

## How to Begin and End the Timelines of Daniel 12

[music] [music] [music] [music] I'm Marian Berry, welcome to Christian Concerns. One of the concerns that I have today is that we need to distinguish plainly between human speculation and a true interpretation and application of prophetic scripture. You know there are many, many expositors who have tried to deal with the timelines of Daniel 12, and as I was looking in the four volumes in the prophetic faith of our fathers by LE Froom, I discovered to my surprise that there were 37 prophetic expositors in the early church whose writings were still available, that he could list as having looked at Daniel 12 and those timelines, they tried to apply those timelines in their own day. And there were 29 in the early medieval era, there were 35 in the post-reformation era and 42 in the 18th century of whom he had record. Now of course these records are still available or were available while he did his research, are probably only the tip of the iceberg. There may have been many, many others whose writings and speeches were not recorded.

So we also find 87 expositors in the 19th century and 31 of the [inaudible] actually tried to apply the Daniel 12 timelines. And there were 57 non [inaudible] in that day who were also trying to apply the three timelines. And now today in our 20th century there is a multitude, a large number of people who are looking at Daniel 12, these three timelines and they are trying to understand how to count them out. There is one thing though that is extremely important and that has to do with how you begin them and how you end them. There are some ... I've been to several meetings where there are some who say, "Well I think all the timelines ought to begin over here at this period." And some say, "Well they all ought to end at the same time." You see the timelines are not the same length and so there is a problem where to fit them together, how to begin them and how to end them.

So we need to look at the scripture and we need to let the inspired writings of the prophets guide us and guard us so that we will not permit human conjecture or speculation to finally give us wrong ideas. So I'm going to look at a number of the hermeneutic principles that we need to be very well aware of when we start looking at something where there is question. You see God has not really given us impossible puzzles in scripture. It's true that He veils the prophecies until the time of their fulfillment. Then it is intended that they shall open up to the understanding of God's people.

So at this time we're going to look now at some of the hermeneutic principles that we need to observe carefully when we look at Daniel 12. I would say we need to look first of all at the language of Daniel 12, where it speaks of the end, the end of time. And so I'm going to look at Daniel 12:9 and there it says, "Go thy way Daniel for the words are closed up and sealed till the end" the time of the end.

And if we look again we'll see that there is another statement from Testimonies to Ministers page 114, twice Daniel inquired, "How long shall it be to the end of time?" He wasn't asking about the time of the end. He's asking there about the end time, the very border edge. And so we look at Strongs analytical concordance. And there in the concordance when we look at the Hebrew dictionary we find words 7093, which is the word that is used for end in the Daniel 12 verses 5 through 13. And it's defined there as the utmost end, it is defined as the border edge or the extremity or the termination of time that comes from this primitive root to chop off or to completely sever.

So when we look at these sections of the book of Daniel 12, we need to be extremely careful that we are looking at the meanings of these words as they are in the original language. And of course in Matthew 24 we have this dual prophecy which is intended to apply not only to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD but also to the last scenes of this earth's history.

And we need to look at the fact that Daniel 12 has no symbolic language, there are no beasts, no image, no eyes, no horns, no heads, and so as we look at this we need to understand that this is not symbolic language. Everything

in here including the timelines themselves are the prophetic periods of the 1260, 1290 and 1335 days are actually literal days, keep them in their context where they belong. You see human opinion and conjecture has no place in prophetic exposition. Use the prophecies and the scripture and also the spirit of prophecy. And what we are looking for is not some unique and wonderful new human idea regarding these, but what we are looking for is what the Bible has to say about itself. We're looking at the linkage between books, between Daniel and Revelation, between the four visions of Daniel, how they align with each other, how they hook together. We're looking for linkage rather than some new interesting interpretation that some human individual may manufacture.

Alright, let's look also at the language of the Bible, how the language of the Bible is to be understood and it's from Great Controversy page 599, and here it says, "The language of the Bible is to be taken in its most obvious or literal meaning, unless a figure or a symbol is employed." And in Daniel 12 there are no symbols that are used. Now another one of the important hermeneutic rules, and that big word 'hermeneutic' simply means the rules as to how you study the Bible, you know if you're going to play a game of marbles you have to have a little rule book, if you go in the army there are all kinds of rules. If you live at home there are surely ground rules of the home. Everywhere you go, everything you do has rules. When we pick up the Bible, a complicated book, we must understand there are rules that we must follow. So we look here at the literal language and we keep them in their context. These timelines must be kept in the literal context and we must understand that the literal day is a 24 hour period, just as it was in Genesis, there is where the rule I first mentioned, brings us back to Genesis as to what a real literal day is, a 24 hour period.

We need to look at the structure of the book of Daniel in it's forward progressive movement and realize that Daniel 12 comes at the end of the book, the last scenes of earth's history intended for the last generation. We need to remember that Daniel is the story of the rise and fall of empires and we are going to be looking at the last seventh empire, a one world order. We need to recognize that the book of Daniel focuses on crisis and deliverance, there was crisis, and in chapter two, crisis with the wise men who were to receive a death decree and their deliverance by a wonderful revelation of the meaning of the dream, there was crisis in the lion's den, crisis in the fiery furnace, crisis all the way through the book, seven great crises in the book of Daniel. And in each case there is the story of deliverance and so that is what it's all about in Daniel 12 which is the climax of the book, how the last generation will meet crisis and how they will be delivered. We need to link Daniel 12 with Revelation 13 and 14 and align those four timelines.

We need to know the meanings of the words in the original language which we just spoke of. We need to permit Matthew 24 and Revelation 13 to interpret Daniel 12. Remember all the prophecies culminate in the final deliverance and second coming of Jesus. We need to use the same integrity and the same hermeneutic rules on Daniel 12 that we use on all the rest of the Bible. We need to focus not on date setting, not on time setting, but on the events which are to occur that I've spoken of in regard to these timelines of Daniel 12. And if there's something we don't understand we need to table it until further light comes. This is an important rule for anyone who is studying prophecy, if you don't understand it just lay it aside for a little while until God brings you the verses of scripture or some quotation from a reliable source, from an inspired prophet that will unlock it and give you the key. We need to also remember that prophecy is a light in a dark place, and this is world is becoming darker and darker all the time.

Now, we're going to actually look at the timelines now in Daniel 12 and we're going to try to discover how we should begin and end these timelines. Let's begin with Daniel 4. in Daniel 4 we have the first timeline that is mentioned in the book of Daniel. There is a seven year timeline, Nebuchadnezzar was told that for seven years he would lose his senses and that at the end of seven years he would be restored to his throne. So there we find those seven years began with a decree. I would like for us to look at Daniel 4 verses 16 and 17, we need to read this right from the scripture itself, Daniel 4:16 and 17, it's speaking of the king here and it says, "Let his heart be changed from man's and let a beast's heart be given unto him and let seven times pass over him." That's seven, a time is a year here. And it says, "This matter is by what?" What does it say in your Bible? By the decree. In other words it was a decree that started the seven year timeline.

And if we look over again, it says it again in verse 23 and 24, I'm reading from the last part of verse 23, "Let his portion be with the beasts of the field till seven times pass over him. This is the interpretation O king and this is the decree of the most high." So sometimes it can be a decree of the most high, God, or it can be a decree of some nation. So we notice here that the first timeline began with a decree. Now as we look further at the next timeline that is found in the book of Daniel, we see there a timeline in Daniel 7:25, it's the 1,260 day years. And it says there that the saints would be given into his hand for a time times and dividing of time. And that referred to ... that was symbolic time, so we used the day for a year principle of interpretation or decoding that number of 1260 and we find that there were 1260 years in the Papal Supremacy over Europe.

And how did that Papal Supremacy begin? Well if you look into history you discover that the Emperor Justinian wrote a letter to the pope of Rome, he was then called a bishop, and it was said in this letter that the bishop of Rome should be the head bishop of all the churches, that he should be called the corrector of heretics and that he might use the armies of Europe to enforce church dogma. This was a place where he was given both ecclesiastical and temporal power. This was the initiation of the 1260 day years timeline, and it began with a decree or a decree of a letter by Justinian. And so we know there that in Daniel 8:24, we have another timeline and it's the 2300 days. Now how did the 2300 day timeline begin? Well it began by a decree, it said, know therefore, in other words the information was given to Daniel. Daniel you know that you should start counting from the commandment or the decree to rebuild Jerusalem.

So there again a decree is that which begins a timeline. Now this is what we call setting a precedent. What it was that it took to begin timelines in the past should consistently be used again to start a timeline in the future. It should never be that the individual would say, "Well in my opinion I think this timeline should begin here." That's not the way we do it. That's not the way the real prophetic expositor works. He looks for a precedent in scripture to show him how to do this and then he continues from thereon. Let's look also at Daniel 9:24, there was a 70 week prophetic line, and as the Angels said no, therefore, "No Daniel, and count from the decree." And that decree was issued in 457 BC. That's when the 70 weeks began. So consistently over and over again, the prophetic periods of Daniel, those timelines begin with decrees either a decree of God on high or a decree of the nations.

Now what is a decree of a nation? Let's look first of all now at Revelation 13, we're going to look at these prophecies of the end time, as they're given in Revelation 13, I'm opening here to Revelation 13:11 and here it says that he saw a beast rising up from the earth, coming up out of the earth and he had two horns like a lamb. And we always think of the United States as being in its beginning, having a freedom of religion and political freedom. It was a like a lamb, it didn't hurt anyone, everyone was free in a democracy. And so it says this wonderful nation came up from the earth, rising up from the earth, not from a great sea like the first beast which represented multitudes and people so it came up from a virgin territory. And it says however that he spake as a dragon. Now the speaking, it says he spake as a dragon, now what is this speaking action of a nation? I want to look here at a very interesting comment that defines for us what the speaking of a nation actually is. It says he spake as a dragon.

Let's look now at The Great Controversy, page 442 where it says, "The SPEAKING of a nation is the action of its LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL authorities." In other words when a law is passed, when there is legislation of a law, that is the speaking of a nation. Now for many, many years we have understood that Revelation 13:11 has to do with the passing of a law that will take away the freedoms of God's people in regard to religious matters. It has to do with a passing of a national Sunday law, this ... and by the way, the books of Daniel and Revelation are one, if we want to know the answer to something in Daniel we look over to Revelation. If we don't understand something in Revelation we go back to Daniel in order to get our bearings and our footing. So here we have Daniel 12 with its three timelines, and they must be interpreted by the scriptures itself, letting the Bible be its own interpreter, letting the Bible, Revelation 13, give you the speaking voices or the decrees or the legislation which begin the timelines of Daniel 12.

We find also in the book of Revelation and in chapter 13, that there are three times that there are speaking voices. In Revelation 13:11 it speaks of that beast that comes out of the earth and it says that he shall speak as a dragon, a national Sunday law. Then we see in verse 5 that there is also a beast that is spoken of and that is the beast of Revelation 13, he is the one that we know of as the Papal Supremacy and it says there was given him a mouth speaking. Now again there is legislation about the beast or the one who shall be head over the whole new world order. It passes a universal Sunday law, one in which all the nations of the world will come to observe that same universal Sunday law. These, and again in verse 15, there is a speaking voice and it says there in verse 15, and he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, that is legislate, and cause that as many as would not worship the beast should be killed. Now here we have a decree that has to do with killing of people. This is known as a death decree, a universal death decree, so we have Sunday law decrees on a national basis, on a worldwide basis and finally a universal death decree.

There are the three verses in Revelation which begin and end these timelines. Now the timelines of Daniel 12 have to do with 1260 days - literal days, 1290 literal days and 1335 literal days, and they all have to do with fulfillments in the book of Revelation, they are the voices of governments or the voice of God and they have to do with the United States in prophecy, with all the world in prophecy. And again with the United States as it enforces, speaks and causes all that shall not worship the beast shall be killed. The timelines also end, not only with speaking voices of legislative action but also with judicial action. You remember the statement, the speaking of a nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. So what judgmental action happened with the timelines in Daniel 4? Well it was judgmental action that came upon the king when he spent his seven years in exile. Then in the 1260 days of Daniel 7 there we see that there was judgmental action that came upon the Papal Supremacy when the pope was taken prisoner, he was taken captive, that was judgment upon him at that time. So that ended the 1260 years.

And as we look also at Daniel 8:14, there we find that there was a judgment - judgmental action that was to begin not on earth, but in the sanctuary in heaven, there the investigative judgment would begin according to the 2300 day prophecy and it was to end in 1844. So now we have these timelines from Daniel 12 and according to the biblical precedence here is the 1260, the 1290 and the 1335 days all beginning and ending ... let's look at our chart. Here we have at the top of the chart, the Daniel 12 timelines, 1260, 1290 and 1335, that is the literal days, each one of them begin with a speaking voice, this is the 1335 day wait, where God's people waited out. And again we have the 1260 days and the 1290 days. Now as we look at this, we see that it begins with a fulfillment of a Bible verse in Revelation. Daniel is interpreted by Revelation, it must begin with a Bible verse, the fulfillment of prophecy, again it ends with a Bible verse from Revelation. Again here, this 1260 begins with a Bible verse and so does the 1290, here again is another Bible verse of prophecy fulfilled, the prophecies of Revelation fulfilled in the timelines of Daniel.

You see Revelation tells you what happens and who the characters are, but the book of Daniel counts out the time. So as we look at these timelines and we know how to begin and end them, they begin with fulfillment of prophecy, they begin with a voice - a speaking voice of a nation or a government and they have to do with laws, legislation, decrees, either laws or judicial actions. We're going to use this in our next video.

And now we need to discuss for just a moment, some of the ideas that we should concern ourselves with us, in regard to a summary of what we have been doing. First of all Daniel and Revelation are one. You see the whole Bible is one web of truth, and one book interacts with another. In fact there are three books that I consider to be a triad, there is the history of God's people in the Song of Solomon which is the history from the first coming to the second coming, then there is the book of Daniel that extends from his day to the coming of Jesus, and there is the book of Revelation which bears most mindily on the end time scenes of earth's history. So these two books are one, Daniel and Revelation, they interpret each other. And when we don't understand something in the book of Daniel, we must go over to the book of Revelation to define it. And when we're dealing with time and timelines and Daniel did say twice, "How long shall it be to the end of time?"

Now if you ask someone, "How long will it be until dinner is served?" You would expect an answer that involves time, either it would be five minutes or it would be maybe half an hour, whenever you ask how long, you want to know an answer in time. And so Jesus gave the answer in these three timelines. But they are not subject to human speculation. We also need to know that these two books decode each other. They give the specifications as to how these books shall be understood. And they declare the time, the events, the decrees that will have great significance to the people of God, and they will bring us to the conclusion of this world's history.

Revelation names the characters, it speaks of the beast, it speaks of the mark of his authority and it tells about the image of the beast that will enforce these decrees. But when we really get down to the book of Daniel we find that these same events are spoken of there but it counts out the days, it doesn't give the day and hour, but it tells of these decrees that will have great importance to the people of God. Actually these timelines of Daniel 12 form a grid on which the events of Revelation can be placed, that has to do with the seals, with the trumpets, with the plagues, with the important events of Revelation 11 and 16 and 17 and 18, so as we study in the next video we will see that these things have tremendous importance. But you cannot understand those final puzzling things of Revelation until you thoroughly have mastered the book of Daniel. And they all focus on [inaudible] events and help us to know exactly where we are in the stream of time. Thank the Lord.