

THE RABBIS' VIEW OF THE MESSIAH'S COMING

This is a remarkable passage because it bears many similarities to Jesus' teaching about the end times, showing that non-Christian rabbis interpreted the Old Testament in ways similar to Jesus.

The generation to which the son of David will come will be one in which disciples of sages grow fewer, and, as to the others, their eyes will wear out through suffering and sighing, and troubles will be many, and laws harsh, forever renewing themselves so that the new one will hasten onward before the old one has come to an end.

Our rabbis have taught on Tannaite authority:

The seven year cycle in which the son of David will come:

As to the first one, the following verse of Scripture will be fulfilled:

“And I will cause it to rain upon one city and not upon another”
(Amos. 4:7).

As to the second year, the arrows of famine will be sent forth.

As to the third, there will be a great famine, in which men, women, and children will die, pious men and wonder-workers alike, and the Torah will be forgotten by those that study it.

As to the fourth year, there will be plenty which is no plenty.

As to the fifth year, there will be great prosperity, and people will eat, drink, and rejoice, and the Torah will be restored to those that study it.

As to the sixth year, there will be rumors.

As to the seventh year, there will be wars.

As to the end of the seventh year [the eighth year], the son of David will come (Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a, Neusner's translation).

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Do you think that your lack of understanding of the Old Testament hinders you from correctly understanding the New Testament?

HANDOUTS

For an electronic copy of the class handouts, go to www.toddbolen.com/daniel-chapters.zip

For an analysis of the book as a whole, go to www.toddbolen.com/daniel-argument.pdf

DANIEL AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

PRESUPPOSITIONS

God is smart and he may choose to write a work that challenges even the most intelligent of men and women.

God may reserve some choice treasures for those who persevere in study of his Word (Isa 8:16-20; Dan 12:10; Matt 7:6).

Jesus and the disciples were familiar with the book of Daniel as part of their Scripture (Luke 24:25-27, 44).

Jesus was a prophet, but he often explained previously revealed truth rather than spoke new truth (Matt 22:29; Luke 24:27).

Scripture is to be interpreted naturally as one would interpret any literature (with regard for grammar, genre, history). Typology and symbolism are valid if they come from the text itself but must not be imposed upon the text.

The prophecies of Daniel were not all fulfilled before the time of Jesus (Matt 24:15). It is invalid to find a future fulfillment of an event previously fulfilled without textual evidence.

The New Testament must be interpreted in light of the Old Testament. The New Testament can correct misunderstandings about the meaning of the Old Testament but it cannot change its meaning.

SIGNIFICANT NT PASSAGES IN LIGHT OF DANIEL

Matt 13; 24-25; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Thess 2; Rev 1, 5, 13, 17-20. “Son of Man” references in Gospels.

Also: Matt 21:44; 26:64; 28:18; Luke 1:33; John 3:13; 5:25-29; 12:34; Acts 7:56; 12:23; 24:15; 1 Cor 6:2; Phil 2:9-11; James 5:11; Rev 3:5; 5:11; 11:15.

DANIEL'S TIMELINE

- First kingdom – Babylon (2:38)
- Second kingdom – Medo-Persia (8:20)
- Decree to rebuild Jerusalem (9:25) – Artaxerxes sends Nehemiah back to rebuild walls
- 7 sevens (9:25) – begins on March 5, 444 BC
- Jerusalem rebuilt with streets and trench (9:25)
- 62 sevens begins (9:25)
- Third kingdom – Greece; Alexander's swift conquest and division into four parts (8:5-8, 21-22)
- Little horn (Antiochus Epiphanes) halts sacrifice, sets up Abomination of Desolation, destroys holy people (8:9-12, 23-25; 11:21-35)
- 62 sevens ends and Messiah comes (9:26) – Jesus presents himself as Messiah in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, March 30, AD 33
- Messiah is cut off (9:26) – Jesus is crucified
- Jerusalem and temple destroyed (9:26) – Romans destroy city and sanctuary in AD 70
- War until end, desolations (9:26; cf. 7:7, 19)
- Ruler will confirm covenant for one seven (9:27)
- Abomination of Desolation in the middle of 70th seven (9:27)
- Ruler blasphemes God, oppresses the saints for 3½ times, tries to destroy faith, invades many countries, gains control of riches in Africa, attempts to annihilate many (7:25; 11:36-44, 12:7)
- Ruler comes to an end (7:11, 26; 9:27; 11:45)
- Time of unparalleled distress (12:1, 7). Blessed is the one who reaches the end (12:12).
- Son of Man comes on clouds of heaven to be given an everlasting kingdom (7:13-14, 27).
- Resurrection to everlasting life (12:2)
- Messiah puts an end to sin and brings in everlasting righteousness (9:24)