

Where are we in time #3

8/9/2020

Sunday Morning

1. There is the parade going by – called “time” - we see it in Daniel 2

Daniel 2:31 "You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome.

V.32 "The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,

V.33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

V.34 "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

V.35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Review:

1. For 2 weeks we have used Daniel 2 as our source of judging time b/c that is what the chapter is about
2. Always keep in mind that God established Israel as the benchmark for what happens in the world
3. From Daniel's day forward there would only be 4 major kingdoms
 - a. Babylonian
 - b. Medo-Persian
 - c. Grecian
 - d. Roman
4. The last empire is the Roman Empire and we are given more details than the other kingdoms

Daniel 2:33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

1. "legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay"
 - a. The Roman empire starts off strong (legs of iron) but deteriorates & becomes weak & brittle (feet & toes of iron & clay)
 - b. There are more activities embedded in the time of the legs of iron & feet and toes than this picture indicates
 - c. Daniel 9 reveals some of those activities

Daniel 9:24 "*Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.*

1. "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people"
 - i. "Seventy weeks" = 490 years left until God established His kingdom (refer to study 7/26/2020)
 - b. During the legs of iron Daniel 9:26 becomes a reality

V.25 "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

V.26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

1. "the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing"
 - a. That is the crucifixion of Christ – it happened in the time of the legs of iron
2. "the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary"
 - a. This is the destruction of Jerusalem & the Temple
 - i. That happened during the time of the "legs of iron"
 - ii. It occurred in 70 A.D. the city of Jerusalem & temple were destroyed (the nation of Israel – gone)
 - b. That all took place 2000 years ago
 - c. But Gabriel said there were only 490 years left
 - i. He indicated that only 7 of the 490 years were left after the Messiah was cut off
 - d. Was he wrong? Yes
 - e. Gabriel was wrong because something else was embedded in the time of the legs of iron & feet & toes of iron & clay
 - i. The Church age
 - f. Gabriel didn't see the Church age is b/c God kept it hidden from everyone (see notes 7/26/2020)
 - g. Even the Apostles, who became foundational to the Church, didn't see the Church age

- i. They were looking for the Kingdom Age the entire time they were w/ Christ

Matthew 18:1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Matthew 20:20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him.

²¹ And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She *said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left."

- h. Even after the resurrection they were looking for the Kingdom

Acts 1:6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

V.9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

- i. Did they understand what He was saying? They had NO idea!

- i. The word "church" had a different meaning before Pentecost

Matthew 18:15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

V.17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

- i. "church" meant a collective assembly

- ii. Daniel's clock stopped the day the Church was born – Pentecost

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house

where they were sitting.

³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

- j. We live in the Church age – which is also in the time of the toes of iron & clay
- k. What is next? – The last 7 years!

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

V.25 "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

V.26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

V.27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

1. "he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week"
 - a. The "one week" is the last 7 years that Gabriel spoke of
 - b. That will be the worst time since mankind began
2. "in the middle of the week he will...stop...sacrifice and grain offering... abominations will come one who makes desolate"
 - a. The last 7 years is called the "Tribulation" period
 - b. It is also referred to as: Daniel's 70th week, Jacob's trouble, that day, day of wrath, day of judgment, the day, the Day of the Lord; the Great Day

- i. The last 3½ years is called the "Great Tribulation"
- c. Some O.T. Scripture concerning the Tribulation

Deuteronomy 4:30 "When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the LORD your God and listen to His voice.

Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it.

¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light.

¹¹ Thus I will punish the world for its evil And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.

Isaiah 24:1 Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface and scatters its inhabitants.

² And the people will be like the priest, the servant like his master, the maid like her mistress, the buyer like the seller, the lender like the borrower, the creditor like the debtor.

³ The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word.

⁴ The earth mourns *and* withers, the world fades *and* withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away.

⁵ The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant.

⁶ Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.

V.12 Desolation is left in the city And the gate is battered to ruins.

V.17 Terror and pit and snare Confront you, O inhabitant of the earth.

¹⁸ Then it will be that he who flees the report of disaster will fall into the pit, And he who climbs out of the pit will be caught in the snare; For the windows above are opened, and the foundations of the earth shake.

¹⁹ The earth is broken asunder, The earth is split through, The earth is shaken violently.

Amos 5:18 Alas, you who are longing for *the day of the LORD*, For what purpose *will* the day of the LORD *be* to you? It will be darkness and not light;

¹⁹ As when a man flees from a lion And a bear meets him, Or goes home, leans his hand against the wall And a snake bites him.

²⁰ Will not the day of the LORD be darkness instead of light, Even gloom with no brightness in it?

- d. What causes the transition from life to the Tribulation Period?
- e. The removal of the Church
- f. The Church stopped the clock in Daniel – the removal of the Church starts it again

1 Thessalonians 5:1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

V.2 For you yourselves know full well that *the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.*

- 1. "the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night"
 - a. The day of the Lord begins w/ the translation of the saints
 - b. This is described in 1 Corinthians 15

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

i. Additional details

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

V.3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then *destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child*, and they will not escape.

1. "While they are saying, "Peace and safety"
 - a. Obviously this is not referring to the 2nd coming
 - i. No one is saying, "peace & safety" during the Tribulation
2. "then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child"
 - a. It is clearly describing the Tribulation period
 - b. We are not supposed to be ignorant about our future V.4

V.4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;

V.5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

V.6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

V.7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

V.8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

V.9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1. "For God has not destined us for wrath"

a. "For" is because

b. Because God did not destine us for the Tribulation

2. "but for obtaining salvation"

a. Our salvation is not complete yet

i. Our salvation is completed when He comes for us

Romans 13:11 *Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.*

Hebrews 9:28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to sin*, to those who eagerly await Him.

b. I have been ask if believing the in the rapture makes you not want to prepare for the future?

i. You are going to die someday – does that make you not want to prepare for the future

ii. Knowing the rapture is real makes life more exciting, not less!

c. There is a reward for looking for His return

2 Timothy 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

V.10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

V.11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

1. "encourage one another and build up one another"

a. Be encouraged – Christ is coming to take you home!

b. The completion of your salvation!