

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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Summary of What We Know From Daniel

by Dan Trygg

“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ ...the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future...” Daniel 2:44-45

“While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts... ¹¹ Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time. ¹³ I kept looking..., and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming... ¹⁴ And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and tongue might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion... ²⁰ [As for] that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts... ²¹ I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them ²² until... judgment was passed in favor of the saints..., and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. ²⁵ ... they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.” Daniel 7:8,11-14,20-22,25

“It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down. ¹¹ It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down.” Daniel 8:10-11

“70 weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city... ²⁵ ...from the issuing of a decree to... rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah... there will be 69 weeks; it will be rebuilt... ²⁶ Then... 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. ...even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. 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...” Daniel 9:24-27

“And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. ² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever... ‘How long until the end of these wonders?’ ⁷ I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.” Daniel 12:1-3,6-7

Let's take a moment to review some of the main ideas revealed to us in Daniel, regarding the future.

First, we are told that in the time of the fourth kingdom (Rome), **God would set up a kingdom that would never end, one that would fill the earth**, and smash and displace all the previous kingdoms, but it will endure forever (2:44).

Second, there will be “a little horn”, a ruler, which will arise. It will displace three others, but it will become more powerful. This “horn” will have a big mouth, and utter great boasts. He will exalt himself against other gods, and even proclaim himself as being God. He will wage war against the saints, and will prevail against them for three and a half years (7:25). Finally, God will judge him, and the saints will come to power. This “beast” will be slain, and his body will be given to the eternal fire (7:8,11,21). The nations will continue to have “an extension of life” even after his demise (7:12). This seems to be more than a man, since he appears to reach even the “host of heaven”, and cause some of them to “fall to the earth” (8:10,11). Interestingly, this “little horn” typology will occur more than once (7:8; 8:9).

Third, one like a Son of Man will come on the clouds of heaven. One who looks like a man comes in the glory of divinity. He will receive dominion, authority and a kingdom that will never end, ...a kingdom that will be comprised of people from every tribe, tongue, people and nation. His dominion will never end (7:13,14).

Fourth, God has decreed 70 weeks for the people of Israel and the holy city. This would bring rebellion to completion, to bring an end to sin, to make atonement (propitiation) for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up sin, and to anoint the holy of holies (9:24). These seem to be “weeks” of years.

Fifth, from a decree to rebuild Jerusalem, until Messiah the Prince, would be 483 years, or sixty-nine weeks (9:25). Adding these years to the decree to Ezra in 457 B.C. (Ezr. 7:6,7; 9:9) works out to 26 A.D., the year Jesus began His public ministry. There is yet one prophetic week unaccounted for.

Sixth, the Messiah will be cut off, and have nothing (9:26).

Seventh, the city of Jerusalem will be rebuilt, but, after the Messiah is cut off, the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary again. The sacrifices of the sanctuary will be cut off, and the “abomination of desolation” will be set up in the sanctuary. There will be wars, and desolations are determined (9:25,26).

Eighth, someone will “make a covenant with the many for one week”, but in the middle of the week, he will put a stop to sacrifices, and set up the “abomination of desolation” (9:27). This seems to refer to the “70th week”. The reference to “seven years” and “three and a half years” will come up again.

Ninth, there will be a great tribulation that will occur, worse than anything that had ever come upon the earth. When they finish shattering the power of the holy people, then the end will come. Those who are written in God’s book will be rescued (12:1).

Tenth, there will be a resurrection of the dead, ...some to everlasting life, and some to everlasting shame and disgrace. The righteous will shine brightly, like the brightness of the sky, or as the stars of heaven (12:2,3). This is one of the clearest passages about the hope of the resurrection found in the OT (cf. Isa. 26:19).

That is a lot of information regarding the future, just from the book of Daniel. Some of these things have been fulfilled, and can be plainly seen. Others have not. The language is often symbolic and somewhat obscure, at least from our vantage point. There are also minor translational issues. So, **there are unanswered questions.**

We saw, in chapter 11, how one of the descendants of Seleucus, one of the generals of Alexander the Great, seemed to have at least partially fulfilled the prophecy about the “little horn” that was so arrogant, and desecrated the temple. But he did not fulfill everything. Furthermore, while the “little horn” in chapter 8 does come from the line of one of Alexander’s generals, ...the “little horn” in chapter 7 comes from the kingdom of Rome. Then, when we get to the NT, it is quite clear that this figure is “yet to come”. This image seems to be like a reflection that repeats in history.

What does all this mean? First, as we saw when we began this series, **God knows it all. He knows the future,** ...and the scriptures are full of examples of where He shared information or opportunities about the future with people. **He knows and declares the end from the beginning** (Isa. 46:10). **When people believe Him, they respond to what He has revealed to them.** This is *not* simply to *satisfy our curiosity*, ...this is to *direct our steps*. **The reason God has shared this information with us is so that we will put our trust in Him and follow Him in obedience.** “The secret things belong to Yahweh our God, ...but the things that are revealed belong to us and our children forever, *so that we may follow* all the words of this law” (Deut. 29:29).

Second, God is in control. God can direct the outworking of events in history. He said, “My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure” (Isa. 46:10), ...and, “For what Yahweh of hosts has planned, who can frustrate? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back? (Isa. 14:27). God is the One who determines the times and boundaries of nations (Acts 17:26). And what is His motive? “That they might seek Him, ...grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:27).

Third, this sovereign God is directing the events of my life. If I am His, I am His workmanship, ...I have been created in Christ Jesus *for good works*, ...works that HE has prepared beforehand..., that I might walk in them (Eph. 2:10). I did not choose Him, He chose me, and *placed me* in order that I might go and bear fruit, and that my fruit might remain...” (Jn. 15:16). In Him, we were appointed as an heir, having been designated beforehand according to the plan of the One inworking all things according to the counsel of His will, to the end that we who have hoped in Christ would be to the praise of His glory” (Eph. 1:11,12). **This God, ...who knows all things, and is directing the events in history..., has made me HIS. I have been created, shaped, formed and prepared beforehand for good works, ...works that HE has prepared beforehand for ME to do, ...so that I could accomplish these works. He has put me in the right place at the right time to do the right stuff that will produce lasting, beautiful results. And HE has appointed ME, and set aside FOR ME an inheritance of resources and opportunities, ...and He HIMSELF is inworking in my life according to His purpose to make my life bring praise and honor to HIM!**

Fourth, God wants us to know the things He has revealed. “...the things revealed belong to *us*, and to our children” (Deut. 29:29). **God wants us to be aware of these things. He wants us to understand the “big picture”, so that we know what life is all about, ...and where history is headed.** “Without a revelation, the people are undisciplined” (Prov. 29:18). **The reason for God sharing these glimpses of revelation is so that we would live purposeful lives.** The more clearly we understand the “big picture”, the more we can begin to grasp the part that we ourselves can play. Even though God knows the end from the beginning, and is working all things out according to His purpose, **you and I are part of His plan.** He has included *your part* and *my part* in how He intends to bring it all together. **You matter. Your life and contribution matter.** The enemy wants to convince us that we *don’t*, so that we drop out. **The enemy knows. He knows that you matter, ...that is why he works so hard to shut you down or keep you distracted!** God wants us to be aware and attentive to what is going on around us, especially in regards to what He is doing. He wants us to be prayerful. **He wants us to be looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God** (2 Pet. 3:11,12). In order to do *that*, we need to know *what* to be looking for. So, please, familiarize yourself with these bits of information from Daniel. They provide the backbone of further prophetic revelations to come.