



# PROPHECY SEMINAR



**INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF DANIEL**



## INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Does the possibility of nuclear annihilation frighten you? Are you fearful that the world is on a countdown to the Battle of Armageddon? Are we headed toward some cosmic conflict straight out of Star Wars? What does the future hold for our world? Have you attempted to understand the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, but have been confused by all the symbolism of those prophecies? These and many other amazing questions will be answered through this Prophecy Seminar.

You are about to begin one of the most fascinating adventures of your life. What can you expect from this Daniel Prophecy Seminar? What will it do for you?

### What the Prophecy Seminar Will Do For You:

1. You will understand the prophecies of Daniel and many of those in Revelation as you have never understood them before.
2. Your friends will be amazed at how much you will know about the books of Daniel and Revelation.
3. You will discover the amazing story of the cosmic drama unfolding between the forces of good and evil, and the ultimate triumph of Christ.
4. You will enhance your relationship with Jesus Christ as you get better acquainted with the One who delivers God's people.
5. You will find inner peace and security as you learn the truth that God is in control of world events.

Since the book of Revelation in the New Testament is the companion book to Daniel, we will be examining many similar prophecies in Revelation in order that we might better understand Daniel.

These two Bible books are most intriguing. They are full of prophetic symbols. For some, this symbolism has been a barrier to understanding the message of the books, but this need not be. The exciting news is that **YOU** can understand the books of Daniel and Revelation! As you proceed through this special Prophecy Seminar, you will discover the meaning of the various symbols. You will understand the prophecies of the book of Daniel as you have never before understood them. The book of Revelation will also come alive for you.

### **Three Basic Premises Control Our Study in This Prophecy Seminar:**

1. The prophetic symbols in both **Daniel** and **Revelation** must be interpreted by the Bible itself. Private man-made interpretations have no validity whatsoever (2 Peter 1:20) (1787) [1209]. In order to understand the prophecies correctly, we must let the Bible explain them.
2. A correct comprehension of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation will give us a clearer understanding of Jesus Christ. Prophecy can be understood correctly only as it centers in and uplifts Jesus Christ.
3. Both Daniel and Revelation have much to say about the time of the end. Thus the focus of our study will be on the preparation needed for the end time.

**NOTE:** Though this prophecy seminar embraces both **Daniel** and **Revelation**, special emphasis is given to the Book of Daniel — a much misunderstood book.

### **AUTHOR AND DATE**

1. **Who is the author of the book of Daniel? Daniel 12:4,5,9. (1320) [895]**

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**NOTE:** The testimony of the book is that it was written by the prophet Daniel. This is evident not only from the testimony of Scripture, as these verses indicate, but also by the fact that only a person who was intimately acquainted with Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon could have written the details of history revealed in the book of Daniel.

2. **Did Jesus recognize Daniel as the author of this book? Matthew 24:15 (1439) [976]**

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**NOTE:** Jesus told His followers to study Daniel's prophecies and seek to understand them. According to Jesus, they can be understood. In this same statement Jesus recognized that Daniel spoke the words of the book of Daniel.

3. **When was the book of Daniel written? Daniel 1:1 (1295) [878]**

In the \_\_\_\_\_ year of the reign of Jehoiakim.

**NOTE:** Since the book was written by the prophet Daniel, it would have had to be written while the prophet lived, in the 6th century B.C. Daniel was taken captive to Babylon in 606 B.C. and lived on into the Medo-Persian reign, which began in 538 B.C. Hence, the book of Daniel must have been written sometime during those years.



## THE SETTING OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

### 4. Who had conquered Jerusalem and taken Daniel captive to Babylon? Daniel 1:1 [1295] [878]

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NOTE: Because of their disobedience to God the nations of Israel and Judah had been taken captive. Eventually the city of Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, and most of the Jews were carried away to Babylon. The book of Daniel begins with Jerusalem being desolated by the heathen king Nebuchadnezzar and God's people being removed to a strange land. Our study will reveal that God can bring good out of every bad situation in which His people find themselves.

### 5. To what event does the book of Daniel point? Daniel 12:4,9,13. [1320] [895]

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: Even though the book of Daniel was written while God's people were captive in Babylon because of their sins, the focal point of the book is not the Jewish captivity but the time of the end. As we study Daniel we must ever keep in mind that everything is pointing to the end of the world. You will discover that this gives the book of Daniel tremendous meaning for us today.

### 6. What are the two parts to the book of Daniel?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: There are two basic sections to the book of Daniel:

1. The historical, found in the first half of the book, contains stories about Daniel's day.
2. The prophetic, found in the latter part of the book, contains prophecies pointing to the end time.

What the book of Daniel says about history provides a key that unlocks the meaning of history, while its prophetic section opens a window through which we see how the God of heaven is guiding the affairs of this world towards that great climactic event, the second coming of Christ.

Many people in their haste to quickly unravel the prophecies of Daniel have skipped the historical section and missed a lot of the meaning in the book. The stories of Daniel are not given simply as stories; rather they illustrate what the





prophecies predict. **The stories reveal that what happened to Daniel and his friends in ancient Babylon are symbolic of the experiences of the people of God in the end time.**

Always remember that the focal point of the book of Daniel is the time of the end — the end of the conflict between good and evil. In this seminar we will study the entire book chapter by chapter, including both the historical and prophetic sections. We shall study the historical section to discover the message there for the end time, and then we will discover how the prophetic sections have predicted those very conditions in the last days. What an exciting study awaits us in the book of Daniel!! In addition we will be studying the great key prophecies of the book of Revelation.

**7. Is the study of prophecy important? 2 Peter 1:19 (1787) [1209]**

\_\_\_\_\_, because "We have also a more \_\_\_\_\_ word of \_\_\_\_\_, whereunto ye do well that ye take \_\_\_\_\_, as unto a light that \_\_\_\_\_ in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day \_\_\_\_\_ arise in your hearts."

NOTE: The Bible says prophecy is sure; we should heed it. Instead of studying Bible prophecy to provide hope today, many people are turning to the occult, to spirit mediums and witches in an endeavor to understand today's chaotic world. The Bible asserts that real answers can be found only in prophecy. Prophecy is a light that illuminates our pathway, and the study of prophecy causes Christ (the Day Star) to find a place in our hearts. We pray that this study of Daniel and Revelation will provide Christ-centered illumination in your life.

## **SYMBOLS OF PROPHECY**

Much of the books of both **Daniel** and **Revelation** is written in symbolic language. In order to correctly interpret the prophecies, one must understand the Biblical meaning of the symbols. Once the symbols are understood, the prophecies make sense.

**8. Give the Biblical meaning of the following symbols:**

- a. Beast Daniel 7:23 (1310) [888] \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Day Ezekiel 4:6 (1213) [822] \_\_\_\_\_

- c. Water Rev. 17:15 (1819) [1231] \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: This does not mean that every time these words appear in Scripture they have symbolic meaning, but rather only in the symbolic prophecies such as those found in Daniel and Revelation.

## HOW TO INTERPRET DANIEL

There are four major prophecies in the book of Daniel: (1) Daniel 2; (2) Daniel 7; (3) Daniel 8 and 9; and (4) Daniel 10 through 12. Each of these prophecies covers the broad sweep of history from Daniel's day to the end time. The focal point of each prophecy is the end of time.

1. We will discover that Daniel 2 gives us the broad outline of human history from Daniel's day to our day.
2. Daniel 7 covers the same time period with different symbols, and elaborates on a certain period in the time of the end.
3. Daniel 8 and 9 also cover the same ground, but add further details on the time of the end.
4. Daniel 10 through 12 likewise go over the same ground and further expand our understanding of the end time.

The principle that Daniel uses is what is called "outline" prophecy, in which world history is outlined from Daniel's day to the end of time, and each subsequent prophecy elaborates on the end time. In employing this method Daniel made certain that he rooted the prophecies in history, so that as we see them unfold we can constantly see where we are living in the stream of history. This Prophecy Seminar attempts to utilize this principle of interpretation which is so clearly enunciated in the book of Daniel itself. In other words, we will discover that each of these major prophecies begins in Daniel's day, continues through history, and then focuses on the end time. Amazingly, we will discover that we today are living in Daniel's predicted time of the end.

The student should be aware that other interpretations are suggested for the book of Daniel. Some have erroneously dated the book of Daniel in the 2nd century B.C. and have interpreted the events in the book as occurring mainly in the Grecian Empire. They feel that all the prophecies of Daniel were fulfilled then and that the book of Daniel has little meaning for today. Others have gone to the opposite extreme and suggest that everything in the book of Daniel will yet take place in the future. Since this view of



the prophecies is not rooted in history, no one can be sure when they will take place. The method of interpretation espoused by this Prophecy Seminar, however, is consistent with the Biblical evidence. It sees the prophecies as beginning in Daniel's day but culminating in the end time. Thus the prophecies span the ages, rooted in history but focused on the future. This has been the most consistent interpretation of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation by Jewish and Christian scholars from earliest times.

Lesson 2 will explore the exciting theme of the book of Daniel. Once the theme of the book is clear, we will begin our chapter study. Thrilling times are ahead of us as we unravel these fantastic prophecies and see how the various stories relate to the time of the end.

It is imperative to remember that the focal point of the book of Daniel is the time of the end — the end of the conflict between good and evil. It will be exciting for you to discover through your study that we today are indeed living in the time of the end foretold in the book of Daniel. What reassuring news for people everywhere who face the future with apprehension! And even more important, both **Daniel** and **Revelation** focus on Jesus Christ and reveal fantastic new amazing facts regarding Him and His plans for the future. It is our hope and prayer that you will get to know Him better in this Prophecy Seminar.

**9. Is it your desire to know Jesus better through the study of the prophecies of the book of Daniel?**

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