

God's Plan for the Ages - Part 3

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I. Introduction.

A. The chemistry of the atmosphere in the beginning may not have been uniform creating giganticism and dwarfism and everything in between. This easily could have produced the four different types of races that existed in the beginning.

B. The earth may have undergone two major catastrophes.

II. The Millennial Age. (Revelation 20:1-7)

A. This is the final period in history. The 'final age' will come before it.

B. It is called the golden age because this is the only time in history where gold will not rule.

C. Catastrophe will precede the millennial age. (Psalm 46:1; Revelation 6:12)

1. The valleys will be filled and the mountains leveled. (Revelation 16:20; Isaiah 40:4; Luke 3:5)

2. The sea will be no more. (Revelation 21)

3. In preparation for the millennium, God may again bring a planetary visitor, and the water may again slide out into space. The planet may be restored again to a place that can support a vast population.

III. The Seventieth Week (Daniel's Missing Week).

A. The key to understanding prophecy.

B. Background.

1. The times we live under now are the times of the Gentiles. (Luke 21:24)

2. This begins in about 600 BC.

3. Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian took into exile Judah and along with them four brilliant Jewish teenagers. He had a dream that foretold the future and when his advisers were unable to tell them Daniel offered the interpretation to spare himself and his compatriots. (2 Chronicles 36:1-11)

a. The dream told of four empires to come through a statue made of different materials.

b. The first empire was Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar.

c. The second empire was the Medo-Persians under Darius.

- d. The third empire was the Grecian Empire under Alexander the Great.
- e. The fourth empire, although unnamed, is commonly designated the Roman Empire.

- 1) Daniel saw this empire in stages.
- 2) It was first united, it was then divided, and finally it would be yet future.
- 3) Major magazines today have identified what is happening in Europe now as the Roman Empire.
- 4) The final stage may be a confederation of dictatorships and democracies - whatever the case, there will be ten.

4. The ten-kingdom confederation.

- a. In the days of the final kings, God will establish his kingdom. (Daniel 2:44)
- b. From the confederation a dictator will rise persecuting the saints and using the confederacy as a power base. (Daniel 7:24)
- c. The world dictator will blaspheme God and the saints on earth and in heaven. (Revelation 13:5)

C. The setting up of Christ's kingdom.

- 1. Christ would set up his kingdom when the Abomination of Desolations rises. (Matthew 24)
- 2. This man will stand in the Holy Place. (Daniel 9:27)
- 3. The return of Christ cannot come until the "man of sin" be revealed and that he sit in the temple to demonstrate that he himself is God. (2 Thessalonians 2:1)
- 4. Christ will intervene when a great superman - a beast, or counterfeit Christ - will claim deity in the temple.
- 5. The Jews will proclaim the Anti-Christ Messiah.

IV. Summary.

- A. The book of Daniel is so accurate that many scholars today attack it as history instead of prophecy.
- B. No world empire can be set up until the final one is set up again - the Roman Empire. There is no world empire between the Roman Empire and Christ.
- C. The US will not be a major power in the end times clearly, but God does consider nations in part through their ethnic ties, so they may be involved.

Application questions.

1. Briefly outline the age of the Gentiles. At what point in history are we currently?

2. What must occur before Christ returns? Why does the speaker claim that certain things must happen before he returns?

3. There is complexity and unity to God's plan throughout history. What does this tell you about God? How can knowing God's work in history and His promises in regards to the future bring be helpful?
