

The Prayer Priorities of a Great Prophet

Chapter 13

Audio Lesson: Old Testament #73



Objective: To learn some principles of interpretation of the visions and prophetic revelations of Daniel.



“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

—Daniel 7:13-14

Daniel had many visions that are highly symbolic and sometimes difficult for us to understand. He had a dream about four kingdoms that was similar to the dream he had interpreted for King Nebuchadnezzar, and a vision of the 70 weeks that indicated it was time for the people of Judah to return to Jerusalem. That vision also predicted the coming of the Messiah with great accuracy. The important thing to remember with visions like Daniel’s is that we must depend on the Holy Spirit to understand them—and even then, we should not be dogmatic about our interpretation. We must humbly ask the Holy Spirit what the Scripture says, what it means, and what it should mean to us. When we allow the Spirit of God to be our teacher, we will begin to understand more and more of His will and His ways. Daniel ends like the other prophets on a positive note. In his prophesy of the 70 weeks, he gives a precise prediction of the coming of the Messiah and the beginning of His Kingdom which shall be without end.



1. True or false? Even the historical sections of Daniel are difficult to understand.
2. True or false? Apocalyptic visions in the Bible give us a glimpse of God that we could never get in our natural understanding.
3. True or false? Nebuchadnezzar's dream about the four kingdoms ended with the eternal kingdom of God overcoming all others.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. What did the four great beasts of Daniel's vision represent?
 - a. Four kingdoms, as in Nebuchadnezzar's dream
 - b. Forty years of captivity
 - c. The four living creatures that Ezekiel saw around God's throne
 - d. The four major prophets
5. According to Daniel's dreams and visions, how long will God's kingdom last?
 - a. Seventy years
 - b. One thousand years
 - c. Until the end of the world
 - d. Forever and ever and ever
6. What do animal horns usually represent in Bible prophecy?
 - a. God's provision
 - b. Anger and God's judgment
 - c. Power or kingdoms
 - d. The beastly nature of human beings
7. Which of the following were the three "absolutes" on which Daniel stood firm in his faith? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Prayer
 - b. The immediate coming of the Messiah
 - c. The absolute power of God
 - d. The purposes of God in placing him in Babylon
 - e. The power of dreams
 - f. The superiority of Babylon over all other kingdoms
8. What first caused Daniel to realize that the time of captivity was fulfilled?
 - a. A loud voice from heaven announced it to him.
 - b. The Persian king told him it was time.
 - c. He read Jeremiah's prophecy.
 - d. The people had learned their lesson and had become completely righteous.
9. Why is Daniel's great prayer a model for us?
 - a. It uses the same words as the prayer Jesus taught His disciples.
 - b. He was able to tell God what to do.
 - c. It shows how to repent in order to get what we want.
 - d. He prayed for God's will and for God's glory.

10. Which of the following best describes Daniel's prophecy of the Messiah?
- a. It is the most precise prediction of the Messiah in the Old Testament.
 - b. It is so vague that it could have been fulfilled by almost anyone.
 - c. It portrays the Messiah as a harsh and angry king.
 - d. It predicted that the Messiah would come at the end of the captivity.
11. What did the big rock not cut by human hands that destroys the statue represent?
- a. The powerful kingdom of Babylon
 - b. The Roman Empire that would break all other kingdoms.
 - c. It is too complicated; we cannot say what it means.
 - d. The Messiah's eternal Kingdom that will conquer all.
12. What promise do the prophecies of the end times give us who trust in God?
- a. That we will never have to suffer in this life
 - b. That we will never fail in any of our battles on earth
 - c. That we will be wealthy and powerful until the end times
 - d. That in the end, we will be on the winning side



Are you involved in God's kingdom now in such a way that you will be satisfied with your contribution to the final victory? If not, what can you do this week to help the winning effort?



Thank God for the certain hope that His people will be on the winning side at the end of history. Ask Him to give you opportunities to serve Him as faithfully as Daniel did. Pray that His will would be done and that He would be glorified in your life. Ask Him to help you share the good news with others and to always give God the glory.



Going Deeper

1. With what perspective should you approach the second half of the book of Daniel, which contains his visions regarding the future? _____

2. What is special about the 70 weeks prophecy of Daniel? _____

3. What motivated Daniel to preach this great Messianic prophecy? _____

4. How should the pinpoint accuracy of this Messianic vision give us great respect for Biblical prophecy? _____

5. What were the four great kingdoms profiled in Daniel's vision, and how should that history lesson help us to interpret and apply this vision? _____

6. Why are these visions difficult or impossible to interpret without the Holy Spirit being our Teacher? (Consider John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2: 9-16) _____

7. Why does God want us to understand the future things to come? _____
