



Trusting God When Your World Has Changed

The Daniel Series - Week 1

Daniel 1:1-7

➔ **Note:** As was true for Daniel in having to leave familiar Jerusalem and go to unfamiliar Babylon, in 2020, we have left our familiar world and presently live in a very unfamiliar world. It is to our benefit to turn in God's Word and see how Daniel trusted God when everything in his world had been turned upside down.

Three important things the book of Daniel will show us

- (1) Daniel shows us what true dedication to God looks like.
- (2) Daniel shows us God's care for His children even when they stray.
- (3) Daniel shows us the absolute sovereignty of God in all of human history as he reveals the coming again of the Messiah and the events that will follow including how the world will end.

Section 1 - The setting of the story of Daniel.

(Daniel 1:1-2)

Question: "Can God be trusted even when our world seems to be falling apart?" There are two possible answers: One, "no" God can't be trusted when our world seems to be falling apart. Or two, "yes" God can be trusted even when our world seems to be falling apart. There is no third category. Can the God we trust on the mountain top - be equally trusted when we are in a dark valley? Can the God we trust in the good times - be equally trusted in the tough times? Do we ever have any reason to doubt in the dark - what God has told us in the light? Daniel will give us the answers to each of these questions when his faith in God was challenged.

Section 2 - Operation Assimilation.

(Daniel 1:3-7)

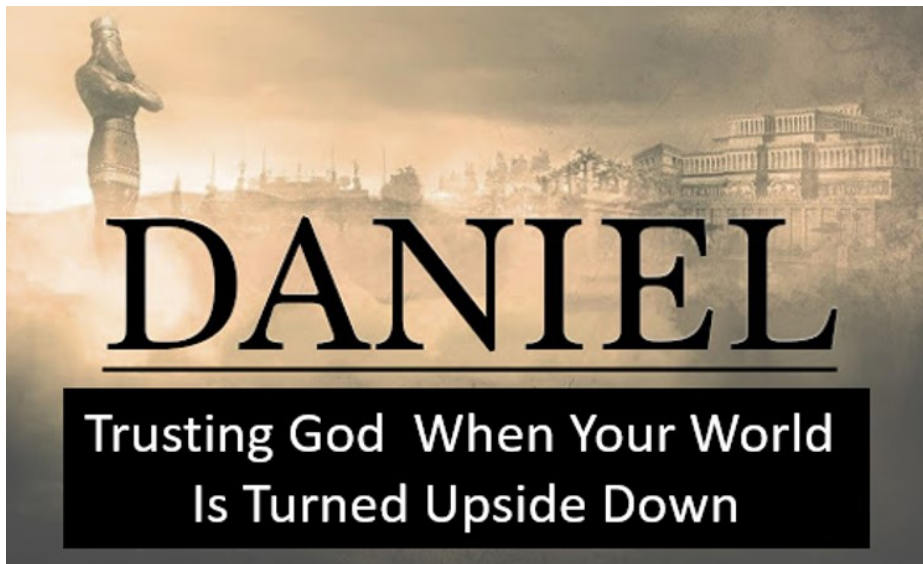
Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - If Daniel could trust God in a lion's den and the three Hebrew children could trust God in a fiery furnace, we should be able to trust God with what we are going through.

Truth #2 - One reason the story of Daniel was given to us in the Bible is so we will dare to be a Daniel today.

* To dare to be a Daniel today means we spend time with God; we live in obedience to God; and we take a stand for God.

Truth #3 - Neither Daniel, nor his three friends, had to have the Temple in order to authentically worship God.



Saying "Yes" to God

"Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down" Week 2 -
Daniel 1:8-21

Note: As was true for Daniel in having to leave familiar Jerusalem and go to unfamiliar Babylon, in 2020, we have left our familiar world and presently live in a very unfamiliar world. It is to our benefit to turn in God's Word and see how Daniel trusted God when everything in his world had been turned upside down.

Daniel's Theme: Believers can always fully trust in the full sovereignty of God. That is, regardless of the circumstances, we can know with confidence that God has supreme reign over everything. Or to put it another simple but accurate way: God is in charge (Daniel 4:17; 25).

Note: When we fully trust in the full sovereignty of God, we can know that He will sometimes use the worst of circumstances to bring about the best scenarios.

Section 1 - Daniel made the decision not to defile himself but rather to remain dedicated to God. (Daniel 1:8)

Note: Here was the key to Daniel honoring God and not defiling himself: Daniel had predetermined what was right and wrong in the eyes of God. Daniel had already resolved in his heart, before he was faced with a temptation, to do what was right. Like Daniel, we can experience many spiritual successes and avoid many of temptation's pitfalls when we have decided in our heart what we will and will not do in order not to defile our heart.

Note: The court officials would begin "Operation Assimilation," of the Israelites by immediately changing two things: their diet (verse 5) and their names (verses 6-7).

Section 2 - Daniel's decision to be faithful to God resulted in benefits and blessings. (Daniel 1:9-21)

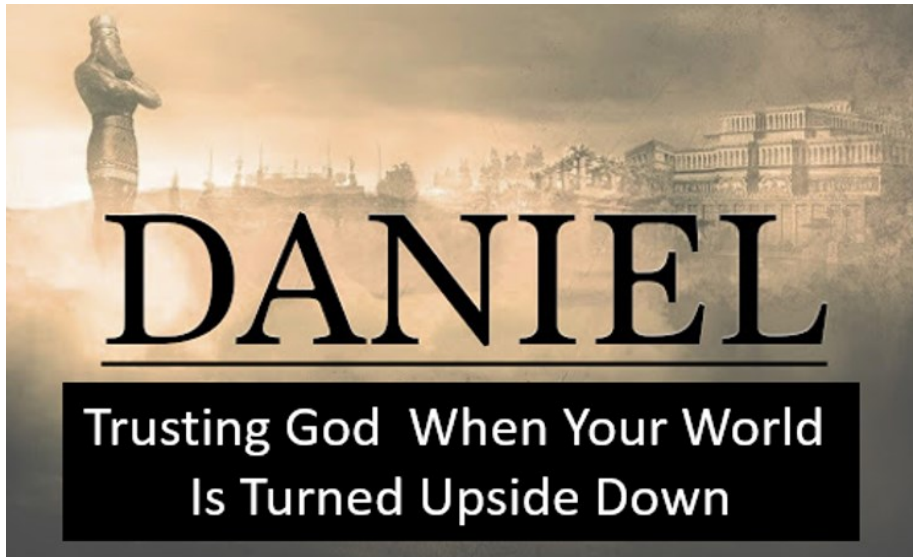
Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - When it came to obeying God, Daniel made a big deal over little things.

Truth #2 - We can always find an excuse when we don't want to do right. Instead, Daniel found a reason to want to do what is right - he loved his God more than he loved sin.

Truth #3 - The Babylonians could change everything about Daniel - his diet, his location, his education, his language, even his name - but they couldn't change his heart because it belonged to God.

Truth #4 - There are blessings reserved for those who say "yes" to God that others never receive.



The World According to God - Part 1

“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”

Week 3 - Daniel 2:1-28

- ◆ **Note:** As was true for Daniel in having to leave familiar Jerusalem and go to unfamiliar Babylon, in 2020, we have left our familiar world and presently live in a very unfamiliar world. It is to our benefit to turn in God's Word and see how Daniel trusted God when everything in his world had been turned upside down.

A Central Truth of Daniel: Believers can always fully trust in the full sovereignty of God. That is, regardless of the circumstances, we can know with confidence that God has supreme reign over everything (Daniel 4:17; 25).

Section 1 - The King who couldn't remember his dream.

(Daniel 2:1-13)

- ◆ **Note:** The declaration of the Babylonian wise men regarding the impossibility of this situation without an intervention from the gods would set up the scenario for Daniel to come on the scene and tell the king about the only true God who could do anything.

Section 2 - Daniel makes the king an offer he can't refuse.

(Daniel 2:14-16)

- ◆ **Note:** Daniel and his friends were innocent in all this, yet he responded calmly to the crisis that came. Daniel's calmness in this crisis shows us what kind of man of God he was: someone who could fully trust God even when his world had been turned upside down.

Section 3 - Daniel seeks the One who sits on Heaven's throne about the dream of a king who sits on an earthly throne.

(Daniel 2:17-23)

- ◆ **Note:** We notice that Daniel had so much confidence in God that he began to praise God for what He was going to do even BEFORE coming to Nebuchadnezzar with an answer to his dream. Our faith level and confidence level in God can be revealed by how long it takes us to start praising God after praying for something. Anyone can praise God AFTER a prayer is answered, but it means we believe in a Big God when we praise him BEFORE a prayer is answered.

Section 4 - There is a God in heaven who can reveal the dream of the king in Babylon. (Daniel 2:24-28)

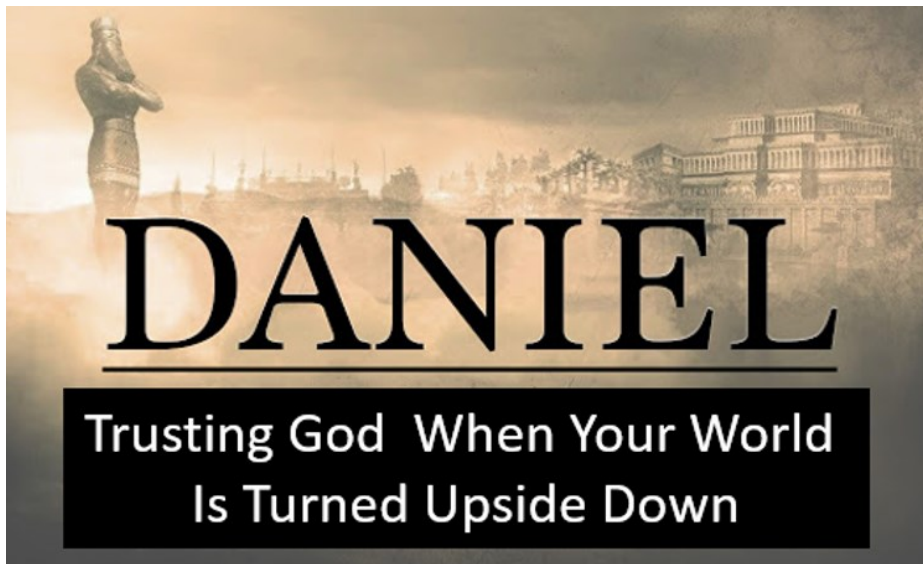
- ◆ **Note:** Arioch may have been attempting to bring praise on himself and Daniel for the answer to the king's dream, but Daniel refused to take credit and gave all credit to God, who revealed this dream to Daniel.

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - The things of this world are unable to satisfy what we need most.

Truth #2 - Even in a time of crisis, a child of God can experience the peace of God.

Truth #3 - No matter what we face on earth we should always remember ... “but there is a God in Heaven.”



Faith in God When In A Fiery Furnace

“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”
Week 5 - Daniel 3:1-30

Note: As was true for Daniel in having to leave familiar Jerusalem and go to unfamiliar Babylon, in 2020, we have left our familiar world and presently live in a very unfamiliar world. It is to our benefit to turn in God’s Word and see how Daniel trusted God when everything in his world had been turned upside down.

Central Truth: Believers can always fully trust in the full sovereignty of God. Regardless of the circumstances, we can know with confidence that God has supreme reign over everything (Daniel 4:17; 25).

Section 1 - King Nebuchadnezzar, so close and yet so far away from knowing the God in Heaven. (Daniel 3:1)

Section 2 - An invitation to a dedication you better not miss. (Daniel 3:2-7)

Section 3 - These believers wouldn’t bend their convictions because of their loyalty to God. (Daniel 3:8-12)

Section 4 - These believers wouldn’t bow to worship anything else because of their loyalty to God. (Daniel 3:13-18)

Section 5 - These believers wouldn’t bend, they wouldn’t bow, and because God was with them, they wouldn’t burn! (Daniel 3:19-25)

Section 6 - Although the king put all the heat he could on the Hebrews, they walked away from the fiery furnace unharmed. (Daniel 3:26-27)

Section 7 - A small number of faithful believers can make a big difference. (Daniel 3:28-30)

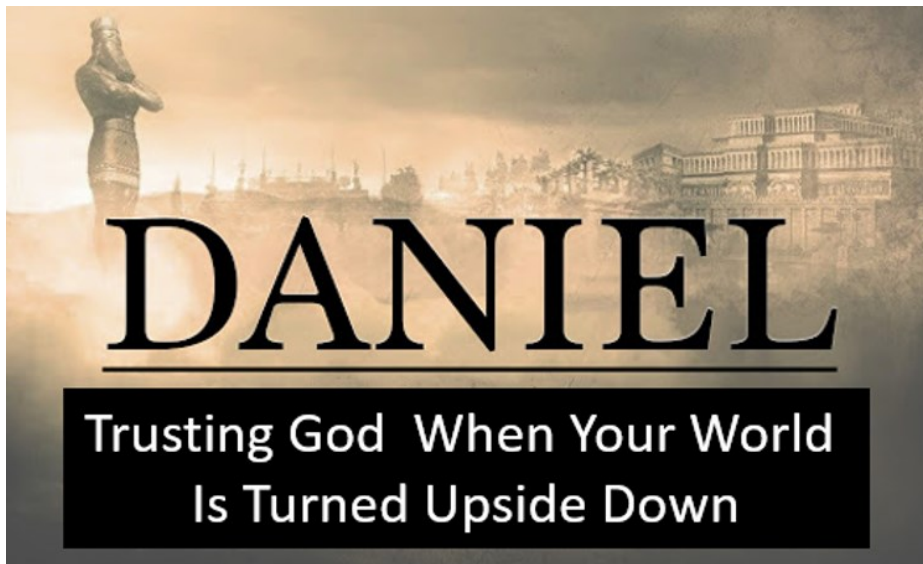
Today’s Take-Away Truths from God’s Word

Truth #1 - We have to learn to rely on God more than anyone else.

Truth #2 - God can deliver us from a challenging circumstance or He can strengthen us through a challenging circumstance. Either way, we can trust Him with the outcome.

Truth # 3 - It’s okay to pray, “God, I don’t know if you will, but I don’t doubt that you can. Your will be done.”

Truth #4 - Whatever we go through in life - God is with us.



Nebuchadnezzar's God Story

“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”
Week 6 - Daniel 4:1-37

Note: As was true for Daniel in having to leave familiar Jerusalem and go to unfamiliar Babylon, in 2020, we have left our familiar world and presently live in a very unfamiliar world. It is to our benefit to turn in God's Word and see how Daniel trusted God when everything in his world had been turned upside down.

Central Truth: Believers can always fully trust in the full sovereignty of God. Regardless of the circumstances, we can know with confidence that God has supreme reign over everything.
(Daniel 4:17; 25)

Section 1 - Although Babylon had many gods, King Nebuchadnezzar now tells everyone about the Most High God. (Daniel 4:1-3)

Section 2 - Nebuchadnezzar was still learning - he should have called for Daniel first, not last. (Daniel 4:4-9)

Section 3 - The King has another dream and wants to know what it might mean. (Daniel 4:10-18)

Section 4 - Daniel reluctantly tells the King the meaning of his dream. (Daniel 4:19-27)

Section 5 - What God said would happen, happened. (Daniel 4:28-33)

Section 6 - Nebuchadnezzar shares his God story to others.
(Daniel 4:34-37)

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

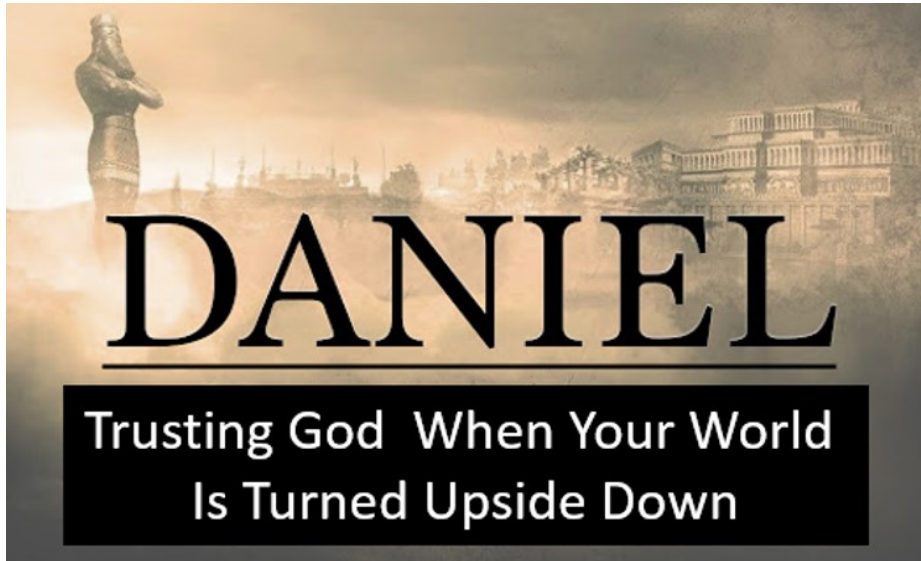
Truth #1 - Being impressed with God isn't the same as being converted by God. Many people know about God but they don't know God.

Truth #2 - God cares about everyone including those who are far from Him.

Truth #3 - Pride is a sin because it is us claiming credit for something that God did. The moment we start taking credit for the good things in our life, we are in essence inviting God to humble us.

Truth #4 - God's purpose in humbling us is not to destroy us, but to draw us back to Him.

Truth #5 - Although it takes faith to believe it, everything God does is right (Daniel 4:37).



When The Writing Is On the Wall

“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”
Week 7 - Daniel 5:1-31

Four changes as we come to Daniel chapter five

Change #1 - A new king is on the throne.

Change #2 - The time period has fast-forwarded about 70 years.

Change #3 - Babylon is no longer the dominant empire - it is now a diminishing empire.

Change #4 - The new king is not a godly king like Nebuchadnezzar had become.

- ◆ **Section 1 - Belshazzar’s blasphemous banquet.**
(Daniel 5:1-4)
- ◆ **Section 2 - God crashes Belshazzar’s banquet.**
(Daniel 5:5-9)
- ◆ **Section 3 - Daniel is given a royal recommendation from the queen.** (Daniel 5:10-12)
- ◆ **Section 4 - The king offers a deal to Daniel.**
(Daniel 5:13-16)
- ◆ **Section 5 - Belshazzar should have known better.**
(Daniel 5:17-23)
- ◆ **Section 6 - Daniel tells Belshazzar that God’s judgment has come to Babylon.** (Daniel 5:24-28)

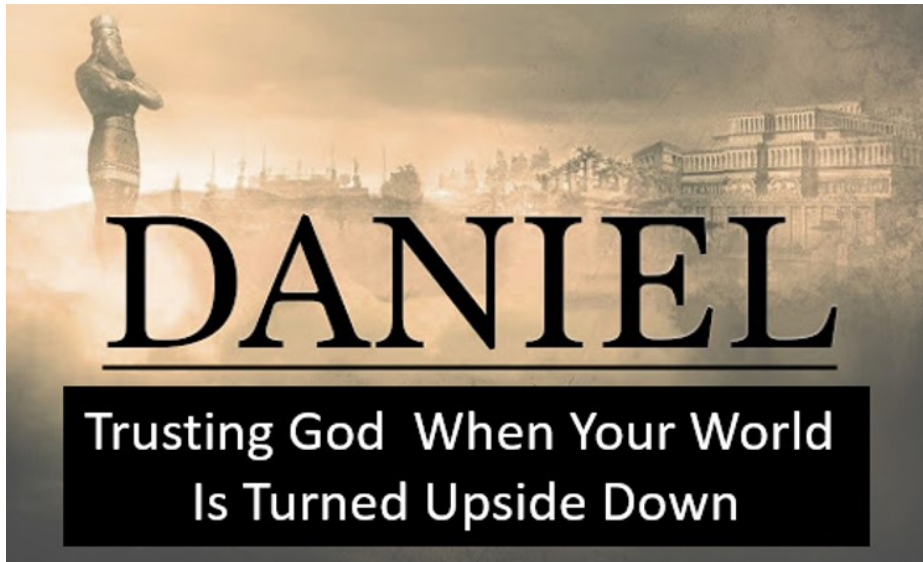
Section 7 - What God said would happen, happened.
(Daniel 5:29-31)

Today’s Take-Away Truths from God’s Word

Truth #1 - God’s Word is sure.

Truth #2 - God has a limit to how far He will allow people to go in their sin before the consequences of judgment.

Truth #3 - Relying on the wisdom of the world and neglecting the wisdom of God is foolishness.



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Section 2 - Trying to dig up dirt on Daniel would not be an easy task. (Daniel 6:4-5)

Section #3 - A plot is devised to put Daniel away. (Daniel 6:6-9)

Section #4 - Daniel's faithfulness to God causes him to be condemned to the lion's den. (Daniel 6:10-15)

Section #5 - Daniel was not touched by a lion because the lions were touched by an angel. (Daniel 6:16-23)

Section #6 - Darius issues a new decree - All must honor the God of Daniel. (Daniel 6:24-28)

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - It should not surprise us when the devil uses modern day "administrators and satraps" to try to trip us up if they can.

Truth #2 - As long as you have a pulse, you have a purpose. Age is nothing but a number to God. He used Daniel in his 80's as much as He did in his 20's.

Truth #3 - Daniel was a very busy man still he made time to pray.

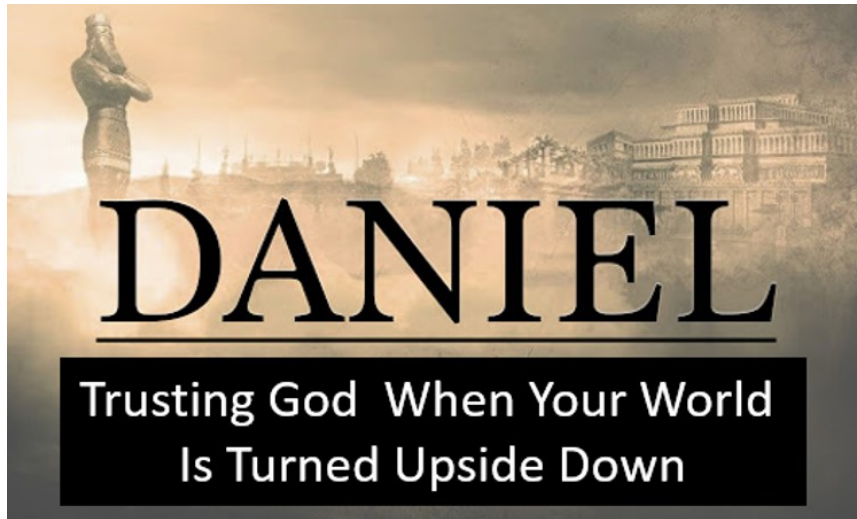
Truth #4 - Doing right is no guarantee that everything will go right.

Truth #5 - Never give up on what God can do.

Lessons to Learn from Daniel and the Lions "Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down" Week 8 - Daniel 6:1-28

Note: Before getting into Daniel chapter 6, let's remember these two facts. **Fact #1** - Daniel is now an older man. He came to Babylon as a teenager. All his adult life has been spent serving in the courts of various pagan rulers. God planted him there for a bigger purpose. Now, he is over 80 years old. **Fact #2** - He is now serving under a new king named Darius (duh-RI-uhs) who rules over a new kingdom, the Medo-Persian Empire. The names of king and kingdoms have changed but the spiritual challenge is still the same. Will Daniel remain faithful to God when the pressure is on?

Section 1 - Daniel is to get another promotion. (Daniel 6:1-3)



DANIEL

Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down

Where in the World is Our World Going?

“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”
Week 9 - Daniel 7:1-28

One book with two parts - The book of Daniel divides into two parts. The first six chapters are a **BIOGRAPHY**. They tell about Daniel and his God stories. The goal of all his stories, from a fiery furnace to a den of lions, was to point people to the living God, the God in Heaven, the Most High God whom all can trust and follow.

Starting with Chapter 7, the book changes from biography to **PROPHECY**. The next six chapters detail dreams and visions given to Daniel from God revealing the history of humanity from Daniel’s day to the end of time. Although much of Daniel’s prophetic dreams has already accurately been fulfilled, there are parts of biblical prophecy still to be fulfilled which could even be fulfilled in our time.

Today’s Central Truth: Seeing how past biblical prophecies have been fulfilled gives us confidence in the fulfillment of all future biblical prophecies yet to come.

One dream with three visions - Chapter 7 describes one dream but with three visions. Vision number one is the four beasts that rise out of the sea (vv.2-8). Vision number two is the Ancient of Days on His throne (vv.9-10). And vision number three, Christ being given His kingdom as He comes in glory (vv.11-14).

Daniel 2



Daniel 7

Babylon
605-539 BC



Medo-Persia
539-331 BC



Grecia
331-168 BC



Rome
168 BC-476 AD



Introduction - Daniel's disturbing dream.

(Daniel 7:1)

Section 1 - Daniel's first vision in his dream - four great beasts rising out of the great sea. (Daniel 7:2-8)

Section 2 - Daniel's second vision in his dream - the Ancient of Days sitting on His throne. (Daniel 7:9-10)

Section 3 - Daniel's third vision in his dream - Christ is given His everlasting kingdom. (Daniel 7:11-14)

Section 4 - Daniel is saddened by what he sees.

(Daniel 7:15-16)

Section 5 - The interruption of Daniel's dream.

(Daniel 7:17-27)

Conclusion - Daniel is discouraged by his dream.

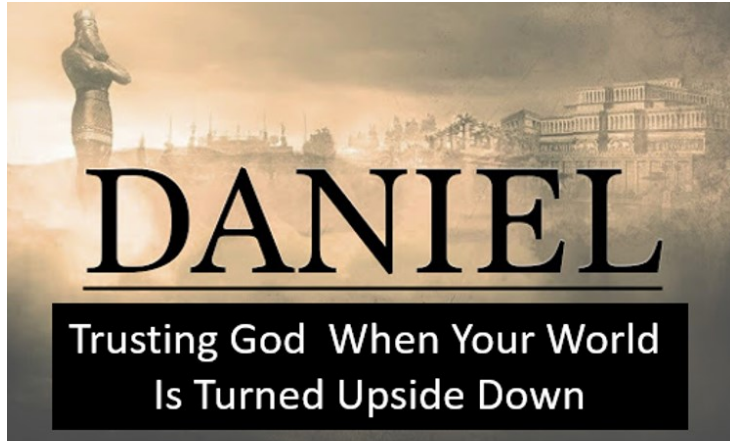
(Daniel 7:28)

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - Although biblical prophecy tells us the direction of human history, it doesn't tell us all the details. When it comes to end-time discussions, we must wisely stick with what Scripture says and be aware of endless speculations (Deuteronomy 29:29; Matthew 24:36; Acts 1:7). The major truths God wants us to know will have a clear meaning.

Truth #2 - What we do or don't do with our life matters (Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10). What does the book of my life say about me? Does it show I am living a God-pleasing life? Does it show I am living a self-pleasing life? I want to make the rest of my life the best of my life for God.

Truth #3 - Prophecy is revealed, not to give us particulars of things to come, but to change our perspective about things to come. It reminds us that God is on the throne and is in control!



A Preview of the Final World Ruler

“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”
Week 10 - Daniel 8:1-27

Today’s Central Truth: While the 8th chapter of Daniel contains ancient history, it also tells us something important about future events yet to come. Events which could be fulfilled in our lifetime. Therefore, as with each chapter of Daniel, we want to see what God wants us to know.

Section 1 - The introduction to Daniel’s next prophetic vision. (Daniel 8:1-2)

Section 2 - Daniel sees a ram on the rampage.
(Daniel 8:3-4)

Section 3 - Daniel sees a goat challenge and conquer the ram. (Daniel 8:5-8)

Section 4 - Daniel sees a little horn who rises to a big identity. (Daniel 8:9-12)

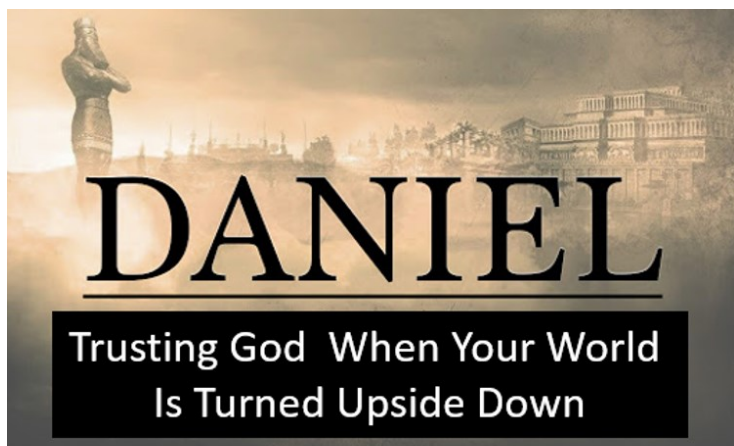
→ **Note:** A “dual prophecy” is a prophecy that contains an interpretation for those who lived during the time when the prophecy was given, and an interpretation for a future generation to which the aspects of the prophecy apply. In other words, some Bible prophecies have both an ancient and a modern fulfillment. Typically, the ancient fulfillment is a partial fulfillment. Some prophetic statements sometimes apply to more than one fulfillment; dual applications do exist. This is true in Daniel chapter 8 with Antiochus and the future Antichrist.

Section 5 - The question is asked “How long will evil be tolerated.” (Daniel 8:13-14)

Section 6 - Daniel gets together with Gabriel.
(Daniel 8:15-18)

Section 7 - Daniel’s vision is interpreted.
(Daniel 8:19-26)

Section 8 - Daniel’s response to this second prophetic vision. (Daniel 8:27)



When Things Look Hopeless - Part 1

“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”
Week 11 - Daniel 9:1-19

Today’s Central Truth: Understanding the 9th chapter of Daniel allows us to have an understanding of the rest of what the Bible says about the future. If we miss what this chapter tells us, much of Revelation and future prophecy will be a mystery.

For instance, if we have wondered where the future seven year Tribulation period comes from, we can find the answer in Daniel chapter 9. Jesus refers to this prophecy of Daniel in Matthew 24:15 as does the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4. And the amazing events of Revelation chapters 6-19 are just an expansion of Daniel 9:27.

What is presented here in a condensed form of prophecy is greatly expanded in the New Testament. This passage is the key that unlocks other biblical prophecies.

Section 1 - Daniel begins to pray and plead to God about something deeply troubling him. (Daniel 9:1-3)

Section 2 - Daniel glorifies God for His goodness while confessing the sins of Israel’s wrongness. (Daniel 9:4-15)

Section 3 - Daniel asks God to forgive Israel and to restore Jerusalem. (Daniel 9:16-19)

Today’s Take-Away Truths from God’s Word

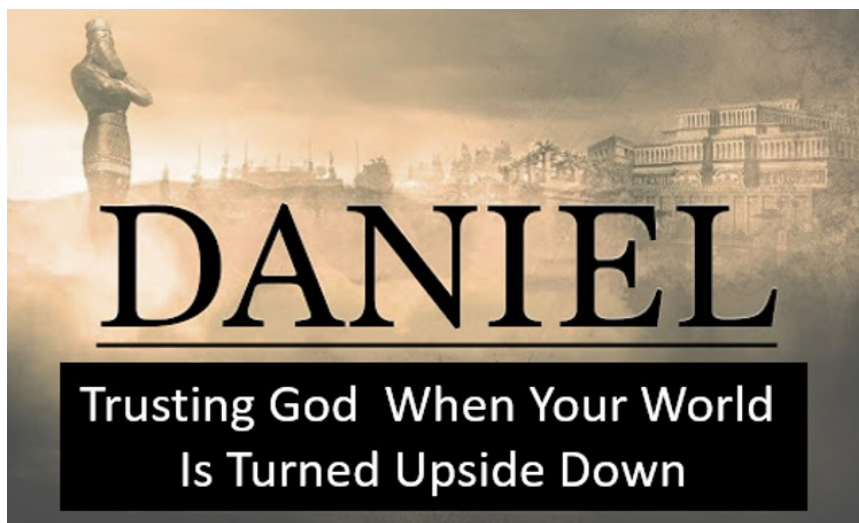
Truth #1 - Daniel believed that if something was big enough to worry about, it was big enough to pray about.

Truth #2 - Daniel was a high government official who would have had a demanding daily schedule - yet he always made time to pray.

Truth #3 - When we’ve blown it, we need to own it.

Truth #4 - When things look hopeless, don’t lose hope.

Psalm 42:11: “Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again - my Savior and my God!”



When Things Look Hopeless - Part 2

“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”
Week 12 - Daniel 9:20-27

Today’s Central Truth: Understanding the 9th chapter of Daniel allows us to have an understanding of the rest of what the Bible says about the future. What is presented in this chapter in a condensed form of prophecy is expanded more fully in the New Testament. But it is this passage from Daniel 9 that is the key to understanding the other biblical prophecies.

Section 1 - The angel Gabriel arrives with an announcement. (Daniel 9:20-23)

- ◆ **Note:** Daniel had just considered the number 70 from the 70 years of captivity for Israel prophesied by the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 25:11-13; 29:10-14). But now, Gabriel was going to show Daniel another prophecy with the number 70 that would really amaze him!

Section 2 - The prophecy of the seventy weeks of Daniel. (Daniel 9:24-27)

- ◆ **Note:** Daniel needed Gabriel’s help to understand that there was an immediate prophecy to be fulfilled regarding 70 years and the **RETURN** of Israel to Jerusalem; but there was also a future prophecy to be fulfilled regarding 70 weeks (490 years) and the **RESTORATION** of Israel at the end times.
- ◆ **Note:** After nearly 2,000 years away from their homeland, on May 14, 1948, the Jews returned to their homeland in Israel. This return was unprecedented in world history. Never had a destroyed and scattered ancient people managed to retain their national identity through almost 20 centuries and reestablish their nation in their original homeland.

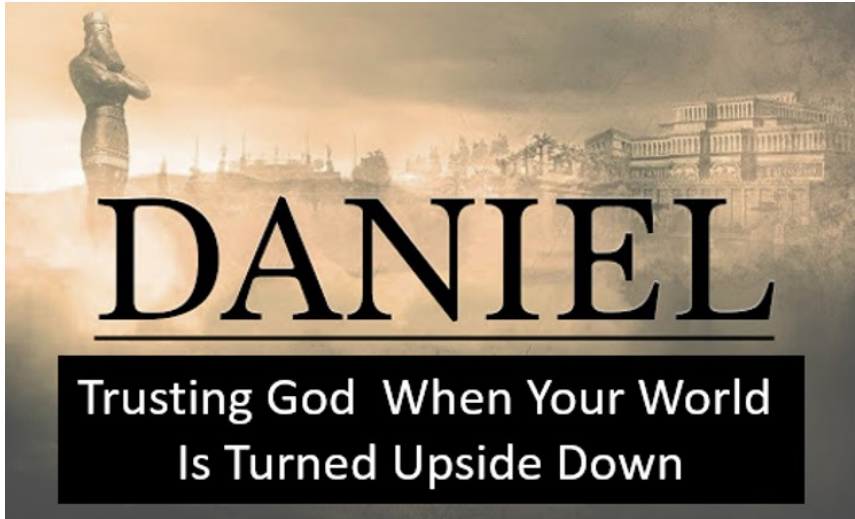
True: “You cannot find the ancient neighbors of the Jews anywhere. Have you ever met a Moabite? Do you know any Hittites? Are there any tours to visit the Ammonites? Can you find the postal code of a single Edomite? No! These ancient peoples disappeared from history and from the face of the earth. Yet the Jews, just as God promised, returned to their land.” (Gary Frazier)

Today’s Take-Away Truths from God’s Word

Truth #1 - God will one day fulfill every promise to Israel. This is a wonderful reminder for us today and in our future of the faithfulness of our God who always keeps His promises.

Truth #2 - Although no one knows when Jesus will return again, no one has ever been closer to the coming again of Jesus than we are right now.

Truth #3 - Although some prophecies have several interpretations one thing is for certain: God has a time table and He is keeping things exactly on schedule. He knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10).



A Glance at Seeing the Unseen

“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”
Week 13 - Daniel 10:1-21

Section 1 - The setting of Daniel’s fourth and final vision. (Daniel 10:1-3)

Section 2 - Daniel has a vision and sees a mysterious man. (Daniel 10:4-6)

◆ **Note:** “No contradictions - no heartburn.” Pastor Jerry’s principle for rightly dividing the Word of God when more than one interpretation is possible (2 Timothy 2:15). If an interpretation of Scripture doesn’t contradict the rest of Scripture, either interpretation will not give me heartburn. I just ask “What is the important idea God’s wants me to know?”

Section 3 - Daniel saw what the others didn’t.
(Daniel 10:7-9)

Section 4 - Daniel is touched by an angel and talked to by an angel. (Daniel 10:10-14)

Section 5 - In his weakness, Daniel finds strength.
(Daniel 10:15-19)

Section 6 - Spiritual battles will continue to go on even though the Great War has already been won.
(Daniel 10:20-21)

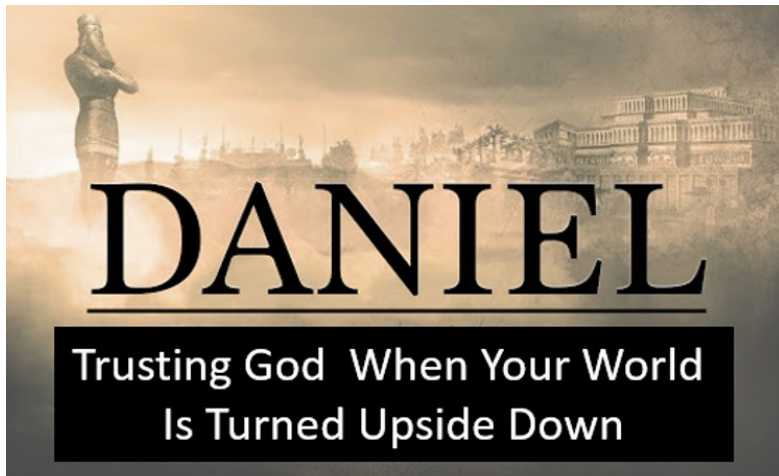
Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - When our world is turned upside down, it could seem that God doesn't care about what's going on, but He does.

Truth #2 - Prayer matters.

Truth #3 - Spiritual warfare is real but our focus shouldn't be on angels or demons or the devil, but on Jesus. Hebrews 12:1-2 reminds us to run with endurance the race God has set before us and to fix our eyes on Jesus.

Truth #4 - Who is God's counterpart? Satan? No. The answer is no one! Jeremiah 10:6: "There is none like You, O Lord; You are great, and great is Your name in might." Although Satan is mighty, our God is Almighty!



Purpose #3 - Prophecy points people to God and His plan for their life. (Luke 24: 25-27)

♦ **Note:** Parts of Daniel chapter 11 can be challenging to fully understand but that does not mean it should be skipped over. All Scripture, including Daniel chapter 11, is inspired by God and beneficial to the reader (2 Timothy 3:16). We do not have to understand all the particulars of a prophecy for it to be profitable to us.

Section 1 - Four future kings and the rise of a mighty king. (Daniel 11:1-4)

Section 2 - The strength of the king of the South. (Daniel 11:5)

Section 3 - Nothing brings dynasties together like a marriage. (Daniel 11:6)

Section 4 - From the South, an army defeats the kingdom of the North. (Daniel 11:7-9)

Section 5 - The sons of the king of the North and their victory. (Daniel 11:10)

The Amazing Accuracy of Biblical Prophecy
“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”
Week 14 - Daniel 11:1-20

A definition of prophecy: Prophecy is the foretelling of things to come as planned by God. For the believer, biblical prophecy helps us make sense of what’s happening in the world today and lets us know that events are happening according to God’s plan as He is bringing everything to pass.

What is the purpose of prophecy in the Bible?

Purpose #1 - Prophecy shows that God exists and that the Bible is His revealed Word. (Isaiah 44:7; Ezekiel 33:33)

Purpose #2 - Prophecy shows that God is in ultimate control. (Isaiah 46:9-11)

Section 6 - The battles continue between the South and North with both being winners and losers.
(Daniel 11:11-14)

Section 7 - Meanwhile, back in Israel. (Daniel 11:15-16)

Section 8 - Here we go again with another royal wedding. (Daniel 11:17)

Section 9 - The king of the North is stopped and stumbles. (Daniel 11:18-19)

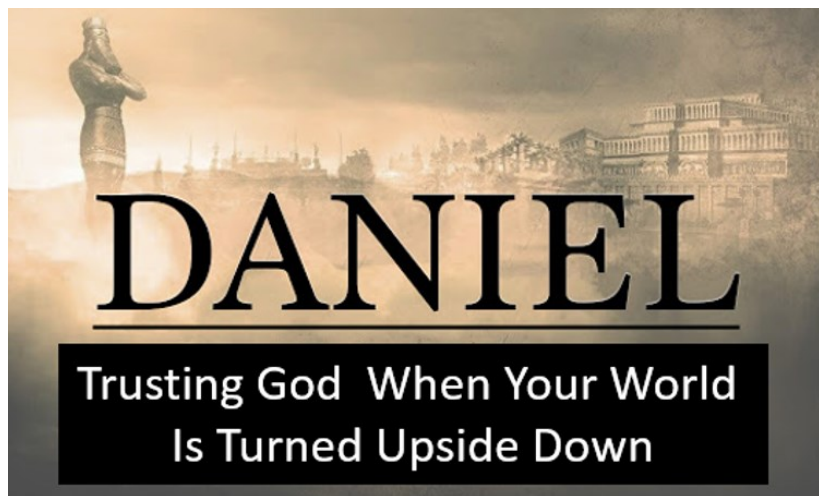
Section 10 - The brief reign of the succeeding king of the North. (Daniel 11:20)

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - What prophecy says, history shows to be true.

Truth #2 - God puts the details of history in the Bible to show us how absolutely God knows everything in history before it ever happens.

Truth #3 - Bible prophecy should give believers great comfort and encouragement as they remind us that God has been, still is, and always will be in control.



***Meet the One Man Who Will One Day
Rule the World***

“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”
Week 15 - Daniel 11:21-45

A definition of biblical prophecy: Biblical prophecy is the foretelling of things to come as planned by God. For the believer, biblical prophecy helps us make sense of what’s happening in the world. We don’t always know the details of where the world is going, but we do know the direction. God has a masterplan for humanity and He is bringing everything to pass according to His plans (Isaiah 46:9-11).

Section 1 - Meet Antiochus - a preview of the Antichrist. (Daniel 11:21-35)

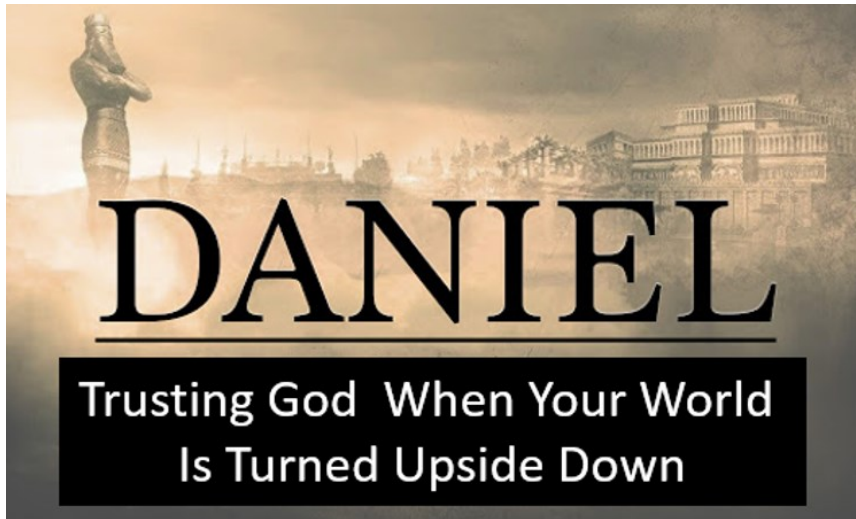
- ◆ **Note #1** - Once again, what prophecy foretold, history shows fulfilled. This prophecy was fulfilled in a man named Antiochus IV.
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- ◆ **Note #2** - Every peace treaty that has ever been made since the world began has been broken. This one was just one more broken peace treaty like all the rest. Although I believe in efforts to work for “peace in the Middle East,” biblically, we know two truths about nations finding peace in this world. Truth number one: peace treaties will continue to be broken (even in the last 3 ½ years of the world), because we live in a broken world. Truth number two: lasting peace in our world will never happen until the return of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ!
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- ◆ **Note #3** - One of the Bible study principles we want to practice in being a good student of the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15) is this: “Read scripture slowly.” Sometimes there is a small word or a small phrase in a verse that makes a big difference if we don’t rush past it.
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- ◆ **Note #4** - Notice the small phrase “at the appointed time.”
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That phrase is a reminder that God has all things planned out. God appoints the times of all the events according to His plans (see also verses 29 and 35).



The Beginning of the End - Part 1

“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”
Week 16 - Daniel 12:1-4

- ◆ **Note #1** - As was true for Daniel in having to leave familiar Jerusalem and go to unfamiliar Babylon; in 2020, we have left our familiar world, and presently live in a very unfamiliar world. It is to our benefit to turn in God’s Word and see how Daniel trusted God when everything in his world had been turned upside down.

A definition of biblical prophecy: Biblical prophecy is the foretelling of things to come as planned by God. For the believer, biblical prophecy helps us make sense of what’s happening in the world. We don’t always know the DETAILS of where the world is going but we do always know the DIRECTION. God has a masterplan for humanity, and He is bringing everything to pass according to His plans (Isaiah 46:10-11).

Section 1 - Another great time of trouble for Israel. (Daniel 12:1a)

- ◆ **Note #2** - At that very time, when everything is at its worst on earth, hope from Heaven will come. When everything gets to its worst in this world, it will be time for the best with the return of Jesus.
 - ◆ **Note #3** - The Bible tells us that the tribulation period will be (1) a **SPECIFIC** time. It will be limited to seven years only. (2) It will be a **SEVERE** time. As the angel said to Daniel in chapter 12:1, and as Jesus said in Matthew 24:21, there has never been a time of distress in the world like there will be in the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation period. (3) It will be a **SHORTENED** time. Jesus said in **Matthew 24:22**: “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”
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Section 2 - Another great promise of deliverance for Israel. (Daniel 12:1b)

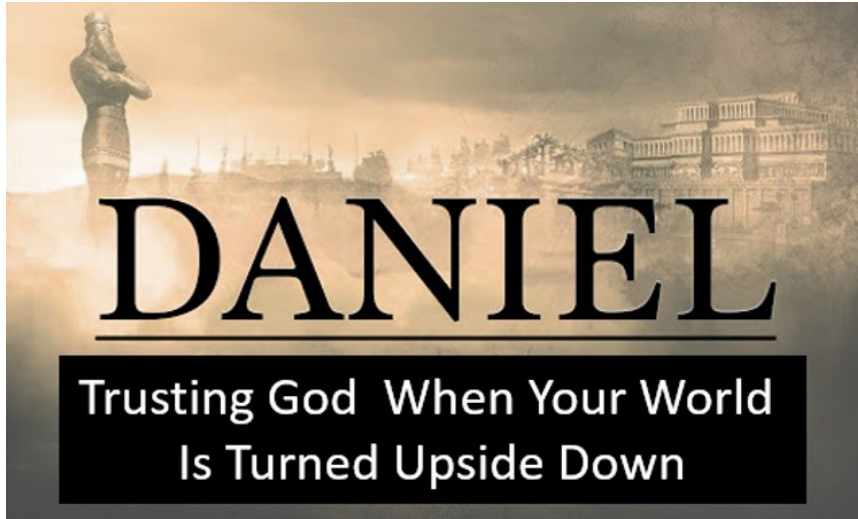
- ◆ **Note #4** - In the New Testament, and in some verses in the Old Testament, we find mentioned the “Book of Life.” This is “the book” God keeps in heaven of all the saved. Only those whose names are written in that book will be allowed into everlasting life in Heaven (Daniel 12:1; Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; and Revelation 20:15).
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Section 3 - The terrible tribulation will lead to a glorious resurrection. (Daniel 12:2)

- ◆ **Note #5** - The righteous Judge will judge all sin (Hebrews 9:27). And there are only two places in the world where sins can ultimately be judged: at the cross or in hell.
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Section 4 - The “stars” of this world are different from God’s “stars” who will shine forever. (Daniel 12:3)

- ◆ **Note #6** - Anytime you share with anyone, in your words and deeds, that God is the difference-maker in your life and “What Jesus did for me, He can do for you,” you are being one of God’s stars shining His light and love to this dark world.
 - ◆ **Note #7** - The end-time prophecies given to Daniel has meaning and benefit to every generation of believers, but there will only be full understanding of these prophecies to the last generation of believers.
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The Beginning of the End - Part 2

“Trusting God When Your World Is Turned Upside Down”

Week 17 - Daniel 12:5 -13

A definition of biblical prophecy: Biblical prophecy is the foretelling of things to come as planned by God. For the believer, biblical prophecy helps us make sense of what’s happening in the world. We don’t always know the DETAILS of where the world is going but we do always know the DIRECTION. God has a master plan for humanity, and He is bringing everything to pass according to His plans (Isaiah 46:10-11).

- ◆ **Note #1** - Even though futurist books, including books of future prophecy, sell millions and become best-sellers, the only true source of knowledge about the future is the Bible.
- ◆ **Note #2** - From the prophetic book of Daniel we have seen God give history before it happened. We have looked time and time again at what prophecy says - history shows it to be true. What prophecy promises - history proves. Therefore, because God has sovereignly controlled all of the past, we know He will

sovereignly control all the future.

Section 1 - How long will this time of trouble be?

(Daniel 12:5-7)

- ◆ **Note #3** - “No contradictions - no heartburn.” If there are two or more interpretations of Scripture, and neither interpretation contradicts the rest of Scripture, either interpretation can be acceptable - and doesn’t give me theological heartburn. I just ask, “What is the important idea here that God wants me to know?”

Section 2 - Daniel's last question: how will it all turn out?

(Daniel 12:8-12)

- ◆ **Note #4** - Verse 9 is a good Bible-based principle for us to follow. Be content with what God has chosen to reveal, and do not spend time speculating or stressing out on what God has not revealed.

A picture of the Tribulation before, during, and after

1. Before the 7-year Tribulation starts, all believers on earth will be raptured (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:9).
2. After the rapture of the church, the Antichrist enters a treaty with Israel. This begins the seven-year Tribulation (Daniel 9:27).
3. At the midpoint of the Tribulation (3 ½ years), the Antichrist will break the treaty with Israel, desecrate the temple of God in Jerusalem, and begin a great persecution to eliminate all the Jews.

