

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

Have you heard that Jesus Christ is coming, that He's coming again to rule as King of kings and Lord of lords? Have you said oh, it's not going to happen in our time? It is too far away. Besides they've been waiting for the coming of Christ over and over and over for all these centuries and it hasn't happened. I'm not sure that we should take that literally. Oh beloved, you better take it literally because when God speaks it is literally fulfilled, as we'll see today.

PART ONE

Well beloved, we have come to the very last prophecy in the book of Daniel, as I have told you in earlier programs. And when we come to this, these last prophecies are the things that lead up to the coming of the Lord. We're going to see some incredible prophecies. And some of those have been fulfilled. And some of those haven't. Well, as you look at Daniel, chapter 10

that's where the prophecy begins. And as I was teaching to you, I told you I would go back and tell you about Cyrus. And that's what I want to do, because I want you to see that if what God said about Cyrus came to pass to the detail, then you can know that the prophecies that we're going to look at in this last vision are going to come to pass to the detail. And God is in to details. Now He doesn't give us all the fine, fine points that we do not need, but He gives us everything that you and I need to know so that we might live and not be caught unaware, so that we might understand the times, that we might say, hey the fig tree's blooming. Spring is coming. You know, summer is near. So let's look at it. In Daniel, chapter 10, verse 1 it says in the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia, a message was revealed to Daniel. Now what I want to do is I want to take that third year of Cyrus the king. I also want to take you to where Daniel was because it says in verse 4, on the twenty-fourth day of the month of the first month, which is the month of Nissan, as we looked at, the month that they celebrate the feast of Passover. While I was at the bank of the great river, that is the Tigris. Now if we wanted to go to the Tigris River, there are two rivers and Mesopotamia, that word Mesopotamia means the land between two rivers. Those two rivers are the Euphrates and the Tigris. So Daniel is standing at the bank of that great river Tigris. Where would I put him if I told you the modern day setting? He's in Iraq. Do you realize that when you read the Word of God that present day Iraq, which covers the area of ancient Babylon and other places, part of Assyria, etc., that, that land of Babylon, is the second most mentioned place, next to the land of Israel. So here is a Jew from Israel transported and living in Babylon because he was taken captive in 605 B.C. Now it is past 586 B.C. When is it, about what time is it when Daniel is having this vision? Well to understand that I want us to go back and look at Cyrus. And I want to take you back to before Cyrus was born and that's Isaiah, chapter 44. So go to Isaiah, chapter 44. Now remember, my purpose is to show you that when God speaks God means it. When He says

something is going to happen He watches over His word to fulfill it and it will be fulfilled. We're going to look at prophecies that have been fulfilled and we're going to look at prophecies that have not yet been fulfilled, but they are the prophecies that lead up to the coming of Christ. And what I want you to know is as those in the past have been fulfilled, so those in the present will be fulfilled. In Isaiah, chapter 44 in the last verse, in verse 28 it says this: It is I, God is speaking, who says of Cyrus, he is my shepherd, he, Cyrus will perform all My desire. And he declares of Jerusalem, she will be built. And of the temple, your foundation will be laid. So here is a prophecy about Cyrus. He doesn't tell us where he comes from right here, but Cyrus is this Medo-Persian Empire that is living and is reigning for the third year when Daniel gets his final vision. Chapter 45, verse 1: Thus says the Lord to Cyrus, His anointed, whom I have taken by the right hand to subdue nations before him and to loose the loins of kings. Now what we're going to see is Cyrus, of course, was a Medo-Persian. He was from the Medo-Persian Empire. It was the Medo-Persian Empire that conquered Babylon and destroyed Babylon after Babylon had conquered Israel. Okay, and then the Medo-Persians rule for a while until and you know who comes next, because if you've been studying with me, you remember the head of gold is Babylon. The chest of silver is the Medes and Persians. This is the vision of the statue in Daniel, chapter 2. The belly of bronze and the thighs of bronze are the Grecian Empire. And then now we know that the fourth and final kingdom is Rome. So we're at the stage now of the Medo-Persian Empire and he's conquering other kings. He says I will go before you and make the rough places smooth. I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars. For the sake of Jacob, My servant, and Israel, My chosen one, listen, I, God have called you, Cyrus by name. He says I am doing this. I am recording it through Isaiah the prophet and I want you to understand that I am doing it way ahead of time because I want you, Israel, I want you Jacob My servant, to understand that I have all of this under control. I am the God

who rules sovereignly over all the nations. Now Isaiah's ministry, you might want to write this down, was from 739 to 681 B.C., from 739 to 681 B.C. So here, during this time-frame, Isaiah is giving this prophecy about Cyrus who won't be born until about 175 years later. In other words, before Cyrus is born, God is giving this prophecy and calling this man by name so that when his mother and father name him Cyrus it's according to the will of God. This is God. He goes on to say in verse 5: I am the lord and there is no other. Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you and He's talking to Cyrus, though you have not known Me. Now why is He doing this? And it's because of you. God is speaking all the way into your day and my day and this is what He is saying: That men, that women, that teens, that children, because children listen to this program with their mothers, that children, men, women may know from the rising to the setting of the sun, that there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord and there is no other. Now watch what He says about Himself. God is telling you what He is like. You better listen and I better listen. We better take heed and we better remember it. He says the one forming light and creating darkness, causing well being and creating calamity. Now another word for calamity there is adversity. So God causes well being and God creates calamity. He creates adversity. He says I am the Lord who does all these. Now you say, but I can't understand how a holy God could create adversity. Well darling, that's because you don't understand the Word of God. And it's because you don't understand the whole counsel of God and because you don't have the big picture. But if you'll keep studying you'll get to know and you will get to understand. But let me just say this: Who are you O clay to set in judgment on the Potter? We don't do that. We take what God says and whether it agrees with our concept or not, we are to buy it because this is pure truth. That's why Precept Ministries has the symbol of a plumb line. We drop a plumb line because a plumb line shows us what is straight, what is true. Well he goes on and he talks to Israel and this is what he says and I'm going to jump down to

verse 11. Thus says the Lord, the holy One of Israel and His maker. I'm the one that designed Israel. I'm the one that took Abraham from Iraq, from the Ur of the Chaldees and I told him I was going to make him a great nation. He says ask Me about the things to come concerning My sons. Now My sons here are the Jews. Ask Me what's going to happen to the Jews in the future. And you shall commit to Me the work of My hands, trust Me. He says it is I who made the earth and created man on it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands. You say I don't believe that. Then you're going against what God said and you're believing a lie because this is true and I ordained all their hosts. I have aroused him, Cyrus in righteousness. I will make all of his ways smooth. He, now listen, will build My city. Now Isaiah is writing this when Jerusalem has not been destroyed. Isaiah, remember, is writing this between 789 and 681 B.C. and Jerusalem is not destroyed. The destruction doesn't start or the captivities don't start until 605 and Jerusalem is not destroyed until 586 B.C. And here is God saying the city will be built. He says, he will build My city and he will let My exiles go free. Well where were they exiled to? They were exiled to modern day Iraq. As a matter of fact, listen to me very carefully. You're going to see Iraq, Iraq, Iraq, Iraq all the way until the end because Iraq is synonymous with the ancient Babylon. Beloved, you and I are living in awesome times. You say tell me a little bit more about Cyrus. When we come back that's what we'll do.

PART TWO

Welcome back my friend. Let's see how this prophecy is fulfilled and we are setting in such an awesome place in time because we can look back at the whole Word of God. We can see what was fulfilled to the letter and we can see that there are things that are still going to be fulfilled and we know the details that God has given us. So in Isaiah, chapter 45, verse 13 He's speaking of Cyrus: I have aroused him in righteousness. I will make all his ways smooth. In other words, he's not going to have a lot of trouble because

God is making his way smooth. God is going before him. He will build My city. He will let My exiles go free without any payment or reward, says the Lord of hosts. In other words, it's just out of the generosity, so to speak, of Cyrus' heart and remember Proverbs tells us that the heart of the king is in the hand of God. And God can make them do whatever He wants them to do. So next to verse 13 you might write that decree to rebuild the city was in 538 B.C., 538 B.C. And then next to that write 2 Chronicles, 36:22-23 and let's go to 2 Chronicles. Now when you go to 2 Chronicles, chapter 36, verse 22 to 23 what you do is you come to the end of the pre-exilic history of Israel. In other words, this is where they go into exile. So if we were to read the verses before this we would read about the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. and Israel going into captivity. But remember the prophecy in Isaiah was written almost 200 years before that. And that prophecy was written so that when Jacob, when Israel gets into captivity they have the words of Isaiah and they are able to read them and they know while they're in captivity that God is going to raise up a king. That king's name is going to be Cyrus and Cyrus is going to let them return. Now 2 Chronicles, chapter 36, verse 22: Now, in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah. You say, but we looked at Isaiah. That's right, but Jeremiah said you're going to be in captivity for 70 years. As a matter of fact, let's go back to verse 20 and 21. It says and those who escaped the sword he carried away to Babylon and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept Sabbath until 70 years were complete. They had gone 490 years without giving the land the Sabbath. And see every 7 years the land required a Sabbath. So you divide 7 into 490 and you get 70 years. So that's why they were in captivity for 70 years. God watches over His word to perform it. So now we go back to verse 22. It says the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia so

that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom and also put it in writing saying thus says Cyrus king of Persia, the Lord, the God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. In other words he knew where his power came from. He wasn't like Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel, chapter 4 when he thought I've done all this. Cyrus knew that God had done it. And he says and He, God has appointed me, now this a Persian king, to build Him, God, a house in Jerusalem; in other words, the temple, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all of His people, may the Lord God be with him and let him go up. So Cyrus, in Babylon, turns to all these Jews in exile and that first year of his reign, which is 539, 538 B.C., he says I want you to know, dear Jews, you can go home because I'm ruling over these kingdoms and I have the authority and I have the power and I have a calling from God and I'm going to build that house. I'm going to build God a house again in Jerusalem. I'm going to do it through you. And so Ezra goes back and then eventually Nehemiah goes back and the house is built and the walls are put up around the city, all because God is God and because God has laid out the future and because what God says is going to come to pass. Now, let's go back to this vision. And what I want us to do is I want us to go to Daniel, chapter 11 because Daniel 10, 11 & 12 is the vision and the explanation of it. But that explanation or the details of that vision is not told to us until we get to Daniel, chapter 11. Daniel 10 tells us how the angel gets there. Now remember, this angel has come, this angelic being, to give Daniel this answer. He was thwarted on the way. He finally made it. So in Daniel, chapter 11, he is telling him how he came to the help of Darius the Mede when Darius was reigning. So Darius started off with the Medes and Persians and because he was a Mede and then we come to Cyrus the Persian. Verse 2: And now, the angel is speaking, I will tell you the truth. Behold three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Now Cyrus is the king. Cyrus' rule is going to be over and when it's over three more kings in Persia are going to arise. Then a fourth will gain more riches than all of them. And as

soon as he has become strong through his riches, he will arise the whole empire, now catch this, the whole Persian Empire against the king of Greece. Awesome, awesome. What has he told Daniel in the reign of Cyrus, in the third year of Cyrus? After Cyrus there's going to be four more kings. And that fourth king is going to determine that he is going to go against Greece and he's going to wipe them out. And then it says and a mighty king will arise and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases. But as soon as he has risen his kingdom will be broken up and parceled to the four points of the compass. It is absolutely awesome. Who are these kings? Cambyses was the first king. Darius Hystaspes was the second one. Ahasuerus or Xerxes was the third one and that's the book of Esther. And then out of Xerxes is the final one. So all of this is laid out here in the Word of God, and history brings it to pass.