

## ***Why Study Daniel's End Time Prophecies***

### **I. The Importance of Studying the End of the Age & Age to Come**

- a. The Bible contains over 150 chapters related to the end of the age (That's over 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the Bible). The generation of believers that will be alive and remain until His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming is the most highlighted generation in scripture. The Bible teaches that this generation will have be fascinated with Jesus and His perfect leadership, will have confidence in the hour of trial despite the difficulties they face, and will be a people of understanding who prepare others during the final years of this age.

***(Daniel 11:22-23 NASB) “But the people who know their God will be strong and take action. 33 And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many”***

- b. Scripture emphasizes the urgency of Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming and the unique dynamics that the final generation will face prior to His appearing (***Isaiah 60:2***). The 150+ chapters that discuss the end of the age challenge believers to live with a sober spirit (intentionally watchful) and sound judgment for the purpose of prayer (***1 Peter 4:7***). We have a role to play in the end time storyline, that is, to partner with God's plans through prayer.

***(Isaiah 60:2 NASB), “For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you.”***

***(1 Peter 4:7 NASB) “The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.”***

- c. Our prayers are most effective when we partner with the will (desires) of God. This type of effective prayer beings with a confident understanding of the end result. If we understand what God is fiercely determined to accomplish (His will), and we have confidence that He will do the things He said He would do, then we can pray earnestly and effectively while living whole-hearted.
- d. God is raising up forerunner messengers who will prepare the way for His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming through their earnest prayer lives, power ministry, and proclamation of His coming plans and purposes. The prophet Isaiah set this forerunner calling in an end-time context when every nation will see the glory of God at His return. John the Baptist's ministry was a prototype and prophetic example of the forerunner calling. The forerunner message prepares people (through speaking, singing, writing, sharing, social media, acting, etc.) to walk in whole-hearted agreement with Jesus, under any circumstance, on the spiritual highway of holiness and spiritual understanding.

***(Isaiah 40:3-5 NASB), “The voice of one calling out, “Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the uneven ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; 5 Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”***

### **II. Introduction To The Book of Daniel**

- a. The prophet Daniel wrote this book in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, recording events in His life and visions/dreams he saw during the time of his exile (605 BC until 536 BC).
- b. The Name Daniel in Hebrew means, “God is my judge”. The book is split into two main sections; chapters 1-6 detail the lives of Daniel and his friends (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego), while chapters 7-12 contain eschatological dreams/visions.

- c. The core message of the Book of Daniel is God’s sovereignty over all empires and kings throughout history, and especially during the final years of this age. The challenges Daniel and his friends faced during the exile are a prophetic demonstration of the challenges the people of God will face at the end of the age.

### III. The Gospel of the Kingdom Defined In Daniel

- a. Throughout His earthy ministry, Jesus preached and demonstrated the “Gospel of the Kingdom”. In His teaching on the end times, Jesus said that before His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, this “Gospel of the Kingdom” would be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations. The “Gospel of the Kingdom” is the most important and powerful message that believers can demonstrate to the earth.

*(Matthew 4:23 NASB) “Jesus was going about in all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.”*

*(Matthew 24:14 NASB) “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”*

*(1 Corinthians 2:4-6 NASB) “My message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of mankind, but on the power of God. 6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away...”*

- b. The “Gospel of the Kingdom” is found in the middle of the book of Daniel (Ancient authors used a literary structure called a chiasm that put the most profound point at the center of the message). Daniel chapter 7 (a chiasm within a chiasm) clearly lays out not only the main point of the book of Daniel, but also what should be considered, “The Gospel of the Kingdom”; the presentation of Jesus as the Glorious Son of Man with an everlasting Kingdom.

*(Daniel 7:13-14 NASB) “I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a son of man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. 14 And to Him was given dominion, honor, and a kingdom, So that all the peoples, nations, and populations of all languages might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”*

- c. Jesus understood himself to be Daniel’s “Son of Man”. It’s the title He used most for himself (78 *separate times in the gospels*). The Jewish people understood Daniel’s “Son of Man” to be the awaited Messiah. Jesus was charged for blasphemy because He so often claimed to be the Son of Man.

### IV. Daniel Helps Us Align With Jesus’ Eschatology

- a. Eschatology (study of the end times) contains many commonly debated details. Different denominations and movements often take hard stances on various eschatological topics, which can make the end times intimidating. Also, deeply mishandled interpretations of the end time texts (often popularized in Christian media over the last century and half) have caused many in the church to “justify” not emphasizing eschatology (an “agree to disagree”, or “pan-millennial” attitude) or taking it seriously, which has often let the interpretation of the end time texts fall to the “eccentric mavericks” in the body of Christ.
- b. It’s imperative for us to remember that there is ONE version of Jesus’ eschatology and we should strive to align with Jesus’ eschatology rather than anything else. An important core message within the Olivet Discourse (Jesus’ teaching on the end times for the entire body of Christ) is that the times, seasons, and events prior to his return are discernable if we are watchful with biblical intentionality.

***(Matthew 24:32 NASB) “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: as soon as its branch has become tender and sprouts its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33 so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.”***

***(Matthew 24:42-44 NASB) “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. 43 But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44 For this reason you must be ready as well; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”***

- c. Jesus points specifically to the prophesies of Daniel in the Olivet Discourse. There’s an abundance of end time scriptures Jesus could have pointed to, but He intentionally pointed to Daniel, because of it’s importance. The book of Daniel contains some of the most important details related to the end of the age that the New Testament (mostly the book of Revelation) refers to.

***(Matthew 24:15 NASB) “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place—let the reader understand”***

- d. Daniel was told to preserve and protect the details contained in his book in order for the final generation to have insight to instruct many. An angel told Daniel that the days were coming where knowledge related to the details in his book would increase, as people “roam about” searching the end time scriptures. It is essential that we grow in the understanding of the book of Daniel and proclaim it to our generation, and the next.

***(Daniel 12:3-4 NASB) “And those who have insight will shine like the glow of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. 4 But as for you, Daniel, keep these words secret and seal up the book until the end of time; many will roam about, and knowledge will increase.”***

***(Daniel 11:33 NASB) “And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many”***

#### V. God’s Willingness To Make Known His End Time Plan – Daniel 2

***(Daniel 2:3, 5-6, 17-18) “The king said to them, ‘I had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream. 5 The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be turned into a rubbish heap. 6 But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation. 17 Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, 18 so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his friends would not be killed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.’”***

- a. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel 2 is the foundation stone upon which the Daniel’s end time prophesies are built. When Daniel is called upon to interpret the king’s dream, He gathers together his friends for a prayer meeting to ask for God to make known the dream, so that they will not be killed. God then revealed the details to Daniel in a “night vision”, and then Daniel breaks out into a prophetic statement (song) that I believe we can confidently sing today as we study the end of the age.

***(Daniel 2:20-23 NASB) “May the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. 21 It is He who changes the times and the periods; He removes kings and appoints kings; He gives wisdom to wise men, And knowledge to people of understanding. 22 It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him. 23 To You, God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king’s matter.”***

- b. **Daniel 2** gives us the confidence to know that God wants to make known His end time plans to His people. God divinely gave Daniel the dream and its interpretation, and with this in mind, Jesus (in the Olivet Discourse) tells us that at the end of the age we will similarly be brought before Kings to testify unknowable things (**Mark 13:9-11; Luke 21:12-19**). At the end of the age, God will sovereignly and strategically place those with deep prayer lives and deep eschatological understanding before leaders in governments to proclaim the message of **Psalm 2. Joel 2 (Acts 2)** says that at the end of the age, the spirit of prophesy will rest on the global body of Christ in an unprecedented way, so we can have confidence to follow the Holy Spirit's leadership in the days to come.

**(Mark 13:9-11 NASB)** *But be on your guard; for they will hand you over to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. 11 And when they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you at that time; for you are not the ones speaking, but it is the Holy Spirit."*

**(Luke 21:12-15 NASB)** *"But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, turning you over to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors on account of My name. 13 It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. 14 So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; 15 for I will provide you eloquence and wisdom which none of your adversaries will be able to oppose or refute."*

**(Daniel 2:46-49 NASB)** *"Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and paid humble respect to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and incense. 47 The king responded to Daniel and said, "Your God truly is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of secrets, since you have been able to reveal this secret." 48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon, and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 And Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel was at the king's court."*

**(Psalm 2:10-12 NASB)** *"Now then, you kings, use insight; Let yourselves be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 serve the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. 12 kiss the Son, that He not be angry and you perish on the way, For His wrath may be kindled quickly. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!"*

**(Joel 2:28-29 NASB)** *"It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters will prophesy, Your old men will have dreams, Your young men will see visions. 29 And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."*

### Questions For Discussion

1. What is something that was profound or that stuck out to you in the teaching tonight?
2. How do you view eschatology (The study of the end times)? Is it intimidating? Exciting? Scary? Etc...?
3. How will this teaching help your prayer life? (**1 Peter 4:7 NASB**) *"The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer."*