



Why Bad Things Happen to Good People?

The prophetic book of Daniel was written for our time. Its prophecies speak with increased meaning to this generation. The angel Gabriel specifically told Daniel to “seal up” these prophecies until the “time of the end” Daniel 12:4, 9.

The Bible prophet Daniel outlines in vivid detail world events now unfolding before our eyes. His predictions, covering twenty-five hundred years of history, clearly outline world events from the prophet’s time (six hundred years before Christ) to ours.

As we near the close of earth’s history, these amazing predictions become more detailed. They reveal the last - day delusions Satan uses to deceive the world’s population. They also carefully outline God’s strategy for the end time.

The prophet Daniel wrote in symbolic language. Just as military planners send secret messages in code to keep the enemy from intercepting and understanding them, so God has cloaked prophecy in symbolic language. He didn’t use symbols to prevent us from understanding His messages. He used them so the evil powers He exposed wouldn’t readily see themselves in the messages and attempt to tamper with them, change them, or destroy them.

By using symbolic images and prophetic pictures, God is able to condense thousands of years of history into a very small space. Each prophetic symbol is clearly explained in Scriptures. Once you understand the meaning of the symbol, Bible prophecy becomes plain.

Best of all, the prophet reveals how to thrive in the tough times ahead. The days ahead will be difficult. A crisis of unimagined fury will break upon the world. Friend, you can do much more than survive - You can thrive. Daniel describes how to tap into resources of spiritual power. As a hostage in a foreign land, subjected to the pressures of mind manipulation, Daniel triumphed. He overcame seemingly insurmountable odds. You can too!

The Book of Daniel must be extremely important. It is the only book which Jesus specifically urges His last day people to study. It contains truth for our time. Daniel's prophecies reveal the plans of God and unmask the plans of the enemy. The book of Daniel can be divided into two parts—stories and prophecies. The stories reveal how to be ready for the earth's final days. The prophecies reveal when these last day events will occur.

In 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, led a vicious attack on Jerusalem. These two cities represented two ways of life – two ideologies – two philosophies. Babylon was the center of rebellion against the true God. It stood for apostasy or a counterfeit system of religion based on idol worship in opposition to the law of God. Jerusalem, the city of Daniel, stood for loyalty, fidelity, and faithfulness. It represented worship of the true God and obedience to His law. In the first verse of Daniel's book, this struggle between the forces of good and the forces of evil is introduced. The great controversy between good and evil which began in heaven (Rev. 12:7-9) continues on earth.

Daniel faithfulness to God brought him God's blessing. When we make decisions that are morally right – when we do right because it is right – we too can expect the abundant blessings of a loving, heavenly Father. We may experience trials. Daniel did! We may experience disappointments. Daniel did! But we can be certain of ultimate triumph at last. God turns our defeats into victories. He turns our scars into stars to shine for His glory forever. In the trials of life we can truly trust Him.

Matt. 24:15 Abomination of desolation, spoken by Daniel

Dan.12:4 Seal the Book to the time of the end.

Dan. 12:6 How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?

Dan. 12:8, 9 Daniel did not understand and was told to close up the book.

Dan. 12:9 Daniel was told that the prophecies were for THE END.

Dan. 1:1 King of Babylon overthrows the King of Jerusalem.

Dan. 1:2 - 4 King takes the golden vessels from the Temple and the children with no blemish back to Babylon.

Dan. 1:5 Daily provisions from the King's table were given.

Dan. 1:6 Some of the children identified that were taken to Babylon.

Dan. 1:7 Daniel and his friends' names were changed.

Changing of Names

Jacob (*Old Testament*) meant Deceiver and God changed it to Israel which means "One Who Wrestled with God and Prevailed".

Daniel means God is my Judge. His name was changed to Belteshazzar which means Keeper of the Treasures of Baal.

Hananiah means The Lord is Gracious unto Me. His name was changed to Shadrach which means Inspiration of the Sun God.

Mishael means God - Like. His name was Meshach which means The Servant of the Goddess of Shebauh.

Azariah means The Lord is my Helper. His name was changed to Abednego which means The Servant of Nebo.

Saul (*New Testament*) meant persecutor and God changed his name to Paul which mean the Disciple.

Dan. 1:8 Daniel would not defile himself with the king's meat.

Prov. 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it is the issues of life.

Prov. 23:7 For he as thinketh in his heart, so is he.

Dan. 1:16 Melzar takes away the king's meat and gives them pulse.

The King's meat was offered to idols first before eaten. The meat was not prepared according to Jewish customs, therefore it was considered unclean. Pulse is a type of lentil stew.

Dan. 1:17 Because they would not defile (*means to waste or ruin by any means*) themselves, God gave them knowledge and skill in learning and wisdom.

Dan. 1:20 Daniel and his friends were ten times smarter than all the magicians and astrologers in the kingdom.

Dan. 1:21 Daniel continued to reign unto the first year of King Cyrus.

Rom. 8:28 All things work together for good...

Many times events of evil effect individuals of good. Immediately after the event we may not understand why, however given the experience of God's Word we know that these events help us to prepare for the soon coming of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior of our life. Even so, come Lord Jesus.