This marvelous book of Daniel can be divided into two sections. Last week we
considered chapters 1-6 which involved Daniel's history in Babylon and Medo-Persia.
The history ends as we encounter chapter 7 through the rest of the book and now we are
engulfed in incredible prophetic vision as seen by Daniel. These remaining chapters
cover a rather lengthy period of time in Daniel's life: Daniel's vision in chapter 7 took
place in the first year of Regent-King Belshazzar. In chapter 8 the vision was seen in
Belshazzar's third year of rule. In chapter 9 it was in the first year of King Darius. In
chapter 10 it was the third year of Cyrus. However, in chapters 11 and 12 the vision was
seen back in the first year of Darius.

As you and I study these chapters we are assured that God is in control of all humankind
for all time and we need not fear.

Chapter Seven
THE VISION OF THE FOUR BEASTS

Daniel 7:1-8  (New Living Translation)

   Earlier, during the first year of King Belshazzar's reign in Babylon, Daniel had a
dream and saw visions as he lay in his bed. He wrote the dream down, and this is
what he saw.

   [2] In my vision that night, I, Daniel, saw a great storm churning the surface of a
great sea, with strong winds blowing from every direction. [3] Then four huge beasts
came up out of the water, each different from the others.

   [4] The first beast was like a lion with eagles' wings. As I watched, its wings were
pulled off, and it was left standing with its two hind feet on the ground, like a human
being. And a human mind was given to it.

   [5] Then I saw a second beast, and it looked like a bear. It was rearing up on one
side, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And I heard a voice saying
to it, "Get up! Devour many people!"

   [6] Then the third of these strange beasts appeared, and it looked like a leopard. It
had four wings like birds' wings on its back, and it had four heads. Great authority
was given to this beast.

   [7] Then in my vision that night, I saw a fourth beast, terrifying, dreadful, and
very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with huge iron teeth and trampled
what was left beneath its feet. It was different from any of the other beasts, and it
had ten horns. [8] As I was looking at the horns, suddenly another small horn
appeared among them. Three of the first horns were wrenched out, roots and all, to
make room for it. This little horn had eyes like human eyes and a mouth that was
boasting arrogantly.

The “great sea” (vs 2) refers to the people of Earth. (Matthew 13:47; Revelation 13:1;
Isaiah 57:20). Rev. 17:1 and 15

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I
will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. (15)
Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are
peoples, multitudes, nations and languages."

Out of the morass of the world’s population, Daniel saw four “beasts” rise to prominence.

Beast #1: like a lion with eagles’ wings. You may remember from the picture in last
week’s notes the lions decorating the Ishtar Gate of Babylon. We know this first beast
was Babylon. THIS CORRESPONDS TO THE HEAD OF GOLD IN THE VISION
NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAD. (Note again the statue art work on the platform.)

Beast #2: like a bear with three ribs in its mouth. This was the next kingdom, the
Medo-Persian Empire. The three ribs pertain to the three kingdoms that comprised this
d Empire – Babylon, Lydia (Turkey) and Egypt. THIS CORRESPONDS TO THE
SILVER IN THE IMAGE.

Why a bear? The Medo-Persian army moved like a lumbering bear. Historians
remember the great Xerxes who led 300,000 men and 300 ships against Greece, only to
be soundly defeated.

Beast #3: like a leopard with four wings and four heads. What a remarkable
prophecy of Greece. As a leopard - or panther - is quick and graceful, so were the
armies of Greece. The four “heads” depicted the division of Alexanders (the Great)
army at the time of his death in Babylon (only in his 30’s at the time).
• Cassander took Macedonia
• Lysimachus took Asia Minor (Turkey)
• Seleucus took Syria (out of which comes the little horn in Daniel 8 who was
  Antiochus Epiphanes who caused so much suffering in Israel and the Temple)
• Ptolemy took Egypt (Cleopatra came from his line)
THIS CORRESPONDS TO THE BRONZE PORTION OF THE STATUE and occurred
between the Old and New Testaments. 

[Beast # 4:] is a ten-horned creature and is powerful. Note its great iron teeth. This, of course, is Rome. The ten horns of this vision are the counterpart of the ten toes on the Nebuchadnezzar image. When we speak of the ten toes we are referring to the remnant of the old Roman Empire which nations border the Mediterranean Sea and north Africa.

Daniel’s vision in this chapter corresponds to Nebuchadnezzar’s vision in chapter 2.

Now we examine those ten horns, representing nations in the last days. Out of them comes “a little horn,” which is a blasphemous leader whom I believe to be the coming antichrist.

THE SCENE SHIFTS TO GOD’S THRONE ROOM

Daniel 7:9-14

I watched as thrones were put in place and the Ancient One sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, his hair like whitest wool. He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire, [10] and a river of fire flowed from his presence. Millions of angels ministered to him, and a hundred million stood to attend him. Then the court began its session, and the books were opened.

[11] I continued to watch because I could hear the little horn’s boastful speech. I kept watching until the fourth beast was killed and its body was destroyed by fire. [12] As for the other three beasts, their authority was taken from them, but they were allowed to live for a while longer.

[13] As my vision continued that night, I saw someone who looked like a man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. [14] He was given authority, honor, and royal power over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

HALLELUJAH! This passage tells us clearly who wins the ultimate battle - King Jesus! This is the same scene described by John in Revelation chapters 4 and 5. It is the prelude to the coming 7-year period of Tribulation on Earth. Here Daniel depicts God on His great throne, flanked by over a million angels. Even as God prepares to send Jesus to rapture to Heaven all His followers, the “little horn” - antichrist - ramps up his villaness blasphemies against the very God Who is about to take him out!

Verse 12 teaches us that the great empires have come and gone, yet some of the philosophies that caused their demise are still prevalent in the last days.
But how wonderful the passages in verses 13 and 14 as the “Son of God” came to “the ancient of days” (God) and Jesus was given dominion and glory and a kingdom and all people, nations and languages will serve Him (we are now being ushered into the Millennium - the 1,000 year reign of Jesus on this earth).

THE NATURE OF ANTICHRIST

We can expect more and more virulent attacks against Christianity in our day. When antichrist arrives on the scene (following the Rapture, I believe) it will be horrendous; but even now “the spirit of antichrist” is prevalent. Note his nature prophesied:

Daniel 7:25

He will defy the Most High and wear down the holy people of the Most High. He will try to change their sacred festivals and laws, and they will be placed under his control for a time, times, and half a time. (Time=1 year; times = 2 years, half a time=1/2 year for a total of 3 ½ years. This represents the last half of the tribulation).

Chapter Eight
THE VISION OF THE RAM AND THE GOAT

Two years later (from vision in chapter 7) Daniel received another:

Daniel 8:1-14

During the third year of King Belshazzar's reign, I, Daniel, saw another vision, following the one that had already appeared to me. [2] This time I was at the fortress of Susa, in the province of Elam, standing beside the Ulai River.

[3] As I looked up, I saw in front of me a ram with two long horns standing beside the river. One of the horns was longer than the other, even though it had begun to grow later than the shorter one. (This is Medo-Persia with Persia being the stronger of the two) [4] The ram butted everything out of its way to the west, to the north, and to the south, and no one could stand against it or help its victims. It did as it pleased and became very great.

[5] While I was watching, suddenly a male goat appeared from the west (this is Greece), crossing the land so swiftly that it didn’t even touch the ground. This goat, which had one very large horn between its eyes (Alexander the Great), [6] headed toward the two-horned ram that I had seen standing beside the river. [7] The goat charged furiously at the ram and struck it, breaking off both its horns. Now the ram was helpless, and the goat knocked it down and trampled it. There was no one who could rescue the ram from the goat's power.

[8] The goat became very powerful. But at the height of its power, its large horn
was broken off (this is a prophecy of the death of Alexander who died in Babylon while still in his 30s). In the large horn's place grew four prominent horns pointing in the four directions of the earth. (These four horns are Alexanders' primary generals)

[9] From one of the prominent horns came a small horn whose power grew very great (this would be Antiochus Epiphanes). It extended toward the south and the east and toward the glorious land of Israel. [10] His power reached to the heavens where it attacked the heavenly armies, throwing some of the heavenly beings and stars to the ground and trampling them. [11] He even challenged the Commander of heaven's armies by canceling the daily sacrifices offered to him and by destroying his Temple. [12] But the army of heaven was restrained from destroying him for this sin. As a result, sacrilege was committed against the Temple ceremonies, and truth was overthrown. The horn succeeded in everything it did.

[13] Then I heard two of the holy ones talking to each other. One of them said, "How long will the events of this vision last? How long will the rebellion that causes desecration stop the daily sacrifices? How long will the Temple and heaven's armies be trampled on?"

[14] The other replied, "It will take twenty-three hundred evenings and mornings; then the Temple will be restored."

The ram with the two horns was Medo-Persia. One of the horns was bigger than the other, and this would have been Persia being stronger than its counterpart, Media. (Media - Turkey area; Persia - Iran).

The Little Horn Representing Antiochus Epiphanes

Antiochus IV came out of the Seleucid dynasty(Syria - refer to page 2, lines 37 and 38). This madman began his cruel rule in 175 B.C. and made Jerusalem the focal point of his fury. He began tearing down the very fabric of Jewish life and religion until finally Judas Maccabees raised up an improbable army to defeat him. No man up until that time was ever more anti-Semitic than Antiochus. He placed an image of the Greek god Jupiter in the Holy Place in the Temple in Jerusalem and sacrificed a pig on the sacred altar and the poured swine broth over the holy vessels of the Temple.

WHAT THIS VISION MEANT

This vision was all prototype, so to speak, echoing not only world history but what would come following the Rapture of the Church. It was such a powerful vision that it made Daniel ill: Daniel 8:27 Then I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for several days. Afterward I got up and performed my duties for the king, but I was greatly troubled by the vision and could not understand it.
Chapter Nine

DANIEL’S 70 WEEKS

The first 21 verses of this chapter tell of Daniel’s prayer and the final 6 verses give us the very important prophecy of the Seventy Weeks.

As we enter this chapter, we understand that Daniel is now 85 or 90 years of age and has been a “captive” of sorts since 606 B.C. when he was about 17. In the last chapter as we studied “the little horn”, we read that the concept made Daniel ill. So he takes his burden to the Lord in prayer:

Daniel 9:7-14

"Lord, you are in the right; but our faces are covered with shame, just as you see us now. This is true of us all, including the people of Judah and Jerusalem and all Israel, scattered near and far, wherever you have driven us because of our disloyalty to you. [8] O Lord, we and our kings, princes, and ancestors are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. [9] But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him. [10] We have not obeyed the Lord our God, for we have not followed the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. [11] All Israel has disobeyed your law and turned away, refusing to listen to your voice.

"So now the solemn curses and judgments written in the law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out against us because of our sin. [12] You have done exactly what you warned you would do against us and our rulers. Never in all history has there been a disaster like the one that happened in Jerusalem. [13] Every curse written against us in the law of Moses has come true. All the troubles he predicted have taken place. But we have refused to seek mercy from the Lord our God by turning from our sins and recognizing his truth. [14] The Lord has brought against us the disaster he prepared, for we did not obey him, and the Lord our God is just in everything he does.

Daniel does not try to “con” God, does he? He levels with truth and reality. He prays, “O God, You told us these things would happen if we didn’t get right with you - and they have occurred now and we are suffering for our sins.” Then he pleads with God for mercy:

Daniel 9:17-18

"O our God, hear your servant’s prayer! Listen as I plead. For your own sake, Lord, smile again on your desolate sanctuary.

[18] "O my God, listen to me and hear my request. Open your eyes and see our
wretchedness. See how your city lies in ruins—for everyone knows that it is yours. We do not ask because we deserve help, but because you are so merciful.

Even as he prays, God sends a response via the great angel Gabriel. The angel’s message will be the incredible PROPHECY OF THE SEVENTY WEEKS.

The Seventy Weeks

This is not the easiest of prophecies to explain. Let’s read the biblical passage and then explore its meaning:

Daniel 9:24-27

"A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to put down rebellion, to bring an end to sin, to atone for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. [25] Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.

[26] "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. [27] He will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. Then as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the end that has been decreed is poured out on this defiler."

Let’s attempt to couch this vision in simple English. Daniel prophesied, “When the king of the Medes and Persians gives the freedom for the captive Jews in Babylon to return to Jerusalem ... seven weeks and 62 more weeks will take place until Messiah comes in the flesh.”

In prophecy, “weeks” are really “years.” So from the Jews liberation from captivity, Daniel prophesied 69 weeks (483 actual years) would intervene until Jesus would come to earth. We know the exact date historically when Artaxerxes gave that command. It was in the Jewish month of Nisan, the 20th year of Artaxerxes’ rule, which makes the date March 14, 445 B.C. (Nehemiah 2). THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF DANIEL’S 70 WEEK PROPHECY.
BUT NOTE: In Daniel’s reckoning, a year contained 360 days, not 365 for the Jewish calendar was based on LUNAR YEARS. Our calendar is based on solar years - or the movement of the sun. Our calendar has 365 days each year but the Jewish calendar has only 360. Every few years the Jews added an extra month to keep their calendar seasonal. Revelation Rev. 11:3 (And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in sackcloth and will prophesy during those 1,260 days.) In other words, a 3 ½ year portion of the tribulation is 1,260 days based on a 360-day year.

Daniel’s 69 weeks from the time of the Persian’s decree to Nehemiah until the time of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem was 483 years (of 360-day years). So...in Daniel 9, centuries before it occurred, Daniel said there would someday come a command from a foreign king to return to Palestine and to rebuild Jerusalem. Furthermore, Daniel prophesied, in 483 years following that (to the day) Messiah would triumphantly enter Jerusalem, the Holy City. Now since the decree to rebuild Jerusalem came in 445 B.C. - and then you add 483 years to that - you can see the projection puts us right into the adult years of Christ’s earthly life.

Daniel prophesied that the Messiah would come 173,880 days after Artaxerxes’ decree (69 prophetic weeks x 7 - each week being a 7-year time span - and that gives you 483 years times 360 days = 173,880 days.) Daniel declared that 173,880 days following Artaxerxes command to rebuild Jerusalem Messiah would enter the Holy City in triumph. That means Jesus rode into Jerusalem on April 6, AD 32. Zechariah told us in his 9th chapter that the time of Messiah would begin on the day that He rode into the Holy City and was proclaimed king by the Jews.

Was Daniel accurate? Both Jesus and John the Baptist began their ministries during the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar. Luke 3 confirms that. We know that Tiberius began his reign in AD 14. Our Lord then began His ministry in AD 29. We know that He continued His ministry for 3 years prior to the triumphant entry. Now we are up to AD 32. There can be no question about the accuracy of the year in Daniel’s prophecy. Now in John 12:1 we learn that our Lord went to Bethany six days before the Passover. And we learn in John 12:12 that the triumphant entry was the very next day. Passover is always celebrated on the 14th Nisan, which was Thursday, April 10, AD 32, according to the Royal Observatory. Passover, the day our Lord died, was Thursday, April 10, AD 32. So our Lord would have come to Bethany six days earlier, April 4. The meal with Lazarus would have been a Sabbath (Saturday) meal, so our Lord entered Jerusalem on Sunday, April 6, AD 32. Now if Daniel’s prophecy in chapter 9 is accurate, there should have been 173,880 days between Artaxerxes’ decree in 445 BC and Jesus triumphant entry. Can the Bible really be that accurate?
From March 14, 445 BC to April 6, AD 32, is 477 years and 24 days. But we have to
deduct one full year because time was not judged on the basis of, “Well, this is 1 BC and
next year will be 0. There was no 0 gap in there. Historically there is a year technically
missing between 1 BC and 1 AD. Therefore a year must be deducted, now giving us 476
years and 24 days. Today we count 365 days in the Julian calendar. So we multiply 476
x 365 and that gives us 173,740 days, plus we add the 24 other days for a total of 173,764.
Now Daniel is within 116 days of being “on the nose” with his prophecy. Not close
enough! We must remember the fact of leap year every four years. From Artaxerxes’
decree to Jesus’ triumphal entry there were 119 leap years. So we add another 119 days
to our total, which gives us 173,883 days. Now we are three days over. But according
to the Royal Observatory our year is about 1/128 of a day longer than the true solar year.
So now we divide the time between Artaxerxes’ decree and Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem by
128 and we have 3 days, which we now deduct from our previous total, leaving us an
exact total of 173,880 days. Daniel hit the dates dead center!

THE LAST “YEAR” OF DANIEL’S PROPHECY

We have dealt here only with 69 weeks. What about the 70th? God put a “parenthesis”,
so to speak, between the 69th and 70th week and that is THE CHURCH AGE. In that
time period, God postponed the fulfillment of all these prophecies until the time of the
end. Described in Daniel 9:27 is the seventieth week in which God finishes the judgment
upon the world.

There never will be a time of such judgment as shall fall upon the earth during that 70th
week. The prophecy is that a “prince” will come - antichrist! He will make a covenant
with Israel and with the nations of earth. But in the middle of the “week,” or 3 ½ years
into the Tribulation, chaos erupts and the world sees Antichrist as he really is. He
breaks his covenant with Israel. He has promised them their sanctuary, their ordinances,
and their worship. He is hailed in the 6th chapter of the Revelation as “the savior on the
white horse.” I believe Antichrist is the first seal judgment of that chapter, arriving to
humanity on a peace mission. But in the middle of the week - or 7 year period - he
plunges the earth into a cauldron of blood that erupts in the Battle of Armageddon.

You should read Zechariah, chapters 12-14, in conjunction with this study in which the
appearance of Jesus to Israel is described in detail.

Chapters 10-12
ISRAEL IN THE END DAYS

Many consider these chapters as one awesome vision which relates to Israel.
Daniel 10:1-3

In the third year of the reign of King Cyrus of Persia, Daniel (also known as Beltshazzar) had another vision. It concerned events certain to happen in the future—times of war and great hardship—and Daniel understood what the vision meant.

[2] When this vision came to me, I, Daniel, had been in mourning for three weeks.
[3] All that time I had eaten no rich food or meat, had drunk no wine, and had used no fragrant oils.

Daniel is now an old man and he is shaken by what God has revealed to him. He has not eaten well for three weeks - or even taken a bath! Why? Several years had passed and, despite the royal release that allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem, only a small group had actually done so. Those who had returned had done so under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah. Daniel is fasting, seeking God as to why the people would not return.

Now Daniel is ministered to by an angel:

Daniel 10:12-13

Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. [13] But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia.

You talk about spiritual warfare! Daniel has been praying for weeks, seemingly without an answer, when the angel came to tell him that his prayers had gone through to God the day he prayed them and he, the angel, had been dispatched to respond to Daniel. But he had been hindered all this time by “prince of the kingdom of Persia.” That would a reference to Satan himself.

What did Paul write? 2 Cor. 10:3-5

We are human, but we don't wage war with human plans and methods. [4] We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds. [5] With these weapons we break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God. With these weapons we conquer their rebellious ideas, and we teach them to obey Christ.

Let’s take note that this chapter of Daniel deals with:
1. The people of Israel (not the church)
2. It takes place in the “latter days” near the end of the Tribulation period.
3. It is a lengthy fulfillment.

Daniel reports how this divine visitation affected him: Daniel 10:17-21

   How can someone like me, your servant, talk to you, my lord? My strength is gone, and
   I can hardly breathe."
   [18] Then the one who looked like a man touched me again, and I felt my strength
   returning. [19] "Don't be afraid," he said, "for you are deeply loved by God. Be at peace;
   take heart and be strong!"
   As he spoke these words, I suddenly felt stronger and said to him, "Now you may
   speak, my lord, for you have strengthened me."
   [20] He replied, "Do you know why I have come? Soon I must return to fight against
   the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia, and then against the spirit prince of the
   kingdom of Greece. [21] But before I do that, I will tell you what is written in the Book of
   Truth. (There is no one to help me against these spirit princes except Michael, your spirit
   prince.)

I have heard people report they have seen angels. They may have. I wonder if such a
visitation affected them as it did Daniel.

Chapter Eleven

MORE ON ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES AND ANTICHRIST

This vision of the tyrant of Greece, Antiochus, is so “on” that sceptics sniff that it was
written much later and is only a recitation of history, not a prophecy.

We have already discussed at some length the life of Alexander the Great, who died in his
30's in Babylon, bemoaning his belief there was nothing worthwhile left to do.

Daniel 11:3-4

"Then a mighty king will rise to power who will rule a vast kingdom and
accomplish everything he sets out to do. [4] But at the height of his power, his
kingdom will be broken apart and divided into four parts. It will not be ruled by the
king's descendants, nor will the kingdom hold the authority it once had. For his
empire will be uprooted and given to others. This is Alexander the Great. His own
family did not inherit his kingdom; four of his generals did (“...his kingdom will be
broken up and divided into four parts...” vs. 4)

In the next verses Daniel foresaw the encroachment of Egypt (Ptolemies) and the king of
the north, the Seleucidae - two of Alexander’s generals. As the years pass, it appears that Egypt will be the power; however, that land would be defeated by the monster, Antiochus Epiphanes.

Daniel 11:15-20

Then the king of the north will come and lay siege to a fortified city and capture it. The best troops of the south will not be able to stand in the face of the onslaught.

[16] "The king of the north will march onward unopposed; none will be able to stop him. He will pause in the glorious land of Israel, intent on destroying it. [17] He will make plans to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will form an alliance with the king of the south. He will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom from within, but his plan will fail.

[18] "After this, he will turn his attention to the coastal cities and conquer many. But a commander from another land will put an end to his insolence and will cause him to retreat in shame. [19] He will take refuge in his own fortresses but will stumble and fall, and he will be seen no more.

[20] "His successor will be remembered as the king who sent a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor, but after a very brief reign, he will die, though neither in battle nor open conflict.

Despite political alliances and marriages, nothing can stop the encroachment of Antiochus. “He shall turn his face unto the isles” referring to Greece and all the Greek Islands. Read the horrors he inflicts:

Daniel 11:28

"The king of the north will then return home with great riches. On the way he will set himself against the people of the holy covenant, doing much damage before continuing his journey.

Daniel 11:31

His army will take over the Temple fortress, polluting the sanctuary, putting a stop to the daily sacrifices, and setting up the sacrilegious object that causes desecration.

Antiochus came against Jerusalem in 170 B.C., killing over 100 thousand Jews. He eradicated the proper sacrifice in the Holy Temple, set up a pagan god in the Holy Place and sacrificed swine on the sacred altar.

How vile was he? Daniel 11:36

"The king will do as he pleases, exalting himself and claiming to be greater than
every god there is, even blasphemy the God of gods. He will succeed—until the
time of wrath is completed. For what has been determined will surely take place.

Antiochus was not only a very real figure in history, but he was a predecessor of
Antichrist. But his time was coming. God is not mocked. Just as Antiochus was
blindsided, so will antichrist be. Daniel 11:40 "Then at the time of the end, the king
of the south will attack him, and the king of the north will storm out against him
with chariots, cavalry, and a vast navy. He will invade various lands and sweep
through them like a flood.

Daniel 11:45
He will halt between the glorious holy mountain and the sea and will pitch his
royal tents there, but while he is there, his time will suddenly run out, and there will
be no one to help him.

God gives us this "prototype" of Antiochus to inform us that an even worse leader is
coming who is Satan’s masterpiece of deception, Antichrist. And even though his sails
furl wide for a season, judgment - terrible and without relief - is coming to him.

Chapter 12
THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Daniel 12:10-11
Many will be purified, cleansed, and refined by these trials. But the wicked will
continue in their wickedness, and none of them will understand. Only those who are
wise will know what it means.
[11] "From the time the daily sacrifice is taken away and the sacrilegious object
that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days.

Dr. Pentecost describes this coming time of 3 ½ years that will reveal God’s wrath against
mankind’s rejection of Him and His Son:

This world is headed toward a unified political system and a unified religious system
that begs description and defies imagination. The Word of God has so much to say
about the warfare between God and Satan, between the kingdom of God and the
kingdom of darkness, between this world and the heavens. The Scriptures reveal
that this conflict is going to come to its climax when Satan brings his great
masterpiece, the man of sin, the lawless one, the Beast, on this world scene as the head
of a great confederation of nations. This world is headed for a coming world-wide
dictatorship, under whom all nations shall be consolidated into one great world empire
that will center in the worship of Satan. This system will be characterized by lawlessness, godlessness and absolute authoritarianism. It will be the aim of this dictator to exterminate every believer in Jesus Christ and to outlaw God from this universe.

My friend, followers of Jesus will be delivered from this wrath of God upon mankind. The tribulation has nothing to do with the true church. It has to do with Christ-rejecting mankind. If there is anything a person should know it’s this: you name is written in the Book of Life so you will escape all these wretched things to come.

Next week: Hosea and other minor prophet O.T. books.