

DANIEL (DARE TO BE GOD'S MESSENGER)
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SERIES: Daniel (Dare To Be God's Messenger)

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MONDAY

OPEN

O my friend, have you ever wondered why is God so careful to tell us what's going to happen in the future? I mean you can open the Bible and if you'll really study it you know what's going to come to pass. Well, if what's going to come to pass is going to come to pass, queue sera, sera, what will be, will be. But what God wants you and I to do is to understand tomorrow and prepare for tomorrow today.

PART ONE

I am excited because today I believe I can show you from the Word of God, who that fourth kingdom is. Remember the statue in Daniel, chapter 2; there were four kingdoms. And now, by the time we get to Daniel, chapter 9, we know who three of those kingdoms are. We know Babylon is followed by the Medes and the Persians. And then we know that Greece conquers the Medes and the Persians. And we've seen it because God told us in Daniel,

chapter 2 that the first kingdom is Babylon. In Daniel, chapter 8 he showed us the second kingdom is the Medo-Persian Empire. He told us in Daniel, chapter 8 that the third kingdom was the kingdom of Greece. Now he does not mention the name of the fourth kingdom that dreadful and terrifying beast that is not like any of the others. He doesn't mention the name, but he gives us enough clues and guess where he gives them to us? In Daniel, chapter 9, in this awesome, awesome prophecy. What he's doing is he's going to tell them what is going to happen after Messiah is cut off, after the first 69 weeks of Daniel's 70 weeks of prophecy are fulfilled; he is telling us what's going to happen. And if we look at what happens and then we go back in history, what we discover is the name of the fourth kingdom. The name that is not given in the book of Daniel, but the name that is given in the gospels and later on in Revelation. So let's look at it. Let's go back to Daniel, chapter 9. And what I want to do is start at the second verse of this prophecy, which is verse 24. All right, seventy weeks are determined, decreed for your people and your holy city. So he says, okay, seventy-sevens or 490 years are decreed for you and for your people, your holy city, which is Jerusalem, and your people, which are the Jews. So this focuses, now God has narrowed it down not to affecting any other nation but affecting the nation of Israel. Now I want to go to verse 25. So he says so you are to know and discern from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. Now we know that makes sixty-nine weeks and there's only one week left. We know that a week equals seven years. So four hundred and eighty-three years of this prophecy has come to pass. All right now, when you look at it, watch what he says. He says it will be built again; the city will be built again with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. So Jerusalem is going to be rebuilt again. All right, then after the sixty-two weeks; now the sixty-two weeks come after the first seven weeks. So after the sixty-two weeks or after the sixty-nine weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing. And you and

I know from studying that now that this is talking about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. But now watch; it's very important. And the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. So he has just said who's going to destroy Jerusalem. He has just given us the clue in this mystery, the clue to who the fourth kingdom is. And that fourth kingdom is the one that destroyed Jerusalem and the sanctuary after, after Messiah was cut off. Who was that? Well if you study history you know that it was the Roman Empire. You know that the Roman Empire was ruling when Jesus Christ was born. I want you to go with me to Matthew, chapter 2, verses 1 through 7. Now I'm not going to read it all, but go to Matthew, chapter 2, verse 1 to 7. It says now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi arrived from the east, arrived in Jerusalem saying. All right now what do we have? We know that Herod is the king. We know who is ruling at this time in Israel when Jesus is born and when He lives and carries on His ministry. We know that it's Rome. Herod the king was a historical figure. You know what is absolutely awesome is when you read the Word of God; God so wants you to understand that this is reality. You know right now, people love reality TV. They love these reality shows. They have been a hit. Well listen; God is reality Bible. In other words, this is not some mystical story that God puts out there, but it is a story that has it's roots in time, in history, and in the Word of God you find God mentioning these rulers. You find Him putting us into context. I want you to go with me for just a minute to Luke, chapter 2 and you'll see it again. You see the mention of Herod the king. And when you get to Luke, chapter 2, and I hope that as I'm saying this that the pages of your Bible are turning also. In Luke, chapter 2, verse 1: Now it came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census should be taken in all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was a governor of Syria. And all were proceeding to register for the census, everyone to his own city. What is God doing? God is taking His Word and

He's saying listen, you can check Me out. I'm telling you who was governor. I'm telling you who is ruling. And you and I are seeing who the fourth kingdom is. The fourth kingdom is Rome. And you say, but I don't understand. If the fourth kingdom is Rome, Kay, then that means that when Jesus sets up His kingdom, then there will be like a Roman Empire. Oh. Yes, there will be like a Roman Empire. In other words, the confederation of Rome that was in the days of Jesus will be similar to what is going to come when Jesus comes again. In the first coming and in the second coming, who was the power? The power was that Roman Empire. So let me go back and just tell you a little bit about Rome. According to legend, two twin brothers Romulus and Remis were the young men that founded the city of Rome and that was about 753 B.C. But Rome ruled as an empire from 146 B.C. to A.D. 500. All right now, it became this powerful, powerful crushing force about the time of Pompey. Now if you remember anything about history it, and this should make history come alive. If you've never been interested in history before, you ought to be interested in history now. But anyway, Pompey went and he conquered the Seleucid Empire, which was Syria. When he finished, he came down and he conquered Jerusalem. And that's when he destroyed the city. Let's go back to Luke chapter 19. And in Luke, chapter 19, remember Jesus knows that His hour has come. Jesus knows that this is His final Passover that He is going to celebrate. He's coming into the city. He's riding on a donkey. He's fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah, chapter 9, verse 9: Behold your King is coming to you on a donkey. And they're shouting Hosanna in the highest. And the Pharisees are saying stop it, stop it. Tell them to stop it. And Jesus says if I told them to stop it, even the stones, the rocks would have to cry out because God the Father wants you to understand today, what is happening. This is the fulfillment of the prophecy. And if you're not prepared for it you need to get prepared for it because what you do and how you live in your today will effect and impact your tomorrow, beloved. And so this is what he says in chapter 19 in verse

41: When he approached the city He saw the city and He wept over it saying, if you had known this day, even you, if you had known; wake up, wake up, wake up. Listen; pay attention to My word. I want to prepare you for tomorrow. If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace. He says, but now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank before you, surround you and hem you in on every side and will level you to the ground and your children within you. And they will not leave in you one stone upon another because you did not recognize the time of your visitation. It was Pompey. It was Rome that conquered them. It is Rome that is that fourth empire. It is Rome that is that dreadful and terrifying beast that's different from the others. You say, how is it different? We'll talk about it when I come back.

PART TWO

We know that Rome was the crushing power. We know that from 146 B.C. to 500 A.D. Rome was the empire. We know that it was a crushing force and remember I told you in 63 A.D. Pompey conquered Israel right after he conquered Syria, the Seleucid Empire. Now, we move up to this prophecy of Titus, the Roman general who is going to conquer Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and destroy the city. And in between what do we have? We have God showing us a fourth empire. Let's go back to Daniel, chapter 7 because I want you to see something. In Daniel, chapter 7, in verse 7 he's describing that fourth empire. This is the one that Daniel is focused on. This is one that he wants to understand. Why? Because it's the one that is in power just before the God of heaven sets up His kingdom. So he says after this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. Now listen to the description. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet. In other words, it conquered what belonged to Greece. It conquered what

belonged to the Medo-Persian Empire. It conquered what belonged to the Babylonian Empire. It crushed it all. But when they conquered it, they were cruel conquerors. They were cruel. I mean Babylon was cruel, but so was Rome. Rome had yayaya, iron teeth, huge iron teeth. What did they do? They would come in and they would kill by the thousands. And then they would take slaves by the hundreds of thousands and they would take those slaves and they would use them to do their work and to wait on them and to care for them and to fight their battles. You've seen the movie Spartacus. You've seen Gladiator. You get a sense of what was happening in Rome at that time and the cruelty and how bloodthirsty they were and how immoral they were. I mean if you study anything about the Roman Empire, what you discover is women could remember the names of their husbands by who was in power at that time. I mean it was a cruel kingdom. But listen, listen, because remember, when we studied Daniel 7 I said, watch this phrase. It was different from all the beasts that were before it and it had ten horns. Then you come up to verse 19 of chapter 7 and it says the fourth beast. I wanted to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast which was different from all the others. And then again he wants you to understand in verse 23: The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and it; now watch, will, in the future, devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. What is God showing us? This kingdom is going to be different. How is it going to be different? Because it's going to be and then it's not going to be and then it's going to come back into power again. You see when you look at this fourth beast, when you look at this statue in Daniel, chapter 2. It said it had legs of iron. All right and you look at those legs, in fact, let me go back and read it to you. And I want you to go back and I want you to look at it because I don't want you to miss the description of, of this statue, because I want you to see something. Let's go back in verse 40. It says then there will be a fourth kingdom, as strong as iron in as much as iron crushes and shatters all things.

So like iron that breaks in pieces it will crush and break all these in pieces. And in that you saw the feet and toes partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom. All right, so you have the legs of iron all right. You come down and you find the feet and the feet and the toes are partly iron and partly clay. Some of it's strong, some of it brittle. All right now, what he's showing you is he's showing you what it's going to be when God sets up His kingdom. When you look at Daniel and when you look at the Roman Empire and this fourth kingdom being different than all the others, what you see is this: you see first of all you have the legs. That was Rome at that time. Rome was divided eventually, into two empires, the eastern and the western empire. You had Rome as the capital and you had present day Istanbul that was Constantinople. All right, then you have these two legs and these divisions of east and west. And then you have, moving from the statue you move to Daniel, chapter 7 and you have the ten horns. That's another phase of that kingdom. Then you have a third phase when the little horn comes up and the little horn added to the ten, takes out the three. Okay, so when we're looking back in history and we're looking at the fourth kingdom, the reason that it is different than all the others is because at one time it was just this kingdom that became these two empires east and west. But there's a future for Rome. Rome was. Rome is not. Rome will be again, a fourth kingdom. You say, I don't completely understand. You know what? I don't completely understand either, the details. But I'm just going by what God says. God just tells us it's going to come to pass. So what we do is we grab that truth. We hold it there. We don't add to it. We don't try and manipulate history. We don't try and take events that happened in the future and try and work them in and say O well, Revelation has already passed. This prophecy of this people, of the prince who is to come that will destroy this city, that was just Antiochus Epiphanes. O no, beloved, O no beloved. I want you to see that even Jesus knew that it was future. I want you to go to Matthew, chapter 24. And all I want to do is pick up one part of this passage

and then we'll come back to it later. But it's one of the most incredible prophetic passages in the New Testament concerning the future coming of Jesus Christ. In Matthew, chapter 24 the disciples have asked Jesus what will be the sign of Your coming. In other words, You're coming again. What will be the sign of Your coming and the end of the age? Well when you read through Matthew 24 one of the words that you would want to mark is the end, the end, the end. The second one would be the coming and I put a cloud around the coming. I color the end red because it's going to be a bloody, bloody end. But now as He's telling them what's going to happen and He's saying the one, in verse 13, who endures to the end, he shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world, for a witness to all the nations and then the end will come. Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, then let those who are in Judea flee. What has Jesus just said? Jesus has just said I know about Daniel. It's a true prophet. It's going to come to pass. But listen, it's in the future. It's not in My time. Now Rome was ruling then. Rome's not ruling now. But we are getting ready and we are living in a basis, where we no longer look at nations, but we look at the world solidified, the world brought together. And eventually the world will be brought together under one government. And in a sense, it will be a revived Roman Empire with iron teeth that crushes and devours. You and I need to understand. We need to be prepared for the future and we need to warn people to flee from the wrath which is to come. You need to understand prophecy and you need to share it.