

DANIEL

and the Coming King

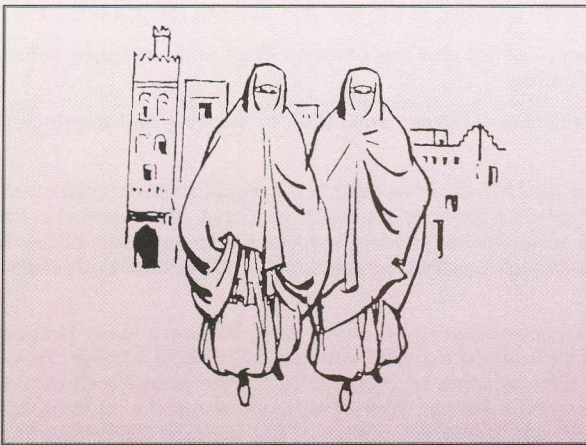
"A Rebellious World & Its Coming King-1"

by Desmond Ford

Jesus singles out one book for us to study and understand—the Book of Daniel. Jesus and Daniel both claim that the Old Testament apocalypse is vital in helping us identify the sign of the end times—the abomination of desolation, or Antichrist.

Teacher,” The disciples asked Jesus, “what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?”
“When you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” (See Matthew 24:3, 15-16.)

Daniel is the only book of Scripture on which our Lord put his finger and said, “Make sure you understand it.”



Daniel's Time

The Book of Daniel was written at a time when the prophet Daniel expected to see the Babylonian kingdom where he was living to be overthrown ('the River Euphrates dried up'). A great Deliverer, Cyrus, a king of kings, would come from the East. (His name meant "the Sun." An earlier Old Testament book had called him, "God's anointed.")

A remnant of exiled Israel would go back to Canaan—and build a new Jerusalem!

Our Time

My friends, that's where we all stand today.

If you know the Book of Revelation as well as you should, you will recognize Daniel's expectations. (It is also written about Revelation, in Chapter 1, verse 3 NIV, that:

"Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.")

In the Book of Revelation it says that at the end time, the Euphrates River (symbolic of the peoples, multitudes and tongues that support the system of wickedness in the world), will be dried up. This drying up is brought about by the glorious appearance of the King of kings from the eastern heavens. (See Revelation 17:15; 16:12.)

King Cyrus came from the East in Daniel's time. Christ will come from the East as the King of kings soon. We will go back to a heavenly Canaan and a new Jerusalem.

Thus, we stand where Daniel stood.

The Time of the End

There are two verses at the end of Daniel's book foretelling the final proclamation of the gospel. That proclamation is energized by a better understanding of the Book of Daniel.

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. (Daniel 12:4 KJV Emphasis supplied)

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. (Daniel 12:3 Emphasis supplied)

Notice that the phrase, "Many shall run to and fro," in verse 3, is an ancient idiom for searching. For example, in 2 Chronicles 16:9

we read about God searching the earth for his people: “The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.”

Abomination of Desolation Sign

One of the titles Jewish people use for the Book of Daniel is, “The Abomination of Desolation.” [More about that in our articles about the special sin for which Christ died.] This Jewish title is used because Daniel is the book about Antichrist—and ‘abomination of desolation’ is a name for Antichrist. Every chapter in Daniel talks about it.

When Jesus is asked about the sign of the end, he pinpoints the “abomination that causes desolation.”

Understand Daniel

Here then is the foundation for our current study of the Book of Daniel:

When Christ’s disciples wanted to know the sign of the end, Jesus said: “Understand Daniel. It’s there.” When we turn to Daniel, we learn that at the very end of time, Daniel’s book will be unsealed and better understood. As a result, there will be a revival that will turn many to righteousness. And those who have understood the book of Daniel will shine as the brightness of the heavens and as the stars for ever and ever.



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