

# DANIEL AT A GLANCE

## AUTHOR

Daniel the Prophet

## DATE

circa 600 BC

## KEY CONCEPT

The covenant kingdom of God, which is on climactic display in the crucified Messiah, stands in contrast to all the kingdoms of this world that rule by self-exaltation and violence.

## TWO PRINCIPLES AT WAR

“The student should learn to view the word as a whole . . . He should understand the nature of the two principles that are contending for supremacy, and should learn to trace their working through the records of history and prophecy, to the great consummation. He should see how this controversy enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the one or the other of the two antagonistic motives.” Ellen White, *Education*, p. 190

## THE PARALLEL VISIONS OF DANIEL

| CHAPTER 2   | CHAPTER 7   | CHAPTERS 8-9   | CHAPTERS 11-12  |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Babylon</b><br>Gold Head<br>605-539 BC   | <b>Babylon</b><br>Lion  |  |   |
| <b>Medo-Persia</b><br>Silver Chest<br>539-331 BC  | <b>Medo-Persia</b><br>Bear  | <b>Medo-Persia</b><br>Ram  | <b>Medo-Persia</b><br>More detail description   |
| <b>Greece</b><br>Bronze Thighs<br>331-168 BC  | <b>Greece</b><br>Leopard  | <b>Greece</b><br>Goat<br>Large Horn: Alexander the Great. Four Horns: Prominent Generals   | <b>Greece</b><br>More detailed description of Alexander and his four generals.  |
| <b>Rome</b><br>Iron Legs<br>168 BC-AD 476   | <b>Rome</b><br>Terrible Beast   | <b>Papal Rome</b><br>Little Horn<br>Defames God’s character by its doctrinal system, corrupt priesthood, and use of force in God’s name. | <b>Pagan and Papal Rome</b><br>Wage war against the “Prince of the Covenant” and His followers. Papacy enters the “glorious land,” but is overcome by the gospel. |
| <b>Divided Rome</b><br>Feet of Iron & Clay<br>AD 476-present                                    | <b>Papal Rome</b><br>Little Horn<br>Blasphemy and coercion                                |  |   |
| <b>Kingdom of God</b><br>Stone becomes mountain. Earthly powers broken by Christ without hands. | <b>Kingdom of God</b><br>The judgment. Little Horn conquered and God’s saints vindicated. | <b>Kingdom of God</b><br>God’s sanctuary cleansed and His character vindicated by the true gospel.                                       | <b>Kingdom of God</b><br>Time of trouble such as never was and God’s people delivered.  |

“Unto two thousand and three hundred days (years); then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel 8:14

“Seventy weeks (490 years) are determined upon thy people.” Daniel 9:24

1810 Years



**Key text:** “Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself.” Daniel 9:26

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

- **Daniel:** the captive Hebrew slave, who models the character of God to his captors.
- **Nebuchadnezzar:** the despotic Babylonian king who comes to realize that God alone is worthy of worship.
- **Belshazzar:** the Babylonian king who becomes so intoxicated with power that he cannot see above or beyond himself.
- **Gabriel:** the high-ranking heavenly angel who guides Daniel’s understanding of his visions.
- **The Terrible Beast:** the pagan Roman Empire, that engine of ruthless power that crucified the embodiment of Love itself.
- **The Little Horn:** the papal Roman empire, masquerading as the church of Christ while defaming God’s character.
- **The Prince of the Covenant:** Jesus, identified as the covenant-keeper of human history, in contrast to all earthly rulers.

## NARRATIVE LOGIC

Daniel brings to view a sweep of history that extends from his time to “the latter days.” But this is not history for history’s sake.

The underlying logic of Daniel’s visions is that history will unfold in such a manner that all coercive systems will fall one to another while the self-sacrificing kingdom of Christ will reign forever and ever by the law of love. Towering with singular character above all earthly rulers, the “Messiah,” giving His life for the life of the world, is the central figure to which Daniel points. Empires rise by means of self-exaltation and violence, and they always fall by the same means. The cross of Christ is the ultimate anti-power play that defeats all the powers of the world.

That’s the message!

# REVELATION AT A GLANCE

**Key Text:** "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this." Revelation 1:19

## AUTHOR

John the Apostle

## DATE

circa AD 90

## KEY CONCEPT

The self-sacrificing love of God manifested in Christ, symbolized by the lamb, will ultimately triumph over all the coercive power structures of the world, symbolized by the dragon.

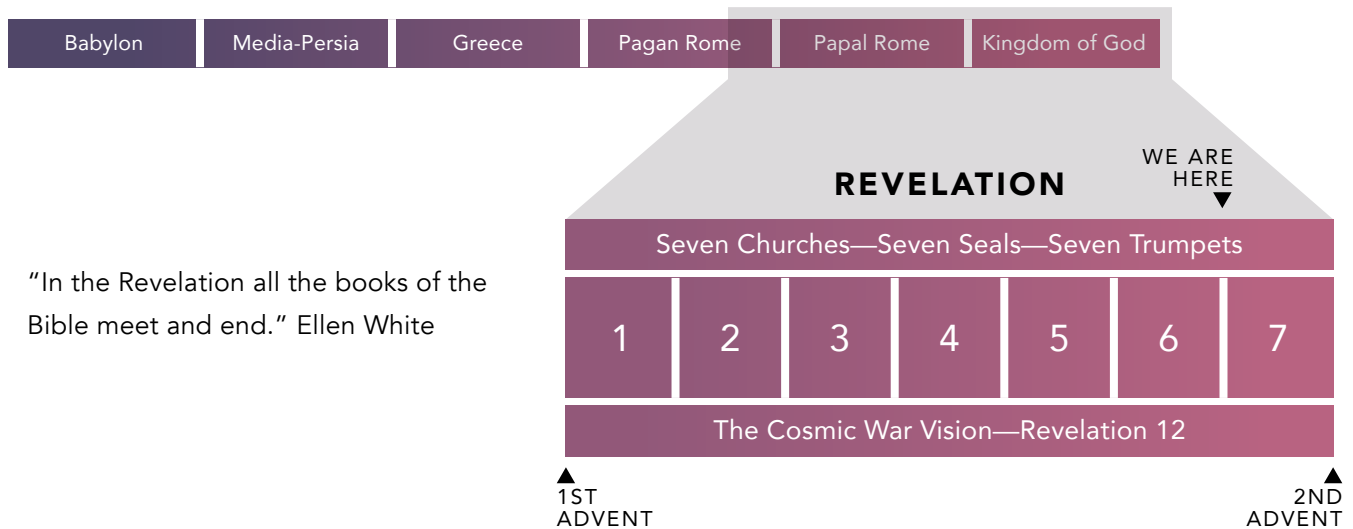
## SCHOOLS OF INTERPRETATION

**Preterism:** John's prophecies were fulfilled in past history with the Roman Empire.

**Futurism:** John's prophecies will be fulfilled during a relatively short period of time in the future.

**Historicism:** John's prophecies unfold from the time of Christ until the end of the world.

## DANIEL



"In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end." Ellen White

## LITERARY STRUCTURE

Revelation is a carefully crafted piece of literary art. The whole book is a poem constructed in the form of a chiasm, or in the shape of a mountain, with two ascending sides that mirror one another while pointing to a common focal point at its pinnacle in the center.

This is John’s way of telling the reader that the cosmic war vision in chapters 12-15 is the interpretive lens through which the whole book is to be understood. All the evil and suffering in the world is traceable to the war that erupted in heaven among the angels under the leadership of Satan, and Christ is the unarmed warrior who conquers Satan by truth and love.

## NARRATIVE LOGIC

**Satan**, using methods of deception and force—working through political and religious systems—misrepresents the character of God and thus seeks to divert allegiance to himself.

**Jesus**, using methods of truth and love—working through His church—gives faithful and true witness to God’s character and thus overcomes evil with good.

Revelation depicts these two systems, with their opposite principles and methods, running parallel from the first advent of Christ to His second advent and beyond to the final eradication of evil.

