



# The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam  
To Zedekiah

Book 1

A  
Daily Devotional  
Study Guide

Week 76

## *“The Writing On The Wall”*

**Study:** Daniel 5:1-16

**Reading:** 1 Kings 19:1-18, Deuteronomy 28:1-14

**Memory:** Psalm 119:12

I always find it fascinating to discover the source of many of the quotes that are used in our society today. Some are taken from movies or famous speeches and many are taken from books. Some are modern, but many come from ancient times and are still in use today. One of these statements that you will still hear refers to seeing the “writing on the wall.” This common phrase dates back to this Bible passage in Daniel 5 and is used to describe how you see that the end of something is near.

Today, we will read how Belshazzar was terrified when he saw a hand writing something on the wall of his palace. This terror brought a screeching stop to his great party and completely changed the jovial attitude of Belshazzar.

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

Chapter 5 doesn’t start out by giving us a date, but from the events found in the chapter we can know that this event occurred in 539 B.C. because it corresponds with the conquest of Babylon by the Medo-Persians. Daniel described how Belshazzar made a great feast for thousands of the leaders and wealthy people of the land. This feast was probably given to boost the morale of the people since they would have been under siege by the Persians. It is not clear why, but sometime during the feast Belshazzar instructed that the vessels that were brought from the temple in Jerusalem be brought out and used by his wives and concubines to drink wine from. Most likely this was to give homage to the Babylonian gods who Belshazzar thought had given them the power over the gods of other nations. As they drank, they praised the false gods of Babylon. This was probably an attempt to call on their gods to deliver them from imminent destruction (vs 1-4).

While this was taking place, a human hand appeared and a finger wrote something on the wall of the king’s palace. This hand caught the attention of the king and he watched it as it wrote. The king sobered up

rather quickly at this point and he became pale with fear. His knees began knocking and he barely had the strength to stand. Belshazzar immediately called for the wise men of the land and asked them to read the writing and explain what it meant. A reward was offered to whoever was able to do this, but no one could read the writing. This troubled Belshazzar even more, and for the second time, we are told that “his color changed.” This revealed the great fear he was experiencing (vs 5-9).

When the queen heard about what had taken place, she entered into the banquet hall and told him that he didn’t have to be worried about not having an answer since she knew a man who could help him. It is not clear who this queen was, but it was most likely his mother or grandmother who had witnessed Daniel interpret dreams for Nebuchadnezzar. She explained to Belshazzar how Daniel had been given the position as a leader because of his unique ability to interpret dreams. She was confident that Daniel would give the answer the king sought (vs 10-12).

Belshazzar sent for Daniel and told him how he had heard of his past interpretations and how the spirit of God was within him. Though the other wise men of the land could not help him, Belshazzar was convinced that Daniel would be able to give him the answers that he sought and tell him what the writing meant (vs 13-16).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

What does it take for God to get your attention? As a believer, you should strive to be constantly listening to the voice of God, ready to obey whatever He commands. Yet, it is very easy to get so sidetracked and consumed with what you want to do that you find His voice drowned out by all the other noise that is taking place in your life. If you don’t listen to the subtle times that God speaks to you, He often has to take it a step further, which is seldom pleasant for you. Choose today to listen to God each and every day, making it a habit to hear his voice on a regular basis.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for the still small voice He uses to direct you.*
- \* *Ask God to help you be an active listener to His voice.*

### **Thought for the day**

---

---

Who was at the feast that Belshazzar threw (vs 1)?

\*\*\*”*Archeologists have excavated a large hall in Babylon 55 feet wide and 165 feet long that had plastered walls. Such a room would have been sufficient to house a gathering of this size.*” - Bible Knowledge Commentary

What did Belshazzar command (vs 2-3)?

Why do you think they did this?

What did they do while they drank wine out of these vessels (vs 4)?

Why do you think Daniel emphasized what their idols were made out of (vs 4)?

What did Belshazzar see when he chose to do this (vs 5)?

What happened to Belshazzar when he saw this (vs 6)?

What does this show about supernatural power?

What did the king instruct (vs 7)? Why do you think he did this “loudly”?

What could the wise men not do (vs 8)? What does this reveal about earthly power?

Who came to help Belshazzar with this problem (vs 10)?

How was Daniel described (vs 11)?

What did she explain about Daniel (vs 12)?

What had Belshazzar heard (vs 14)?

What did Belshazzar promise (vs 16)?

Why do you think Belshazzar badly wanted to know the meaning?

# “*Learning From The Past*”

**Study:** Daniel 5:17-31

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 10:1-22, Romans 16:17-21

**Memory:** Psalm 119:12

**W**hen I played soccer in high school, we had a coach who all the players liked, and we were extremely successful as a team during my high school years. When I briefly played soccer in college, we had a coach who was not only likable, but also knew a great deal about soccer. I ended up not playing later in my college career, but worked for the soccer team and was around the coach all the time. I learned a great deal from this man about soccer and about life. After I graduated from college, I was an assistant coach for a high school team and learned more under another coach. From these three coaches I learned many things to do and also learned a few things that I didn't want to do when I became a head coach.

Today, we are going to read that one of the reasons that Belshazzar was going to be killed was because he had failed to learn from the hard lessons that Nebuchadnezzar had been taught. We will be reminded of the importance of learning from those who have gone before and to recognize that God is the Most High God.

## What Does the Bible Say?

Though Belshazzar offered Daniel gifts if he would interpret his dream. Daniel didn't want any gifts. He wasn't going to give Belshazzar the meaning because of a reward, but he would give the interpretation so that Belshazzar would know what God said. Daniel began by describing how Belshazzar's grandfather Nebuchadnezzar was given great power by God to be a victorious king. This caused all the people of the kingdom to fear and respect Nebuchadnezzar and also gave him the ability to do whatever he wanted. He basically had great control over the world around him. Yet, with all this power, Nebuchadnezzar was not able to withstand God's punishment upon him because of his pride. He was forced by God to live like a beast of the field so that he would realize that he was a mere human who had been given all he had by the Almighty God. Nebuchadnezzar was forced to admit that it was the Most High God

who ruled the earth and this God was far greater than any man (vs 17-21).

This was not news to Belshazzar since he had heard about all that Nebuchadnezzar had gone through and perhaps had even witnessed some of this himself. Even though he knew this, Belshazzar chose to think of himself as an almighty ruler and chose not to humble his heart before God. His actions at this feast revealed what he thought about the God of Israel when he chose to use the vessels of the temple for his own purpose. While defiling the temple vessels, he was praising and exalting his false gods that were made with human hands (vs 22-23).

Because Belshazzar chose to dishonor the God of Israel, God sent a hand to write on the wall. The first word was repeated twice and meant that God had numbered the days of his kingdom and it would come to an end. The second word described how God had judged Belshazzar and found that he was guilty. The third word described how he would lose his kingdom and it would be given to the Medes and Persians (vs 24-28).

Though this was a terrible prediction for Belshazzar he still commanded that Daniel be rewarded for this and exalted to the third highest position in the kingdom. Not that it mattered because that very night the Medes and Persians unexpectedly entered the city and Belshazzar was killed. Though there are some different accounts of this conquest, one of the most popular is that the Euphrates river which ran through the city was diverted, allowing the enemies to enter into the city from the empty riverbed. Belshazzar must have thought he was relatively safe since he had food stored for many years and Babylon was strongly fortified (vs 29-31).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you learn from those who have gone before you? Belshazzar was given an example of how much he should respect the God of Israel. It is not clear if he had seen Nebuchadnezzar act like an animal, but he had clearly heard about it. He would have read the declaration that his grandfather made about the Most High God. In spite of this, he chose to honor his false gods over the God who had displayed His real power to the nation. It is not clear exactly why he did this, but he was human. We as humans often have very short memories when it comes to the working of God and our own natural desires. You can learn from Belshazzar by his failure to learn from Nebuchadnezzar. Make it a point to learn from the past failures and victories of others. Don't just observe those things, but think through them and learn from them.

What did Daniel not want (vs 17)? Why do you think He didn't want these things?

How did Daniel describe God (vs 18)? Why do you think He described Him this way?

What had God done for Nebuchanezzar (vs 18-19)?

What did Nebuchadnezzar fail to realize (vs 20)?

What did God force on Nebuchadnezzar (vs 21)?

What did Belshazzar not do (vs 22)?

Why was it so wrong to use the temple vessels (vs 23)?

What did Daniel say about God in verse 23?

Where did the hand come from (vs 24)?

What did "Mene" mean (vs 26)?

What did "Tekel" mean (vs 27)?

What did "Peres" mean (vs 28)?

What did Belshazzar do after Daniel gave him the interpretation (vs 29)?

Why do you think he did this?

What happened that very night (vs 30)?

What does this reveal about the great power of God?

Who was given the ability to rule over the next great kingdom (Vs 31)?

\*\*\**He was also known as Cyrus the Great.*

How old was he when he assumed this position (vs 31)?

## ***“A Daily Pattern”***

**Study:** Daniel 6:1-15

**Reading:** Luke 12:4-12

**Memory:** Psalm 119:12

**Y**esterday, I mentioned different soccer coaches that I learned from. One of the greatest lessons that I learned when I reached college was the importance of repetition in practice. In high school, I played defense and our main job was to get the ball and kick it as far up the field as we possibly could. At college, I found out I was not very good at ball control because I never practiced controlling the ball. I went from being a very good player because of my aggressiveness in highschool to not making the team in college because I simply wasn't good enough. As I formed my coaching philosophies, one of the things that I emphasized to my players was the need to have multiple touches on the ball every practice. By making it such a pattern and habit in practice, when the pressure of the game was on, they would naturally know what to do because they repeated it over and over each practice.

Today we are going to read how Daniel was able to stand strong when the pressure was on because of the daily pattern he had established.

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

The Medes and the Persian conquered Babylon around 539 B.C. They wisely didn't dispose of all of the leaders of the land, but kept around 120 to help govern the land, with three head officials over these governors. This would allow a much smoother transition to the new government. Daniel was highly esteemed among most of the other officials because there was something different about his spirit. King Darius (Cyrus) planned to make him the main man in charge of the whole kingdom, but some of the other leaders were jealous. These leaders attempted to find something they could accuse Daniel of, but they couldn't find any complaints against him. The leaders realized that the only area where they could accuse Daniel of wrongdoing would be in the area of religion. Not that he was doing anything wrong, but he worshiped the God of Israel and not the gods of the Medes and Persians (vs 1-5).

As the leaders met together, they came up with a plan to get Daniel

removed from leadership. They went to the king and told Darius that he should make a decree which declared that the people could not worship any person or god except for the king for the next thirty days. They emphasized the fact that it was customary that once a law was made it could not be changed. The king most likely loved the idea of being viewed as a god and agreed to their proposal (vs 6-9).

Though Daniel knew this document had been signed, he wasn't going to change his habit of praying three times a day to God, even though he did this in an area where he could publicly be seen. Despite the fact that he could get in big trouble, he wasn't going to change his pattern to appease men. The other leaders kept an eye on Daniel and many witnessed him praying. They had the evidence they needed and went to Darius with their accusation against Daniel. They reminded the king of the decree and how important it was for him to uphold his rule to be respected. Then, they began accusing Daniel of disregarding the king's instructions by wilfully choosing to pray to his God openly three times a day (vs 10-13).

When Darius heard that Daniel was disregarding this law, it bothered him greatly. He must have really liked Daniel to want to place him in charge of the kingdom. Though he wanted to overlook it or do whatever he could to deliver Daniel from punishment, he couldn't find his way around the law he made. Daniel's accusers wouldn't back down and pressured Darius into carrying out the law that he had made (vs 14-15).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you think you would have done what Daniel did? This is always a hard question to answer, but it must be noticed that the choice Daniel made was not a choice to do something different, but was a choice to continue in a pattern that had long been established. The boldness to stand in the face of pressure doesn't just start when the pressure is turned on, but begins out of habits and patterns that were established long before the pressure started. This is one of the great lessons to learn from today's reading. In order to be prepared and ready for the difficult times, you need to establish habits and patterns that prepare you to stand boldly when difficulties come. Once difficult times come, the decision to do what is right will not be that difficult since it was made day by day over a period of time. Choose today to establish patterns and habits that will help you grow and make you into the spiritual stalwart that you desire to be.

What did Darius decide to do (vs 1)? Why did he decide to do this?

What position was Daniel given (vs 2)?

Why was Daniel given this position (vs 3)?

What did the other officials not like (vs 4)?

Why do you think they didn't like this?

What could the officials not find (vs 4)?

What does this reveal about the character of Daniel (vs 4)?

What did the men realize (vs 5)?

Do you think the same could be said of you? Explain?

What plan did the leaders come up with (vs 6-7)?

What was unique about the laws made by the Medes and Persians (vs 8)?

What did the king agree to do (vs 9)? Why do you think he liked this law?

What had Daniel done before the law was signed (vs 10)?

What did Daniel do once the law was signed (vs 10)?

What did the other leaders accuse Daniel of (vs 11-13)?

How did Darius respond to this accusation (vs 14)?

What did this show about how he viewed Daniel?

What was the king not able to do (vs 14)?

What did the other leaders emphasized (vs 15)? Why?

# “The Mouths of Lions”

**Study:** Daniel 6:16-28

**Reading:** Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

**Memory:** Psalm 119:12

**T**hough I have never been physically attacked or persecuted, I have had times in my life where people have said or written things about me that were intended to harm my character and ministry. It was at these times when I simply had to trust the Lord to “shut the mouths” of those who were attempting to cause me harm. In these few situations, I saw God work in different ways, allowing not only for the mouths to be shut, but for Him to be glorified in a greater way.

Today, we will read how God shut the mouths of lions in order to protect his faithful servant, and as a result, God was glorified.

## What Does the Bible Say?

Though Darius did all he could not to have to punish Daniel, he felt as a leader he must carry out the law that he had made. He ordered that Daniel be thrown into the Lion’s den. Darius had great respect for Daniel and the God Daniel worshiped. Darius hoped that his God would deliver Daniel from the fate that everyone assumed Daniel would experience. Daniel was taken to the lion’s den and Darius went home and spent the night fasting and wondering what was happening to Daniel. The king could not sleep because of this and early in the morning he went to the den to see what had become of Daniel (vs 16-19).

Even before the king arrived at the den he called out for Daniel wondering if God had been able to spare Daniel from death. Daniel declared that his God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions and no harm had come to him. It is interesting to note that Daniel expressed no bitterness or anger towards Darius, even though Darius had sentenced him to death (vs 20-22)..

Darius was greatly relieved to find Daniel alive and ordered that he be removed from the lion’s den. After examination of Daniel, it was confirmed that he didn’t even have a scratch on him from the lions. The king’s anger was kindled towards those who wilfully deceived him into making this law just so they could get rid of Daniel. He ordered that they be cast into the lion’s den with their families. Before they even reached

the bottom of the den, the lions started to attack them and killed all of those who had been thrown in (vs 23-24).

King Darius was so impressed with Daniel’s God that he made a decree that all the people under his rule were to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel. Darius declared that God is the living God whose kingdom is greater than any earthly power. This God worked miracles for Daniel and saved him from certain death. Darius had not seen power like this from the false gods that he worshiped and knew that the power of God extended far beyond what he had ever seen before (vs 25-27).

Daniel most likely was given charge of the kingdom that Darius had originally planned, and he prospered under the reign of Darius. We do not know how long he lived into the reign of Darius. He was most likely a young teenager when he was taken to Babylon in 605 B.C. and Darius conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. If Daniel was around 14 when he was taken captive (born in 619 B.C.) He would have been around 80 years old when Darius put him in charge of much of the kingdom (vs 28).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you think about your God the same way that Darius did? Darius was a powerful ruler. The ruler of the world kingdom at the time. He had seen many amazing victories and great earthly power, but nothing like he experienced with the protection of God on the life of Daniel. He clearly recognized and understood that God was a God of great power. Though all the praise goes to God for this, the life of Daniel is worth noting. Daniel’s life clearly revealed to others that he was a follower of God. He was not ashamed to openly worship his God and though he was persecuted for it, he would not back down. This testimony of His life was a shining light which reflected the power of God and ultimately brought great glory to God. You would do well to make the daily choice that Daniel made, and when you do, God will continue to have His hand of blessing and protection upon your life.

### Suggestions for Prayer

- \* *Thank God for His protecting power on your life.*
- \* *Ask God to help you trust Him in all circumstances.*

### Thought for the day

---

---

What did the king command (vs 16)?

What did the king say about God (vs 16)?

What did verse 17 emphasize?

How did the king respond after Daniel was thrown in the lion's den (vs 18)?

When did the king go and see if Daniel was okay (vs 19)? What do you think this reveals about the king?

What did the king wonder (vs 20)?

How did Daniel respond to the king (vs 21)? What does this show about the attitude of Daniel?

What did Daniel say God had done (vs 22)?

What did the king order (vs 23)?

Was there any harm done to Daniel (vs 23)? Why did this amaze the king?

What did the king order (vs 24)?

How did the lions respond (vs 24)? What does this reveal about the greatness of God?

What did Darius do in response to this deliverance (vs 25-26)?

How did Darius describe God (vs 26)?

What did Darius recognize that God had the power to do (vs 27)?

What happened to Daniel after this?

What can you learn from this passage?

## ***“Praising God”***

**Study:** Daniel 9:1-19

**Reading:** Luke 11:1-13

**Memory:** Psalm 119:12

**W**hen I went to Bible college, one of our teachers did a session entitled “How To Have a Holy Hour.” He presented the idea that you could pray for at least one hour and divided the time of prayer up into 12 different segments that would last five minutes each. At first, when he mentioned praying for one hour, I thought that would be impossible. Up to that point in my life, I had never prayed for more than five minutes. In his structured time, he began and ended the prayer time with a time with praise and thanksgiving. This was the first time I realized how important praise and thanksgiving was in prayer.

Today, we are going to read a prayer that Daniel prayed and learn some valuable lessons about prayer from Daniel's prayer.

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

It was still the first year of the reign of Darius when Daniel was studying some of the scrolls of Jeremiah's writings. Jeremiah 25:11-12 and 29:10 indicated that the Israelites would be captives for seventy years. Daniel knew that this time would soon be approaching. It was most likely 538 B.C. when this happened and he had been in captivity since 605 B.C. so it has been around 67 or 68 years (vs 1-2).

Once Daniel realized the time was near, he began to pray to God for mercy upon his people. He put on sackcloth and covered himself in ashes, which was a sign of mourning and repentance for the Jewish people. Daniel's prayer began with great praise to God as he declared that God was a God of steadfast love and a God who kept His commandments. He confessed the sin of the people, admitting to the wickedness they had committed in the land of Israel. The people chose not to follow God's commands and their leaders led the people into great wickedness. The fact that they were scattered to foreign lands was a result of their shameful deeds. They had completely neglected God and sought after many other things to bring fulfillment to their lives (vs 3-8).

Though they had done all these things, Daniel knew that God was a

God of great mercy and forgiveness. Over and over God had warned them to repent, yet they failed to listen to His voice. They rejected the prophets and even had some of them killed. As a result, all the curses that God promised would happen to His people for disobedience had been realized. Though it was foreign nations who invaded, Daniel knew they were led by God to carry out the instructions of the Almighty. What Jerusalem experienced was unlike any other destruction. Even though other places were destroyed, the severity and fierceness of the judgement of God on Israel was horrendous (vs 9-12).

Though all of this had been done to Israel, the people had still not fully repented and turned from their wicked ways. Though all the people had not repented, Daniel wanted to lead the charge in this area and come before God in humility and repentance, asking God to forgive them and their sin. He plead with God to turn His wrath away from them and restore the fortunes of the land of Israel. He confessed that they did not deserve His mercy, but asked God to show them mercy. He desired that God forgive the nation and not delay to restore them back to their home in the land of Israel (vs 13-19).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you see the example of prayer that Daniel gave for us to follow? As with many of the prayers in the Bible, Daniel started out with praise to God. Giving praise to God at the beginning of your prayers helps set the tone of your prayer and reminds you who you are praying to. Following a time of praise, Daniel proceeded to a time of humble admission and repentance. As far as we know of, Daniel himself was never involved in the sins that the rest of his nation was guilty of. From everything we read about Daniel, he lived out what God desired from all of His people. Yet, Daniel had a love for His people and a love for the land of Israel and took the time to pray to God for them. Daniel's prayer revealed that he clearly understood that the people did not deserve the mercy of God. No one really does. But the very understanding of mercy is that we are not getting what we really deserve. When you take time to pray, don't forget to make praise, thanksgiving and humble confession a major part of your time talking to God.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

\* *Praise God for being a God of great power and strength.*

When did chapter 9 take place (vs 1)?

What did Daniel read in the scroll of Jeremiah (vs 2)?

What does this reading indicate about Jeremiah?

What did Daniel choose to do (vs 3)?

How did Daniel describe God (vs 4)?

What did Daniel confess about Israel (vs 5)?

Who did the people fail to listen to (vs 6)?

What did Daniel confess about the actions of the people versus the character of God (vs 7)?

Why did Israel deserve "open shame" (vs 8)?

What did Daniel say belonged to God (vs 9)?

What curse was Daniel referring to in verse 11?

How did God carry out His word (vs 12)?

Why was it important that the people realize why all the hard times had come (vs 13)?

Why is it good to evaluate your life when you face difficulties?

Why do you think Daniel made reference to Egypt (vs 15)?

What did Daniel ask (vs 16)?

Why did Daniel want God's face to shine on them (vs 17)?

What did Daniel appeal to in verse 18?

Why do you think Daniel asked God not to delay (vs 19)?



# “Seventy Periods of Seven”

**Study:** Daniel 9:20-27

**Reading:** Nehemiah 1:2-8, Revelation 13:1-10

**Memory:** Psalm 119:12

## What Does the Bible Say?

After reading the scrolls of Jeremiah, Daniel realized that the predicted time for the return to Israel was near. He felt greatly burdened to pray for his fellow Israelites and to offer a prayer of repentance to God for his people. While he was praying, Gabriel suddenly appeared to Daniel. Daniel recognized him from the vision that he previously had where he saw the four beasts. Gabriel explained to Daniel how he had been sent by God to give him insight and understanding into what the future would hold for Israel. Gabriel described how he was sent the moment that Daniel began praying. Gabriel said that he was sent because God loved Daniel. Though not stated in this passage, this love was the result of Daniel’s faithfulness and obedience to God over the years. God wanted to bless Daniel by helping him understand some of what was going to take place in the future (vs 20-23).

Though the prediction of Jeremiah referred to seventy years, here the prediction given to Daniel was about seventy periods of seven. This is often referred to as “seventy weeks.” This was the time that Israel was given to finish their rebellion and to put away their sin, making reconciliation with God. An eternal righteousness would come to the land of Israel in the end. Gabriel described how there would be a command given to rebuild Jerusalem. After this declaration, seven periods of seven would pass and then sixty-two sets of seven would pass. The rebuilding of Jerusalem would not be easy, but would be accomplished and at the end of the sixty-nine sets of seven, an Anointed One would come. It appears that these periods of seven are referring to years. It was around 49 years (seven periods of seven years) from the declaration to rebuild Jerusalem until the end of the Old Testament with the ministry of Malachi. From there, it was around 434 years until Jesus entered into Jerusalem on his triumphal entry. After these sixty-two weeks, the Anointed One would be killed and it will appear that he didn’t accomplish much on the earth during this time. Following the death of the Anointed One, a leader would come and destroy the city of Jerusalem.

This appears to be a prediction of the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. This will be followed by a period of great war and turmoil. Even to this day, the city of Jerusalem is being fought over with the Arab nations in control of the temple mount (vs 24-26).

The seventieth period of seven appears to be a reference to a future seven years known as the tribulation. The ruler during this time will make a covenant of peace which will bring a brief end to the many years of turmoil. Sacrifices will once again be offered on the altar in Jerusalem, but halfway through this time, the sacrifices will be stopped. At this time, the temple will be defiled with sacrifices to false gods which will usher in the last three and a half years of the great judgment of God. During this time, the wrath of God will be poured out on the earth until the Anti-christ is defeated (vs 27).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Though there has been debate for many years over the exact interpretation of this passage, placing together historical events that we know about and prophetic Scriptures of other end times events, we can get a pretty clear picture of what was told to Daniel. One of the key lessons and reminders that always comes to the forefront when talking about any prophecy is the simple fact that God knows what will happen in the end. This means that nothing that happens on the earth will be a surprise to God. This understanding should allow you to have complete and total confidence in Him, even when the world around you appears to be falling apart. It is easy to get bogged down in all the specifics when it comes to prophecy and forget the main reason we are given glimpses into the future. These glimpses are given to build our trust on God and they allow us to live with daily hope.

## Suggestions for Prayer

- \* *Thank God that you can place your future in His hands.*
- \* *Ask God to help you trust that He is at work.*
- \* *Praise God for having the power to control the events of the world.*

## Thought for the day

---

---

What was Daniel doing (vs 20)?

Why do you think he was doing this?

Who appeared to Daniel (vs 21)?

Why do you think he came “swiftly” (vs 21)?

Why did Gabriel come (vs 22)?

When did he say he was sent (vs 23)?

Why did he say he was sent so quickly (vs 23)?

What does this teach you about prayer?

What time period did Gabriel mention (vs 24)?

What was going to happen during these periods (vs 24)?

How much time will pass from the declaration to return to Jerusalem and the coming of the Anointed One (vs 25)?

What was going to happen to Jerusalem (vs 25)?

What was going to happen to the Anointed One (vs 26)?

What will it appear that he accomplished (vs 26)?

What will happen after the Anointed One is killed (vs 26)?

What will happen “in the end” (vs 26)?

Who will make a covenant for a period of seven (vs 27)?

What will happen halfway into this covenant (vs 27)?

What will be the end result (vs 27)?

*\*\*\*This ruler will face complete destruction for his actions.*

Memory Verse:

*Psalms 119:1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! 4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. 5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! 6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. 7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. 8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me! 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. 10 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! 11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. 12 Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!*