

104.12. ANOTHER IN THE FIRE. NEBUCHADNEZZER & DANIEL

Nebuchadnezzar, was the 2nd Babylonian king, after his father, who founded the powerful Chaldean dynasty. At this time the king of Judah (South kingdom of Israel), submitted to Nebuchadnezzar, but later rebelled, Jeremiah 27:9. Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem & when the king died, his son became king, 2 Kings 24:1-6, but with Jerusalem besieged, he lasted only 3 months before surrendering to Nebuchadnezzar, who took everything from Jerusalem, including its people, as slaves, 2 Kings 24:13, which again had been prophesied & was again due to Israel's wickedness.

When he conquered Jerusalem in 587BC, Nebuchadnezzar appointed a new king & gave him a new name, but he later rebelled & Nebuchadnezzar again marched against Jerusalem, with his whole army & they burnt down the temple, that Solomon had built for the Lord & took the Israelites, that they hadn't killed, captive to Babylon with him, 2 Kings 25:7-17.

King Nebuchadnezzar was very powerful & his empire brought together people of many nations & he had many wise men in his service. When he took the Jews captive, he selected the young men with the most potential & had them schooled in wisdom, among them was the prophet Daniel, whose story & end time prophecy is in the book of Daniel in the bible & is the reason that we mentioned Nebuchadnezzar here, as it leads into the life of Daniel & his prophecies regarding, the end times & the end of days.

The Book of Daniel is a series of stories about an Israelite exile who loved God, his service as a prophet & who received a prophetic view of the end times, given to him from God.

In the book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar is plagued by a dream & wants it interpreted, so he summons magicians, sorcerers & astrologers to interpret his dream, but 1st, they have to tell him what he dreamt; as he figured only someone who knew what the dream was, could interpret it, Daniel 2:9. When none could, he ordered all the wise men in Babylon killed. When Daniel learned of this, he asked his friends to pray for God to have mercy & reveal the dream to him, Daniel 2:15-18 & He did & Daniel explained it to the king, Daniel 2:31-45.

Daniel's ability to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream, without being told what it was, revealed a wisdom none had ever seen, Daniel 2:27. As a result, the king made Daniel ruler of the city of Babylon & gave high positions to his 3 friends, which the king renamed, Shadrach, Meshack & Abednego.

So now God was using Daniel & his friends to reveal His glory, which far surpassed that of the powerful king of Babylon. Now the king made a massive golden statue & commanded the people to bow down & worship it, or be thrown into a fiery furnace, Daniels friends refused & Nebuchadnezzar asked them; If I threw you into the furnace would your God rescue you & they replied; We do not need to defend ourselves before you, if we are thrown into the furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us, but if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods, or worship any image of gold, Daniel 3:16.

Notice that they stayed respectful to authority, just not to the point of sinning against God. So he bound them & threw them into the furnace, which was so hot that it killed the men who threw them in, Daniel 3:22. The king then said, look; I see 4 men in the fire, unbound & unharmed, & the 4th looks like a son of the gods, Daniel 3:25 & he told them to come

out of the furnace & they were unscathed & the King decried that anyone who said anything against their God, would be cut to pieces.

After interpreting another of the king's dreams, Daniel gives him this advice; renounce your sins by doing what is right & your wickedness, by being kind to the oppressed & then prosperity will continue, Daniel 4:27.

Then comes Daniel's prophetic vision of the end times, the 70 weeks of years, leading to the end of time as we know it, Daniel 9:24-27. In his prophecy Seventy, Sevens are decreed for the people & the Holy City. The context spoke of here is of years; seventy sevens of years, totaling 70×7 or 490 years, directed at the Jewish people, the nation of Israel & the city of Jerusalem.

The prophecy talks of 6 things to be done over 490 years, which is to finish transgression, end sin, atone for iniquity, bring everlasting righteousness, seal up vision & prophecy, anoint the most Holy Place, Daniel 9:24.

We will go over these briefly; -Finish transgression, the rejection of Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus said, before they see Him again, the Jews will say; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Matt. 23:37. -The Jews will see an end of sin, e.g., sins of daily life, of dishonesty & immorality, which disappears when they accept the Messiah & His earthly reign of righteousness begins. -Atonement for Israel's sins. This came when Jesus died for the sins of the world, but it still must be accepted by the Jews. -Everlasting righteousness; will be established at the 2nd coming, as the earth will be flooded with peace, righteousness & justice. -Fulfillment of all Jesus' prophecy. The sufferings of Christ at the Cross & the glories to follow, not yet fulfilled, 1 Peter 1:11.

-The anointing of the most Holy. May be the anointing of Jesus, as King, or of the Temple described in Ezekiel 40-48.?

These prophetic events are still unfulfilled, as many people are still in rebellion against God, caught up in their sins, refusing to accept the atonement & the everlasting righteousness has not yet come, so all prophecy concerning Jesus has not yet been fulfilled & the most Holy has not yet been anointed. There does seem to be a gap in the prophecy, but prophetic gaps are common due to the nature of the perspective. God would show His prophets great future events & the prophets would present them, as if they were happening in rapid succession, as that's the way they look, but there could be gaps.

Jesus recognized the use of gaps when He read a prophecy from Isaiah. If you see what He read in Luke 4:18, against what Isaiah said, Isaiah 61:1, you will see that Jesus stopped reading mid sentence, as the rest had to do with His 2nd Coming. Daniel says all this will come within a special period of time & gives clues to the timing, of the 1st & 2nd Advents (comings) of Jesus.

This prophecy, given to Daniel by the angel Gabriel during Israel's exile, says it will start with the issuing of a decree to restore & rebuild Jerusalem, Daniel 9:25. Daniel's prophecy says the 490 years will be divided into 3 periods of (7 weeks/ 49 years), (62 weeks/ 434 years) & (1 week/ 7 years). He says that after the 1st 2 periods, 69 weeks/ 483 years, the Messiah will be cut off, i.e. the crucifixion & then says that Jerusalem & the Temple will be destroyed, which happened in 70 A.D. The prophecy concludes on the last week of years & says that following the death of the Messiah & the destruction of Jerusalem, that the prince who is to come will make a covenant with the Jewish people that will enable them

to reinstitute their sacrificial system. This prince of darkness will come from the same people who destroyed the Temple.

We know, from 2Thessalonians 2, that this prince is the Antichrist, the man of lawlessness & son of destruction. This passage makes it clear that his covenant will enable the Jews to rebuild the Temple. Daniel 9 & 2Thessalonians 2, show that in the middle of this 70th week, or 3 1/2 years into it, this prince will double cross the Jewish people & will sit in the rebuilt temple & declare himself as God. He will stop the sacrifices & he will be an abomination of desolation.

The book of Revelation specifies that Christ will return to earth for His people, 3 1/2 years after this desolation takes place in the temple.

We are not going to waste time, nor chance lying, by trying to figure the dates of the end days, as this is something only God knows & which man spends too much time arguing about, with Lunar years, solar years, prophetic years etc. when all's we are to know is that the end is going to happen & we have signs to show us how near it's getting & we need to follow prophetic rules, to open our minds, to being prepared, to staying vigilant & alert, while keeping an eye on what's happening in the Middle East & Israel & staying on the right team, as we are in the last generation, as 69 of 70 weeks in Daniels prophecy have been fulfilled & we are living in the last generation of the end times, it may come in 40 seconds, it may come in 40 years, but it is coming & unfortunately, you can bet your eternal life on that.