

Daniel and the Coming King

Michael the Prince Stands Up-1

by Desmond Ford

Some of our Lord's commandments take our breath away!

"Love one another; as I have loved you" (John 13:34 KJV). Devastating! Physically and spiritually, Jesus seems to demand more of us than we can give as sinners.

Here is one that has physical limitations: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

Prophecy Test

Let me test you. Suppose someone approached you today and said, "Please, I need a Bible study on the longest prophecy in the Scripture. This is vital—it's important for us in this generation. This prophecy promises that we will shine like the stars forever and ever. If you understand this longest prophecy, please give me a Bible study on it."

Now, would you be encouraged, challenged, frustrated, or disappointed by such a plea? Or would you simply run away? The prophecy in Daniel chapters 10, 11, and 12 is the longest prophecy in the Bible—and the most neglected, and perhaps the most misunderstood.

The longest prophecy in the Bible is Daniel 10–12. It will help us understand a great mystery of Daniel 9—that the Messiah "shall have nothing." This is the language of appearance, for at his death Christ destroyed sin, death, and the devil!

Longest Prophecy Neglected

When I was a boy, just beginning to study the Bible, the fashion in prophetic circles was to talk about Daniel 11's "king of the north" as Turkey. Turkey would come to its end, then probation would be over, and Christ would return. Turkey coming to an end was the signal for the end of the world.

Such a view was absolute rubbish, of course, but that was the fashion.

The longest prophecy in the Bible is universally neglected, despite the wonderful promises attached to it. We are promised that if we understand the prophecy and teach it, we are "wise" (Daniel 12:3). The Hebrew word means "teachers." We can all be teachers!

It simply means speaking with your neighbor, sitting down with an open Bible, asking the Spirit to guide you. "And they that be wise [teachers] shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and . . . as the stars for ever and ever" What a promise!

Messiah Will Have Nothing

There is something strange about the last prophecy we studied, that of Daniel 9. It will become understandable as we move into the longest prophecy in the Bible, Daniel 10–12.

A few months ago, I spent 50 hours in one week on Daniel 9.

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President
Desmond Ford

Editor
Roy Gee

Office Manager
Marion Fritz

Transcription Editor
Shelley Fritz

Printer
J & M Printing

Typography and Layout
Designer—Elizabeth King

Cover
Richard G. Revel
Lake Powell, Utah

OVERSEAS ADDRESSES:

Canadian office:
57 Virgilwood Drive, Willowdale,
Ontario, M2R 2B5,
Canada

Australian office:
GNU, Unit 2,
54-60 Industry Drive
Tweed Heads Sth
NSW 2486, Australia

N. Z. office:
P.O. Box 329,
Pukekohe, New Zealand.

S. African office:
P.O. Box 11096,
Universitas 9321,
Republic of South Africa

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Good News Unlimited is reached by phone at 916.823.9690. By fax 916.823.5338. By e-mail roygee@aol.com.

That's because it is as full of mysteries as there are letters.

Notice verse 26 of Daniel 9: "After the sixty-two sevens [weeks], the Anointed One [Messiah] will be cut off and will have nothing" (Daniel 9:26 NIV). Here is a prediction about the death of Christ, who is the Melchizidekan king-priest.

The verse that follows (27) further implies this nothingness. Messiah's people reject him, so their city is going to be destroyed. That means his temple is going to be destroyed. Messiah doesn't have a people, doesn't have a city, doesn't have a temple. Everything on earth that belongs to him has been taken. He has nothing. Not even life.

What will Daniel say to undo this terrible thing, that Messiah shall "have nothing"? My eyes rush on. Does Daniel say, in conclusion, "... and he shall have glory, the attire of the stars, praise, and royal purple"?

I devour the following words, the succeeding verses. But there is no reversal. There's no undoing of the tragedy. There's no word about the resurrection. There's no word about the ascension. There's no word about glory.

The last word of Daniel 9 is that the Beloved King of heaven, who comes to die on earth, is cut off and shall "have nothing." There is nothing to encourage us in the rest of the prophecy. It is all bad news.

Principle of Appearance

First, we must understand that what the prophecy is describing is the appearance of things, here on earth.

The fact is that while the disciples on earth had broken hearts, the angels in heaven were singing hallelujahs! In heaven they were rejoicing that the burden of sin had been rolled away and the atonement had been made. But on earth there was nothing but blackness, despair, and sadness (except among the enemies of Christ).

But it is only the appearance of things that he shall have nothing.

David and Goliath

Do you remember when David smote Goliath (1 Samuel 17)? David snatched Goliath's sword out of its scabbard, and decapitated the giant. David held up Goliath's head, and everybody cheered (who belonged to David).

That sword was meant to cut off David's head. It cut off Goliath's head instead. The devil meant Calvary's cross to be a sword to destroy the Son of God. But Christ took that sword, and decapitated the devil. (The cross is an inverted sword with God's hand on the hilt.)

David and Goliath are a picture of what happened at the cross. The sword of Goliath was to get rid of this prince of the house of Judah. Instead it destroyed the tyrant. So with the cross.

Absalom and Lucifer

Do you remember when Absalom rebelled against his father (2 Samuel 15–18)? From the top of his head to the sole of his foot, everything about this prince was beautiful—except a filthy heart. And the one who gave him life he is going to kill!

He musters his armies to kill his father. "Go for the king! Go for the king!" he orders. Instead, he is caught in the woods and suspended on a tree by his neck.

So it was with the great musician of heaven, Lucifer, who led the heavenly choirs. He wanted to be like God, the Most High. Lucifer rebelled against the One who gave him life, as Absalom rebelled against his father David.

Lucifer led the attack down here that climaxed at Calvary. But when he put Christ on the cross, he put himself there, for the cross destroyed Satan. That Christ "shall have nothing" was only the appearance of things. That was Friday. Sunday was a-comin'.

Chapter 10 Answers Chapter 9

Why does this glorious prophecy of Daniel 9 end so negatively? After all, the prophecy is about the glories of the Savior making an end of sin, bringing in everlasting righteousness, and making atonement for iniquity. How can the prophecy end by saying the Messiah "shall have nothing"?

The next prophecy, beginning in Daniel 10, complements this one, answers the problem I have raised, and gives us what we seek.



Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (Hebrews 2:14–15)

By his death Christ destroyed the devil!