

YAH'S COVENANT Calendar



An open Bible is shown at the top and bottom of the frame. The top part shows a page with text, and the bottom part shows a page with a list of scriptures. A wooden gavel is resting diagonally across the open Bible. The background is a textured, aged parchment-like surface.

DANIEL

#3 of 8

Declaring the END
From the Beginning

#3 Declaring the END From the Beginning

Daniel 4

Part 1 [of 3]

Understanding Literal Language

By: Charlene Fortsch



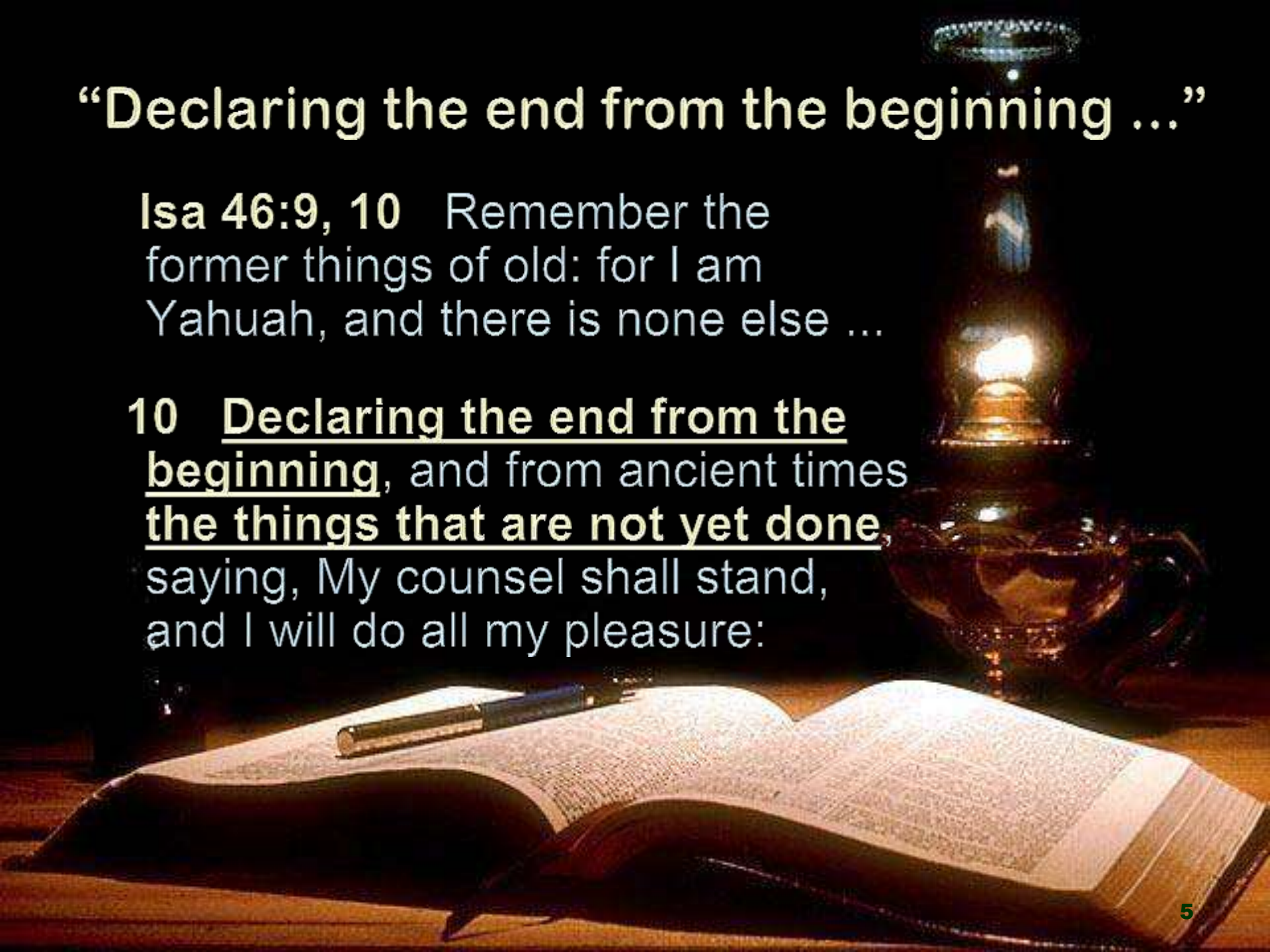
A Word of Prayer



“Declaring the end from the beginning ...”

Isa 46:9, 10 Remember the former things of old: for I am Yahuah, and there is none else ...

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:



King Nebuchadnezzar's 2 Visions



Daniel 2 ~ The King's 1st Vision



1. Could not remember the vision
2. The vision needed an interpreter for the Image of Metals and Clay
3. Chaldeans failed the test
4. A death decree enacted
5. Daniel was the appointed man
6. Vision had to do with events surrounding Yah's people
7. No timelines included
8. Very simple vision

Daniel 4 ~ The King's 2nd Vision

Author: King Nebuchadnezzar

1. The king remembers his dream
2. Huge tree
3. A Divine Decree instead of a Death Decree
4. Vision had to do with events surrounding only the king
5. Very simple vision
6. Timeline of seven years
7. Needed an interpreter as the Chaldeans failed again!
8. Daniel was the appointed man!





The Image

Given as a “idol word picture” to the king.

The dream was so different, it could not be recalled.

A Divine interpretation is given to Daniel.

Why Was The 2nd Dream Remembered?



The Tree

Given as an “ordinary word picture” to the king.

The king had no difficulty recalling every detail of the dream.

Daniel is called to give the interpretation.

Does the
vision of
"The Tree"
follow the
"Structural
Components"
given in
Daniel 2?



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REVIEW



HEAVENLY SCENE

INTERLUDE QUESTION

HISTORIC-PROPHETIC
OUTLINE

ANSWER TO QUESTION

ENDTIME EVENT



Thumbnail Structure For Daniel 2

Heavenly Scene

Interlude
Question

Historic-Prophetic
Outline

Answer to
Question

Endtime Event

**Forward
Progressive
Movement**

1. Verses
2. Kingdoms
3. Dates

**The Pattern
Is Simple!**

Daniel 4 also follows the same structural pattern.

1. The king relayed the vision from the **Heavenly Scene**.
2. This is followed by an **Interlude Question**.
3. Daniel explains the vision in the **Outline** portion.
4. Interlude **Answer** follows.
5. The prophetic vision is fulfilled.



Daniel 4 ~ The Traditional Emphasis: Humbling The King

1. Conflict is between the pagan king's pride which is arrayed against Divine Sovereignty.

Vs 30:

**"Is not this Great Babylon
that I have built?"**

2. Yahuah wins as the king is turned out to eat grass, until at last the king gives Yah honor!



**"... the King of heaven ...
He is able to abase."**

Concepts in Daniel 4 Provide
Connecting Principles For All
Timelines in Daniel and Revelation

Where are we
in the timeline?
"Stream of time?"
?

Understanding **Daniel** and **Revelation** Timelines Through Concepts in Daniel 4

Timelines in Daniel

1. Dan 4: 7 years

2. Dan 7: '1260'

3. Dan 8: '2300'

4. Dan 9: 69 wks, 62 wks, 7 wks, 1 wk & (2) 1 hr

5. Dan 12: '1260'

'1200' & '1335'
day

**Revelation
Timelines
Total: 17**

Timelines in Revelation

1. Rev 2: 10 days

2. Rev 8: about ½ hour

3. Rev 9: (2) 5 months

4. Rev 11: 42 months;
'1260'; 3½ days

5. Rev 12: (2) '1260s'

6. Rev 13: 42 months

7. Rev 17: (2) '1 hour'

8. Rev 18: One day &
(Three) '1 hour'

9. Rev 20: 1000 years

Timelines Are A Special Light

Do you know
how to work
with these
timelines?

Daniel 4 is
THE authority
on timelines!

PROPHECY

Epilogue Timelines Of Daniel 12

1260

Daniel
has the
ultimate
authority!



1290

1335

Is Daniel 4 a ...
Symbolic
Vision?



Literal
Vision?

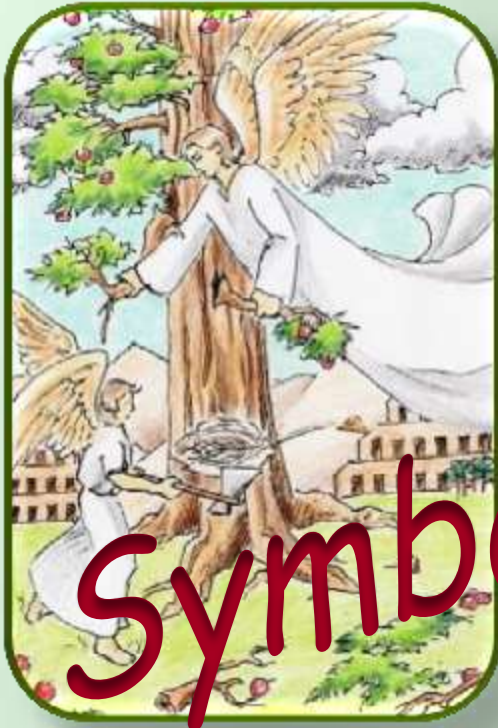
7 Main Points For Understanding Prophetic Timelines

1. The use of symbols, compared to the use of metaphors and similes.
2. The distinction between symbolic language and literal language ~ how to really know the language of a vision.
3. The distinction between “interpretation” of a vision and the “application” of a vision.
4. Understanding the terms: “Prophetic Terminology” and “Prophetic Time.”
5. The “Repetition of Prophecy” and its consequences.
6. The Theologian’s Argument and the **Sneaky Switch!**
7. How prophetic timelines begin and end.



A Description of "The Tree"

1. Great, strong tree;
reached to the heavens
2. The tree could be seen
by everyone
3. Fair leaves; much fruit;
food for all
4. Shade for the beasts;
nests for the birds



**Symbolic
Language?**



5. A watcher hewed down the tree
6. Branches cut off; leaves shaken off; fruit scatters
7. Beasts and birds flee from the tree
8. Tree stump is bound with iron and brass
9. The tree is bound for seven years.

Comparison of 2 Different Trees

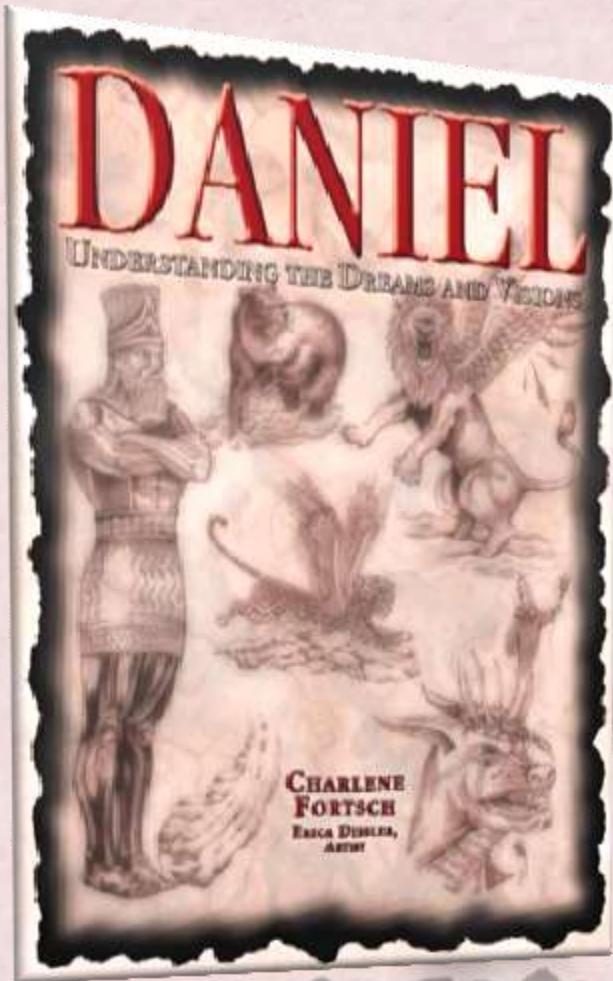


Daniel 4 Tree



Symbolic Tree

Prophetic Keys



- Prophecy is an exact science
- Exact Sciences follow rules
- Hermeneutics (fancy term)
- Daniel Book uses the term "Prophetic Key"
- 30 Prophetic Keys are given in the Daniel Book
- New Prophetic Keys?

Understanding Timelines

1) Similes and Metaphors



Prophetic Key #21a, #21b

Literal language MAY use
“figures of speech” such as:

- a. Similes
- b. Metaphors

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lessons

Prophetic Key #21a: Similes

Similes are “figures of speech” in which two essentially “unlike” things are compared. Similes are tools of language which often employ the words, “like” or “as” using a story as an illustration.

Examples from Rev 9:

- locusts were like horses
- [locust's] hair as the hair of women
- [locust's] tails like unto scorpions

*Literal
Language*

Prophetic Key #21b: Metaphors

A Metaphor is a word or phrase denoting an idea which represents something else.



"He sure was a bear this morning at the breakfast table!"

"a bear?"

"really grumpy?"

Prophetic Key #21b: Metaphors

A Metaphor is a word or phrase denoting an idea which represents something else.

Example from Rev 9:1

- “I saw a star fall from heaven” denotes a “created being” ~ not a real star.

Other examples:

- I smell a rat ...
- There's a monkey in the woodpile.
- Something smells fishy ...

Literal
Language

Daniel 4 Examples of Similes and Metaphors

20 The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth;

21 Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all ...

22 It is thou, O king ...

Daniel's Metaphor:

"The tree that thou sawest ...
It is thou, O king."

Simile Examples:

1. You, O king, are like that great tree.
2. You, O king, are as that great tree.

In literal language
the king is compared
to the great tree.

Conclusion on Similes and Metaphors

Similes compare: by using words such as “like” or “as.”

Metaphors compare: by using phrases.

Literal Language often uses
Similes or Metaphors.

Prophetic Key #19

Daniel 4 is written in literal language.

Therefore it is to be interpreted literally.

The Language is 100% Literal!

Understanding Timelines

2) Symbolic Language or Literal Language



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Prophetic Key #18

The Bible is to be understood in its most obvious (or literal) sense, UNLESS a figure or symbol is employed.

If The King Saw A Symbolic Tree



Symbolic Tree

1. The purple trunk would have scales and eyes
 2. Unusual branch formation
 3. Wings instead of leaves
- A tree such as this would have been considered "symbolic."

In that case:

1. Daniel would have needed Divine interpretation through another vision or dream.
2. Gabriel would have been commissioned to give Daniel understanding of this tree.

Question: Does Daniel Have An Interpreter For This Vision?

NO! There is no interpreter given to Daniel for this vision.

Rule #1:

For a **Symbolic Vision**,
Daniel needs an interpreter.

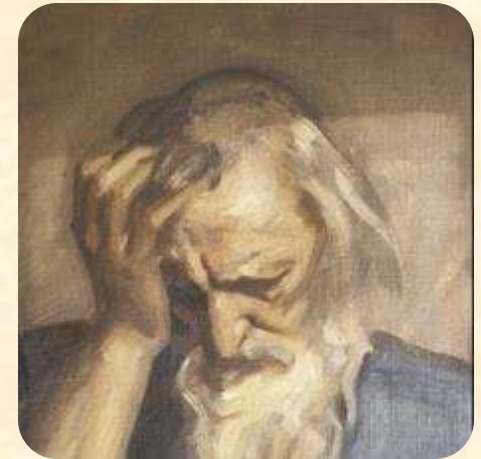
Rule #2:

For a **Literal Vision**,
Daniel does not need an interpreter!

Three Contemporary Prophets

Daniel

Exiled in 606 BC – Daniel was Heaven's ambassador to the court of the king – to make known Yahuah's divine will and secure cooperation on behalf of His people.



Ezekiel

Exiled to Babylon in 597 BC. He had the same message as Jeremiah, but for those already in Babylonian captivity.



Jeremiah

Remained with the Jews who were left in Judea. He eventually ended up in Egypt.

"Accept your condition of exile. You must submit to the king of Babylon for 70 years."



Daniel and Ezekiel Were Contemporaries in Babylon



Facts:

- 606 BC: Daniel exiled to Babylon
- 597 BC: Ezekiel exiled to Babylon
- 594 BC: Eze 17 written
- 588 BC: Eze 31 & 32 written
- 569 BC: Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree

Daniel had access to **Ezekiel's** prophecies about **20 years** in advance of this dream.



Ezekiel's Prophecies of Other "Trees"

Prophetic Fact: Assyria had at one time surpassed Egypt in power and prominence. But, it had not been able to escape divine destruction.

These chapters warn the Pharaoh of Egypt that his fate would be the same as the Assyrian nation, IF he did not change his ways.

Eze 31:18; 32:11

Yet you too [Pharaoh], will be brought down with the trees ... to the earth below; you will lie among ... those killed by the sword. This is what our Sovereign Yahuah says [to Pharaoh]: "The sword of the king of Babylon will come against you."

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Prophetic Warning:

Pharaoh was reminded of Assyria's fate. IF Egypt does not turn from its wicked ways, judgment will come against her, just as it had against Assyria.

Prophetic Fulfillment:

Once Egypt came under Babylonian rule, she never again achieved her former glorious status in the world.

Daniel saw this fulfillment!

Remember ...

Daniel already had access to Ezekiel's prophecies for over 20 years.

The fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecies also provided the interpretation for the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar.

He immediately knew what the dream meant.

However: "Daniel ... was astonied for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him." [vs19]

"astonied" – Strong's H8074; to be stunned; amazed; overwhelmed.

Daniel's Delay For One Hour ~ Why?

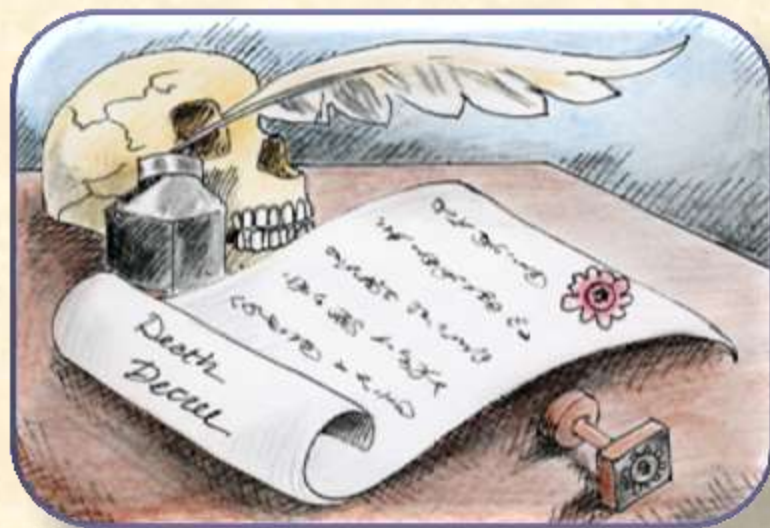
Daniel was fixed in thought and profound silence before the king.

Daniel immediately knew the fearful consequences of this dream concerning the king.

Revealing bad news could end in a death decree.

The king assured Daniel of his safety.

With utmost courtesy and respect to the king, Daniel replied ...



"My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation to thine enemies."

How Vs 11 Applied to the King

11a The tree grew ...

- Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was glorious; known to all ~ becoming more glorious over the years.

11b ... and was strong ...

- As the tree was well proportioned in height, mass and foliage, so Babylon was proportioned in wealth, military strength and social status. Military strength could refer to the trunk, firmly fixed in the earth providing safety from any enemy.

11c ... and the height thereof reached unto heaven ...

- This kingdom extended in every direction.

11d ... and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth.

- This kingdom was so conspicuous that it was known everywhere, meaning Nebuchadnezzar was a sovereign that had universal sway; all men would be subject to him.

How Vs 12 Applied to the King

12a The leaves thereof were fair ...

- Babylon was in the prime of its growth and life; no signs of decay ~ only vigorous and healthy growth resembling a monarch in his glory.

12b ... and the fruit thereof much ...

- Babylon was full of goodness, life and vitality.

12c ... and in it was meat for all ...

- Food for all: This indicates the dependence of the multitudes upon the king to provide food and liberal favors.

12d ... the beasts of the field had shadow under it ... the fowls in the heaven dwelt in the boughs ...

- The shade represented the blessings of protection and peace; care for the widows, fatherless and poor.

12e ... all flesh was fed of it.

- The king, as the tree, was to furnish protection, shelter, and food for all the citizens.

How Vs 13 Applied to the King

13a ... and behold, a
watcher and an holy
one came down
from heaven ...

- The character of
the watcher was
that of a “holy one”
from heaven.

**Bless Yahuah,
ye his angels,
that excel in strength,
that do his commandments,
hearkening unto
the voice of his word.**

Psalm 103:20

How Vs 14 Applied to the King

14a ... Hew down the tree ...

- Divine orders are given to the “watcher” to take the king off his throne.

14b ... cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches.

- The king (and kingdom) were to be utterly stripped of all glory and beauty. Calamity, humiliation and desolation were imminent. The glory of the kingdom is at stake; the subjects are at a loss without their leader.



How Vs 15 Applied to the King

15a ... leave the stump of his roots in the earth ...

- Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom are not wholly dead. In time a new shoot will spring forth, giving life again to the kingdom. Though the king falls, vitality remains in the root of the kingdom of Babylon. The king would be restored to his reason and power.



15b ... even with a band of iron and brass ...

- This banding is given to any valuable stump to preserve it from being dried out or plowed under.

15c ... in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven ...

- The king would remain out of doors, excluded from the palace.

**For there is hope of a tree,
if it be cut down,
that it will sprout again,
and the tender branch
will not cease.**

Job 14:7

How Vs 15d-16 Applied to the King



**He causeth them to
wander in the wilderness,
where there is no way.**

Psalm 107:40

**15d ... let his portion be with
the beasts ...**

- ... and let the king live as
the beasts do ~ in the
grassy fields.

**16a Let his heart be changed
from man's, and let a
beast's heart be given
unto him ...**

- The king lives contently in
nature as do the beasts.

**16b ... let seven times pass
over him.**

- The king will stay in this
“beast like” condition until
he is restored after an
appointed period of time.

How Vs 33 Applied to the King



33a ... hairs were grown like eagles' feathers ...

- Just as the eagle is “king of the birds” ~ so Nebuchadnezzar was still “king of Babylon.”



Daniel 7 represents Babylon as a “lion” ~ the “king of the beasts.”

Conclusion on Daniel 4: Symbolic Language or Literal Language?

There is no symbolic language that would require an interpreter.

There is no interpreter sent to explain the meaning of the vision.

The king is merely compared to a great tree, as were the kings of Assyria and Egypt.

This Language is 100% Literal!

Understanding Timelines

3) The Difference Between “Interpretation” and “Application”



Prophetic Key #20

Prophecy written in
literal language uses
APPLICATION to align
historical events with
Scripture.

Understanding “Interpretation”

2 Peter 1:20

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

(NIV)

Prophetic Key #16

Symbolic Interpretation

is used when the prophetic word picture is of something that is not real.

“*interpretation*” – to explain the meaning of visions or dreams; lay open what is not understood. (Webster's 1828)

Symbolic "Interpretation" (Dan 2)

R
E
V
I
E
W



Symbol: (vs 32)

- This image's head was of fine gold ...

Prophetic Key #17

- The Bible will be used to interpret the symbol.

Decoding the Symbol: (vs 38)

- Thou [Nebuchadnezzar] art this head of gold.

Literal Application:

- The gold head represents the First Kingdom called Babylon.

Babylon Scriptural Documentation: 1st Kingdom



Dan 2:36-38 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

37 Thou, O king ...
Yahuah of heaven ...

38 ... hath made thee ruler over them all.

Thou art this head of gold.



Also see:

Jer 50:7, 17

Jer 50: 43, 44

The Bible Interprets the Prophetic Kingdoms

Babylon Scriptural Documentation: 2nd Kingdom

Medo-Persia



Dan 2:39a And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee ...

Dan 8:20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.



- **Jer 51:11** ... Yahuah hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device is against Babylon, to destroy it;

The Bible Interprets the Prophetic Kingdoms

Babylon Scriptural Documentation: 3rd Kingdom



Dan 2:39b ... and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

Dan 8:21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.



The Bible Interprets the Prophetic Kingdoms

Babylon Scriptural Documentation: 4th Kingdom

Medo-Persia

Greece

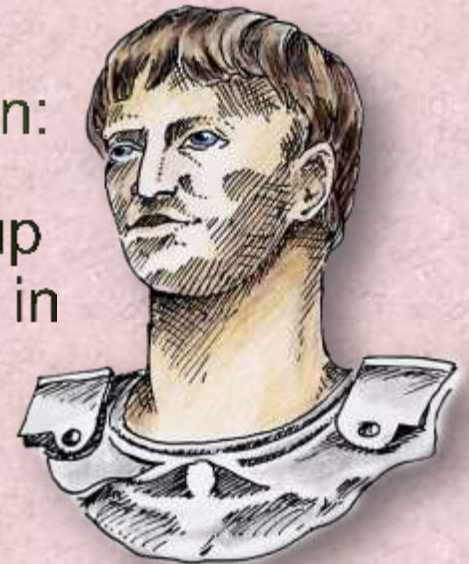
?

Rome

Dan 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron:

Dan 11:20 Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom:

- **Luke 2:1** ... there went out a decree from [the Roman] Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.



Secular History is a 2nd Witness
All Prophetic Kingdoms Interpreted
Through the Bible

Understanding “Application”

Prophetic Key #18

The Bible is to be understood in its most obvious (or literal) sense, UNLESS a figure or symbol is employed.

“application” – principles are applied in a practical way. (Webster’s 1828)

Prophetic Key #20

Literal Interpretation

is used when the prophetic word picture is of something real. Literal events are given application to the “word picture.”

Literal Language: Easy To Work With

Metaphor: “The tree that thou sawest ... It is thou, O king.”



Application



~~Symbolic Interpretation~~



Daniel 4:9, 18 ~ “interpretation”

“interpretation”

- Used 30 times in Daniel’s book.
- *Strong’s* H6622; to open up [the meaning] – or to understand the proper “application.”

Two Examples:

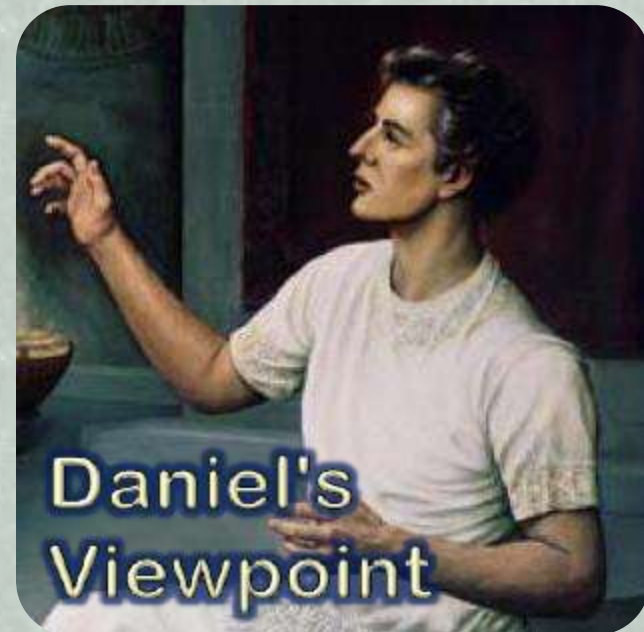
- **Vs 9** ... tell me ... the interpretation [the application for me] ...
- **Vs 18** ... make known unto me the interpretation [the application for me] ...

The Difference Between King Nebuchadnezzar And Daniel

Daniel did not need to be given an interpretation. He merely made practical application to the king using the historical facts of his day along with the prophecies.



The King needed an Interpretation.



Summary: Daniel Knew The "Application"

Vs 19: "My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation [application] thereof to thine enemies.

20 The tree that thou sawest ...

22 ... it is thou, O king ..."

The application did not:

1. Come through a dream or vision.
2. Come from the angel Gabriel.
3. Need a symbolic interpretation.

This Vision uses Literal Language!

#4 Declaring the END From the Beginning

Daniel 4

Part 2 [of 3]

A Closer Look At Timelines

By: Charlene Fortsch



The background of the entire image is a dense, green forest. In the middle ground, a red bridge with a lattice railing is visible, partially obscured by the trees. The lighting is soft, suggesting a misty or overcast day.

The End

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