

## I. Purpose of Daniel is to Explain the "Times of the Gentiles"

- A. How shall the righteous live under the new circumstances?
- B. What will happen in the Gentile nations during this period? (**Daniel 2-7**)
- C. What will happen to God's people during this period? (**Daniel 8-12**)

## II. Our Aim is to Grasp the General Principles Daniel Presents Rather Than Try to Describe the Last Days

- A. Daniel's world view
  - 1. History has a beginning and an end
  - 2. History has a purpose
  - 3. When men exalt themselves they will oppose, not ignore God
  - 4. God will finally bring everything back under His blessed control
  - 5. All men will be resurrected and rewarded or judged according to how they lived
- B. What will happen to God's people?
  - 1. Two key visions:
    - a. Ram and the Goat (Chapter 8)
    - b. Kings of the north and the south (Chapter 11)
    - c. Brief history
      - (1) Medes and Persians ruled from 536-330 BC
      - (2) Alexander the Great destroys the Persian Empire but dies before a new empire is established - 323 BC
      - (3) Land conquered by Alexander is divided between four generals

## Assignment:

*Read Ezra 1-6 and Haggai*

- (4) Two generals become important to Biblical history
  - (a) Seleucus - King of the North - Syria
  - (b) Ptolemy - King of the South - Egypt
- (5) Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the temple at the time of the Maccabean revolt (170 BC)
  - (a) Little horn - becomes a picture of another man who will come later and oppose God's people in the same way

2. Prophecy of the 70 weeks - Main lessons

- a. God has a purpose for Israel during the "times of the gentiles"
- b. The purpose of history (Daniel 9:24)
  - (1) To finish transgression
  - (2) To make an end of sin
  - (3) To make atonement for iniquity
  - (4) To bring in everlasting righteousness
  - (5) To seal up prophecy
  - (6) To anoint the Most Holy Place
- c. Israel will suffer but God's purpose will be fulfilled

3. Chapter 12 - Those who will finally be blessed in the resurrection (Daniel 12:3)

- a. Those who have insight
- b. Those who lead the many to righteousness