

# Daniel Talk 4

## "My God has sent His angel"

Chapters 6, 9 and 10

## DANIEL TALK 4

### “My God has sent His angel”

- Darius, in chapter 6, is probably Cyrus under another name.
- Daniel 89 years or more old.
- Princes (satraps) jealous (verses 3,4) because Daniel was preferred by Darius for his excellent spirit and exceptional ability.
- Daniel faithful, incorrupt and without fault: type of Christ.



# "My God hath sent His angel"

- Verse 5:
  - Jesus – John 8 :46
  - Paul – Acts 24 ;16
    - *Is this true of ourselves?*
- The satraps "**came tumultuously**" – a word used nowhere else except in Psalm 2:1, where it is applied to the nations coming against Christ!
- The king would be regarded as divine.
- Flattered (?), he signs the irrevocable decree.



# Sculpture on stairway at the palace of the king in Persepolis





# “Daniel prayed as he did aforetime”

- Towards Jerusalem – like Jonah inside the great fish 2:4; Isaiah 62:6 and Psalm 5:7.
- Three times a day, like the Psalmist 55:17 and Peter – Acts 10:9.
- On his knees.

# Darius hoodwinked by the satraps

- Did you not sign the decree?
- Which cannot be altered?
- That Daniel, a Jew,
- Has no thought for you, Darius,
- Or your laws.



# Darius labours to save Daniel

- Did he consult his lawyers?
- Expresses his faith: "Thy God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee".
- Pilate tried to save Jesus from the jealous Jews.
- King had a stone put over the den and sealed it. (Matt. 27:66; Lam.3:53).

# Daniel's life is preserved

- King comes "very early in the morning" like the women at Christ's tomb (Mark 16:2).
- He asks if the LIVING God, in contrast to the dead idols worshipped in Persia, was able to save his friend.
- Daniel's faith had saved him, and his God had sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths (verse 22; Heb.11:33; Psalm 22:21 – Jesus).



# Daniel's enemies destroyed and his God is honoured

- The lions destroyed the jealous princes just as the "Roman lions" destroyed Judea and its people in A.D. 70.
- Darius commanded his Empire to worship the God of Heaven.
- *"Dare to be a Daniel/ Dare to stand alone/  
Dare to have a purpose firm/ Dare to  
make it known."*

# Daniel was studying Jeremiah

- Jeremiah 25:11-13: “When seventy years are accomplished, I will punish the King of Babylon..... This land shall be desolations 70 years”.
- Study led to action – sought God with prayer, fasting, and sackcloth and ashes.
- Fulfilment in 2 Chron. 36:17-23.



# Fulfilments of the seventy year period

- Fall of Assyria at Haran  
610-9
- Captivity of Jehoiachin  
597
- Siege of Jerusalem  
590
- Captivity of Zedekiah  
587-6
- Finished Temple  
516
- Fall of Babylon  
539
- 1<sup>st</sup> Cambyses (after death of Cyrus)  
528
- Restart building Temple  
520
- Temple finished  
516
- Decree of Artaxerxes  
444

# Daniel's prayer of confession

- Addresses God reverently – like Moses (Deut.7:21,22) and Nehemiah (9:32):  
“Great and terrible God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love Him”.
- “WE” and “US”. Acts as an intercessor. We should pray for our families and wayward children and our ecclesias.



# Daniel's prayer of confession

- We have sinned – missed the mark.
- We have committed iniquity – taken a crooked course, been perverse.
- We have done wickedly – broken down the barriers of restraint.
- We have rebelled – knowingly rejected a law.

# Daniel's Prayer of confession

- Verses 7, 8: "To Thee is righteousness, to us shame!"
- "Mercies and forgivenesses belong to the Lord our God" – like the father of the Prodigal Son.
- Verses 10-15 acknowledge the righteousness of God as the basis for approach to Him.
- "Let Thine anger be turned away from Jerusalem."



# Daniel's prayer for the peace of Jerusalem

- "Cause Thy face to shine upon Thy Sanctuary that is desolate."
- Passionate conclusion in verse 19: "Hear! Forgive! Hearken! Defer not!"
- "For Thy city and Thy people are called by Thy Name."
- *Let us never forget the things of Zion in our prayers: Psalm 122:6,7; Isaiah 62:6,7.*

# Gabriel brings a speedy answer to the prayer

- Verse 21 (NASB): "came to me in my extreme weariness." Compare the effect of prayer on Jesus in Matt. 22:44.
- At the time of the evening oblation - 3pm. See Psalm 141:2.
- Before the prayer was completed, God gave Gabriel the command to reveal himself to Daniel: "His ears are open to our prayers."
- "Thou art greatly beloved". Literally a "desirable one". "The king shall greatly desire thy beauty".



# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- Sevens: the Hebrew word is usually translated “weeks”.
- “70 weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city”: this is the answer to Daniel’s impassioned prayer.
- Six things to be fulfilled by  $70 \times 7 = 490$  days of years.

# Seventy Weeks are determined

1. To finish the transgression: Matt. 23:32. The rejection of Jesus Christ by the Jews was the culmination of their transgressions.
2. To make an end of sins: the death and resurrection of Jesus brought an end to Mosaic sacrifices.
3. To make reconciliation for iniquity: made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus.



# Seventy Weeks are determined

4. To bring in everlasting righteousness: forgiveness through Christ extends right to the end of the kingdom.
5. To seal up the vision and prophecy: Jesus fulfilled and will fulfil the prophecies and types.
6. To anoint the Most Holy: the Most Holy pointed forwards to the giving of eternal life to Jesus and the saints, made possible by Christ's work.

# “From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem”

- 7 weeks.
- Threescore and two (62) weeks.
- 1 week divided in the midst.
- A literal application of days does not make sense.
- It means 49 years, 434 years and 7 years divided in half, which adds up to  $486\frac{1}{2}$  years, plus another  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years, making 490 in all.



# Decrees of Persian Kings to restore and build Jerusalem

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cyrus (Ezra 1:1 -3): B.C. 538
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Darius Hystaspes  
(Ezra 4:24;5:1;6:8-15) B.C. 520
- 7<sup>th</sup> Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:7-21) B.C. 457
- 20<sup>th</sup> Artaxerxes (Neh.2) B.C. 444

# Applying the 490 years to these Decrees

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cyrus 538 B.C. – 48 B.C.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Darius Hystaspes 520 B.C. – 30 B.C.
- ***7<sup>th</sup> Artaxerxes*** ***457 B.C. – A.D. 34***
- 20<sup>th</sup> Artaxerxes 444 B.C. – A.D. 47



# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

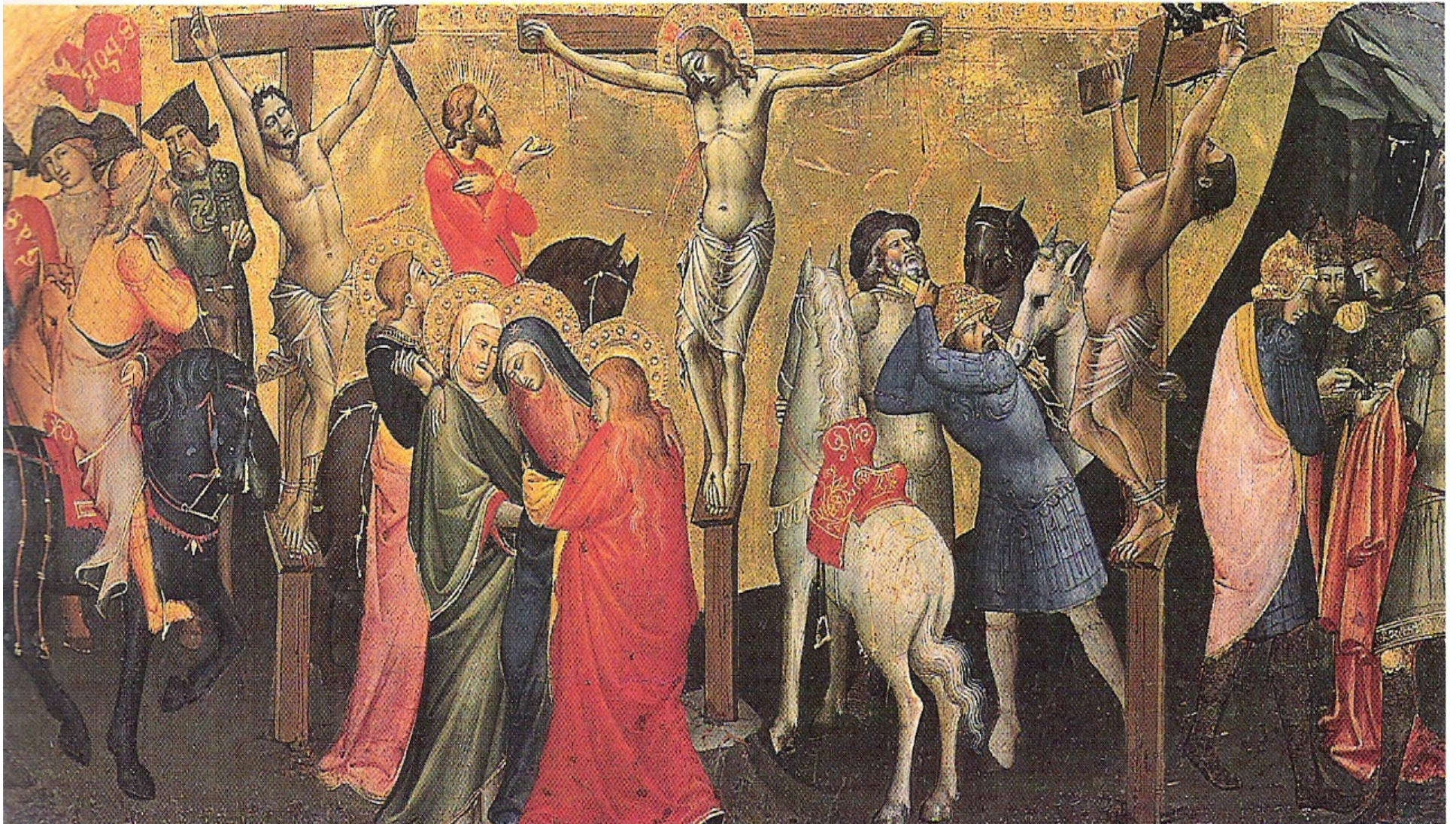
- The first seven weeks (49 years) from B.C.457, include the period of Ezra and Nehemiah when the Samaritans opposed the rebuilding: "troubulous times".
- 62 weeks after the first 7 (A.D.27), Jesus was about 30 years old.
- 62½ weeks after the first 7, in A.D. 31, Jesus was crucified ("cut off").
- In the final ½ week (A.D.34), the covenant sealed by the sacrifice of Jesus was confirmed to both Jews and Gentiles (Acts 10).

# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- Counting with LUNAR YEARS (354 days per year), from the later 20<sup>th</sup> year of Artaxerxes (444 B.C.), the same number of years ends at almost exactly the same time as the solar calculation from his 7<sup>th</sup> year!
- The Jewish Passover and therefore the Crucifixion depended on the moon.



# The “cutting off of the Messiah”





“ The People of the Prince that shall come shall destroy the City and the Sanctuary”

- Matt. 22:7: Parable of the Marriage, the King sends his armies (Roman) to “destroy those murderers and burn up their city “.
- They came as an irresistible “flood” and “desolated” the land.



Medal struck by the Romans  
celebrating their victory over the  
Jews: "Judea capta"!





# Temple Mount, Jerusalem: stones of the temple thrown down in A.D.70 – “Herod’s walkway”





# House in Jerusalem in Herodian period, with mosaic floor



“And for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate”

- In Matthew 24:15, Jesus says the disciples would see the abomination predicted by Daniel.
- These disciples did not see the later Moslem abomination.
- In the second century, the Emperor Hadrian ploughed around Jerusalem, banned Jews from entering, and renamed it “Aelia Capitolina”.



# Damascus Gate, Jerusalem, with Hadrian's Great Gate below.





“Even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolator” R.V.

- The King of the North plants the “tabernacle of his palace in the glorious holy mountain” at the time of the end.
- “He comes to his end and none shall help him” (Daniel 11:45).
- May we be witnesses of the consummation of the desolating process.



# Daniel's third vision. Begins in Chapter 10 and continues to the end of the book

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of Cyrus. Daniel now 97 years old.
- Why did he mourn at this time?
- Perhaps because of setbacks in rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem (Samaritan opposition).
- It was the first month (verse 4), so from day 14 was the Passover week.
- God responded promptly to Daniel's supplication (as He responded to the prayer in Daniel 9).

# Daniel's vision of the "One Man" by the river Tigris (Hiddekel)

- It is in contrast to Nebuchadnezzar's image of the kingdoms of men.
- It is a spiritual symbolic man, the MAN God has been calling and electing all through the ages.
- It is not to be revealed until after the resurrection (verses 8,9. See also Daniel 8 :18).



# The Vision of the Man of the One Spirit

- He represents a multitude (v.6), ie. Jesus and the saints.
- Clothed in linen: the righteousness of the saints (Rev.4:4; 19:8,14).
- Girded with fine gold: the faith of believers which has been put to the test as in 1 Peter 1:7.
- Body like the beryl: the Lord Jesus is the head and his ecclesia is his body.

# The Vision of the Man of the One Spirit

- Beryl means to destroy: compare Dan in the Aaronic breastplate.
- Face as lightning: judgement again.
- Eyes as lamps of fire: reference to the multiple character of the One Man, in the work of judging and seeing all.
- Arms and feet like polished brass: human nature purified. Ezekiel 1:7; Rev.1:15; 2:18



# The effects of the vision

- Daniel's companions shook and fled like the keepers of Christ's tomb (Matt. 28:4) and people at the second coming of Christ (Isaiah 2:19-21).
- Daniel was left alone.
- He "dies" – no strength, and becomes subject to corruption.
- He continues to hear the voice of the One Man.
- Daniel sleeps with face to the ground (death).

# Daniel's symbolic resurrection

- (Angelic) hand touches him so that he gets on his hands and knees.
- "O man greatly beloved": the divine assessment of his life.
- Stands trembling.
- His lips touched (verse 16) and gives account of himself as at the judgement seat of Christ.
- He is strengthened (verses 18-19): made immortal.



# Christ's resurrection

- Romans 14:9: "He both died, and rose, and revived". Despite modern translations, two Greek verbs are used to give the process:
  - He rose – stood up.
  - He then revived – given new life.

# The comforting words of the Angel (Gabriel?)

- “Fear not Daniel”
- He had “set his heart” (see chapter 1:8: “purposed in his heart”).
- He had “chastened” himself (Ezra 8:21).
- The angel came for his words (prayers – Moffatt): James 5:16.
- How was the King of Persia withstanding Gabriel?



# A glimpse into how the angels do their work

- It took 21 days for Gabriel to get Cyrus to do what he wanted. (Brother H.P.M. thinks it was to issue the decree for the return of the exiles, but Brother E. Green thinks the decree had already been issued).
- Gabriel only succeeded with the help of Michael.

# A glimpse into how the angels do their work

- Gabriel remained with the kings of Persia, who succeeded Cyrus, after the death of Daniel.
- An angel (probably Gabriel again) says he will return to fight with the prince of Persia – verse 20 – and this would lead to the Greek King coming.



# A glimpse into how the angels do their work

- Only Michael and Gabriel were directing events – not politically minded men.
- Jude 9 comments on these times: the “devil” was the Samaritan people. The “body of Moses” was the nation of Israel. Zechariah 3:1,2 shows it was the LORD who rebuked the Samaritans.
- Michael is called “your prince” and in chapter 12 verse 1 is said to stand “for the children of thy people”.

# “Equal unto the angels”

- Angels have names – individuals.
- They help each other in their work – a society.
- They have to work to succeed in their tasks.
- They carry out God’s response to our prayers.
- *May we be made like them and share a glorious resurrection with the prophet Daniel.*