

Sunday, November 12, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: The Times of the Gentiles ... Part 1

Series: Learning About the End Times ... 4

Text: Daniel 2 and Daniel 7

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of the significance of the 'times of the Gentiles' to the events of the end times and the return of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Introduction:

Last week's devotional was entitled, "Now and Then." We considered three portions of scripture that record prophecy which were literally fulfilled NOW and also contained prophecy that will yet be literally fulfilled – THEN!

1) Isaiah 9:6 – 7; 2) Micah 5:2; 3) All of Psalm 2

We also included prophets who recorded both Advents: Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6; Daniel 9:24 – 27; Zechariah 12:10 – 14; Psalm 22

~ Luke 21:24, "*They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among the nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*"

~ Ephesians 2:11 – 16, vs. 15, "*by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,*"

~ Revelation 5:9, "*And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,'"*

1. Daniel 2:17 – 45:

~ vs. 31, "*You saw, O king,*" – this is king Nebuchadnezzar

~ vs. 36, "*This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation.*"

~ vs. 38, "*you are the head of gold.*" At that time this is CURRENT.

~ vs. 39, "*Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.*" This was FUTURE to Nebuchadnezzar.

~ vs. 40, "*And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these.*" This was the Roman Empire.

~ vs. 44, "*And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever;*"

~ Notice FIVE kingdoms: 1) Babylon, 2) Medo-Persian, 3) Greek, 4) Roman and 5) Eternal Kingdom established by the Lord God Almighty! The first four listed were literal! The fifth Kingdom will also be LITERAL!

2. Daniel 7:1 – 28:

~ vs. 1 – 3, Daniel saw a dream and visions in which "*the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.*" *He saw four beasts coming out of the sea and they were "different from one another."*

~ vs. 4, "*The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.*"

This beast represents Babylon. Is the last sentence referring to Daniel 4:28 – 37?

~ vs. 5, "*And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.'*"

~ vs. 6, "*After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.*"

This third beast represents Greece under the leadership of Alexander the Great.

~ vs. 7, "*After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beast that were before it, and it had ten horns.*"

This fourth beast represents the Roman empire.

~ vs. 8, "*I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.*"

This is a fifth beast representing a kingdom yet coming that is clearly antichrist and satanic. Consider verses 11 and 12

~ vs. 13 – 14, "*I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. (14) And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*"

This sixth kingdom is the kingdom of our Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

God knows the future and controls the rise and fall of nations and their leaders. Someone once said, "Prophecy is history written beforehand."