

At That Time Michael...Will Arise

Daniel 12:1-4

To understand the importance of Christ's coming to Bethlehem to inaugurate His Kingdom, an eternal Kingdom that is *being built in our day* and will be consummated with His coming again one day, it is essential to know the background of Daniel (the man) and the history of Western Civilization. This is important because if you are a citizen of His Kingdom today (a believer), you and I are called by our King to "Look in the mirror and determine our course before others look at us and demand our conformity."

The Facts About Daniel the Man

Daniel was Jew, a member of royalty in Jerusalem, and he and was born in 625 BC and died in 535 BC. God gave Daniel the gift of prophecy, enabling him to see the future and warning people to obey God. Daniel lived his entire adult life (605 BC to 535 BC) in Babylon as the king's slave, serving as chief Magi.

The Theme of Daniel the Scroll

God called the nation of Israel, and only the nation of Israel, to enter into a special covenant with Him. This agreement was a conditional "If...then" agreement (today, we call it "The Old Covenant").

"IF you walk in My ways and keep My commandments, **THEN** I will give you blessing" (Lev. 26:3-4).

"But **IF** you do not obey Me and do not carry out My commandments, **THEN** I in turn, will appoint you to sudden terror... **your enemies will conquer you**" (Lev. 26:14-16).

As you read the Old Testament, you'll see that the nation of Israel failed to live up to their agreement.

*In 722 BC the Kingdom of Israel was destroyed and the men were taken captive by the Assyrians.

*In 586 BC the Kingdom of Judah was destroyed and all the people were taken away by the Babylonians.

Daniel and Jeremiah were prophets in Judah (the southern Kingdom of Israel). Listen to the LORD speak:

*"I gave faithless Israel **her certificate of divorce** and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister **Judah** had no fear; **she also went out and committed adultery**" (Jer. 3:8).*

Daniel declares: "We (Judah) have acted wickedly and rebelled; we're under the Law's curse" (Dan. 9:5).

What about us? **We are "Your people and Jerusalem is Your city?" (Daniel 9:19)**

The Key to Understanding Daniel the Scroll

God gives to the prophet Daniel visions of the future. The LORD reveals through these visions that He is going to bring **AN END TO THE AGREEMENT** He has with the nation of Israel, but *at the same time*, He will inaugurate a **NEW COVENANT** with the world, ushering in righteousness that comes by faith in Him.

Gabriel is the messenger of this GOOD NEWS that God will send "The NEW Israel" to fulfill the LAW.

This NEW ISRAEL is Jesus, the Anointed One (Micha-el – "Who Is Like God") and Jesus fulfills the LAW.

"And Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, **"Out of Egypt I called my son"** (Matthew 2:13-15; Hosea 11:1).

Jesus is the True Israel. In His birth, life, death, and resurrection, Jesus fulfilled the "Law of Moses," every jot and tittle. Those who TRUST THE LORD, receive a righteousness not their own (Phil. 3:7-11).

¹ **“Now at that time Michael**, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. ² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting. ³ Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. ⁴ But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase” (Daniel 12:1-4 NASB 1995).

I. At that time ... is the time of King Herod (Daniel 11:36-45).

Remember, Daniel was concerned with God’s relationship with Daniel’s people (the Jews), and Daniel was wanting to know *“How long until you divorce Your people?”* The answer was given to Daniel by Gabriel in Daniel 9:24-27 when the messenger declared that there would be 490 years left for Israel, “from the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem” (Ezra 7:11-26, 458 BC).

- A. **The Messiah rises when Herod “annihilates many”** (Daniel 11:44).
- B. **The Messiah is “cut off” in the middle of Daniel’s 70th week** (Daniel 9:24-27).
- C. **The Messiah dies to establish a NEW COVENANT with His body and His blood** (His death).

II. Daniel’s 70th week (AD 26-AD 33), is characterized by seven years of great conflict.

In the year AD 26, Jesus is baptized. Three and one-half years later, Jesus is crucified (AD 30) At the end of the next three and one-half years (the end of Daniel’s 70th Week), Stephen is stoned. It is the end of “the Old Covenant” with the nation of Israel and the beginning of the New Covenant.

Any time God makes a transition in His dealing with the world, **He gives a time of 40 for transition.**

- 40 days of rain, at the time of the Flood, Genesis 7:17
- Noah sending forth the raven after 40 days, Genesis 8:6-7
- 40 days for embalming after the death of Jacob, Genesis 50:3
- 40 days of fasting by Moses, Exodus 24:18; 34:28; Deuteronomy 9:9,25
- 40 days of fasting by Elijah, 1 Kings 19:8
- Spies spent 40 days in reconnaissance in the land of promise, Numbers 13:25
- Nineveh will be overthrown after 40 days, Jonah 3:4
- Fasting by Jesus, Matthew 4:2
- Christ appears for 40 days after the resurrection, Acts 1:3
- Symbolism of the siege and exiles, Ezekiel 4:6
- Wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, Exodus 16:35; Numbers 14:34
- 40 years of peace in Israel, Judges 3:11; 5:31; 8:28
- Egypt to be desolated for 40 years, Ezekiel 29:11
- 40 years for Egyptians to be gathered from nations where they had been scattered, Ezekiel 29:13
- 40 stripes administered in punishing criminals, Deuteronomy 25:3; 2 Corinthians 11:24
- For 40 years, the Good News of the New Covenant was to go to “the Jew first” (AD 40 to AD 70).

III. Everything Daniel prophesied of the coming Kingdom was future (“seal up the scroll” Daniel 12:4).

The coming of the King to inaugurate the Kingdom of God was the message of the prophets of old. Everything Jesus prophesied was within a generation (“this generation shall not pass” Matt 24:34). Jesus said, “the Son of Man” would come within forty years to end the Old Covenant way of worship. Everything John prophesied was within a very short time (2 to 3 years - Rev. 1:1-3; see Rev. 22:10). That which Daniel said was over 500 years away and Jesus said was 40 years away, **John said is near.** The scroll is sealed in the days of Daniel, but the scroll is opened in the days of John (Revelation 5).

The GOOD NEWS is that we are ACCEPTED by the LORD based on the OBEDIENCE of JESUS the MESSIAH.