

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: God is Sovereign over History

Outline:

- A. The personal history of the prophet Daniel – Chapter 1
- B. The prophetic history of the Gentiles – Chapters 2-7
- C. *The prophetic history of Israel – Chapters 8-12***

As noted, the grand theme of Daniel is the sovereignty of God. In Daniel, the sovereignty of God is emphasized in relation to individuals, circumstances, and world history. God is absolutely sovereign over the whole of life.

Slide # 2

Daniel 2 and 7

- God is Sovereign Over the Course of World History
- Involving the “***Times of the Gentiles***”
- From the Time of Babylon to the Second Coming of the Messiah

Slide # 3

The Times of the Gentiles as Presented in Daniel 2 and 7

- Made up of FOUR Kingdoms/Kings
- Tied to the Mediterranean Basin
- Are Successive in Order
- Are Part of an Interconnected Whole
- Finds its Apex in Antichrist

The Bible is a prophetic book and a history book. Prophecy is where God tells us what history is going to be before it happens. There is no other prophetic book in the world like the Bible. It is what makes the God of the Bible totally unique.

Slide # 4**Isaiah 42:8–9 (NKJV)**

8 I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, [Formerly Predicted] And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them. [Prophesied Future Things]

It is God's glory ALONE to know the future, to prophesy the future, and then bring it to pass. God doesn't share this glory with any other! This is what the book of Daniel is all about! It tells us what is going to happen in world history and looking back we can see it has all been fulfilled to the letter.

A true prophet of God was NEVER wrong.

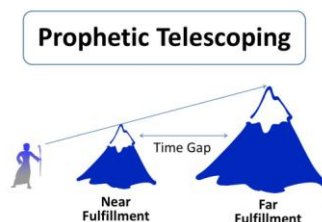
Slide # 5**Deuteronomy 18:20–22 (NKJV)**

20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

21 And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'—

22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

Here is how it works in Scripture. There are prophecies that are fulfilled in the near future and then there are prophecies related to the distant future. This is called "prophetic telescoping".

Slide # 6

If the prophet's near future predictions came true, then he could be trusted for the distant future as well. For example, when God brought the 10 plagues down on Egypt, Moses consistently prophesied what was going to happen and then God brought it to pass.

Slide # 7

Exodus 8:1–2 (NKJV)

1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me.
2 But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs.

It happened exactly as Moses said it would time after time. Therefore, we know that Moses can be trusted for things he prophesied about way beyond his lifetime. And so it was with the prophets.

Daniel prophesied that Nebuchadnezzar would live out in the pasture like an animal for 7 years until he knew that heaven rules (Dan. 4:25-26). And so it came to pass exactly as Daniel said. Therefore, we can also trust Daniel for the future last days things that he prophesied about.

In Daniel 2 and 7 God gave a prophetic outline of history from the time of Babylon until the Messianic Kingdom.

Slide # 8

Daniel 2 – 7

Babylon
Medo-Persia
Greece
Rome

As we come to Daniel 8 there is a shift in language from Aramaic (seen in 2:4b-7) back to Hebrew which is then used throughout the remainder of the book. The focus is now on Israel as the centerpiece of prophetic truth and where it is all going in relation to Israel.

Daniel 7 brings out the message of four great successive kingdoms that are beastly in nature in terms of abusing God's people with special emphasis on how it ends. In contrast, Daniel 8 zeroes in on the second and third kingdoms, focusing on what would transpire from the sixth to the second centuries.

Slide # 9**Daniel 7****Babylon****Medo-Persia****Greece****Rome****Daniel 8****Medo-Persia****Greece**

In Daniel 7 and 8, Daniel prophesied about 553 and 551 BC, respectively, which was late in the time of the Babylonian Empire, shortly before it fell. In other words, all the empires after Babylon that Daniel prophesied were yet future at the time of this revelation. However, what he predicted has been fulfilled to the letter, as we will see in our study today.

It is because Daniel was so accurate in what he prophesied that critics of the Bible have tried to say that what is written in Daniel was actually written as history after the time it happened and not beforehand as prophecy. Therefore, unbelieving critics have said this was written by a pseudo-Daniel who actually wrote it as history in the 2nd century B.C. instead of 400 years earlier at the Bible says

However, the Dead Sea Scrolls preserved a large number of copies of Daniel which was regarded as “Scripture” by the Jewish Qumran community that preserved them. The Qumran community existed from about 150 – 70 BC. They referred to Daniel in the exact language of “**the book of Daniel, the Prophet**”. This formula is typical of their other quotations from what they recognized as canonical Scripture showing they recognized Daniel as already established Scripture instead of something that was just being written.

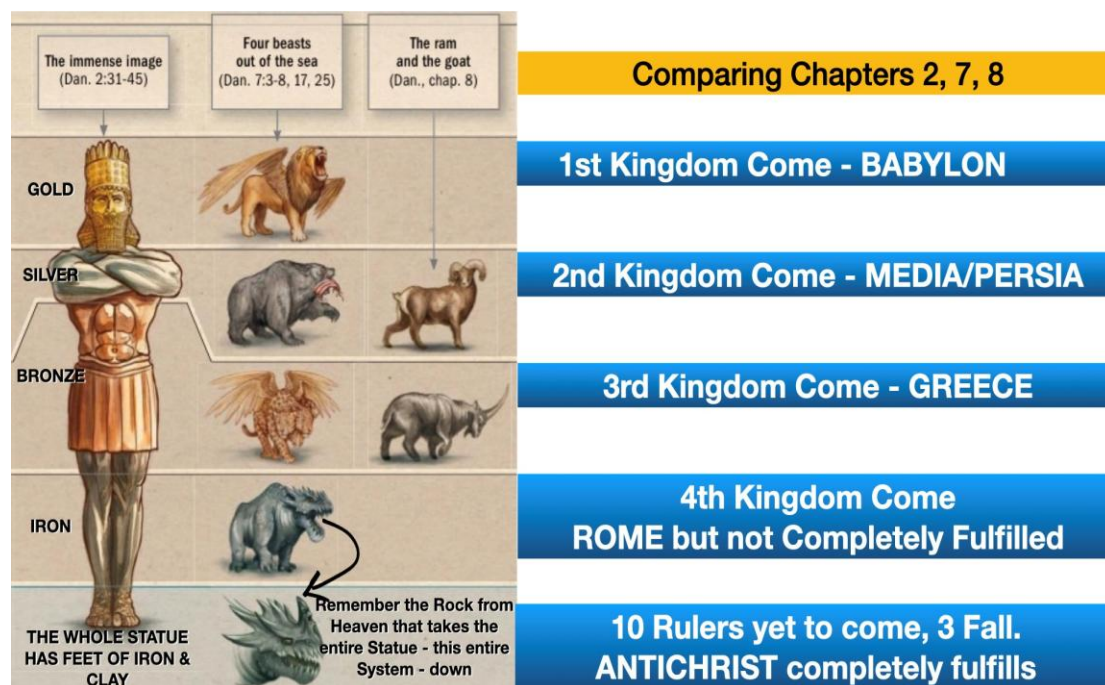
So, while critical scholars claim that Daniel was written around 165 BC by an unknown writer, the reference to “**the book of Daniel, the Prophet**” in the Dead Sea Scrolls indicates that the Qumran community regarded Daniel both as a real historical person and as a legitimate prophet.

As for me, when Jesus authoritatively quotes from Daniel as inspired Scripture – that settles the issue (cf. Mt. 24:15). If Jesus considered Daniel Scripture then so do I. Daniel actually wrote in the 6th century B.C. – c. 530 B.C.

Daniel wrote what he did as prophecy, and what has been fulfilled is now history. This is what I mean by the Bible at once being both a prophetic book and a historic book. Our faith is at once a prophetic faith and a historic faith.

Daniel 8 focuses on the second and third kingdoms. In Daniel 7 it builds to the little horn, who is shown to be the Antichrist. In Daniel 8, it builds to the little horn, who is a TYPE of Antichrist. They are not the same, but the one illustrates the other.

Slide # 10



Daniel 8:1–14 (NKJV)

1 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time.

This vision that Daniel saw in chapter 7 took place the first year of Belshazzar the king of Babylon which was in about 553 BC. This vision took place two years later in the third year of Belshazzar – about 551 BC.

So the chronology is this: The visions of Daniel 7 and 8 took place about 12-14 years prior to the handwriting on the wall and the death of Belshazzar as seen in Daniel 5.

2 I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I was in Shushan, the citadel, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai.

Shusah (Susa) was city about 250 miles SE of Babylon. It eventually became the capital of the Persian Empire (cf. Neh. 1:1; Esth. 1:2). The city was situated between two rivers with a canal called “Ulai” connecting them. In this vision, Daniel was on the bank of this canal. Appropriately, this sets the stage for the revelation about the rise of the Persian Empire.

3 Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.

A ram is a male sheep. Horns in the Bible consistently are a symbol of power often denoting rulers in a position of power.

We don't have to wonder what is being depicted here because the interpreting angel in verse 20 plainly tells us.

Slide # 11

Daniel 8:20 (NKJV)

20 The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia.

And the symbolism portrays what happened in history perfectly. Media and Persia merged together to be one empire. Media was prominent at first, but then Persia went on to be the higher and more dominant horn.

This corresponds to the breast and arms of silver in chapter 2 (2:31-32) and the bear raised up on one side in Daniel 7 (7:5).

Persian kings typically wore a ram's head of gold as a symbol of their empire. The head of a ram is found on Persian pillars. It was their national emblem.

4 I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.

Babylon was the dominant world power from 605 BC until 539 BC. But then Medo-Persia defeated them and became the dominant world power from 539 to 331 BC. The Persian leader who became the most notable leader was Cyrus, and the Persian armies were massive in size, involving millions of soldiers, overwhelming everyone in their path by the sheer weight of their numbers.

They came from the East and pushed out in every other direction. For roughly 200 years the Persian Empire was unstoppable.

5 And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

Suddenly, a male goat came bounding onto the scene from the west – this is from the region of Macedonia and Greece. And with amazing speed, he leaped across the scope of the whole earth. A male goat is more agile than a ram.

This goat had a notable horn between his eyes. Normally a male goat has two horns one corresponding with each eye, but this goat had only ONE notable horn. Eyes are thought to represent intelligence. Alexander to this day is considered to have been a tactical military genius.

Again, we know from the interpreting angel that this goat represents Greece and the horn represents Alexander the Great.

Slide # 12

Daniel 8:21 (NKJV)

21 And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king.

Remember, Daniel received this prophetic vision in about 551 BC – over 200 years prior to when Greece overcame Persia.

Slide # 13

Babylon (c. 605-539 BC)

****Daniel's Vision c. 551 BC ...***

Medo-Persia (c. 539-331 BC)

Greece (c. 331-63 BC)

Rome (c. 63 BC....)

– SECOND COMING!

ETERNAL KINGDOM....

6 Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power.

Alexander the Great succeeded his father at age 21 and, with a very tiny army (relatively speaking) of about 50,000 men, he then began a conquest that would give him the known world in about 10 short years.

He had three decisive victories over the Persians in 334, 333, and 331. Each time, he was greatly outnumbered. But Alexander was a military genius, and his army was extremely agile. In this case, SPEED and TACTICAL maneuvers won out over NUMBERS, resulting in him defeating the Medo-Perisan army in three short years.

Again, it is noteworthy that in Daniel's day, Greece was relatively small and insignificant. Yet, God showed him what would happen in about 225 years. And it happened exactly as God showed him.

7 And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.

This goat (Greece) under the leadership of Alexander the Great proved to be unstoppable. Whereas earlier no one could withstand the Medo-Persians (v. 4) now it was Greece that was unstoppable. Even the mighty Persian army could not stop him.

Note it says here that "rage" (or wrath) was a motivating factor. About a century before the Persians had invaded Greece, and the Greeks never got over it. They were out for vengeance and indeed they had their way with them. The goat of Greece broke the two horns of Medo-Perisa, cast him to the ground, trampled him, and none could deliver them.

8 Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.

Indeed, Greece under Alexander the Great became a very great empire.

Slide # 14



In about 10 short years Alexander had conquered the known world and the previous super-power of Medo-Persia. Alexander even demanded that his comrades in arms bow before him.

But suddenly at the apex of his power this large horn (Alexander) was broken.

Just before he turned 33, Alexander died. Some think he was poisoned, some think it was malaria in combination with war wounds, and drunken debauchery.

It has often been said that Alexander conquered the world, but he couldn't conquer himself and his drinking problem.

And I would also point out that he couldn't conquer DEATH! Jesus too lived just 33 short years, but our Lord didn't just conquer the world – He conquered death!

Note the words STRONG and BROKEN in verse 8. All the strong are eventually broken and Alexander was broken at the height of his strength. The fact is, even at our very strongest, we are very weak and vulnerable – even in the prime of life – even at the “strong” age of 32.

It is interesting how God, in His sovereignty, used the conquests of Alexander the Great to prepare the world for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Everywhere Alexander went, he spread the GREEK language and culture. This was what bound his sprawling empire together. About 300 years later, the known world surrounding the Mediterranean had as its “**common language**” koine Greek, which is what the New Testament was written in. This reality allowed the gospel to spread throughout the known world rapidly in the days of the early church.

Whatever all was involved, Alexander the Great died suddenly in 323 BC. As he lay dying his men endlessly filed by his bed to pay their last respects.

The night that he died, one of his friends asked him who should have his kingdom. He whispered, “***The strongest***”. And his last words are said to have been, “***I foresee a great funeral contest over me.***” And indeed there was.

The great horn was suddenly broken, cut off in his youth at the pinnacle of his military success. And then there erupted a great power struggle. When the dust settled, FOUR of his generals divided up the kingdom.

Slide # 15

Seleucus – EAST

Ptolemy – SOUTH

Cassander – WEST

Lysimachus - NORTH

This again was in perfect fulfillment of what Daniel was shown would happen when it says here at the end of verse 8 that “ ***the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.***”

These four notable ones were four generals who succeeded Alexander. This is in harmony with the four heads that emerge from the leopard in Daniel 7:6.

Now the text jumps ahead about 150 years to the career of a man named Antiochus Epiphanes. He is given extended treatment because he is a type of the Antichrist. One strong evidence of this is seen in Daniel 11, where the career of Antiochus Epiphanes in Daniel 11:21-35 is immediately followed by the career of the coming Antichrist in 11:36-45.

Verses 9-14 provide an overview of the career of Antiochus Epiphanes who came out of the Syrian division of the divided Grecian Empire.

9 And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land.

“Out of them” refers to the four generals from Greece just mentioned in verse 8. Out of one of these four divisions would arise a little horn who would grow in reference to the south, east, and Israel, which is here called the “the glorious land”. From Daniel’s view point this could only refer to Israel (cf. Ezek. 20:6, 15).

Conservative scholars are in agreement that the one being described here is Antiochus Epiphanes. He was the 8th king in the line of Seleucus who was the general who received the Syrian division of the empire. Antiochus was the king over Syria, and he ruled from **175 –164 B.C.**

This fits with verse 23, which brings out that he would come on the scene later in the time of this kingdom, namely the 3rd empire of Greece.

Note that this little horn (Antiochus Epiphanes) should not be confused with the little horn of Daniel 7:8, 20. The little horn of chapter 8 arises out of the 3rd kingdom (Greece) from the four notable ones, while the little horn in chapter 7 arises out of the 4th kingdom of Rome from a context of 10 horns.

In Daniel 11, as we shall see, both the typical little horn (Antiochus) and the antitypical little horn appear in succession, the transition from one to the other taking place at 11:40, after which are predicted the circumstances of the destined death of the antitype [Antichrist] that were not at all true of Antiochus Epiphanes himself. Therefore, the two figures cannot be identical, nor can the Greek Empire be equated with the fourth kingdom [of Rome] of Daniel's prophetic scheme.

- Expositors

Antiochus is clearly a TYPE of antichrist, and for this reason, no less than three major passages of the Word of God deal with his career as seen in Daniel 8:9-25; Daniel 11:21-35, and Zechariah 9:13-17.

The apocryphal book of 1 Maccabees, while not inspired, devotes a good amount of space to dealing with the history of Antiochus Epiphanes. He fits the description here in Daniel perfectly.

In fact, one of the ancient translations of the Old Testament – the Syriac version -inserts into the text of the Bible here the words “Antiochus Epiphanes.” – **Charles Feinberg**

Slide # 16

Daniel 8:9-11 “**a little horn**” – Antiochus
Epiphanes
(Ruled over Syria 175 – 164 BC)
Comes out of the **THIRD** Empire (Greece)

Daniel 7:8 “**horn, a little one**” – Antichrist
 (Rules over Revived Roman Empire)
 Comes out of the **FOURTH** Empire (Rome)

10 And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them.

This verse is descriptive of the persecution and oppression by Antiochus Epiphanes of God’s people who are here described in terms of “host of heaven” and “stars” as is made clear by the ongoing context (see v. 13; compare Dan. 12:3; Gen. 15:5; 22:17; Ex. 12:4; Rev. 12:1).

In biblical symbolism, “stars” frequently refer to angels (cf. Job 38:7; Rev. 12:4), but in other cases they can mean spiritual leaders (cf. 12:3 and probably Rev. 2-3). The latter view seems preferable in this context, for Gabriel tells Daniel that this person “will destroy mighty men and the holy people” (8:24). – ***Dr. John Whitcomb***

11 He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.

Antiochus Epiphanes was one of the great tyrants of history. He had a super-huge ego, even exalting himself as God. Epiphanes means “God manifest” or “Manifestation of God”.

Antiochus erected a huge statue of the Greek god Zeus in the temple that was made to look like him. He seemed to think he was god incarnate (cf. Dan. 8:25).

Slide # 17

Daniel 8:25 (NKJV)

25 “Through his cunning he [Antiochus Epiphanes] shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall **exalt himself** in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He **shall even rise against the Prince of princes**; But he shall be broken without human means.

The Jews referred to this idol to Zeus as “***the abomination of desolation***,” which serves as a type of future abomination that will be committed by Antichrist in the last days, in the rebuilt Jewish temple.

Slide # 18

Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)

27 Then he [Antichrist] shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And **on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate**, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

Matthew 24:15 (NKJV)

15 “Therefore when you see the ‘**abomination of desolation,**’ **spoken of by Daniel the prophet**, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

Slide # 19

Antiochus Epiphanes

Daniel 11:31 (NKJV)

31 And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, **and place there the abomination of desolation.**

Antichrist

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NKJV)

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that **he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

Antiochus forbade the Jews from sacrificing in keeping the Mosaic Law, and thus, the place of worship was taken away from them (cf. Ex. 29:38-39). He completely desecrated the temple. This anticipates what the final antichrist will do as seen in Daniel 9:27.

He desecrated the Jewish temple by offering a sow on the altar. He used harlots in the temple. He demanded the Jews profane their sabbaths and Jewish feasts. They were to stop circumcising their children.

He decreed that all Jews who kept copies of the Law, obeyed the Law or had their children circumcised should be put to death. He had circumcised babies hanged. – **Renald Showers**

The noncanonical book of First Maccabees provides the history of this extensive desecration of the Jewish Temple.

Antiochus Epiphanes called himself “**Antiochus God manifest**” but those subject to him, behind his back, called him “Antiochus Epimanes” meaning “**Antiochus the madman**”. In his madness he killed 50,000 men, women, and children in Jerusalem! He was crazy – evil crazy! Interestingly, he died of insanity!

12 Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.

It was because of Jewish transgression that God allowed this to happen. The army here is the “host” in verse 10, referring to the believing Jews. The horn of Antiochus Epiphanes was allowed to prevent them from their daily sacrifices, from their worship of the One true God.

The transgression in view is thought to have been apostasy on the part of some high-ranking Jews, including the corrupt priests.

In 1 Maccabees 1:11-16, the sufferings under Antiochus are attributed to certain apostate Jews who introduced pagan customs just before Antiochus’s outrages were perpetrated upon the people of God.

– **Merrill Unger**

Pious Jews who had returned from Babylon were totally repulsed by the overt idolatry of Antiochus. They treasured the Scriptures, preserved them, copied them, studied them, and wrote commentaries on them.

Antiochus realized that if he was to break the Jews as a people, he would have to break them away from God’s Word, and this he sought to do with all his might.

Antiochus “**cast truth down to the ground**”. He showed absolutely no regard for the Word of God, calling for the death penalty for those who possessed it.

And for a limited amount of time, he prospered in doing this. To some extent, it worked!

God's permissive will is a source of mystery, especially when evil seems to ride triumphant and roughshod over God's people. We wonder why God remains silent. It is all part of that dark "mystery of iniquity" that, in the inscrutable wisdom of God, is being brought to a head on this planet. – **John Phillips**

13 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?"

Evidently, the communication here was between two angels.

The concern was about the duration of this horror! How long would this sacrilegious treatment of the temple and God's people continue?

As always, it is limited – God sets boundaries. The antichrist will have what seems like absolute power, but only for 3 and ½ years ... really a short amount of time, but I am sure it will seem like forever for those going through it. And so it was also under Antiochus Epiphanes.

14 And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."

Based upon the very strong precedent of Genesis 1, where each of the creation days bears a similar formula (there was evening and there was morning) we must understand the 2,300 evenings and mornings to mean 2,300 literal days." ... But to what period of history do these 2,300 days refer? According to 1 Maccabees 4:52-59, "the holy place" was "Properly restored" on the twenty fifth day of the ninth month [Dec.] of the year 164 B.C. Working backward 2,300 days from that date, we come to the fall of 170 BC. – **John Whitcomb**

THE REST OF THE STORY...

In 167 after Antiochus ransacked the Temple, set up an idol to Zeus and defiled the altar by offering up a sow. His soldiers then entered into the Judean village of Modiin and assembled all the people in the town square.

They built an altar and ordered the old priest Mattathias to sacrifice a pig for the people to eat. Mattathias refused to defile himself or the people. They offered great financial incentives. Finally, another man from the village agreed to the dastardly deed. As he approached the pig, Mattathias rushed forward and killed the betrayer. The five sons of Mattathias drew their weapons and struck down the soldiers and then ran for the hills.

Many fellow revolutionaries followed them and so a very long underdog revolt began. This little band of revolutionaries had for its leader Mattathias's son named Judah whom they nic-named "***the hammer***" or in Hebrew "***Maccabee***".

Slide # 20

Daniel 11:32 (NKJV)

32 Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; **but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.**

After 3 years of Jewish guerrilla warfare, the band of rebels achieved victory. On the 25th of Kislev, which translates to December 25 on our calendar (of course, it changes every year from early November to late December on the Jewish calendar), they took back the defiled and half-demolished temple. They then began the process of REDEDICATION.

The undying, eternal flame – the temple menorah – the great 7-branched candelabra so important in Jewish worship had been put out. The Greeks had desecrated nearly all the sacred oil used for the menorah. Tradition says, only a small container remained, containing only one day's supply. It would take 8 days for the priest to consecrate more oil. Nevertheless, the Maccabbees lit the menorah with great conviction that it should never go out. It burned for one day and then a miracle took place.... It kept burning for 2 days... and 3 days.... for eight full days.

Judah Maccabee then declared that these events should be commemorated by an annual holiday which would be known as HANUKKAH – meaning the Feast of dedication or as it is also called "The festival of lights".

It was during this feast, which is mentioned in John 10:22, that Jesus declared that ***“I and the Father are one”***.

The God of Israel is the light As more fully revealed in the N.T. Jesus said I am the light of the world... (Jn. 8:12)

No matter how hard the world tries, they cannot ultimately put the light of God's truth out.

John 1:5 (NKJV)

5 And the light shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend (overcome) it.

In our study this morning we find at least 7 specific prophecies that were fulfilled to letter regarding the Medo-Persian Empire; we find at least 9 specific prophecies fulfilled in relation to Greece; and we find at least 11 specific prophecies fulfilled in relation to Antiochus Epiphanes.

These were all initially given as prophecy, but have now been perfectly fulfilled in history. This is to the glory of God!

History truly is HIS STORY!

Joan Didion was an American writer who passed away in December of 2021. She once said, ***“I am writing to find out what I think.”*** However, she was most famous for the saying, ***“We tell ourselves stories in order to live.”*** World Magazine did a review of a book about her, and they said that her statement, ***“We tell ourselves stories in order to live”*** in context really meant ***“we just make up stories that give our lives meaning.”*** That really is what many people think! They think they are just making up their own reality – their own story. And they think that is all anyone really does – rejecting the idea of objective reality.

And then the review ended with this statement: ***“Sadly, Joan the journalist never really understood the true story to which we all belong.”*** - ***World Mag***, May 2025, p. 42 by Chelsea Boes. That is to say, Joan never really knew the truth of God's story!

Until we really understand that HISTORY is His Story, we are just making up as we go along, and in the end, that is all vanity, having no rhyme or reason, no purpose, and no satisfaction.

God's story ultimately leads right to Jesus the Savior of the world! And Daniel will lead us there too as we will see in Daniel 9.

Daniel 9 presents "Messiah the Prince" in contrast to "the prince who is to come" – who is the Antichrist (Dan. 9:25-26). The whole of prophetic history is funneled to this climactic contrast between the true Christ and the Antichrist which is why we are given all this background in Daniel.

Jesus said...

John 5:43 (NKJV)

43 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

Coming in the Father's name meant Jesus came in harmony with the Word of God, in fulfillment of prophecy, showing Him to be the true Messiah. The Antichrist will come with his own claims without any legitimacy in claiming to be God (other than he says so) to back it up.

Fulfilled prophecy proves the Bible is true. The central message is all about Jesus the Messiah Who is Savior and Lord of all who will believe on Him.

Our faith is a prophetic faith. As seen in 1 Corinthians 15 the very gospel we believe in order to be saved is that "***Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures***" – that is in fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures. It is that Christ "***was buried and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures***" – that is in fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

This is God's story! What is your response to it? Have you believed in the Christ of prophecy? Have you believed in Him as your personal Savior and risen Lord!

Paul said...

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31)

In the end, it's all about Him and what we do with Him!