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Our Present Age

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Daniel 2, the Prophetic Flagship

FEW WILL DISAGREE WITH THE FACT THAT JESUS IS

returning. Even so, it seems the majority are divided on how soon His coming really is. This leaves us with the big question—*Can we know how close we are to the soon coming of Jesus?* The answer is a resounding—YES!

Scripture has never left us in the dark concerning where we are on the prophetic timeline. Dare I say that we have left ourselves in the dark by not approaching the history of the Bible as we do any other historical book. I don't want anyone to take me wrong with that statement. The Bible is definitely unique in that it is more than just a record of events and people of antiquity. It is more of a love letter written by God to His people. In it He records the ups and downs of this relationship to give comfort and assurance of His love when His people are close and to woo them back to Himself when they have drifted from Him. In one sense you could say that the Bible is God's journal of His relationship with His people which He shares with all.

Of course the Bible's uniqueness should not detour us from the fact that the Bible is also history. Because of its historical wealth, the events concerning the prophetic timeline can be measured. They can be measured because they are dated. Because they are dated, they can be verified and we can know where we are on the prophetic timeline.

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No One Disagrees With Daniel 2

Daniel 2 is the flagship of all prophetic timelines. As in a naval fleet, the flagship is the most important and carries the Admiral who gives direction to the entire fleet. In a prophetic sense, Daniel 2's timeline is the Admiral that gives direction to the fleet of timelines and prophetic events found throughout Scripture.

Here's why it's the most important timeline in all of Scripture: no one disagrees with its historical accuracy. It is so accurate that many historians claim that it could not have been written by Daniel and was recorded after the fact many years later. It is easy to understand why non biblical historians do not accept Daniel's account, but it blows my mind when end times teachers develop their end time's timelines without making sure it lines up with Daniel 2. If we all used Daniel 2, there would be far less disagreements on the ordering and timing of prophetic events.

Another reason Daniel 2's timeline is the most important timeline in Scripture is because it does not need to be reordered. It has a beginning (King Nebuchadnezzar) and an ending (return of Christ). The events from beginning to end follow sequentially to give the ordering and timing of prophetic events.

A final reason Daniel 2's timeline is the most important is because it is the most comprehensive timeline recorded in Scripture. It identifies the empires that rise up beginning with

Babylon and King Nebuchadnezzar in the early 600's BC and ends with the return of Christ. When Creation, the pre-flood period, and the period of the Patriarchs, Judges and Kings are added, the timeline of history from Creation to the return of Christ is recorded. Take a look at this timeline in chart form. Though there may be some disagreement on dates, depending on who you read, there are no disagreements on the events and ordering.

The fourth clue is in 7:24, 25 where we find that an eleventh king rises up after the ten kings. He will greatly blaspheme God and greatly persecute God's people for three and one half years. We know this great tribulation does not take place until earth's last seven years is upon us.

The fifth clue is found in 7:13, 14, 26, 27. In these Scriptures Christ returns and the judgment of all takes place. This takes place after the world government is in place, the Antichrist

Daniel 2 Timeline						
Babylon 608 BC	Medes Persia 538 BC	Grecian 333 BC	Roman 160 BC	Divided Roman 476 AD	World Government 20??	Christ Returns 20??
2:32,37,38	2:32,39	2:32,39;8:21	2:33,40	2:41	2:33, 41-43	2:34,44,45

This is the timeline we should begin and end with when studying the end times and the ordering of events. Using Daniel 2 as our plumb line we are able to place all prophetic events in their proper time period. Let's take a look at Daniel 7 to see how this works out.

Daniel 7

The first question we must ask when determining the order of a prophetic event is, "Is it dated?" There are several clues to where Daniel 7's empires and kings are placed on Daniel 2's timeline. The first is in 7:17 where Daniel is told the empires he saw "shall arise out of the earth." This would imply that these empires will appear in the future after the empires he already saw in Daniel 2.

The second clue is in 7:18. Daniel is told that "the saints of the most high shall take the kingdom and possess it." This narrows the dating of Daniel 7 to earth's last generation since the "saints" don't retake the kingdom until the Antichrist is in power.

The third clue is in 7:19-24. Here we are shown an empire that will govern the entire earth with ten kings, these are the same as Daniel 2's ten toed kingdom. This global governance does not take place until earth's final generation.

has come to power, and the saints take back the kingdom.

What these five clues show us is that these events do not take place until earth's last generation immediately preceding the return of Christ.

In relationship to Daniel 2's timeline, we know that the empires previous to the Divided Roman Empire have all risen to great power and fallen from their heights. The events after the Divided Roman Empire have not yet taken place, though the world stage is now in place for the coming world governance. That means the events of Daniel 7 Would be placed after the divided Roman Empire, but before Christ returns.

The lion, bear, and leopard empires would then be placed before the world government is in place and after the Divided Roman Empire. The fourth beast is this ten king World Government. After the world government is in place, the eleventh king (the Antichrist) will rise up and bring the great tribulation.

That would mean that we are the generation living in the fulfillment of Daniel 7 and setting the world stage for global governance, the rise of the Antichrist, and the return of Christ. Here's what this looks like when added to Daniel 2's timeline on the next page.

By adding the events of Daniel 7 to Daniel 2's timeline we see how the prophetic timeline begins to develop and the details begin to add light to where we are on the prophetic timeline.

Daniel 2 & 7 - Timeline										
Babylon 608 BC	Medes Persia 538 BC	Grecian 333 BC	Roman 160 BC	Divided Roman 476 AD	Daniel 7			World Government 20??	Eleventh King (the Antichrist) Great Tribulation 7:8,19,20,23,24	Christ Returns 20??
					Lion	Bear	Leopard			
2:32,37,38	2:32,39	2:32,39;8:21	2:33,40	2:41	7:4	7:5	7:6	2:33, 41-43 4th Beast 7:7	2:34,44,45 7:13,14, 26,27	

Another timeline we are going to look at is the 70 Weeks found in Daniel 9. Again, like Daniel 2, there is no disagreements about the historical accuracy of the events on the timeline; however, depending on who you read, there are some differences about the dates, but not the order or events. Here's how Daniel 2's timeline looks with the 70 weeks added to it.

Daniel 2, 7, & 9 - Timeline										
Babylon 608 BC	Medes Persia 538 BC	Grecian 333 BC	Roman 160 BC	Divided Roman 476 AD	Daniel 7			World Government 20??	Eleventh King (the Antichrist) Great Tribulation 7:8,19,20,23,24	Christ Returns 20??
					Lion	Bear	Leopard			
2:32,37,38	2:32,39	2:32,39;8:21	2:33,40	2:41	7:4	7:5	7:6	2:33, 41-43 4th Beast 7:7	2:34,44,45 7:13,14, 26,27	

<i>70 weeks</i>	445 - 396 BC		34 AD		20?? AD	
	7 Weeks 49 Years	62 Weeks 424 Years	34 AD - 20??			
	<i>Decree to rebuild Jerusalem</i>	<i>Completion of Jerusalem to death of Christ</i>	<i>Pause between the 69th & 70th Weeks</i>		<i>Age of the Antichrist Great Tribulation</i>	
	9:25	9:25,26	9:26		9:27	

By adding the timelines of Daniel 7 and 9 to Daniel 2, we see how using Daniel 2 as our flagship timeline gives direction to all other timelines and end time events. In this way we don't have to wonder what the correct ordering of end times events is, we can know when we follow the dates. When we know the ordering of last day events, we then know where we are on the prophetic timeline and how close we are to the soon coming of Jesus.

For more detail on what we have spoken of here, check out my books, [age of the Antichrist: ARE WE THERE YET?](#) and [REVELATION and the age of the Antichrist](#).