

DANIEL, VOLUME 2: GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

A PROPHETIC COLLAGE

DANIEL 7



The Heart of the Matter

When we turn the page from chapter 6 to chapter 7 in the book of Daniel, we leave the relatively easy narrative and biographical sections of the book to enter the more difficult and mysterious sections of prophecy. Daniel 7, though seemingly random and disjointed, offers an overview of God's grand design for humanity—all of which was future to Daniel, some but not all of which is history to us. In this collage of prophecy, we'll see the sovereignty of God once again—sovereignty we can trust in.



Discovering the Way

1. Overview of Daniel 7 (Daniel 7:1)

Chronologically, Daniel 7 fits between chapters 4 and 5. Structurally, the chapter is divided by the phrase, "I kept looking." Comparatively, the chapter is similar to chapter 2.

2. The Vision Revealed (Daniel 7:2–27)

Part one of the prophecy is of elements and animals (7:2–8). Part two is of thrones and judgment (7:9–12). And part three provides some intervention and interpretation (7:13–27).

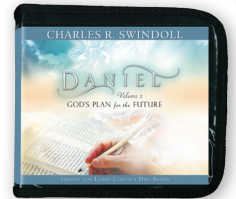


Starting Your Journey

Prophecy of strange beasts, one-world domination, and judgment can be frightening (Daniel 7:28), but we can have peace in knowing that historically *the first three kingdoms have been as God predicted and so will the fourth and that nations are established by God, dwelling under His sovereign control*. Personally, we can rest assured because *the God who has mapped out our future certainly is able to handle our present and while life may appear to be a collage, it is, in reality, the unfolding of God's perfect plan*.



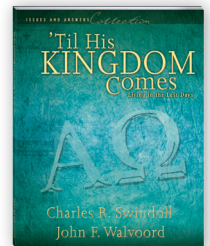
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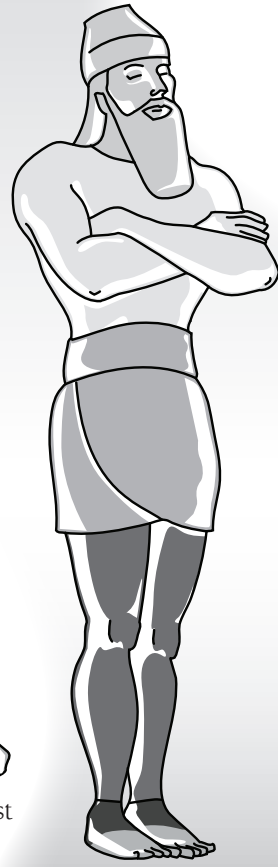


DANIEL, VOLUME 2: GOD’S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE
A PROPHETIC COLLAGE
DANIEL 7





Comparison of Daniel 2 and Daniel 7

Chapter 2		Chapter 7	
Metals	Kingdoms	Beasts	Meaning
Gold	→ Babylon	→ _____	→ _____
Silver	→ Medo-Persia	→ _____	→ _____
Bronze	→ Greece	→ _____	→ _____
Iron	→ Western Nations (Rome)	→ _____	→ _____



Iron and Clay

Christ



Kingdom of God



DANIEL, VOLUME 2: GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

THE FINAL WORLD DICTATOR

SELECTED SCRIPTURES



The Heart of the Matter

Freedom and security have been at war almost from the dawn of humanity, with security usually winning out. Dictators through the ages have always known this truth: many people will give up their freedom for security. At no time in human history will this be more evident than during the terrible time that will come when the Antichrist rules the world. The Bible speaks of this world dictator in great detail and challenges people to make a choice—accept freedom in Christ and the security of everlasting life, or seek temporary security in the Antichrist and suffer enslavement to damnation.



Discovering the Way

1. General Information about the Antichrist

In the chaotic aftermath of the rapture, one will arise to bring order and security to the world.

2. Specific Scriptures Describing the Antichrist

The Bible never tells us the Antichrist's name but does provide many details about him.

Daniel 7	2 Thessalonians 2
Revelation 13	Revelation 19



Starting Your Journey

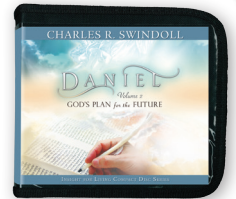
Concluding suggestions: First, watch the news with an eye on the Middle East. Second, interpret current events with a mind on prophetic truth. Third, anticipate Christ's coming with a heart on God's promise, the rapture of the church.



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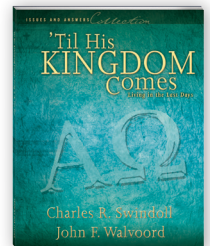
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DANIEL, VOLUME 2: GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

THE LIVING END

DANIEL 8



The Heart of the Matter

Two years elapsed between Daniel's first vision in chapter 7 and his second vision in chapter 8. Like the first, this vision involved animals. Unlike the first, this vision provides great detail about one of the most famous men in history, about one of the least known men in history, and about one who will appear in the future and will be the most nefarious man in history. To Daniel, it was all future. To us, most of it is history—a history worth studying to prepare us for the future.



Discovering the Way

1. The Vision (Daniel 8:1–14)

In a second vision, Daniel saw a ram and a goat engaged in furious combat.

2. The Interpretation (Daniel 8:15–26)

Daniel was unable to understand the vision, but Gabriel explained to him the rise of Alexander the Great and Antiochus Epiphanes.

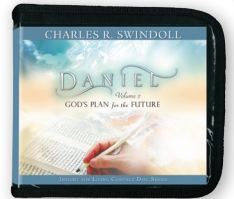


Starting Your Journey

The vision and interpretation left Daniel exhausted, sick, and astounded (Daniel 8:27). The vision and interpretation should leave us confident in God's Word. But it might also leave us afraid. Not to worry; God will remove His church before the Antichrist comes (Revelation 3:10). However, we might fear for those who don't know Christ, and we should share the gospel with them.



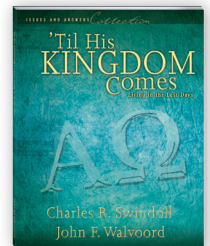
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DANIEL, VOLUME 2: GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

TRUE CONFESSIONS

DANIEL 9:1-19



The Heart of the Matter

"In God We Trust." "One Nation under God." For Americans, these sentiments have become proverbial, national mottoes describing the American character. But in recent years, these ideas have come under increasing attack as a perceived violation of the constitutional separation of church and state. The gradual eroding of the Judeo-Christian ethic to reveal a more secular society does not bode well for any nation, not just America. Daniel understood that national sins—forgetting God—lead to discipline, so at the dawn of a new administration he prayed for his nation, Israel. And he left us an example to follow.



Discovering the Way

1. Setting for Prayer (Daniel 9:1-2)

Daniel prayed at the dawning of a new regime and while studying the Word.

2. Ingredients in Prayer (Daniel 9:3-6)

Daniel's prayer reveals five attitudes we should adopt.

3. Praise after Confession (Daniel 9:7-15)

Daniel praised God for His righteousness, compassion, forgiveness, and faithfulness, though Israel had been unfaithful.



Starting Your Journey

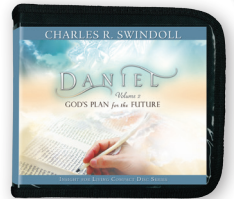
The motive behind Daniel's prayer (Daniel 9:16-19) was that God's name might be glorified in Israel. This is the same reason we should pray for our country, that God would receive glory. Will you pray, just ten minutes a day, for God to receive glory in the administrations of your city, state, and country?



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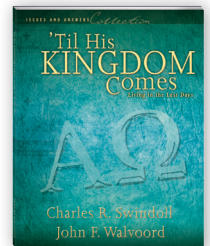
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DANIEL, VOLUME 2: GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE
THE BACKBONE OF BIBLICAL PROPHECY
DANIEL 9:2–27



The Heart of the Matter

People often make the mistake of not only judging books by their covers but also by their length—believing that longer is more difficult and shorter is easier. Many times it is the reverse. This is especially true of the last four verses in Daniel 9. They are not difficult to read but pose a challenge to understand. Daniel had Gabriel to help him. We'll rely on the Holy Spirit and the rest of God's Word, not only to help us understand this prophecy of the seventy weeks but also to help us apply some principles to our lives.



Discovering the Way

1. Background and Introduction (Daniel 9:1–23)

Daniel was in concentrated prayer (9:1–19) when Gabriel came to help him understand the vision of the seventy weeks (9:20–23).

2. Vision and Prophecy (Daniel 9:24–27)

The prophecy of the seventy weeks is difficult but can be understood if we look at three general facts and then explore four specific facts.



Starting Your Journey

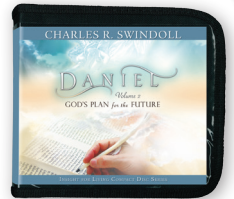
Two principles arise out of this study. First, God deals in specifics—He's a God of detail. Therefore, when we pray we should pray for specifics. Second, God keeps His promises—He's a God of integrity. Thus, we should claim the promises of God in faith.



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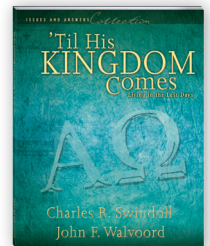
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DANIEL, VOLUME 2: GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE
SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH
DANIEL 10



The Heart of the Matter

The skeptic says, "I won't believe in anything that I can't see or feel." Then why do the hobgoblins of his or her mind invent very real devils where none exist? Is it possible that skeptics aren't inventing them but, through their sophisticated élan, reject their own intuitive knowledge of things unseen? The ancients were comfortable with the truth that reality exists in two worlds—the physical and the spiritual. Yet we moderns sneer at such ancient mythology, while our hobgoblins whisper, "The ancients were right." Daniel understood that two realities exist. And with another angelic visitation he would come to know how real the unseen world really is.



Discovering the Way

1. Background and Setting (Daniel 10:1–3)

After seventy years of captivity, Israel was free. But freedom requires more prayer, so Daniel struggled in prayer for three weeks.

2. Messenger and Vision (Daniel 10:4–9)

After three weeks in prayer, Daniel was visited by an angel while standing on the banks of the Tigris River.

3. Prayer and Response (Daniel 10:10–21)

The angel told Daniel why he was so long delayed in coming, which reveals five important facts of earth-heaven communication.

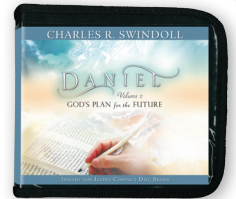


Starting Your Journey

Two truths emerge from this study. First, we would be amazed at the presence of unseen forces around us. Second, we should be encouraged at the power of invincible might within us.



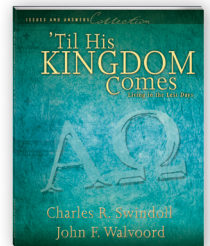
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DANIEL, VOLUME 2: GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

WARS AND RUMORS OF WAR

DANIEL 11:1–12:1



The Heart of the Matter

Standing on the dividing line between history and prophecy, one truth is constant—humanity relishes war. In the long, sad history of humanity, we have failed to learn the truth that war is a long-term, cruel business. The reality of this will come to complete fruition when the rotten fruit of total war becomes ripe and is picked by the Antichrist in the last days. Brought to the very edge of prophecy, the angel showed Daniel the cruelty of war between the successors of Alexander the Great on into the demonic warfare of the Antichrist. For us, what we see in history shows us the grim picture of what is to come for those who will enter the tribulation—inescapable worldwide war—without Christ.



Discovering the Way

1. Wars: The Ugly Facts of the Past

Scriptural and human observations agree that war is an ugly scourge on human history.

2. Wars: The Ultimate Campaign of the Future (Daniel 11:1–12:1)

Daniel's vision of future warfare included the setup of two kingdoms, empires, and dictators (11:1–36); the wrap-up of the Antichrist's style and strategy (11:37–45); and the mop-up (11:45–12:1).

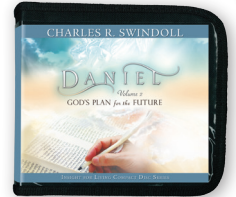


Starting Your Journey

All our best efforts to end wars have been in vain. This was true of the past and is true of the future. So what can we do? We can share the peace that comes from knowing Christ and give those who might have to endure the real war to end all wars their only escape—a relationship with the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.



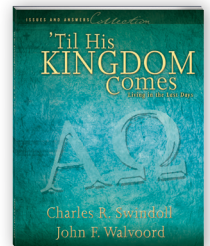
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DANIEL, VOLUME 2: GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

A PROPHETIC QUARTET

DANIEL 12:1-4



The Heart of the Matter

Life lived under the sun has a depressing quality about it, at least according to Solomon. "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity," he said. "The living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten" (Ecclesiastes 1:2; 9:5). Live, die, and be forgotten—that's encouragement for you! Anyone with such a philosophy would come to the same conclusion Solomon did: life under the sun is empty. But is this really true of God's servants? Daniel, as he comes to the close of his book, received a vision of four groups of people who will have significant lives in the future and on into eternity—not forgotten by God.



Discovering the Way

1. Setting and Background (Daniel 12:1)

In the last half of the tribulation, terrible persecutions will sweep over the earth in an attempt to exterminate God's people, the Jews, but the archangel Michael will protect them.

2. People and Events (Daniel 12:1-3)

During that time of tribulation, four groups of people will receive honor and reward from God.

3. Words and Knowledge (Daniel 12:4)

Daniel was ordered to keep the vision a secret until the right time, when additional information about the last days would be given.



Starting Your Journey

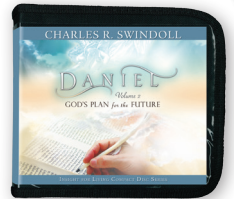
God's ways are not like ours. First, we honor the famous and soon forget, but God honors the unknown and never forgets. Second, we give earthly rewards, but God gives heavenly ones. Third, our works are temporal, but God's works are eternal.



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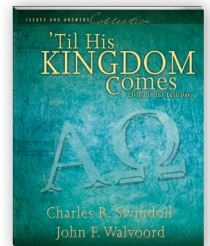
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DANIEL, VOLUME 2: GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

THE END OF THE AGE

DANIEL 12:5–13



The Heart of the Matter

Of all of God's creation, human beings are the most unique and frustrated. Made in God's image (Genesis 1:26), we have the capacity to think, create, and question. Curious, we stretch to grasp things we can never understand with our finite minds and we grow frustrated. We then often say and think things that are just foolish—because we believe that human reason can understand divine mysteries. However, Daniel, who was just as curious as we, didn't step on the mouse's wheel of human reason. Instead, he believed and trusted God to reveal the truth about the end of time at the appropriate time—whether he could understand it or not.



Discovering the Way

1. A Review of Where We've Been

Before we close the book on Daniel, it will be helpful to review where we've been and where we are.

2. Expository Explanation Regarding the Passage (Daniel 12:5–13)

These last few verses will reveal two individuals, two questions and answers, and one specific counsel for Daniel.



Starting Your Journey

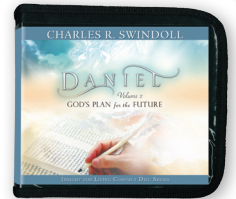
Three important principles regarding the story emerge. First, the more time we spend with God, the more teachable we become. Second, the more questions we ask, the more dependent we become. Third, the more truth we discover, the more profound it becomes.



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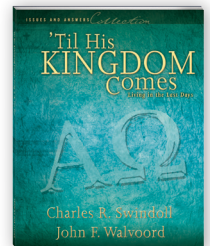
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DANIEL, VOLUME 2: GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

A SURVEY OF THE JUDGMENTS



NAME	SUBJECTS	TIME	PLACE	BASIS	RESULTS
The Cross	Satan judged <i>John 16:11</i> Sin judged <i>Romans 6:6–10;</i> <i>8:1–4</i>	AD 30 (traditional) or AD 33 ¹	Calvary	Finished work of Christ	Death of Christ, Satan doomed, sin overthrown, sinners justified
Self-judgment of believers	Christians in the church age who sin <i>1 Corinthians</i> <i>11:27–31</i> <i>1 John 1:9</i>	Present time	Earth	Blood of Christ	Immediate forgiveness, permanent removal of confessed sin
Divine discipline	Believers who neglect the confession of sin <i>Hebrews 12:6</i> <i>1 John 1:5–10</i>	Present time	Earth	God's love, scriptural warning	Suffering and misery until confession of sin . . . perhaps even death
Judgment Seat of Christ	Believers taken at the rapture of the church <i>2 Corinthians 5:10</i> <i>1 Corinthians</i> <i>3:10–15</i>	Immediately after the rapture of the church	Presence of the Lord	Works performed during earthly life	Either rewards or the loss of rewards (crowns)
Living Jews	Unbelieving Jews alive at the end of the tribulation <i>Matthew 25:1–30</i>	At the second advent	Earth	Their works (separating saved Israel from unsaved)	Unsaved are cast off into judgment
Living Gentiles (sheep/goats)	Unbelieving Gentiles alive at the end of the tribulation <i>Joel 3:1–2</i> <i>Matthew 25:31–46</i>	Following the judgment of the living Jews	Earth	Treatment of saved Israel — “brothers of Mine” — during the tribulation <i>Matthew 25:40</i>	Unsaved face eternal judgment
Fallen angels	Angels being held captive <i>2 Peter 2:4</i> <i>Jude 6</i>	After the kingdom age (?)	Angelic realm	Their decision to follow Satan when he fell	Sent to permanent place of punishment
Great White Throne	All unbelievers (physically and spiritually dead) <i>Revelation 20:11–15</i>	After the earth is judged by fire <i>1 Peter 3:7–10</i>	Between heaven and earth—in space	Worthless works of the unsaved	Eternal separation from God — “second death”

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1. Harold W. Hoehner, *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, Acadamie Books, 1977), 114.



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