

*Personal despair  
is a real threat.*

*Is God there?  
Does God care?*

# HUMAN DESPAIR

C. Stevens Evans

## MEANING

- too much to live with  
and not enough to live for.

## MORALITY

- humans are hopelessly  
corrupted.

## MORTALITY

- we all eventually die.



Martin Luther



“Everything  
that is done in  
the world is  
done by hope.”

# Israel's hope

“The promise of the Fathers.”

“The coming of Messiah.”

“The advent of the Kingdom.”

“The restoration  
of God's people.”

**DANIEL 7**

ch. 1  
Daniel's captivity

## DANIEL

ch. 2-6  
Daniel's personal  
character

7

ch. 7-12  
Daniel's prophetic  
calendar

### Transition

historical narratives	4 visions
written in third person	written in first person
Gentile centered	Israel centered
Aramaic	Hebrew

ch. 1  
Daniel's captivity

## DANIEL

ch. 2-6  
Daniel's personal  
character

7

ch. 7-12  
Daniel's prophetic  
calendar

### Concentric literary pattern of ch.2-7

Four empires and God's coming kingdom ch.2

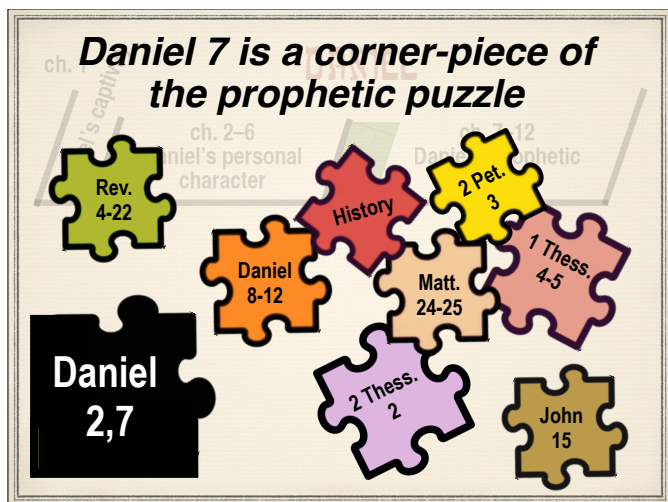
Trial by fire and God's deliverance ch.3

A king warned, chastised and delivered ch.4

A king warned, defiant and deposed ch.5

Trial in the lions' den and God's deliverance ch.6

Four empires and God's everlasting kingdom ch.7



"1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind *as he lay on his bed*; then he wrote the dream down and related the *following* summary of it. 2 Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And **four great beasts** were coming up from the sea, different from one another."

"The first *was* like a **lion** and had *the* wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it. And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a **bear**. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs *were* in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!' After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a **leopard**, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a **fourth beast**, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had **ten horns**. While I was contemplating the horns, behold, **another horn, a little one**, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts."



"7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a **fourth beast**, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had **ten horns**. 8 While I was contemplating the horns, behold, **another horn, a little one**, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts."



"9 I kept looking until thrones were set up, and **the ancient of Days** took *His* seat; his vesture *was* like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne *was* ablaze with flames, its wheels *were* a burning fire. 10 A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat, and the books were opened. "

✓ **History will not culminate in evolutionary perfection but rather in divine judgment.**

✓ **Matthew 25, Revelation 16-20.**





“11 Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which **the horn** was speaking;

✓ **Is this the “antichrist” mentioned in 1 & 2 John?**

I kept looking until **the beast** was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.

✓ **The fourth beast’s terror will end in destruction.**

12 As for **the rest of the beasts**, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.”

✓ **But 1st three beasts will exist for a time but will be diminished in power.**

“13 I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like **a Son of Man** was coming, and He came up to **the Ancient of Days** and was presented before Him.

✓ **Could this be a Christ figure?**

14 And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language might serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and his kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”

✓ **This king and his kingdom will have dominion over all mankind forever.**

“15 As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. 16 I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: 17 ‘These great beasts, which are four *in number*, are four kings *who* will arise from the earth. 18 But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’”

“19 Then I desired to know **the exact meaning of the fourth beast**, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, *and which* devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet, 20 and *the meaning* of the ten horns that *were* on its head and the other *horn* which came up, and before which three *of them* fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great *boasts* and which was larger in appearance than its associates. 21 I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them 22 until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.”

“23 “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

✓ **The 4th kingdom will rule and crush the whole world. (Rome? Islam? Communism? Roman Catholicism?)**

24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

✓ **Ten rulers will come from the 4th kingdom and one will dominate three of the others.**



“25 He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

✓ **This dominant ruler will:**

1. Be hostile to the true God
2. Persecute God’s people
3. Rewrite history and the rules of life
4. Dominate God’s people for a time.

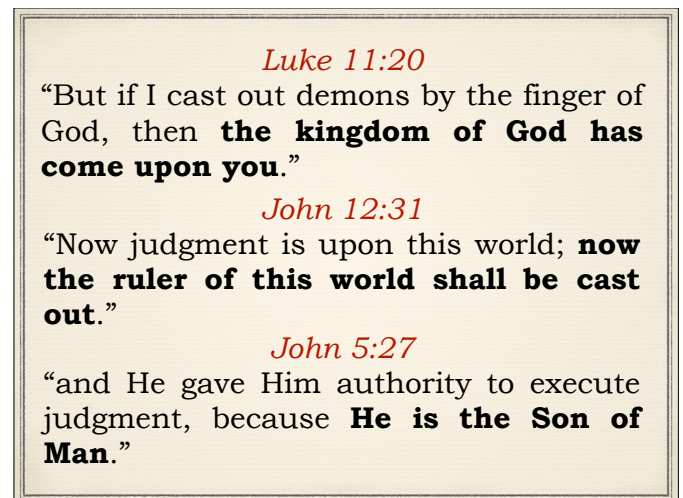
26 But the court will sit *for judgment*, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.”

✓ **But this ruler will ultimately be judged and destroyed.**

27 Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’

✓ **God’s people will rule the whole world and this will not end.**

28 At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”





***Has this been fulfilled (at least in part) through the 1st advent of Christ?***

1. Christ's incarnation - **The Roman government was in power.**
2. Christ's proclamation - **The Kingdom of God is here.**
3. Christ's crucifixion - **Satan is defeated.**
4. Christ's commission - **Proclaim the message and persevere though persecution until the end.**
5. Christ's name - **He is presented as the Son of man.**
6. Christ's teaching - **Matthew 24:34** "this generation will not pass away until all these things take place."

***"the most embarrassing verse in the Bible"***

*The Essential C.S. Lewis p.385*

**Matthew 24:34**

"Truly I say to you, **this generation** will not pass away until all these things take place."

**ΓΕΝΕΑ** **GENEA** (generation, offspring)

This Greek word's meanings depend on the context - "a lineage", "offspring" (physical or spiritual).

**Psalm 14:5**

"for God is with the righteous **generation.**"

**Mark 8:38**

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful **generation,** . . ."

**1 Peter 2:9**

"But ye are a chosen **generation,** a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:"

***Some of the leaders accused of being the Antichrist***

- ✓ **Adolf Hitler**
- ✓ **Ronald Reagan**
- ✓ **Mikhail Gorbachev**
- ✓ **Pope Benedict XVI**
- ✓ **Nero Caesar**
- ✓ **Barack Obama**



***There is general agreement***

- ✓ **The powers of evil are intimidating and very strong in the world.**
- ✓ **It may look as though God is not there or does not care.**
- ✓ **God will judge the wicked and vindicate His people.**
- ✓ **There is ultimate and certain hope for God's people in the Son of Man who is Lord of all.**
- ✓ **Don't lose heart but persevere.**

**HUMAN DESPAIR**

*C. Stevens Evans*

**Human Dignity**

**MEANING**

- too much to live with  
and not enough to live for.

**Rationale  
for this life**

**MORALITY**

- humans are hopelessly  
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**Reformation  
in this life**

**MORTALITY**

- we all eventually die.

**Resurrection  
from this life**