

INTRODUCTION: Turn to Daniel 10

- As we've been going through Daniel, we've been looking at how we are to stand as believers
- The first week we looked at Standing in the firey trial
- The second week we looked at Standing in the lion's den
- Last week we looked at Standing in prayer
- Today we are looking at Standing on prophecy

Peter tells us in 2 Peter 1:19

2 Peter 1:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed

- The word confirmed means solid, firm, reliable or steady
- Prophecy gives us a strong foundation for living by helping us gain an eternal perspective as we are facing life's challenges
- It tells us that God is not only working throughout history, but He will work through our history to accomplish His plans
- So today we are going to look briefly at three prophecies in Daniel and make application as to how we are to live in light of these prophecies

But first I want to look at why prophecy is important

- There are those who believe that prophecy doesn't matter
- It doesn't affect me personally, it doesn't have any bearing on whether or not I'm going to heaven so why should I study it?

First of all, it does affect the way you live your life

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

1 John 3:3 (NKJV)

³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Prophecy has a purifying effect on our lives

- It reminds us that time is short and we need to be about eternal things



- Studying prophecy also reminds us of the importance of fellowship with other believers
- The writer of Hebrews exhorts us saying don't forsake going to church, especially as you see the Day approaching
- The first tactic of the enemy is to isolate you
- If you can be isolated, then he can trap you and take you down
- We know that there will be an increase in demonic activity in last days
- It's essential to stay connected to a local church
- Make sure it's a church that teaches the Bible verse by verse from Genesis to Revelation so you get the whole counsel of God

Second, the Bible says we need to know the times that we live in

Matthew 24:42–44 (NKJV)... Jesus said

⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–4 (NKJV)

5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Prophecy has a comforting effect on our lives

- Paul says to comfort and edify one another with prophecy
- We can look at the signs of the times and know that Jesus is coming soon... so don't worry, be happy and get busy for Jesus

Third, Prophecy proves that God is real

Isaiah 46:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the



beginning, And from ancient times *things* that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

Isaiah 42:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them."

- One of the characteristics that sets God above all other gods is the fact that He knows the end from the beginning
- It's like watching at a parade from the top of a tall building... you can see the beginning and the end at the same time
- The people on the street are experiencing the parade as it goes past them... but you can see all the floats, all the activity, all at once
- That is similar to how God sees the history of the universe
- So when God says, this is what is going to happen... it's not a possibility it is a reality... it's history in advance... to God it has already happened
- The purpose is to prepare us for what is to come so pay attention
- Now let's take a moment and look at the 3 major prophecies mentioned in the Book of Daniel

The first is in Daniel 2:31-31

Daniel 2:31–35 (NKJV)

³¹ "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. ³² This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴ You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

- In this first prophecy God provides a timeline for the Kingdoms of the Earth from the time of Nebuchadnezzar to the Kingdom Age
- King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and he sees a great image
- The head was of fine gold – represented the Babylonian Empire
- It's chest and arms of silver – represented the Medo-Persian Empire



- It's belly and thighs of bronze – represented the Grecian Empire
- The legs of iron – represented the Roman Empire
- Now, It's undeniable from history that this sure word of prophecy unfolded in sequence exactly the way God revealed it from Nebuchadnezzar to the Roman Empire (we studied in detail midweek)
- Now the empire represented by feet made of a mixture of iron and clay will come in the near future
- The Iron represents some form of a revived Roman Empire
- The clay represents that this Empire will also be a religious power
- It is in the shape of 2 feet which have 10 toes
- So this final empire will be a military alliance of 10 nations that will be both political and spiritual that will be similar to the Roman Empire
- The final part of Nebuchadnezzar's dream involves a stone cut without hands representing Jesus crushing the feet of clay and iron
- Jesus will defeat the military alliance of 10 nations at the Battle of Armageddon at the time of His Second Coming
- Then Jesus' Kingdom will fill the whole earth

The Second Major prophecy is found in Daniel 7 and it comes in the form of a dream

Daniel 7:2–8 (NKJV)

² Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. ³ And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. ⁴ The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

⁵ "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'

⁶ "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

⁷ "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns. ⁸ I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the



roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

Daniel sees 5 beasts representing the Kingdoms of the earth

- Daniels dream parallels Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Chapter 2
- The first beast represents Babylon, a lion with eagle's wings
- The second beast, a bear, represents the Medo-Persian empire
- The third beast, a leopard, refers to Greece under Alexander the Great
- The leopard has four heads representing the four kingdoms that Greece was divided into after Alexander the Great died
- The fourth beast represents Rome, pictured as a cruel, fierce monster with iron teeth
- The fifth beast emerges from the 10 horns representing 10 nations which conquers 3 of the horns... a 10 nation military federation
- Again, all confirmed by history and revealed nearly 1000 years before they happened... only God can do that

The third major prophecy is the 70 weeks of Daniel found in Daniel 9

Daniel 9:24–27 (NKJV)

²⁴ "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. ²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, *That* from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, *There shall be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. ²⁶ "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it *shall be* with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. ²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

- 69 Weeks after the Decree to rebuild the Temple, the walls and the streets of Jerusalem was issued to the day, Daniel prophesied that Messiah would be revealed
- On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem and was hailed as King



- Daniel said Messiah shall be cut off – Jesus was crucified
- But there is still one week remaining
- In the final week, the antichrist will make a covenant with Israel for peace and negotiate a deal for them to rebuild the temple and begin temple sacrifices... it will be a monumental achievement
- 3 ½ years into the agreement, the antichrist will break the deal, enter the temple and declare himself as god and demand to be worshipped
- 3 ½ years after that, Jesus will return and destroy the antichrist and set up His Kingdom on earth
- We covered these in detail at the midweek study

So how does this apply to us today?

- First of all... the sure word of prophecy gives us the assurance that God's Word is true and can be trusted
- If prophecy is true, then God's promises are equally true
- Second... the sure word of prophecy gives us the assurance that God is real and wants us to know what is going on
- Listen to what the Angel Gabriel tells Daniel

Daniel 9:22–23 (NKJV)

²² "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. ²³ At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell *you*, for you *are* greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

- This isn't hype, this isn't fantasy, this isn't a dream... Daniel had a real encounter but what is more radical than that is this...
- Daniel... God sent me to tell you that He loves you and that He wants you to know and understand what He's telling you
- Third... the sure word of prophecy gives us the assurance that God's plan is not a possibility, but a reality and we can rest in His plan
- I don't have to stress about God's plan for my life
- I don't freak out about circumstances, God is bigger than my circumstances
- I don't freak out about my future, God is in my future
- All I need to do is REST in Him and the REST is up to HIM