

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## TEACHING SERIES ON THE PROPHET DANIEL

RLJ-1064

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### PART 8: PROPHECY OF PERSIA & GREECE

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

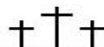
- ❑ We have now come to chapter eight in the book of Daniel. This event took place in the third year of Belshazzar's reign prior to the fall of Babylon in 539 B.C. The situation at this time for Babylon was grim with the Mede/Persian kingdom gaining power and there were a number of battles between them.
- ❑ When Daniel was given this vision, he was transported in the spirit to the enemy winter capitol of Shushan of the Persian kingdom. Liberal so-called "scholars" have for the last 150 years used this chapter to discredit the book of Daniel, stating that it was written in the first century B.C. and that Daniel never wrote a book. They claim God doesn't give prophecies and there is no way Daniel could have known what would happen after his death. But in the last 50 years, as archeologists have discovered more and more, the book of Daniel is slowly being corroborated. **Daniel 8:1-2**

#### THE VISION

- ❑ God used animals as an illustration of what was going to happen in the future, He used them in a message to the Apostle Peter and several times in the book of Revelations. **Acts 10:10-16**
- ❑ The ram was pushing westward, toward the north and the south. This is consistent with the expansion of the Mede/Persian kingdom, westward toward the nations of Israel, Syria and Lebanon, southward toward Egypt and northward toward what today is Turkey and Greece. **Daniel 8:3-14**
- ❑ The male goat was coming from the west and pushing east, exactly like Alexander the Great did in later years.

#### THE INTERPRETATION

- ❑ No human being at that time could have known what the vision meant; likewise, we who are living today cannot tell what is going to happen in the future. We can guess according to what we see around us but we can never in the power of human flesh foresee the future. **Daniel 8:15**
- ❑ A command was given to the angel Gabriel (**Daniel 9:21; Luke 1:26**) to explain the vision to Daniel. **Daniel 8:16-17**
- ❑ The divine spiritual power was so strong that it brought fear and the inability to stand up. **verse 18**



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- ❑ This is in harmony with what other people have experienced in the Bible. **Matthew 28:1-6; Acts 9:1-6; Revelation 1:10-18.**
- ❑ Gabriel told Daniel what the vision meant. **verses 19-21**

## HISTORY AS IT HAPPENED

- ❑ After King Cyrus of the Medes and Persians had invaded and taken Babylon in 539 B.C., he lived for nine years until he was killed in battle in 530. He was succeeded by his son Cambyses II, who attacked west and south trying to subdue Egypt. The Egyptian forces were defeated at Pelusium in 522 B.C and Egypt was added to the Media/Persian kingdom. While Cambyses was in Egypt, he received news of a coup in the capitol of Persia, however, on the way home, he became insane and committed suicide. After a power struggle, which I detailed in the previous sermon, Darius took the throne and reigned until 486 B.C. There were a number of kings reigning in the Mede/Persian kingdom until it was destroyed by Alexander the Great in 331 B.C.
- ❑ In **Daniel 8:7**, the vision portrays Alexander attacking the Mede/Persian kingdom with wrath (choler). History tells us that the Greeks were bitter and angry toward the Persians and Medes, since General Xerxes had invaded Greece in the past, laid waste to the land, and treated the Greek people with great cruelty. Alexander and his army took their revenge when the Mede/Persian kingdom was smashed in 331 B.C.
- ❑ Alexander the Great was the first and the last leader of a powerful Greek Empire which only lasted until his death in 323 B.C. at the age of 33 when it was divided up into four parts. None of the four parts of the former Greek Empire had the same political and military power, and in time, they were all taken over by Rome.
- ❑ The Greek Empire was divided by four of Alexander's general's:
  - **Ptolemy I Soter** reigned over Egypt, Palestine, part of Lebanon and southern Syria from 323-285 B.C. His descendants ruled Egypt until it fell to Rome in 30 B.C.
  - The eastern provinces (Northern Syria, Babylon, Persia, Afghanistan and part of what is today Pakistan) were taken by **Seleucus I Nicator**, who reigned from 312-281 B.C. It took him 12 years to crush all opposition before he could crown himself king and establish his rule from Syria. The Seleucid dynasty lasted until the Roman general Pompey made it a Roman province in 63 B.C.
  - **Cassander** emerged as the leader for the main European portion of the Greek Empire and **Lysimachus** was portioned the provinces of Thrace (the Balkans) and Bithynia (north western Turkey).

## **DOUBLE PROPHECY**

**Verses 9-12** and the interpretation as found in **verses 23-25** refer to two different time periods.

### ***TIME PERIOD 1:***

The rule of Antiochus IV, who gave himself the surname Epiphanes, which means “the visible god.” He lived from 215 to 164 B.C., a total of 51 years. He was a wicked king in the Syrian kingdom and demanded the Hellenization of all parts of his kingdom, including Jerusalem whereby captive nations were converted to the Greek culture. The temple in Jerusalem was desecrated by the sacrifices of pigs, an altar to Zeus was set up and all Jews were forbidden to worship the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Greeks bath houses (including homosexuality) were introduced to Jerusalem, together with Greek festivals, games and clothing and idol worship. The Syrian army entered into the countryside and Jerusalem itself, and all Jews that did not comply were killed. When the Jews resisted, Antiochus and his army sacked Jerusalem in 167 and massacred all the men, women and children who were not loyal to him. In the year 164 B.C., he suddenly died of an illness; he was broken without hand as described in verse 25. During that same year, Judas Maccabeus and a Jewish army retook Jerusalem, cleansed the temple and consecrated it again to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The temple in Jerusalem existed until 70 A.D. when it was destroyed by the Roman General Titus.

### ***TIME PERIOD 2:***

The rise of the Antichrist toward the end times on the earth. Daniel is given a further revelation of this man in **Daniel 11:37-39**, and the Apostle’s Paul and John give us their understanding in **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12** and **Revelation 13:1-18**.

## **CLOSING OF THE VISION**

- Gabriel sums up the vision for Daniel. **Daniel 8:26**
- The horrible details that this vision brought forth like a movie had such an impact on Daniel that he fainted and became sick for some days. He had no one to share the vision with but God’s purpose was to use Daniel as a prophet and write down this vision as a testimony for future generations until it all would be fulfilled. This vision is now some 2,500 years old.
- Daniel did not live on earth to see the destruction of the Mede/Persian kingdom but saw it from Paradise. **Daniel 12:13**

**DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?**