

## Comparisons between Daniel and Revelation

It is hard to say just a little bit about the book of Revelation. Every page turned brings new vistas. It is bewildering, can sometimes be confusing, always challenging, and the study of the book is usually rewarding.

But the place that we must begin, is at.... the beginning.

### Revelation 1:1 (NKJV)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

The revelation of Whom? Jesus Christ. Not particularly end time events. Not particularly church history. Not the rise of evil power. Oh yes, those are in there, but they are in there as the relate to Jesus Christ.

Any effort to understand Revelation without Christ as the center will go the wrong way. In Revelation Jesus is the High Priest, he is the Lamb, he is the Lion, he is the conquering King. So we must keep that in mind as we study.

Back to our text:

'This book is a revelation that God gives

Jesus to show to his servants. I hope and pray those are you and me.

Then, what is to be shown to you are things that must shortly take place. More on that as we go along.

But how is this given? A long book with detailed information? NO! It is given in signs and symbols. There are reasons for this. The most important, I believe is that God's people would understand, and it would be opened to them as they studied.

So, I would like for us to open our Bibles to Revelation chapter 10:

### Revelation 10:1 (NKJV)

I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow *was* on his head, his face *was* like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.

Let's compare this to Daniel 10

### Daniel 10:5-6 (NKJV)

I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist *was* girded with gold of Uphaz!

<sup>6</sup> His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

Now who was this being in Daniel 10? It was Jesus, in the form of the Archangel, of the leaders of the angels.

So right away we can make the connection between Daniel 10 and Revelation 10 just from the description of this glorious being.

Now remember, that an angel is a messenger, or by expansion, a message. Here we have both. Jesus came to show us the Father. That is his message. And He is the messenger. And if a message is carried by divinity, I am sure that it is an important message.

Revelation 10:2

<sup>2</sup> He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,

Now the focus changes from the Mighty Angel to the little book. The little book at is OPEN.

This is in contrast to the Book of Daniel which was to be sealed up.

Daniel 12:4 (NKJV)

"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

In this passage the book was to be shut AND sealed.

Now I do not think it is too much of a jump of logic to make the comparisons between these two characters.

In Daniel the Mighty Angel tells Daniel that the message is for the latter days. In chapter 12 he is told to close and seal the book until the time of the end.

In Revelation the Mighty Angel is holding an open book. And Revelation is about end time events.

Now we just saw that Revelation 1:1 tells that this Revelation of Christ was to be given to his servant John, who was to write it down to reveal things that were soon to come.

And furthermore, we read in

Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it for the time is near.

Now we have Daniel, a sealed book, revealed by Jesus Christ to John, and Chapter 10 of Revelation is telling us that this book is opened, and is opened by Jesus. I believe 2 things about this. First, it is the opening of understanding about last day events, but more importantly, it is a Revealing of Jesus Christ and how He works for us and through events for our salvation and the destruction of evil.

Now curiously enough, there was some things revealed to John that were shut up! That was the message of the 7 thunders. Which we are not getting into here.

### **Revelation 10:5-6 (NKJV)**

The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,

Here, the Mighty Angel is declaring the end of time, with the open book in his hand. And he is swears by The One who lives forever and ever, that there will be no more delay.

I am comfortable that this ONE who lives forever and ever is God the Father

But notice how he is described. Everlasting.

Creator of heaven.

Creator of earth.

Creator of all things in the earth. Does that make you think of THIS?

### **Exodus 20:11 (NKJV)**

' For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

The Sabbath is what ties God to us as our Creator and Redeemer: The one who brings our eventual salvation from the power of sin and the presence of sin.

So now we are getting more of the picture. This little book, that is opened is one that was supposed to be opened at the time of the end. And that book is the book of Daniel.

And whatever is going on with this book is to help us understand end time events.

## Revelation 10:7-9

...but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me "Take and eat it, and it will make your stomach bitter but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

The Prophet John, (the beloved disciple) is instructed to take the book and eat it. Now that is not as strange as it may seem. Have you never used the term, "He just ate that up." when it had nothing to do with chewing? Have you heard it said of a person, "They just devoured that book?" Meaning, really got into it?

Well, that is what it means here.

So John takes the book, and notice the strange way it is presented. We would say today: "It will give you heartburn, but it will taste delicious."

Anyone here ever had a rip-roaring case of heartburn? It will not kill you, but it can make you extremely uncomfortable.

So what we see here is an event, that takes place towards the end of time, which will be exciting and joyful, which is followed by distress and discomfort.

Can we find such an event in history after the events of the 1260 days?

I believe we can.

In the late 1830s and the early 1840s people around the globe began to study the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. As they did they came to the understanding of the 1260 day, and how the end of time was drawing close. Joseph Wolf, a Jew, preached in Persia and other areas of the Middle East. A Catholic priest in South America began preaching Daniel's prophecies. He wrote under a pen name, Manual de Lacunza. A slave in the sugar cane fields in the Caribbean began preaching the second coming.

These all sprung up individually, without contact. I believe through the guidance of God's Spirit.

In the United States, It began with a farmer named William Miller.

He began studying his Bible, and came under the conviction that Jesus was going to return soon. As he continued his study, based on the time prophecies of Daniel, that Jesus

would come back in late 1843. He studied and restudied His conclusion was that the 2300 day/year prophecy, when it spoke of the cleansing of the sanctuary, was referring to the cleansing of the earth by fire at the return of Jesus.

He shared with some of his friends, and they saw merit in what he was finding. He was asked to share his findings with others, but felt that he could not stand in front of a crowd and teach. He was very timid.

His wife encouraged him to share it publicly, but he refused. Finally he said that God would send someone to ask him to preach this message, that he would do it.

Well, God has impeccable timing. Not very long, a matter of hours, there was a knock on the door. There was a relative asking him to come share his findings with a small church. Miller got mad, and stormed out the woodlot where he had an open and honest prayer session.

Miller finally gave in to God, and agreed to go. His message was generally well received. He was invited to other churches, and finally some of the believers began sharing what they learned from him. Before too long there were thousands looking for Christ's soon return.

Then these "Adventists" or "Advents" as some called them, began to have camp meetings.

Some of these were so large that the railroad lines made special stops near the campgrounds where these camp meetings were being held.

There are reports of tens of thousands of people at some of these meetings. People were praising God, confessing sins, turning their lives around.

The excitement grew.

Finally a date was settled on. October 22, 1844.

In fairness there were some who were uncomfortable with setting a date, but most of them were finally won over.

These Adventists (waiting for the second advent of Christ) gathered together in several places on that day to welcome Jesus.

But he did not come.

I do not think that we can begin to imagine the sorrow. Truly the sweetness and excitement of the little book of Daniel had turned into spiritual heartburn.

I can only think of how the disciples must have felt when Jesus was crucified. Their whole future had been ripped away from them. It was a bitter experience. The Adventists were devastated.

Most of them wandered away. Some kept setting times, thinking perhaps they got the date wrong. Some lost their faith in the Bible all together.

But one group continued to study, and came to the understanding that the sanctuary to be cleansed was in heaven. Yes, the time prophecies were correct. But the interpretation of the last one was wrong. As they began to understand the sanctuary theme in Daniel, they began to understand. it was not the earth that was to be cleansed. It was an event going on in heaven.

But, remember, the Mighty Angel had said:

**Revelation 10:11 (NKJV)**

And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Those people who overcame that heartburn began to realize that this whole thing was much greater than they imagined. Their work of proclaiming the day of the Lord had just begun.

Yes, they were living in the time of the end. Yes, Jesus was soon to come. Yes, the prophecies were being fulfilled. But the end was not yet.

Comparing Daniel to Revelation, they began to see a larger picture.

This little group, the smallest that remained after the great disappointment, was the foundation of the Seventh-day Adventist church. A movement called to uphold the revelation of Jesus Christ in Daniel and Revelation, and the rest of scripture. called to continue the principles of the Reformation, when the rest of the world had forgotten them. Called to help individuals prepare for the soon coming of Jesus Christ.

Now the parallels between Daniel and Revelation became clearer.

Before we stop, let's just look a few.

We have seen how Daniel has a Chiastic structure.

Revelation does also. But there are other parallels.

Daniel uses the symbols of beasts for kingdoms.

Revelation uses the symbols of beasts for kingdoms.

In Revelation there is war in heaven.

In Daniel, Jesus and Gabriel struggle against the powers of Persia.

A dragon plays an important part in Revelation.

The non-descript monstrous beast plays an important part in Daniel.

In Revelation 13 there is a non-descript beast.

Revelation 13:1-2 (NKJV) Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

<sup>2</sup> Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power his throne, and great authority.

This is not a friendly power.

Let's take a look at it. Revelation: 7 heads, 10 horns with crowns,  
3 are plucked up by the little horn power.

Revelation: Blasphemous names on the heads.

Daniel: Little horn speaks blasphemies.

Revelation: Body of a leopard.

Daniel: Leopard with 4 heads.

Revelation: Feet of bear.

Daniel: Bear with ribs in its mouth.

Revelation: Mouth of a lion.

Daniel: Lion with heart of a man.

Revelation: Dragon.

Daniel: Non-descript beast.

We could go on.

We have looked at this before: Time prophecies.

1260 days

Time, times, and, half a time.

3 1/2 years

Both end with a time of great trouble which is ended by the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

**Daniel 12:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, *Even* at that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.

Revelation: Persecution of saints. Plagues. Second coming (big trouble for wicked.)

**Symbolism:**

Daniel: In the symbolic prophecies

Revelation: Throughout. (Signified-in signs and symbols)

**Centered on Jesus:**

Daniel: I hope you have gotten a clearer picture of Jesus from the study of Daniel.

Revelation: It is the revealing of Jesus Christ and his ultimate victory over sin. It is the promise that all things will be made new. It is the fulfillment of the promise in Daniel 12:1: Christ's people will be delivered.

This is just a sample. Revelation has so much more.

No wonder it opens with this:

Revelation 1:3 (NKJV) Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

The time is near. I think you can feel it. Right now there is a feeling of optimism in much of the world. But there is also great fear. But we have a Savior who is coming to rescue us.

Do you want to be ready for that event?

I encourage you to study more of Revelation. But when you do, never stop looking for what Jesus is doing, and the roles he plays in the book.