



COMING UP... SEPT 29: Revelation part 1 (chs. 1-5) OCT 6: Revelation part 2 (chs. 6-22) OCT 13: Ezra OCT 20: Haggai OCT 27: Zechariah NOV 3: Esther

DANIEL

The "Times of the Gentiles" (see Luke 21:24)

Covers chapters 2-7

Written in Aramaic

The prophetic camera is focused on the "far," on the big picture of the future from Daniel's time

From 605 BC until the "smashing stone" of God's kingdom "lands" on the earth in AD-something ...

Everything is basically in focus

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES (see "Identification of the Four Kingdoms" chart, p. 3)

The "Times of the Jews"

Covers chapters 8-12; written in Hebrew

Unfolds the entire future timeline of Israel right up to the eventual coming of God's Kingdom

The prophetic camera is sometimes focused on the "far" and at other times focused on the "near"

Every snapshot is of an "end times" event

Every snapshot reveals how these "end times" events impact the Jewish people

LESSON THEME: Knowing God's plans for the future leads to obeying God's will in the present

God Reveals Israel's Future (8)

The date is 551/550 BC

The Near ...

Difficult days lie ahead for God's people in the "near" times of the third empire, Greece

A "little horn" will bring trouble and persecution to God's people and God's land

He is the type to the antitype in ch. 7

He is Antiochus Epiphanes

The Far ...

These "near" difficult days foreshadow difficult days ahead for the Jews in the "far" end times

Antiochus foreshadows a coming Antichrist

The tribulation under Antiochus foreshadows a coming tribulation under Antichrist

Knowing all this made Daniel ill

God Reveals the Jewish Calendar (9)

The date is 539/538 BC; a dozen years later

The Near ...

Daniel discovers God's promise in his quiet time (Jer 25:11-12; 2 Chron 36:21)

Daniel prays God's promise for release

Adoration (v. 4) [God's character]

Confession (vv. 5-15) [people's willful rebellion]

Intercession (vv. 16-19) [fulfill Your Word]

The Far ...

God reveals the Jewish "calendar"

Seventy "sevens" are decreed for *Daniel's people*

Daniel's "Seventy Weeks" (see "The 70 Weeks of Daniel" chart, p. 4)

God Reveals the Jewish Calendar (9)

The Near ...

The Far ...

God reveals the Jewish “calendar”

Seventy “sevens” are decreed for Daniel’s people

Period #1: 49 years (begins with Neh 2:5-8)

Period #2: 434 years (see “70 Weeks” chart and Luke 19:42)

Period #3: 7 years (subject of much of the book of the Revelation)

God Reveals Israel’s Future (10–12)

The date is 536 BC; two to three years later

The first 50,000 exiles would have returned and begun rebuilding the Temple’s foundation

The Near ... (10:1–11:35)

The next 400 years (536-164 BC; see “70 Weeks” chart)

The intrigue of the third empire

The tribulation Antiochus Epiphanes brings

The end he meets

The Far ... (11:35–12:13)

The rise of Antichrist (11:36-39)

The Tribulation (12:1; cf. Jer 30:7)

War and invasion (11:40-43)

The Battle of Armageddon (11:44-45a)

The return of Christ to defeat Antichrist (11:45b)

The resurrection of the dead (12:2, 13)

The glorious kingdom comes (12:3, 13)

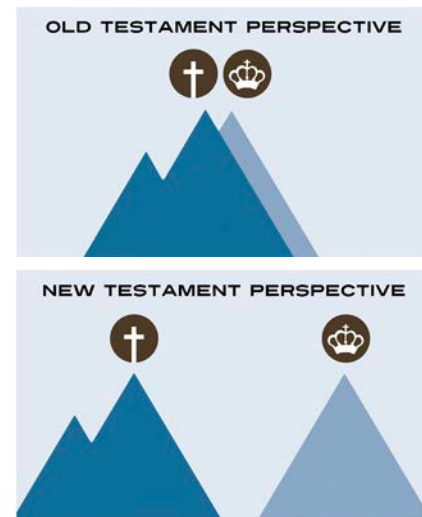


Illustration by Charles Swindoll

Prophecy Led to a Holy Life

Daniel received a ton of prophecy!

Daniel’s holy life ...

He devoted himself to the study of God’s Word; he always sought further and deeper understanding

He devoted himself to prayer for the people he loved—even though he couldn’t be with them

He devoted himself to prayer for the place he loved—Jerusalem, the holy mountain, God’s throne

He devoted himself to pray that God would be glorified

He walked with courageous faith

He was an exceptional witness for his God

He willingly “paid the price” for a faithful life and reaped the reward of special intimacy with God

He is akin to Joseph, and a picture of Jesus

APPLICATION: Knowing God’s plans for the future should lead us to obey God’s will in the present

Prophecy Should Lead to a Holy Life

Jesus’ “any minute” appearing

We’re living in the last days (Heb 1:2)

They are days of spiritual decline (1 Tim 4:1)

The rapture of the Church is the next event on God’s “prophetic calendar” (Rev 3:10-11)

He could come at any moment! Are you ready?

How are we to live in light of the end?

Like Daniel ...

Knowing God’s future plans should lead us to stand alone with God if necessary

God’s plans should give us *confidence*

Daniel – no matter who is on the throne, God is in control to preserve and care for His people

God’s plans should give us *courage*

2 Peter 1:19-21

We should be convinced of the truth of the Bible

Knowing God's future plans should lead us continually to pray for God's promises to be fulfilled

Jesus' Own prayer (Matt 6:9-13)

It's our sacrifice or offering (Ps 141:2; Heb 13:15-16)

For other believers, our rulers and spiritual warfare (Dan 9; 1 Tim 2:1-2; Eph 6:10-18)

For enablement to live a godly life (2 Pet 1:3-5a)

Knowing God's future plans should lead us to obey God's present will for our lives

We should live *expectantly*

There's a crown laid up for those who are longing for His appearing (Phil 3:20; 1 Pet 5:4)

Faithfulness today leads to reward and ministry in His Kingdom tomorrow (Matt 25:14-30)

We should live *honorably*

We don't want to be ashamed when He comes (Mk 8:38; Phil 1:20; 2 Tim 2:15)

We want to be found at work when He returns (Luke 12:40)

Knowing we will give Him an account of how we spent our life (2 Cor 5:6-10)

We should live *resolutely*

We're to be motivated to holiness by His any-minute coming (2 Tim 4:1)

To be found believing and patiently enduring when He comes (Jas 1:12)

We should live *godly lives*

To be found pure (1 John 3:1-3)

To be found living a godly life (2 Pet 3:11)

Knowing God's plans for the future should lead us to obey God's will in the present

Is it?

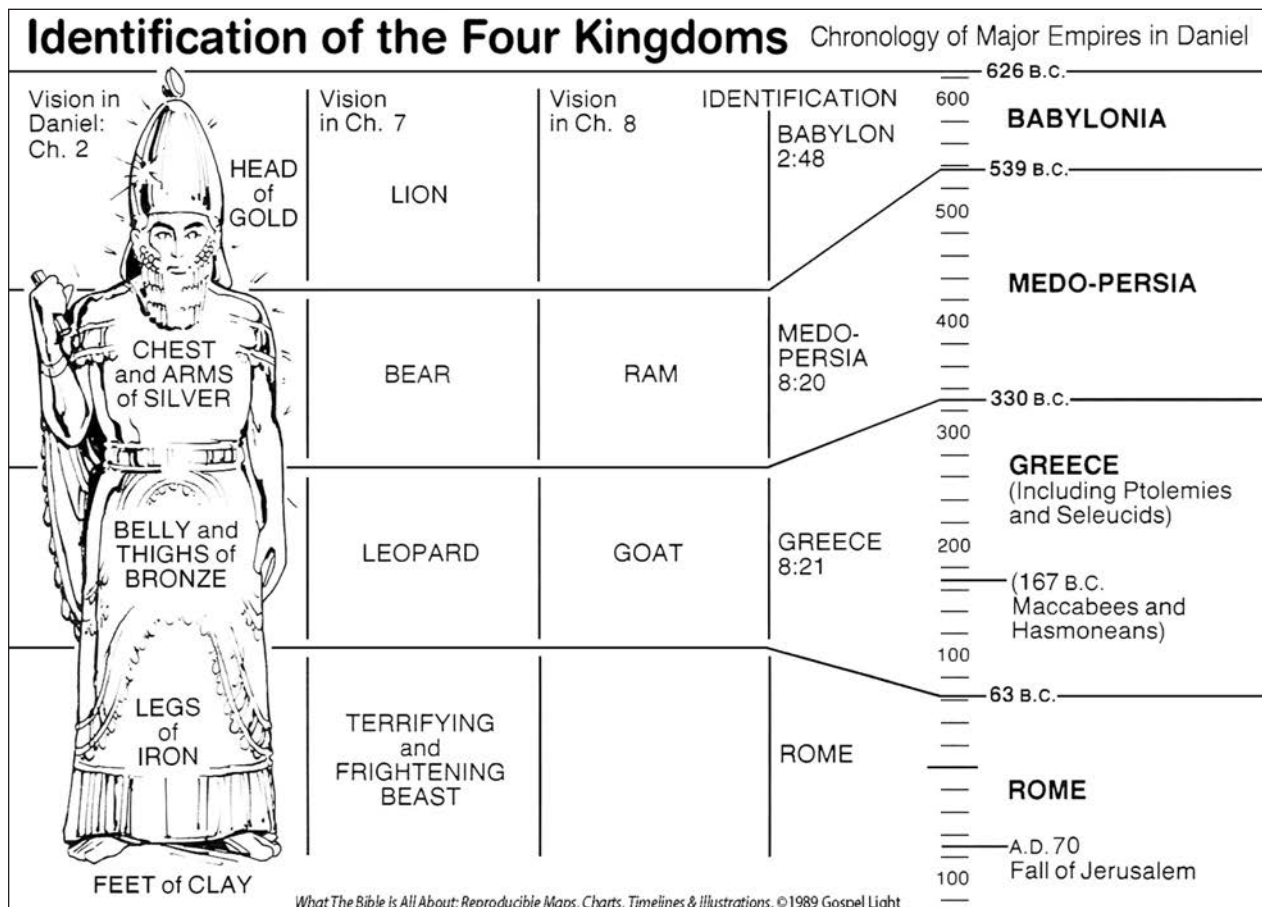
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FOR NEXT TIME: _____



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DANIEL'S SEVENTY "SEVENS"

Daniel 9:24-26

HEBREW CALENDAR

69 "sevens"
 $\times 7$ years
 483 years

$\times 360$ days (prophetic years)
 173,880 days

GREGORIAN CALENDAR

444 B.C.
 + A.D. 33
 477 years
 -1 (1 B.C. to A.D. 1 = 1 year, not 2)
 476
 $\times 365$ days
 173,740 days
 + 25 Nisan 1, 444 B.C. = March 5
 Passover, A.D. 33 = March 30
 25

+ 115 days for leap years
 173,880 days

Adopted from *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*, by Harold W. Hoener (Grand Rapids; Zondervan, 1977), 139; quoted in *The Old Testament Explorer* by Charles Dyer and Gene Merrill

RATIONALE FOR 360-DAY YEARS

Daniel 9:27	"middle of the 'seven'"
Daniel 7:25; 12:7	"time, times, and half a time"
Revelation 12:14	"time, times, and half a time"
Revelation 11:3; 12:6	"1,260 days"
Revelation 11:2; 13:5	"42 months"

These parallel passages imply that a prophetic year was composed of twelve months with thirty days each. A "time" was parallel to a year; and a "time" (1), "times" (2), and "half a time" ($1/2$) were equivalent to three and a half years, or the "middle of the 'seven'."

From The Old Testament Explorer by Charles Dyer and Gene Merrill

The 483 Years in the Jewish and Gregorian Calendars

Jewish Calendar (360 days per year)

$(7 \times 7) + (62 \times 7)$ years = 483 years

483 years
 $\times 360$ days
 173,880 days

Gregorian Calendar (365 days a year)

444 BC to AD 33 = 476 years†

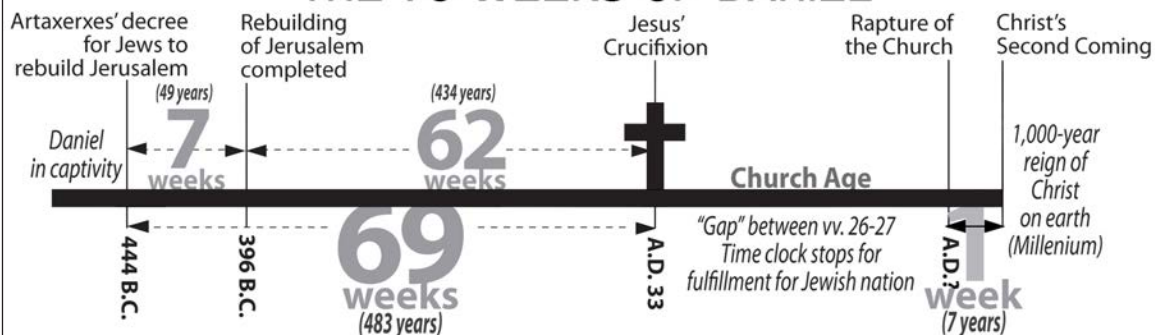
476 years
 $\times 365$ days
 173,740 days
 + 116 days in leap years‡
 + 24 days (Mar 5–Mar 30)
 173,880 days

†Since only one year expired between 1 BC and AD 1, the total is 476, not 477.

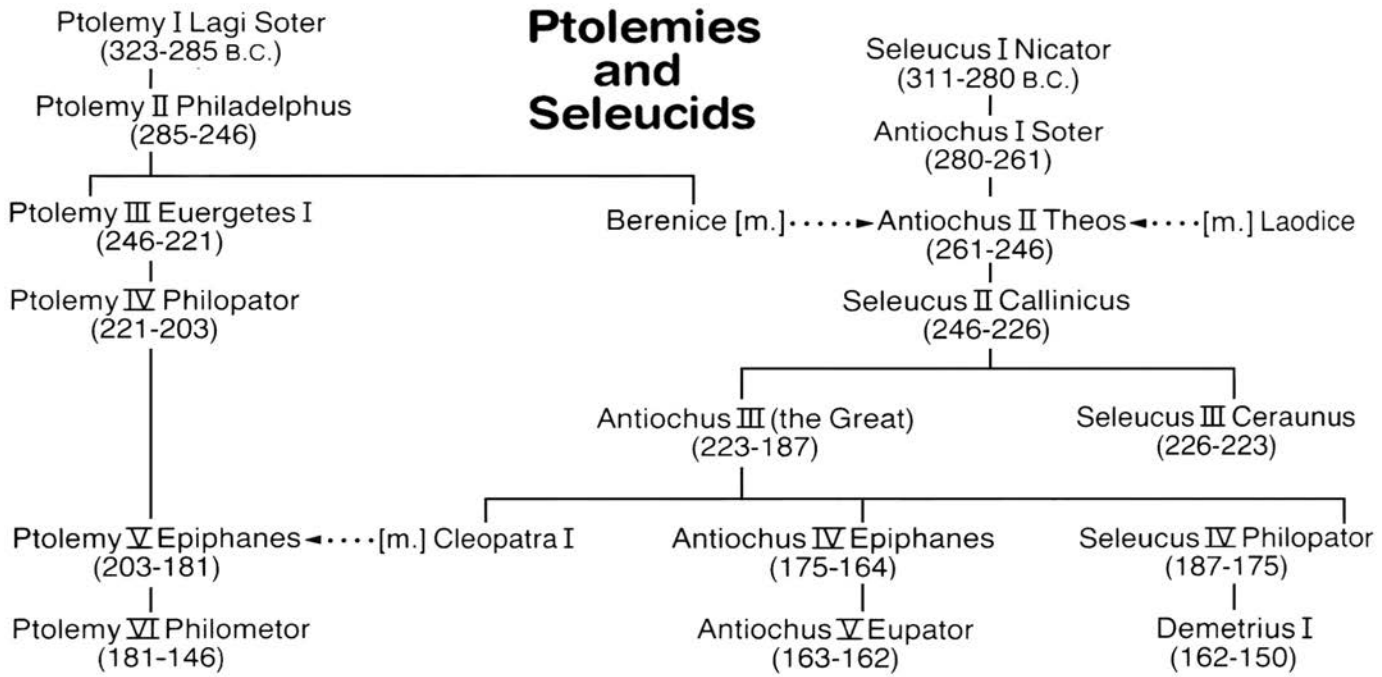
‡A total of 476 years divided by four (a leap year every four years) gives 119 additional days. But three days must be subtracted from 119 because centennial years are not leap years, though every 400th year is a leap year.

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THE 70 WEEKS OF DANIEL



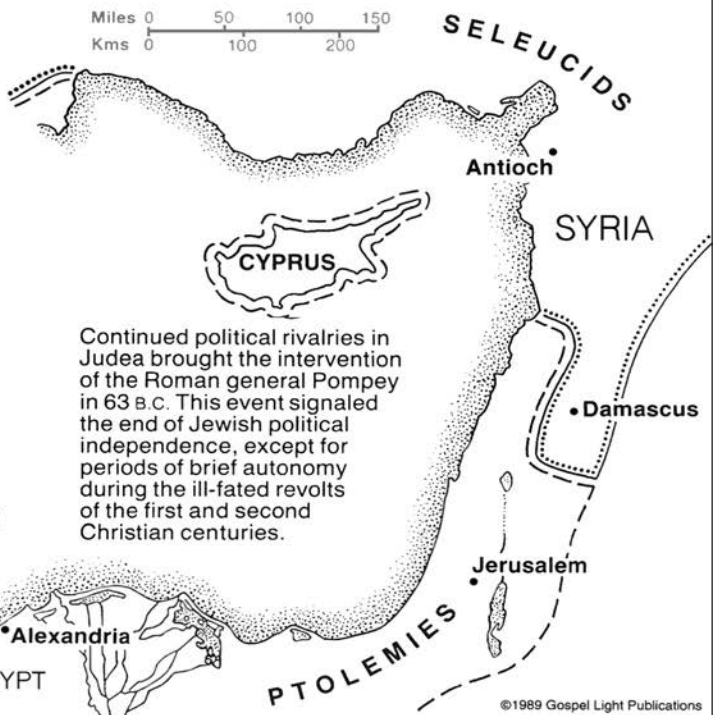
Ptolemies and Seleucids



Soon after the death of Alexander the Great in 323 B.C., his generals divided his empire into four parts, two of which—Egypt and Syria—were under the rule of the Ptolemies and Seleucids respectively. Palestine was controlled from Egypt by the Ptolemaic dynasty from 323 to 198, and was subsequently governed by the Seleucids of Syria from 198 to 142.

The Diadochi, as the successors of Alexander were called, struggled bitterly for power over his domain. At first Ptolemy I seized his own satrapy, Egypt and North Africa, which had splendid resources and natural defense capabilities. Seleucus gained Syria and Mesopotamia, and by 301 Lysimachus held Thrace and Asia Minor and Cassander ruled Macedon. The situation changed again by 277, when only three major Hellenistic kingdoms stabilized in Egypt, in Syria, and in Macedonia under the Antigonids (277-168). Each continued until the eventual triumph of Rome.

Dan 11 treats the “king of the South” and the “king of the North,” describing their conflicts, wars and alliances. Their hostility toward the people of God culminated in the “abomination that causes desolation” (Dan 11:31), identified historically with the reign of Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164). The Maccabean revolt followed, leading eventually to the founding of the Hasmonean dynasty.



Continued political rivalries in Judea brought the intervention of the Roman general Pompey in 63 B.C. This event signaled the end of Jewish political independence, except for periods of brief autonomy during the ill-fated revolts of the first and second Christian centuries.

Borders shown } PTOLEMIES - - - - -
 c. 240 B.C. } SELEUCIDS ·········

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The Ptolemies and the Seleucids in Daniel 11:5-35

*The years designate the rulers' reigns
 †Not referred to in Daniel 11:5-35

Ptolemies (Kings “of the South,” Egypt)	
Daniel 11:5	Ptolemy I Soter (323–285 B.C.)*
11:6	Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285–246)
11:7-8	Ptolemy III Euergetes (246–221)
11:11-12, 14-15	Ptolemy IV Philopator (221–204)
11:17	Ptolemy V Epiphanes (204–181)
11:25	Ptolemy VI Philometer (181–145)

Seleucids (Kings “of the North,” Syria)	
Daniel 11:5	Seleucus I Nicator (312–281 B.C.)
	Antiochus I Soter† (281–262)
11:6	Antiochus II Theos (262–246)
11:7-9	Seleucus II Callinicus (246–227)
11:10	Seleucus III Soter (227–223)
11:10-11, 13, 15-19	Antiochus III the Great (223–187)
11:20	Seleucus IV Philopator (187–176)
11:21-32	Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175–163)

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