

In chapter 7 He revealed some additional facts about these four kingdoms, presented a thrilling picture of His own dynamic supremacy (vv. 9-10), and gave a further glimpse of events connected with the destruction of the fourth beast and the establishment of the new regime, introducing the figure of the Son of Man and promising that He would associate His saints with Him in His rule.

In chapter 8 God revealed new details about the second and third kingdoms, giving further details about a situation in the course of the third kingdom, and showing the end of the predicted trouble. Chapter 8 contains no suggestion of the coming of the new divine kingdom, since it reaches only to a point in the course of the third kingdom.

Chapter 9 adds an extremely important element -- the divine solution to the problem of sin, promising expiation and laying out a time-sequence, but pointing to severe troubles for those who remain impenitent.

Chapters 11-12 add further details about the course of the third kingdom, give further information about the crisis introduced in chapter 8, and then jump forward to the crisis produced by the antichrist's hatred of God.

Fulfilled Prophecy

In the course of our study we have examined a considerable number of prophecies that have already been fulfilled. This is one of the great values of the study, because it gives evidence of God's ability to predict the future.

In chapters 2 and 7 we saw an outstanding example of predictive prophecy one that goes far beyond any human ability to predict the future. In these chapters God revealed the fact that four great empires would rule successively over most of the then-known world -- a prediction that fits the historical development between Nebuchadnezzar and the coming of Christ. Since the decline of Roman power there has been no empire of comparable magnitude (the so-called British empire was an entirely different type of regime and lasted only a comparatively short time).

Chapter 8 contains amazing pictures of the rapid