saw himself in the citadel of Sousa, a fortified city a little north of the Persian Gulf that served as a winter residence for Persian kings (whom Daniel later served.)
- Daniel's vision concerned a ram and a goat kingdom.

# A Ram With Two Horns

- The ram charged west, north and south (obviously coming from the east).
- Nothing could stand against the ram
- One horn grew longer than the other but grew up later.
- Note: The three ribs in the bear's mouth ([Daniel 7:5](#)) may symbolize the ram's three-directional conquest.

# A Goat With A Prominent Horn

- The goat soared (Remember the wings of [Daniel 7:6](#)) over the earth from the west and struck the ram furiously, shattering both of its horns.
- As soon as the goat achieved sovereignty over the earth, its large horn was broken off and replaced by four horns that grew in all directions

# Yet Another Horn

- Out of one of the four horns (sub-kingdoms) grew another horn.
- This horn's power reach south and east to the Beautiful Land (Israel)
- The horn trampled down many of the godly believers, set itself up as great as the Prince of the host (an arrogant challenge to the God of Israel), abolished the daily sacrifice, and defiled the sanctuary.
- Truth was violently repressed.
- Note: Daniel terms this sacrilege the 'rebellion that causes desolation, which is almost the same wording he used to describe the end-time event, the 'abomination that causes desolation', it prefigured.
- Daniel was told that because of the rebellion the sanctuary would be brought low for the duration of 2,300 evening and morning sacrifices (or 1,150 days)
- Interestingly: The 1,150 days proves to be the amount of time that elapsed between the desecration of the Lord's altar by Antiochus IV Epiphanes in 168 BC and its re-consecration by Judas Maccabeus in 165 BC Today, Hanukkah celebrates this re-consecration and the reinstating of sacrifices under the Maccabees.

# Gabriel, Tell This Man The Vision's Meaning

- Gabriel came toward Daniel who became terrified, fell forward prostrate either fainting or in a trance. Gabriel revived Daniel.
- This vision concerns the ***appointed time of the end***.
- The two-horned ram represents the kings of Media and Persia.
- The shaggy goat is the king of Greece
  - The large horn between his eyes is the first king.
  - The four horns represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power.
  - In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue will arise.
- The Stern-Faced King
  - Will cause astounding devastation and succeed in all he does.
  - Will destroy the mighty men and the holy people
  - Will cause deceit to prosper and consider himself superior
  - Will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of Princes.
  - Will be destroyed, but not by human power.
- The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given to you is true but seal up the vision for it concerns the distant future.

# Interpretation

- The Time of the end:
  - Daniel was told the vision concerned the time of wrath and the appointed time of the end.
  - Compare [Daniel 8:19](#) to [Luke 21:23b](#)
- The Medes and the Persians
  - Two horned ram
  - The saga of Esther took place during the reign of Xerxes, King of Persia, whose attempts to subdue Greece around 480 BC proved ill-fated. Today, Purim celebrates the rescue of the Jewish exiles in Susa from Haman's plot to annihilate them.
- Greece
  - Large horn
  - The four horns that emerged from the broken large horn
  - A stern-faced king

# Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- **Believed to be the stern-faced king.**
- **Rose to power (174-164 BC) as one of the four horns (Seleucid or northern branch) of Greece.**
  - Antiochus was not the rightful successor to the Seleucid throne.
  - Nicknamed the madman
  - Died the year following Maccabean revolt, apparently having gone insane.
- **Antiochus is believed to be a type of the *little horn/beast* who would later arise from among the ten horns of the Roman empire.**
- **Obvious similarities between Antiochus and**
  - A type of the end-time beast of [Daniel 8:23-25](#)
  - And the little horn (actual end-time beast) of [Daniel 7:8, 19-20](#)
- **Similarities include**
  - Excessive pride
  - Attempts to overthrow the Prince of princes
  - Replace true worship with idolatrous worship
  - Their murder of the Holy People
  - Their abolishing of sacrifices
  - Their mutual demise at God's hand.

# The Distant Future

- Daniel told to “seal up the vision”
  - Because it pertains to the distant future
- Read [Daniel 12:4](#) and [12:9](#) in which, again, the words are to be closed up and sealed “until the time of the end.”
- What does this mean.....and why seal them?

# Seals

- If Daniel recorded the vision, how then is it sealed?
- It was the fulfillment of Daniel's vision that was sealed
  - God chose when to bring forth fulfillment.
  - John was told not to seal up what he had written because the time was near ([Revelation 22:10](#)) perhaps indicating the time of implementation was at hand (or had begun).
  - [Revelation 5](#) Jesus takes the scroll from God's hand and begins to break its seven seals (God's judgment on the world) which will unfold in God's time
  - Compare to [Habakkuk 2:3](#)

Daniel 9:  
Seventy Sevens

# Daniel As A Bible Scholar

- After the conquest of Babylon, Daniel's studies of Jeremiah ([Jeremiah 25:11-12](#), [29:10](#)) learned that the Jewish exile to Babylon was to last 70 years, which had now been completed.
  - Daniel humbled himself before God, confessing the sins of his people and prayed for forgiveness and mercy for his city and people.
  - The angel Gabriel flew to Daniel with a revelation about the future
  - The revelation is 4-verses long and one of most important in prophecy.
  - The term "seven" in this prophecy is commonly understood to mean seven years: thus 70 sevens equals 490 years

# Overview Of The 70 'Sevens'

- The time it will take to complete the following six events has been fixed at 70 'sevens' (490 years)
  1. To finish transgression
  2. To put an end to sin
  3. To atone for wickedness
  4. To bring in everlasting righteousness
  5. To seal up vision and prophecy
  6. To anoint the most holy (place or one)

# Timing of 70 'Sevens'

- Daniel 25a:

- Issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem and the cutting off of the anointed one (Christ) is
  - Seven plus 62 'sevens' or 483 years
  - Setting the date for issuance is problematic. Not known, but this is not important as the ending (Crucifixion of Christ) is reasonably known.

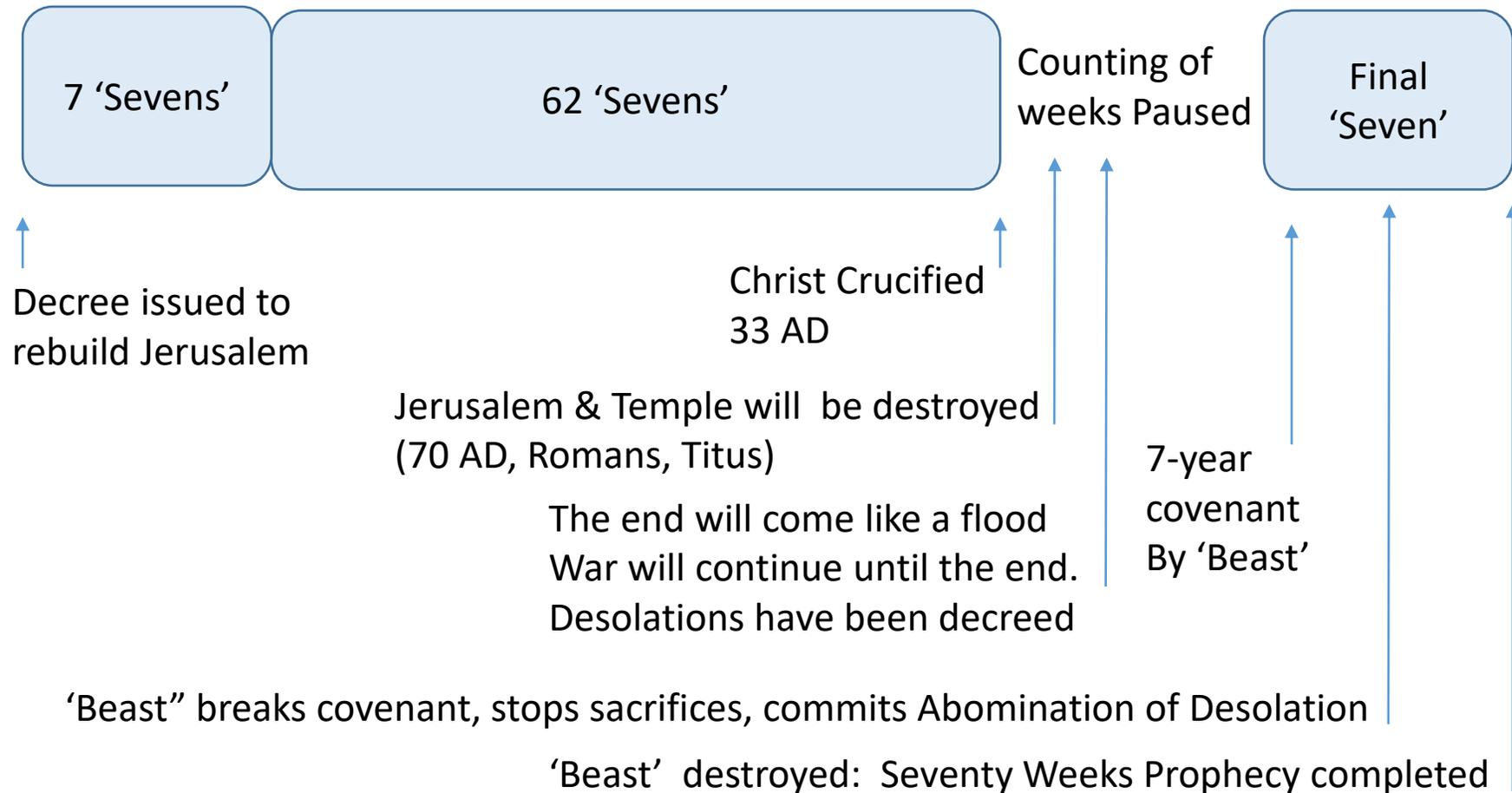
- Daniel 25b:

- The seven 'sevens' is how long it took for Jerusalem (not the temple) to be rebuilt under the direction of Ezra and Nehemiah. Although rebuilt in a modern and functional way, Jerusalem's rebuilding would prove troublesome.

# Final Seven

- [Daniel 9:26B](#): Prophecy that Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed, which happened in 70 A.D. under Titus, the Roman leader.
- The end will come like a flood
- War will continue to the end
- Desolations have been decreed
- ‘He” (The beast of earlier visions) will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven’
  - In the middle of the ‘seven’ (3 ½ years) ‘He’ will put an end to sacrifice and offering
  - On a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation until the end that is decreed.

# 70 'Sevens' Time Line



Daniel 10 - 11  
Type of Antichrist

# Daniel's 21 Day Fasting Vision

- Prophetic content of [Daniel 10](#), [11](#) & [12](#) revealed in 539 BC
- In Daniel 10, we learned that after 21 days of intense fasting & mourning, a revelation was given Daniel concerning ...
  - A great war
  - A time yet that was to come
  - “I have come to you to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come ...”
- While the message seems to have been delivered by a angel or angels, it both begins and ends in an encounter with a glorious being whose description closely resembles John's visions of Jesus Christ in [Revelation 1](#) & [2](#)
  - Compare [Daniel 10:4-6](#) to [Revelation 1:13-17](#) and [Revelation 2:12-18](#).
  - Also compare the appearance to the likeness of the glory of the Lord in [Ezekiel 1:25-28](#), [Daniel 7:9](#)
- An Angel explains in Daniel 11 the vision of Daniel 10.

# The Vision of Daniel 10 Explained

- [Daniel 11:1-20](#)

- Describes the ongoing battles between the Seleucid (northern) and Ptolemaic (southern) subkingdoms of Greece. The king described here in 16 is considered to be Antiochus III (The Great) and not Antiochus IV Epiphanes (the type of Beast of Daniel's vision).

- [Daniel 11:21-35](#) Desecration of the temple

- Daniel describes a “contemptible person (Antiochus IV Epiphanes) who is successful in seizing what is probably the Seleucid throne (Israel).
  - Through his military conquests Antiochus gathers great wealth
  - He suffers a surprise defeat by the king of the South
  - Antiochus turns inland a second time, invades Jerusalem and vent his fury against the holy covenant
  - Antiochus desecrates the Jewish temple
  - Antiochus Abolishes the daily sacrifice
  - Rewards those who deny their God
  - Antiochus sets up the Abomination That Causes Desolation (Note Daniel uses the same terminology he applied earlier to the end-time desolator of Daniel 9:27

# Daniel 11:32-35

- Holy People Refined

- Those who know their God will resist the contemptible person's authority
- Those who stand firm in the face of captivity or torture or death will persuade and bolster the faith of many others.
- When those who are faithful stumble, it is so they may be refined and readied for the end that lies ahead.

# The End Time Beast

- The Beast of [Daniel 11:36-45](#) is typically believed to be the yet-to-emerge Beast of [Revelation 13](#).
  - As King, he will show no respect for any god.
  - This beast will exalt and magnify himself above all gods (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
  - Will say unheard of things against God until the 'time of wrath' is completed.
  - He will subdue his mightiest opponents – worldwide
  - He will appropriate and submit land to those who submit to him
  - He will extend his power over many countries
  - He will take the wealth of many countries (Egypt, Libya, Nubians inn particular)
  - Any nation that opposes him will be mercilessly crushed
  - Will invade the Beautiful Land (Israel)
  - Will set up his headquarters in Jerusalem
  - When the beast's time is up, he will meet his doom with no one to rescue him.
  - What or who is meant by "God of fortresses" or "foreign god" is not known or revealed.

Daniel 12  
Antichrist

# The End of Man's Kingdoms

- Distress:
  - The ending events of history will bring on a time of trouble and sorrow greater than the world has ever experienced since nations were founded, [Matthew 24:21](#)
- Deliverance:
  - There will be distress but also deliverance for all those whose names are found written in the book.
  - The dead will awake, either to everlasting life or to shame and everlasting contempt [Revelation 20:13](#)
- Glorious Reward: Those who are wise and bring others to faith will shine like the stars forever
- Until Then: There will be enormous advances in knowledge and travel.

# How Long Until All Things Fulfilled?

- Time
- Times
- Half A Time
- The holy people are entirely defeated.
- From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Note that this is 30 days longer than time, times, half a time
- Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of 1,335 days
- What happens during the last 75 days? What happens at the end of the 75 days?

# The 75-Day Interval

