

The book of Daniel, unlike any other, shows us that God is in control. Daniel shows that God's wisdom is infinite, and God's love is perfect. Because this is true, we can *trust* God. This series seeks to build deep trust in God. Then even in troubled times, we can live without fear. This study accepts Daniel as literally true: premillennial, pre-tribulation rapture view. Christ returns before the Millennium & rapture before Tribulation. 1 Thes.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:51-52; John 14:2-3

God did not intend for Daniel's prophecies to be unsealed (understood) until the end times. No one could explain the mysteries for 25 centuries; now they are becoming clear. Daniel 11:1-35 predicted 135 facts; *each prophecy was literally fulfilled, in order*. Each prediction was 100% accurate, as documented by secular historians.

Before Daniel, after Solomon died (1 Kings 11:43), 10 of the 12 tribes revolted due to high taxes. They formed the Northern Kingdom, which kept the name Israel. The other 2 tribes formed the Southern Kingdom called Judah, including Jerusalem. Both kingdoms failed to keep their covenant with God, so He sent them into captivity. Their captivity was *temporary*; God's covenant was not abolished, only set aside.

The "Times of the Gentiles": the era of Gentile domination of Jews, from the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem in 605 BC to the return of Christ. God's purpose: to spread the gospel. God used even pagans to help: Greek language, Roman roads. Psalms 76:10; Acts 8:1,4; Phil.1:12

Hosea 3:4-5 prophesied these times (Israel is without king or sacrifice since 70 AD).

Jesus said (Luke 21:24) Jews will be trampled by Gentiles until these times are fulfilled. This meant Gentiles would control Jerusalem, almost until the day Christ returns.

The Jewish army recaptured the Holy City on June 5-10, 1967 (the 6-Day War). Jerusalem was back in Jewish control for the 1st time in over 2,500 years. It's significant because: Gentiles cannot *retake* Jerusalem during Armageddon *unless Jews control the city*.

There are other indications that the Times of the Gentiles are about to end, including:

- Nationhood of Israel (1948, a united kingdom of 12 tribes); Europe as a world power.
- The rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem, and the Arab/Israeli conflict (Gaza, Hamas, Iran).
- The development of technologies that make Tribulation events conceivable.
- All pre-Tribulation prophecies have been fulfilled, except the Rapture.

Just *before* Christ returns to the Mount of Olives at the Second Coming:

- All Gentile nations (represented by kings & armies) gather on the plain of Megiddo.
- They will march to the valley of Jehoshaphat for the final attack on Jerusalem.
- They will temporarily retake the city, then Christ will appear and destroy them all.
- This will bring a sudden and decisive end to the "times of the Gentiles".

Hosea 3:4-5 the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice... Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days.

Rev.16:16 they assembled the kings at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

Rev.19:11-21 I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one riding on it is called Faithful and True; in righteousness he judges and makes war... He is clothed in a robe dipped in

blood; his name is The Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in fine linen, white & pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations... he has this name: King of kings and Lord of lords... I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. The beast was captured, and with it the false prophet... These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. The rest were slain by the sword.

Joel 3:2 I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land

Zech.14:2-16 I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle; the city shall be taken and the houses plundered... Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives... it shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley... Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him... the Lord will be king over all the earth...

[Jerusalem] shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction... on that day a great panic from the Lord shall fall on them... Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths (Festival of Tabernacles).

Just *after* Christ returns to the Mount of Olives:

- He establishes His kingdom. Antichrist & false prophet go to fiery lake; Satan is bound.
- 7-year Tribulation has gradually destroyed the anti-God world religion/government.
- The Second Coming will not be the end of the *world*, but the end of the present *age*.
- Christ will then reign over the earth from Jerusalem for the 1000-year Millennium.

Date and Author: the prophet Daniel wrote his book in the 6th century BC.

Daniel spans the history of 605 to 536 BC, almost certainly written before 530 BC.

Daniel was most likely born around 620 BC, during the reforms of good King Josiah.

Josiah tried to undo years of apostasy, and repaired Solomon's neglected temple.

During repairs, they found the Book of the Law - the most valuable Hebrew document.

Moses read at Mt. Sinai, 800 years before Josiah; the people said "we will obey" Exo.24:7

But the book of the covenant had gotten lost, dusty, and covered with spider webs.

Josiah was highly distraught when he read the book. 2 Chron.34:8, 14, 18-19, 21, 29-33

He called a national "press conference" and read the entire book aloud. When he finished...

2 Kings 23:3 the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord and to keep his commandments... with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant.

Josiah & Jeremiah led a revival in Jerusalem; it had an impact on Daniel for the rest of his life.