

## ***Christ in Prophecy***

### **Pre-Trib 25: “Daniel, Part 3: Delayed Understanding”**

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#### **Opening**

**Dr. Reagan:** The prophet Daniel was given many end time prophecies which he did not understand. When he asked the Lord to explain them, he was told that they would not be understood until the time came for them to be fulfilled. Are we in that period of time today when we are understanding end time prophecies that no one has ever understood before? And if so, does that mean we are living in the season of the Lord's return? Stay tuned for the opinions of 16 Bible prophecy experts.

#### **Part 1**

**Dr. Reagan:** Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Blessed Hope, and welcome to Christ in Prophecy.

Two weeks ago we began broadcasting a series of programs about the prophecies contained in the book of Daniel. We are featuring the responses of 16 Bible prophecy experts who are responding to my questions about the book. The first week we asked them to respond to the accusations of theological liberals that the book of Daniel is a fraud that was written long after the time of Daniel. They responded very strongly by defending the book in many ways, but their fundamental argument was that Jesus Himself recognized the validity of the book and quoted from it.

Last week we asked them to tell us whether or not they believe there is a time gap in Daniel's famous prophecy of the 70 Weeks of Years. All agreed that such a time gap exists and that it is the current Church Age. Accordingly, they agreed that once the Church Age ends with the Rapture of the Church, the final 7 years of Daniel's prophecy will occur in the form of the Tribulation.

Now, if you missed those two programs, you can find them on our website at lamblion.com. You can also find many of our other television and video programs there, all of which you can watch online.

This week, we are going to continue with our interviews of our Bible prophecy experts. And our question this week pertains to the 12th chapter of Daniel where God told Daniel that some of his prophecies would not be understood until the time comes for them to be fulfilled. Our question is this: “Are we in that time now, and, if so, are we understanding prophecies we have never understood before? And, if so, what are some examples?”

## Part 2

**Al Gist:** Well, yes, I think you know one of the opening prophetic chapters of Daniel in chapter 2 where Daniel interprets the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar on the successive Gentile empires that will rule over Israel. In that interpretation given to Daniel God told him only initially that the first one would be the Babylonian Empire, He didn't really explain to him what the others would be. Later on in chapter 8 in the vision of the ram and the goat He reveals to him the next 2 empires which was the Medo-Persian Empire and the Greek Empire. But the fourth empire the one that Daniel was most interested in and asked about God doesn't specifically say it's the Roman Empire. But in Daniel 9 it is revealed to Daniel that the people of that empire would destroy Jerusalem and from history we know that it was the Romans who destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD. And so we know that the people of the Antichrist according to that is the Roman Empire. Daniel I'm not sure if he really understood for sure who that fourth empire was. But God then begins to give him many other details about that coming Roman Empire including that last stage or last phase of it represented by the feet of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream which is not of solid iron, but iron that has been mixed with clay. Indicating a kind of weakness that would be in that last stage of the revived Roman Empire. And I don't think that Daniel fully understood that last empire. I think from where we are in history obviously we can look back at it, having now gone beyond 70 AD we can understand it much better and we can see that future revived Roman Empire. So I think that is one example of the things that Daniel probably did not fully understand and there are probably others. But Daniel is told in chapter 12 to close up the book and seal it because it was for many days to come, and it was not all for his time. And so I think that he could accept that and realized that he was the recorder, the messenger, but he was not the one who would be able to explain all of it to everybody.

**Andy Woods:** One of the things that comes to mind is Daniel 7:23 it talks about the final empire that would exist before the second advent of Jesus. It is the fourth beast and it says it's going to subdue, and the language is very specific, going to subdue the whole world. And that's talking about a one world government and I don't think Daniel in his time period could have ever seen something like that with his own eyes. You know he was prophesying during the days of Neo-Babylonia and that was a localized government, but he's revealing something that would have jurisdiction over the whole world in Daniel 7:23. And look at what is happening today. Look at the plans in store for a one world government. Look how these politicians no matter what party they are in they can't even get through a speech without mentioning globalism in some way. So clearly we are living in the time period where we have caught up to Daniel's prophecy of globalism.

**Arnold Fruchtenbaum:** Well in the prophecies Daniel is given a specialty in the issue of the four empires, and the final ruler of the fourth empire, the Antichrist, there are lots of gaps in the information. And so you could not just take the book of Daniel and develop a full scale chronological sequence of events. So Daniel is told to seal the book, it would not be fully understood in his time. Not that nothing could be understood but a lot couldn't be understood. When John finishes Revelation he is told the opposite, "do not seal the book," because the missing things in Daniel were then provided in Revelation. When you combine the two books, you can get a good study of the sequence of events. And so the reason that Daniel is told they won't be fully understood is because there is gaps in the information; those gaps we now have in the Revelation.

**August Rosado:** Well that's Daniel 12:4 he says that, "Many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased." Dave I believe we see that knowledge being increased today in the 21st Century. I have no doubt in my mind that Daniel longed to want to understand these

prophecies but he could not understand them in his day. But in the last days, those who will seek to understand and read these prophecies will be able to do so. Listen I tried reading the Bible before I became a born again Christian and it was trying to read Chinese, I could not understand one iota of that book. But when I got saved then the Holy Spirit of God came to reside within me, that's the last days ministry of the Holy Spirit, John 14, John 15, John 16 tells us that He will enlighten us to understand these very prophecies. Psalm 119:18, "Open thou my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." So it is the Holy Spirit of God that illuminates us to understand these very prophecies. He told Daniel, "Daniel you are going to seal the book, and these prophecies are not going to happen in your lifetime." But yet he tells John in Revelation 22:10, "Seal not the sayings or the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand." That is talking about the immanency of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ that could happen at any moment, at any time. And until that happens knowledge will be increased and understanding of these last days prophecies.

**Don McGee:** In Daniel 2 it is recorded that Nebuchadnezzar lay on his bed one night and he had a dream. Nebuchadnezzar was the King of Babylon a very powerful man, of a very powerful empire. And he saw a statue that was composed of four different kinds of metals. And he didn't understand what this statue meant, so Daniel was called in eventually and he interpreted this dream for Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar was wondering what's going to happen in the last days, and later years. After I'm gone what is life going to be like? Who is going to be running things? And Daniel's interpretation of that dream is the answer to Nebuchadnezzar's question about what is going to happen in later days. Specifically Daniel talked about the four empires; the Babylonian Empire which Nebuchadnezzar was a part of, then the Medo-Persian, then the Greek, and then the Roman Empires. But very, very interestingly the part that just grabs my attention is that dream ends with a stone that is cut out of this mountain, without human hands. And that stone becomes the dominant, the premiere kingdom over all the earth, crushing even any memory of the original four. And that is not understood, that could not be understood until the days in which we are living right now, and that is the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

**Don Perkins:** Well when Daniel sees this prophecy there were still other prophecies that were yet to be given. God told Daniel to seal his book until the time of the end, or Daniel's book would be sealed. Now we know that Daniel understood a lot of the prophecies that God gave him but God didn't give him everything. As a matter of fact the Scripture even tells that Daniel got sick at times because he couldn't understand all of the prophecy. But God told him to seal it because there was to be more revealed. We do know when we got to the book of Revelation 22 John when he receives the conclusion of the matter the Bible says God told John not to seal the book because the time was at hand. So Daniel's prophecy was sealed until the time of the end. And then when John received the end of the prophecy we have the two bookends of prophecy complete.

**Ed Hindson:** If one means by that, that you have to get closer to the time of the end to understand this. It's interesting to me that in Daniel, Daniel was told, "seal up the prophecy, you're not going to figure this all out right now." Whereas in Revelation the seals are opened by the Lamb and the judgments are then poured out. I think what God was saying to Daniel is first of all, "Daniel, you are wanting to know three things: When is the Messiah going to come? When are the Jews going to get to go back and rebuild the city of Jerusalem? And thirdly, when are they going to rebuild the Temple? If you were living in 535 BC in the 6th Century like Daniel was and you were Jewish you would want to know when is this going to happen? And then when the Lord tells him, "It's not going to happen for a long time. It's not going to happen for 483 years, 69 "sevens". Even from a decree that hadn't even been issued yet to rebuild the city, until the Messiah comes and then He's going to get killed Daniel. And then the city is going to be

destroyed. And the sanctuary is going to be destroyed. Now if you were Jewish and you were just making this stuff up out of your head, you would never say that. You'd want the Messiah to come, conquer the world. You would want to rebuild the temple. You'd want Him to bring in the kingdom right then and there. But that was not what was going to happen and God revealed to Daniel exactly what was going to happen in the future. And Daniel recorded it whether he liked it or not. The Messiah will eventually come. He will be killed. The city will be destroyed. The sanctuary the second Temple will be destroyed as well. This was bad news from a Jewish perspective. And yet it was exactly what was going to happen. I think God gives Daniel the ability to look down through the tunnel of time, down through the halls of history into the distant future and see exactly what was coming in the future. And he says it with such precise detail we know that it only could come from God Himself.

**Brian Thomas:** Yes, there were many prophecies in which Daniel wrote about but he did not understand those prophecies. For example if we look at verse 4 there were signs of the times in which he said, "These things would be understood as we get closer to the end." Daniel was told of course of many prophecies including the fulfillment of the return of our Messiah, Jesus Christ. It says that in the end, the last days, people will run to and fro and knowledge will increase. We look today at the travel; my grandmother for example 91 years old she actually says that she never traveled on an interstate road until she was well into her 20's. Now as I go to airports I see little babies on airplanes quite regularly. And so I think that we see travel has increased. We see planes taking off. People are going to and fro. Traffic jams are common. And then we look at knowledge, we see things in technology and science and medicine things that are taken place that have not happened yet prior to this time in history. I also believe that it could refer to the time period of the Tribulation in which as all these cataclysmic events are coming upon the earth, people will run to and from the Bible to gain understanding of what is happening? What is taken place? Why are these things coming upon the earth? Then if we continue if we look at verses 8 & 9 we find that he says, "Those prophecies will not be understood until the end times." There have been some things historically and technologically I think that help us understand these prophecies. For example look at the nation of Israel, when teaching prophecy I'm always stressing the importance of the nation of Israel. Prior to 1948 it would be very difficult to understand a lot of the prophecies concerning what's going to happen with Israel. But now that Israel is in the land we can more clearly understand these things. Let's look also in Revelation when it speaks of, there will be 2 witnesses who will be killed, their bodies will lie in the street for 3 days and it says, "The whole world will look upon them." Well how could that have happened prior to the invention of satellite television, and now we have smartphones, and I think that will allow the means by which many people will look upon these two witnesses and their dead bodies. And then finally we look at Revelation also it tells us that a third of the earth will be burned during the Tribulation. Now that we have nuclear warfare I think we have a clear explanation as to how that can happen, and how it can happen so quickly. So I think those are just a few of many examples of the things that Daniel wrote about, and how now we can understand them a lot better.

### **Part 3**

**Dr. Reagan:** You are watching Christ in Prophecy and a series of interviews with 16 Bible prophecy experts who are commenting on the understanding and fulfillment of Daniel's prophecies in our day and time.

**Gary Fisher:** Daniel was shown four great empires. He was only living in the first one, so discussion of the other three were all yet future. And the one that he spent the most time on was

number 4 and number 4 was going to be a worldwide empire led by somebody that we later identify in Scripture as Antichrist and that would be the continuation of the Roman Empire we believe. So Daniel was talking about something that he didn't know anything about, it was revealed to him in Scripture but yet to happen in history. Now the Bible is full of principles like this; Revelation has one there is a battle of Armageddon talked about. There is going to be 200 million at least there and the Apostle John could not have understood that, there were only 200 million people in the entire world at the time he wrote that. So who understands an army of 200 million? The generation today with almost 7 billion people on the planet. So these things are understandable the further we get into history.

**Michael Norten:** Well they obviously wouldn't have understood about necessarily how the Messiah, you know the Messiah being cut off and that would have been a surprise to them about the Temple being destroyed. But I tell people that technology is trying desperately to catch up with the Bible. And so we understand prophecy better than we just did 20 years ago. So the closer we come to fulfillment, the closer it is for us to understand it. And so I believe that's what he is referring to.

**Nathan Jones:** Oh, I'm a tech guy so I love this one, verse 4 if I can read it, the angel tells Daniel, "Shut up these words and seal the book, even to the time of the end." In other words the end times. And this is it, "Many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased." So what the angel is saying, "Daniel you just can't understand this stuff right now, it's too far in the future, there is going to be too many changes. And the two main changes that you are going to see are these: you are going to see people traveling all over the place like they never have before." And today we can see trains, and planes, and automobiles, space shuttles, rocket ships, I mean people are traveling like they never have in history. My grandmother who grew up in the 19-teens and all used to tell me that she used to drive around and there car went 35 mph and she had to wear goggles otherwise the dust. I mean we travel like we have never before. And two, knowledge will increase. The Bible says at the end people will be obsessed with knowledge. And today like no other we have the internet, we have libraries of information we can access it, just get on our smartphone check it out. So we are at a time of great knowledge. But I think there is also a spiritual aspect to this and that is that Bible prophecy will start being understood. You know Daniel had to seal these up until the end times but once the end times were over this information would be revealed. And as we get real close to that end time, of Jesus' return, people are starting to understand Bible prophecy like they've never understood before.

**Randall Price:** I think he says the closer we are getting to the actual fulfillment of those events, the clearer the details will become. I think in the context it's talking about people studying Daniel's own prophecy. It says that people will go to and fro, they'll you know travel around trying to understand the details of this specific prophecy. And I think they will understand it because they are getting closer to the actual time of the events. Now people have said that prophetic events cast their shadow before them. So in one sense you can see what's coming before it comes, you may not be there for the time of fulfillment but as you are so close to it you are able to see those signs along the highway that point to the final destination.

**Tim LaHaye:** Well where you see signs of the times and I think we are living in the signs of the times. As you've written in your magazine so well that we are seeing fulfillments unlike anything that any generation has ever had. And I think the stiller sign is Israel being brought back into the land. No nation in the history of the world has ever survived being taken up from its roots and scattered somewhere else for more than 300 years then they just sink in the sands of time, except the Jew. They did it for 1,850 years. And when the Lord got ready to bring them back into the land from all over the world He used different means. And today it is a historical fact that

Israel has been gathered back in the land amid trouble and tribulation that they are going through. It isn't the great tribulation that Jesus warned would come, but it is still troubles times just as the Bible predicted. And we are on the cusp of seeing it all fulfilled.

**Tom McCall:** Well it seems, there is progressive understanding of Revelation. The Revelation has been given once for all to the Saints in the Scriptures. But our understanding of the Scriptures has developed. There were the great battles over, who is Christ? He has come, but what is His nature? Is He God? Is He human? He is completely God, He's completely human, and they had to settle that. And there are many other theological battles of understanding of the Scriptures that have come throughout Church history. The rediscovery of salvation by grace through faith in the Reformation. But as we've drawn closer to the Second Coming of Christ it seems like there is more interest, and more understanding of the prophetic end times. And it's not that there's been any change in the Scriptures, it's just we understand it better. How could we've understood some of the things about the restoration of Israel until they actually came forth? And now were living in the day when Israel is a nation, who'd a thought? Only Bible believers. Imagine that and now it's real. So as we draw closer to the Lord's return a lot of the prophecies make more sense, we can understand them a little better. Daniel prophesied that there would be an increase in learning. I think that is biblical learning, prophetic learning. And that is what we are seeing. Now we are understanding not only the prophecies about Armageddon and so forth, we are beginning to understand about Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38 & 39. There has been discussion of other wars, prophetic wars like in Ezekiel 35 and some have suggested Psalm 83 as being a prediction of more immediate warfare with Israel's immediate neighbors. These things were never discussed much in church history. Now we are getting close we can see these things happening, we read the headlines and everything seems to be coming together and we anticipate the Rapture of the Church imminently and we see the stage being set for all the things being prophesied in the Scripture.

#### Part 4

**Dr. Reagan:** Well, folks, I think it is pretty obvious that our prophecy forum members are in complete agreement that we are understanding end time prophecies of Daniel that have never been understood before. And that this is a sign in itself that we must be living in the season of the Lord's return, because God told Daniel that his end time prophecies would not be understood until the time came for them to be fulfilled.

We have thus far heard from nearly all of our experts. We do not have time to include the responses of all 16. But I would like to conclude with the response given by Gary Frazier because it is so clearly stated.

**Gary Frazier:** Well sure you know I think almost all of conservative prophecy guys, I know like you and of course many of our friends who write and speak on this particular subject, we all understand something called progressive illumination. We understand that in the 66 books of the Bible that we hold in our hand this is God's written record to us. We don't believe in progressive revelation, we think that God said everything to us that He is going to say in those 66 books. But we do understand that the Holy Spirit of God has a way of illuminating the minds of Christ followers to help them understand the times in which they live. And the reality of it is this I would go back 60-70 years from our time. Can you just imagine a person sitting in their living room at home reading the 13th chapter of the book of Revelation and they are reading verse 16-18, "Every man, woman, boy and girl will be required to take a mark or number upon their right hand or upon their forehead; without it they cannot buy or sell." Well that just simply

says that without this mark or number there is no way to survive, there can be no commercial transactions. There is no possible way before AI Gore invented the Internet that we could ever have experienced or understood the technological explosion that has happened in recent times. And so as we move through the years, those people could not possibly grasp what the future was going to hold with regard to technology. Our generation on the other hand we fully understand, biochip implant technology, RIFD's we realize that today we live in a surveillance society. And so I personally believe that yes, God is opening our minds and we are understanding things that no generation has ever understood before. Which reminds us that we are living in the last days.

**Dr. Reagan:** Okay, let me try now quickly to summarize what our experts have said. I think I can do so by saying that the bottom line on this question is that because of historical developments like the re-establishment of the state of Israel, and because of technological developments, like computers and the Internet, we are now understanding end time prophecies that no one has ever understood before. And that, in turn, means we are living in the season of the Lord's return. In other words, folks, we are living on borrowed time, and the crucial question is, "Are you ready for the Lord's return?" I hope so.

Well, folks, that's our program for this week. I hope it has been a blessing to you, and I hope you will be back with us next week when we will continue presenting questions about the book of Daniel to our 16 Bible prophecy experts.

Until then, this is Dave Reagan speaking for Lamb & Lion Ministries, saying, "Look up, be watchful, for our Redemption is drawing near."

**End of Program**