

### 3 Daniel

It is describing how the message came to Daniel and what the effect of it was upon him.

*But* There are a few verses there on which we must spend a little time because they are much discussed and much misunderstood. That will be the last thing we will take up this morning.

The other 4 chapters fall into two groups. First, chapters 2 and 7 are definitely parallel. Chapter 2 shows a great image which is a figure giving an idea of what is going to happen in secular history in the Jews(?) It gives certain important aspects of four important empires and then about the coming of the kingdom of God. This is chapter 2 then rather briefly. The picture is given and then there is an interpretation.

Then in ch. 7 we have an entirely different picture which shows the same thing. We have the same 4 empires represented as 4 animals. Then we have the coming of Christ's <sup>Kingdom</sup> as-king represented in an entirely different way than it was represented in ch. 2. Ch. 7 may then be called a rehash of ch. 2 but a bit fuller with a considerable amount of detail added that is not in ch. 2. Now we have an exactly parallel situation between ch. 8 and 11. In ch. 8 we have a brief picture (revelation) of certain very important events. Then in ch. 11 we have an extended picture of these same events, with considerable added material. Ch. 8 and 11 are probably not a fifth as well known among the Christian world as Chapters 2 and 7. But in chapters 8 and 11 there are clearly brought out certain vital principles which I think are extremely helpful in correctly interpreting portions of ch. 2 and 7. So I'm going to start with them first. I'm going to start with chapters 8 and 11.

Now a few more introductory <sup>words</sup> things. To me the most important thing when it comes --- for a Christian to learn the truth is to go to the Bible and see what it says. Because I believe that the Bible is the one source of absolute truth that we have, and it is absolutely dependable in everything that it teaches. I believe however we make a great mistake when we take a question and go to the Bible and say Does the Bible teach this or that? I think we should say Does it teach this or does it teach that or does it not give an answer to this subject?