

Tonight's Agenda

- **Review** the three visions in Daniel 7–9.
- Talk about the **difficulties** in Daniel 10–12.
- Give an **overview** of Daniel 10–12.
- **Discuss** Daniel 10.

Vision #1: Chapter 7



- Daniel saw four beasts representing four successive kingdoms of men—Babylon, Medo–Persia, Greece, and Rome (devouring and breaking in pieces).
- He then saw one like the Son of Man coming to the Ancient of Days, where He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom (He saw the coronation of the Christ).
- One king of Rome is shown speaking pompous words against God and persecuting the saints (even prevailing for a time).
- Do you remember the outcome?

Vision #2: Chapter 8



- This vision focuses on two of the previously mentioned kingdoms: Medo–Persia (ram with 2 horns) and Greece (male goat, with 1 large, conspicuous horn).
- What is depicted in this vision is (1) the conquest of Medo–Persia by Greece, (2) Greece’s rise to power under Alexander the Great, (3) Alexander’s death which divided Greece into four kingdoms, and (4) the rise of one king within one of these four kingdoms (who does great harm to God’s people, the city, and the temple (Antiochus IV)).
- Did he fare any better?

Vision #3: Chapter 9



- This vision concerns the welfare of Jerusalem and the temple, both of which were desolate at the time Daniel received this vision.
- God’s message: Yes, Jerusalem will be restored and rebuilt (the good news), but one day it will be brought to a full end, or made desolate (the bad news).
- This vision covers a “70 week” period—7 weeks (restoration); 62 weeks (bring us to the Messiah); last week (Messiah cut off; covenant confirmed, Jerusalem destroyed).

Difficulties With This Vision

- Events foretold in this vision occurred during the 400 years of Biblical silence, which means we have to turn to historical records, not the Bible, to show their fulfillment.
- Most of the information about this period comes from 1 and 2 Maccabees, neither of which are inspired books.
- Conflicts between Persia and Greece, conflicts between the Seleucid empire of Syria and the Ptolemaic empire of Egypt, conflicts between the Seleucid empire and the Jewish people led by the Maccabees—how familiar are we with this history?

Overview of This Vision

- This vision concerns “great warfare” (ASV) or “great conflict” (NAS, ESV) that was to take place—conflict that would have a big impact on the children of Israel (10:14).
- This struggle or conflict would take place on both earthly and heavenly planes. Chapter 10, in particular, gives us a little insight into the activities on a heavenly plane (see Ephesians 6:12).
- It’s hard not to be amazed by how much detail is provided in this prophecy—details of historical events “many days yet to come” (10:14).

Overview of This Vision

- While we can learn important lessons from this vision, none of these specific prophecies point to any event in modern history (not to any modern day treaty signed by nations, not to any ruler alive today, etc.).
- These prophecies foretell what would happen to the Jews in the centuries immediately following Daniel, meaning that none of this relates directly to Jews who are alive today.

Overview of This Vision—Lessons

- God knows the future, and He is in control!
- When people don't behave as they should, when people even directly oppose God, He knows it and He will take care of it in due time—to His glory, and to the preservation of those who are truly His people.
- A battle is being waged that we cannot “see,” and you can't help but like our chances, because the forces of God are greater than those of the devil. God can use the forces in society to bring about His will.

Daniel 10—7 Point Outline

- The setting for this vision is given (1).
- We learn what Daniel was doing prior to the vision (2–4).
- A “certain man” appears to Daniel (5–6).
- Daniel is “blown away” by this appearance (7–9).
- This “certain man” explains to Daniel (1) why he has come, and (2) why he was delayed in coming (10–14).
- He then gives much needed strength to Daniel (15–19).
- He tells Daniel about action “behind the scenes” (20–21).