

Revelation's HOPE

Lesson 1: Coming Soon

I. Introduction:

I will never forget the sinking feeling I had as I found out that terrorists had flown planes into the twin towers on September 11. Maybe you remember where you were that day. Lots of questions come to mind: How will the world end? Will some terrorist launch us into Armageddon? What does the future hold? What hope do we have?

II. Source of Hope

A. From the beginning to the end of the Bible book of Revelation there is one common thread: Hope! Let's begin in Chapter 1 where in one phrase we are pointed to a hopeful end to our world:

B. Things Which Must Soon Take Place

ὃ δεῖ γενέσθαι ἐν τάχει (**Rev 1:1** BGT)

Which must come into being soon / swiftly.

ὃ δεῖ γενέσθαι ἐπ' ἐσχάτων τῶν ἡμερῶν (**Dan 2:28** LXT)

Which must come into being at / during the last days.

ἐσήμανε τῷ βασιλεῖ τὰ ἐσόμενα ἐπ' ἐσχάτων τῶν ἡμερῶν (**Dan 2:45** LXT)

To signify / show the king things taking place at / during the last days.

C. Things Which Must Soon Take Place

- Pertain to the end of the world
- Has its roots in the Hebrew Scriptures (Daniel)
- Revelation refers or alludes to OT at least 489 times.
- Involves a series of events (things) and a coming king.
- In Revelation it climaxes with a main event: Our world ending. "He who testifieth these things saith, Yea: I come quickly" (Rev 22:1 ASV). ἔρχομαι ταχύ (Rev 22:20 BGT). Same word that is used in Revelation 1:1 for "soon". Revelation begins and ends with HOPE!
- Let's take a look at what was shown in Daniel and which points down to our day→

III. Hebrew / Old Testament Roots

A. **Daniel 1**

Hebrews brought into captivity

Faced many trials for their faith

Stood for what they believed even when it was not pleasant and were given different abilities

B. Daniel 2:1

“And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams; and his spirit was troubled, and his sleep went from him. . .” (ASV).

C. Daniel 2:2-3

“Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the enchanters, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. . . And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream”.

D. The King’s Desire

- Dream = message from the gods
- Calls wise men = wants to make sure what they are telling him is the truth, “Tell me the dream”.
- They answer. . .

E. Daniel 2:4-28

“Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in the Syrian language, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation”.
Back and forth they go. The wise men want to know the dream and the king wants them to tell him the dream without him saying anything.

F. Daniel 2:9-10

“Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation. They answered, ‘There is not a man on earth who can tell the king’s matter’.”

G. Daniel 2:11-19

The captain of the guard goes out to gather all the wise men for execution.
Daniel requests some time from the king - to pray.
Daniel is given a dream

H. Daniel 2:20-21

“Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever; for wisdom and might are his. And he changeth the times and the seasons; he removeth kings, and setteth up kings; he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that have understanding”.

I. Daniel 2:25

“Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the children of the captivity of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation”.

J. Daniel 2:27-28

“Daniel answered before the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded can neither wise men, enchanters, magicians, nor soothsayers, show unto the king. . .

K. Daniel 2:27-28

. . . but there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and he hath made known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these. . .you are this head of gold”.

*Babylon = the head of gold.

L. What kingdom follows Babylon?

M. **Daniel 5:** Let the Bible Tell you

1. Dan 5:30 In that night Belshazzar the Chaldean King was slain.
2. Dan 5:31 And Darius the **Mede** received the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

N. What kingdom follows the Medo-Persian Coalition?

O. **Daniel 8:** Let the Bible Tell you

1. Dan 8:20 The ram which thou sawest, that had the two horns, they are the kings of Media and Persia.
2. Dan 8:21 And the rough he-goat is the king of Greece: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

IV. Iron Kingdom Onward

A. Dan 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron, forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things; and as iron that crusheth all these, shall it break in pieces and crush.

*Next major kingdom to arise is the Iron Monarchy of Rome.

B. What's Next?

1. Dan 2:41 “And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay”.

*After the Fall of the Roman Empire European countries would try to unite but would not succeed.

2. Things which must Soon take place are here in Daniel and serve as “roots” to help us understand a great reality in Revelation.

C. What must soon take place?

- Events that pertain to the end of the world
- Events that Have their roots in the Hebrew Scriptures (Daniel)
- Involves a series of events (things) and a coming **King / Kingdom**
- The Book of Revelation climaxes with a main event: Our world ending. “He who testifieth these things saith, Yea: I come quickly” (Rev 22:1 ASV). ἔρχομαι ταχύ (Rev 22:20 BGT).
- WHO is this King in Revelation? Since history has followed the Bible, then this King WILL come→ Daniel 2:44-45: God’s coming Kingdom will put an end to the “worldly” kingdoms as we know it.
- Jesus is the coming King!

- Which side will we be on at the end of time? Which system of government will have our allegiance? Which city will we be in – Babylon (Revelation 19) or the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21).
- Our decisions now prepare us for what is “soon” to take place. Why not make a decision to come and learn as much as you can about the Book of Revelation? Why not consider that the main event to happen in each of our lives is to decide to trust God and His Word? Will you trust Him?