

## The Church at Myrtle Lake

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### Daniel: Foundational to Understanding Revelation

*“Presenting the Whole Counsel of God and the Truth of the Gospel  
In the Time of Christ’s Soon Return”*



*Watchmen*

*On the Wall*

### Lesson 1 Notes

Gary Roach, Bible Study Instructor/Deacon  
2017 Riegler Road Land O' Lakes, FL 34639  
(813) 949-5516

<https://www.myrtlelake.org>

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The King James  
Bible is used  
throughout this  
study series.

**Why does bible prophecy matter?** As a Christian, why should you spend any time studying it?

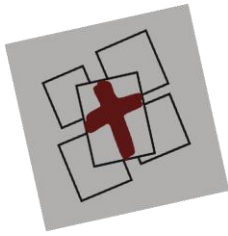
Many Christians (including many church leaders) say Bible prophecy doesn't matter. They say it's a "waste of time", "it takes our focus away from reaching the lost", "it can't be comprehended, so why bother", "it causes controversy", or it is "misguided escapism". Nonsense!

Another criticism is "Bible prophecy so negative!" Negative? How is the return of Jesus to establish everlasting peace on earth with no more death, crying, sorrow, or pain (Revelation 21:4) negative? It's not. In fact, it's our Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13).

Nearly 1/3 of the Bible is Prophecy: God lets mankind know what the future holds. The Apostle Paul warned Christians, "Do not despise prophecies" (1 Thess 5:20). He even confirmed "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim 3:16-17), and so that must also include the prophetic parts.

Jesus recited prophecies from the OT and taught new ones. Jesus also promised a blessing for those who read and obey the prophecies in the book of Revelation. So, if prophecy is important to Jesus, it should be important to Christians.

Why would you ignore 1/3 of the Bible? If God didn't want us to study it, why would He reveal it? The Bible says all of God's Word is useful for teaching and instruction (2 Tim 3:16-17), and that includes prophecy. God promises wherever He sends His Word, it



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will prosper (Isaiah 55:11). This includes all of His Word, not just the portions self-appointed arbiter Christian leaders deem “acceptable”.

In fact, here’s what the Bible says about God’s prophetic Word:

- 1) Prophecy Points to Jesus – All prophecy points to Jesus (Revelation 19:10).
- 2) Jesus said He came to fulfill the law and the **prophets** (Matthew 5:17).

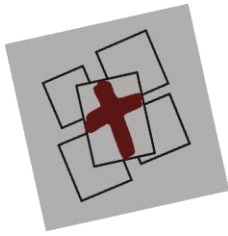
Bible prophecy is in the end all about Jesus. Jesus declared He must fulfill prophecy so that “...all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me” (Luke 24:44). The angel of Revelation 19 equated the testimony of Jesus with prophecy, declaring “...Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Bottom Line: Fulfilled prophecy validates Jesus’ claim to divinity and being our Savior.

- 3) Jesus Expects Us To Watch – Jesus doesn’t suggest the study of prophecy. He commands us to study it. He commands us to “stay alert” and to “keep watch” (Mark 13:33,35) – watch for what? Answer: Watch for His return. Otherwise, He’ll find us sleeping when He arrives without warning (Mark 13:36). If you don’t study Bible prophecy and the signs of His coming, how will you ever know what to watch for? And if you don’t know what to watch for, how can you obey Jesus?

- 4) Prophecy Proves the Bible Is God’s Word – Long ago, God issued a challenge. He said, “Who else can tell the beginning from the end” (Isaiah 41:21-24)? Only God can reveal what is going to happen before it happens (Isaiah 46:10). The very detailed prophecies in the Bible prove its divine authority. No other book on earth can match the Bible in predictive power. None. So we can put our faith in what the Bible teaches.

- 5) Prophecy Is a Powerful Tool for Evangelism – In the first century, Bible prophecy was the primary tool for spreading the gospel. Peter cited the Messianic prophecies as clear proof Jesus was the long awaited Messiah (Acts 2:14-42). Philip used a fulfilled prophecy to explain the gospel to an Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39). And Paul’s primary method of spreading the gospel was to reason from the scriptures (Acts 17:2-3). He explained how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Messiah. And he explained all that the prophets said about Him (Acts 13:27-31). If you don’t study Bible prophecy, you’re missing one of the greatest tools for spreading the gospel.

- 6) Prophecy Encourages Holy Living – When the people obeyed prophetic teachings, they grew spiritually. 1 John 3 declares, “...when He [Jesus] is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies



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himself, just as He is pure.” 1 Peter 4 tells us, “But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers... have fervent love for one another... minister to one another, be good stewards...”

Last, 2 Peter 3 advises, “But the day of the Lord will come... Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God...”

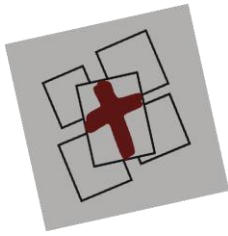
7) Prophecy Reveals the Season of the Lord’s Return – Jesus says the world will be caught unaware when He suddenly returns (Luke 12:40). It will be like in the days of Noah and Lot. People will go on living their daily lives as normal right up until the moment of their destruction (Luke 17:30). But those who study Bible prophecy won’t be surprised by His return (1 Thess 5:4-6). Why? Because they’ll understand the signs. While we can’t know the day or the hour of His return (Matthew 24:36), we can know the season of His return. Jesus, Moses, and the prophets told us what signs to look for. And Jesus says when see all those signs coming together you can know His return is very near (Matthew 24:33).

8). Bible Prophecy Provides Hope - Bible prophecy tells us God is still in control. God has a plan and purpose for the ages and as such, what you see in the news finally make sense. They’re all leading up to one big thing — Jesus Christ’s return. And when Jesus returns, He wins! And when Jesus wins, believers in Christ, well, we win as well! So, when you live a life of anticipating victory, you too can have hope for the future.

In summary, don’t ignore or fail to study Bible prophecy. Don’t ridicule or laugh at those who do (1 Thess 5:19-22). Prophecy is behind almost every promise Christians hold dear. The Apostle Peter warned, that “scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’” (2 Pet 3:3-8). So, don’t be willfully ignorant and don’t let what others think discourage you.

Discussion point: The late Chuck Missler said many times “the Bible is history written in advance”. Why would God tell us what will happen in the future?

**God’s Prophets:** Jesus call Daniel a prophet of God. We read in 2 Peter 1: 20-21 *“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* God takes this seriously. In fact, false prophets were to be subject to capital punishment, even if they were wrong one time! We read in Deut 18:20 *“But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even*



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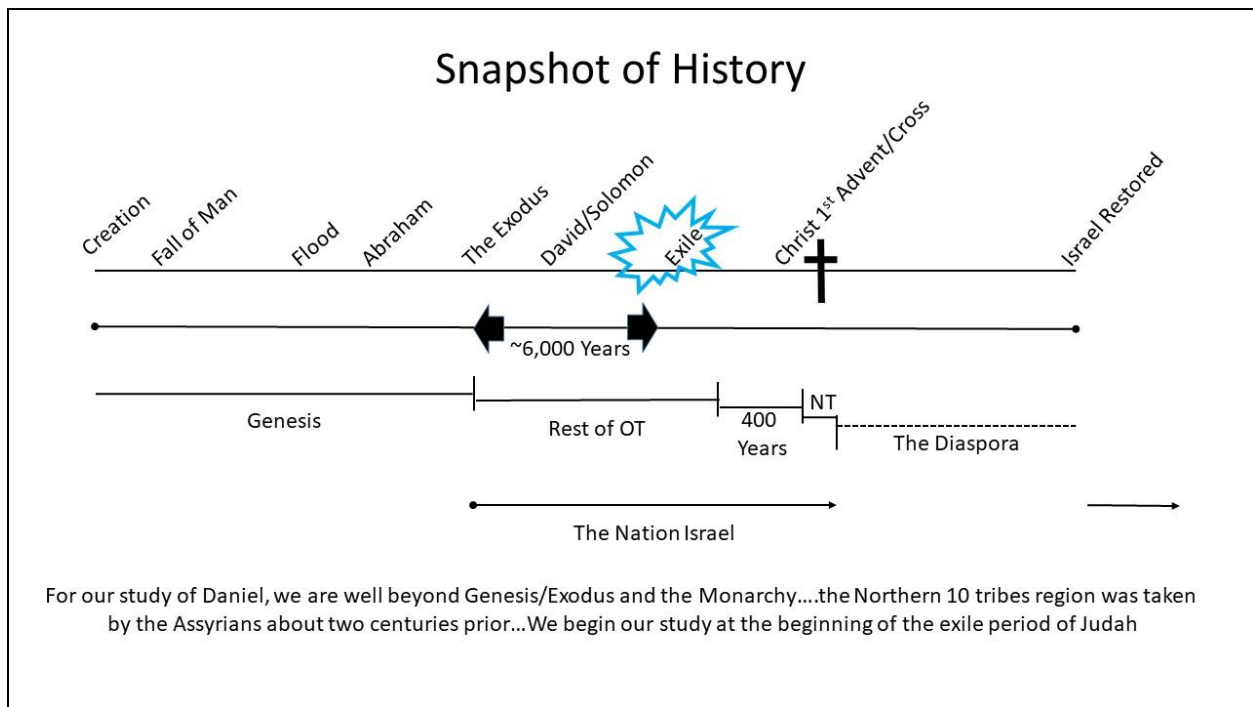
*that prophet shall die.” Further, in the NT we read “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” (Matthew 7:15)*

In his book, “The Book of Daniel” by Rev Clarence Larkin, he gives the following guidance:

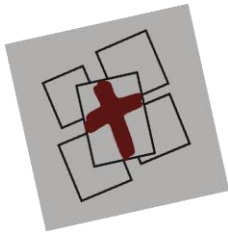
“The requirements of a genuine prediction are five in number:

1. It must have been made known prior to its fulfillment
2. It must be beyond all human foresight
3. It must give details
4. A sufficient time must elapse between its publication and fulfillment to exclude the prophet, or any interested party, from fulfilling it
5. There must be a clear and detailed fulfillment of the prophecy in every particular”

We are going to begin our study of Daniel, a study of the prophecy of the times of the Gentile nations (empires) “time of Gentile dominion” and their last awful ruler, the antichrist. Be sure to have all of the class handouts/diagrams handy when doing this study. Let’s get started.....



At the time of Daniel, Judah was on the cusp of Babylonian captivity. Earlier, under king Jeroboam, the northern tribes (aka: Israel) were conquered by the Assyrians (722 BC).



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Rehoboam were under God's judgment. God is using the enemies of the Israelites to execute His judgment.

As the Assyrian empire is collapsing, Egyptian Pharaoh Necho II (note: Necho II was actually Ethiopian and not native Egyptian) takes advantage of the opportunity and heads north through Israel. At this point, Israel's king Josiah inexplicably fights against Pharaoh Necho II at Megiddo and gets killed in the process (reference 2 Chron 35 and 2 Kings 23). Necho II heads from Megiddo and loses the battle of Carchemish (609 BC) against the army of Gen Nebuchadnezzar whose father (Nabopolassar) was the ruler of the upstart city-state of Babylon (Neo-Babylonian Empire). Most historians use this date as the beginning of the Babylonian Empire.

### CHRONOLOGY

612 BC: Niveneh falls to alliance of Babylon and Media

609 BC: Pharaoh Necho leads army against Assyria  
-- Josiah fights Necho and gets killed (2 Chron 35: 20-24)

Three years later:

606 BC: Battle of Carchemesh - General Nebuchadnezzar vs. Pharaoh Necho on  
W Bank of Euphrates River (Jer 46)

- Establishes city-state of Babylon as dominant power/factor in region
- Routs Necho all the way back to Egypt

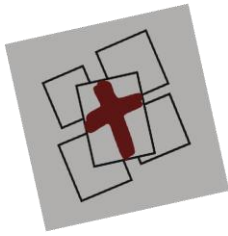
On return to Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar passes through Israel and lays siege to Jerusalem (1<sup>st</sup> siege) (Daniel and companions taken back to Babylon)

Gen Nebuchadnezzar chases Pharaoh Necho II's forces back to Egypt and on his way back home, lays siege to the city of Jerusalem (1<sup>st</sup> Siege 605 BC). It is during this siege that Daniel<sup>1</sup> is taken hostage and sent to Babylon in exile with many others<sup>2</sup>. Also during this siege, Solomon's temple is ransacked and temple artifacts sent to

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<sup>1</sup> Jesus quotes Daniel three times (called a prophet); is quoted three times in Ezekiel (14:14, 20, 28:3); is classed with Noah and Job; and besides Jesus is one of only two people in the Bible of whom no evil is spoken

<sup>2</sup> Note: This starts the prophesied 70-year exile for the Jewish people. We'll talk more about the timeline later.



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Nebuchadnezzar's palace (in a museum of sorts)<sup>3</sup>; other hostages taken (including Daniels colleagues) and the current king of Israel, Jehoakin (son of Josiah) remained in position, but made a vassal king. I should be noted that during this first siege, word reaches Gen Nebuchadnezzar that his father had died and he had to return to Babylon to take over as ruler.

Daniel is considered to be about 12-15 years old at this time. He was from the tribe of Judah and as a result, most historians say he was from the line of David (nobility), so "he had the right lineage" (see 1 Chron 3:1). **Note:** the idea of nobility is disputed by some because they say the records of Daniel's lineage may have been destroyed (see Ezra 2:62). But in 1 Chron, it makes it clear Daniel is from the line of David, so that's it..

In Dan 1:3-4, we read "*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*" [literally: from the seed of the kingdom]. To understand the significance of Daniel's statements here regarding the captivity, Isaiah's prophecy to Hezekiah must be understood. Daniel is confirming that prophecy! Reference 2 Kings 20: 16-18.

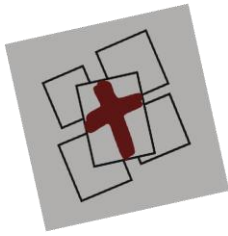
After the first siege, Jehoakin gets and listens to poor advice from his counselors to rebel against now king Nebuchadnezzar, while God's prophets Ezekiel and Jeremiah advise against rebellion, saying God was using Babylon to meet out His divine judgment. Subsequently, Jeremiah is thrown in prison.

Jehoakin rebels and as a result, king Nebuchadnezzar lays his second siege of Jerusalem. After a five year battle, Jehoakin dies and his son Jeconiah reigns until the end of the second siege (see Jeremiah 22:17-19). It is at this time that the prophet Ezekiel and over 10,000 others are taken captive to Babylon. See Ez 1:1-3, 2 Kings 24:8-20, and 2 Chron 36: 6-10.

At this point, Zedekiah, Jeconiah's uncle, was installed as vassal king in Israel. Both Jeremiah and Ezekiel (from afar) warned Zedekiah not to rebel against king Nebuchadnezzar, but once again, the king listens to bad counsel. See Jer 32:5, 39:6-7, Ez 12:13 and 2 Kings 25:1-7. He rebels and this leads to the third and final siege when

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<sup>3</sup> R. Kodeway excavation (1899-1917) proves existence of Nebuchadnezzar's palace/banquet hall...the hall measures 173' x 56'. Rebuilding efforts were made by Saddam Hussein (Iraq).



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Nebuchadnezzar has had enough and wipes out the city of Jerusalem and Solomon's temple is destroyed.<sup>4</sup>

### Chronological Order of Book of Daniel

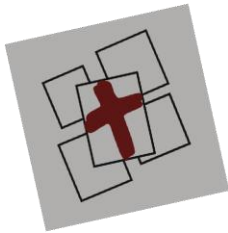
Chapter	Major Theme	
1	Babylonian Captivity	606 BC
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	602 BC
3	Nebuchadnezzar's Image	
4	Nebuchadnezzar's Pride	
7	Four Beasts (Profile of the all of Gentile history)	556 BC
8	The Ram and the He-Goat	554 BC
5	Fall of Babylon to Persians	539 BC
9	The 70 Weeks Prophecy *	538 BC
6	The Lion's Den (Revolt of the Maji)	
10-12	Closing Visions	

### Organization of Book of Daniel

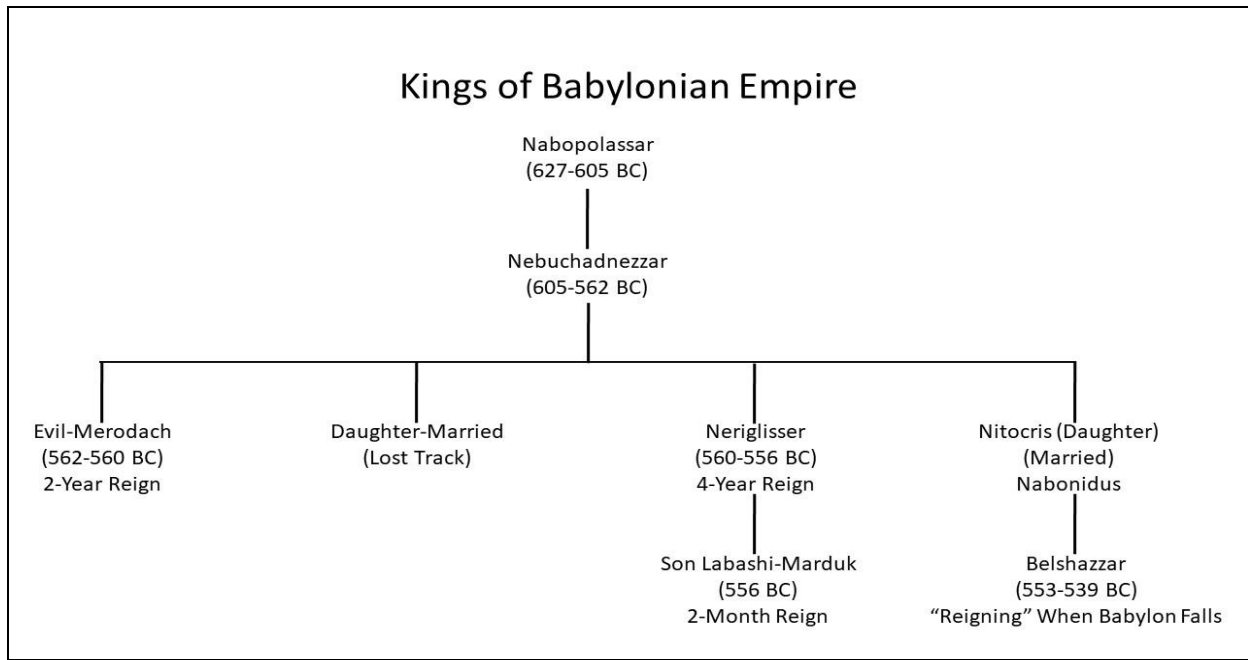
Chapter	Major Theme
1	Daniel and Associates Deported to Babylon
2 v4a	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream
3	Fiery Furnace Account
4	Nebuchadnezzar's Pride (Written by Nebuchadnezzar himself)
5	Fall of Babylon
6	The Lion's Den (Revolt of the Maji)
7	Four Beasts (Profile of the all of Gentile history)
8	The Ram and the He-Goat (Focused on Career of Alexander the Great)
9	The 70 Weeks Prophecy *
10	Glimpse of Spiritual Warfare (Prelude to Final 2 Chapters)
11	The "Silent Years" (400 Years between OT and NT written in advance)
12	The Consummation of all Things, Including the Second Coming

Chapters 1-6: Historical Narrative  
Chapters 7-12: Visions

<sup>4</sup> Note: This starts the 70-year desolation of Jerusalem timeline (different than the 7-year exile of the people). See prophecies in 2 Kings 24:17-20 and 25:1-21. Prophecies of the third siege of Babylon can be seen in Ez 12:13 and Jer 39: 6-7.



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Diagrams Credit: Chuck Missler Koinonia House, 2009

We will dive into Daniel Ch 1 next week! Hope you can join us....