

Daniel's Message of Deliverance

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God's message to Daniel was one of *deliverance*, for he, his companions, and for Israel then and the future - our day. Daniel tells us that the "*wise*" shall understand his message (Dan. 12:10). Like Isaiah and the book of Revelation, few do. This is because their messages have been "sealed," meant to come forth to the 144,000 and others just before the prophecies in them unfold. In chapter 2, verse 28 of Daniel we read; "There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets and maketh known...what shall be in the latter days" (Dan. 2:28, 21-22).

Daniel reveals six examples of *deliverance* in his important book for our day. Christ is the Great Deliverer, providing liberty to all repentant captives. He releases them from sin, death, and hell. Like Christ, His special last-days "**Servant**," a potential *son* sent into the vineyard in the last days, has and will again serve as a *deliverer* for the righteous. Some of his ancient service, providing much experience, is apparent in Daniel's book. Examples of *deliverance* in Daniel include:

1. Deliverance from a decree by the king of Babylon to kill all the *wise men* he employed, those who weren't able to interpret the king's dream - those who were false prophets (chap. 2)
2. Deliverance of Daniel's *three companions* from a fiery furnace, put there because they would not worship an idolatrous golden image set up by the king (chap. 3)
3. Deliverance of *king Nebuchadnezzar* (the "great tree") once he removed his pride (chap. 4)
4. Deliverance of *Israel* from captivity in Babylon via judgment upon king Belshazzar by Darius (chaps. 5-6) Israel was being punished in 70 years of captivity for not observing the Sabbatical Year of release.
5. Deliverance of *Daniel* from hungry lions because he prayed illegally to the God of heaven (chap. 6)
6. Deliverance of *all Israel* in the last-days, **those who names are "written in the book."** These are they who are delivered from the grasp of "the great image," the powerful fourth kingdom or "beast" eventually destroyed by the "*stone*" - a great "*seer*" sent of God in the last-days (Chap. 10:14, 12:1)

1. *All Wise Men are Delivered* The first example of deliverance in Daniel's day is that of *all the wise men* in Babylon, including Daniel and his three companions. In chapter 2, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was mad that no "wise man" in his employ could interpret his dream of a great image. The false prophets were all to be killed. The great image was a symbol of a composite kingdom (with him as the head), and that of a great last-days kingdom made up of many nations that *makes war on the Saints* and the whole world. It is a message for *the 144,000* and the "*wise virgins*" of the last-days, those who come out of Babylon. They will be delivered.

In verse 34 Daniel tells us that he saw a *stone* "cut out without hands, which smote the image" he had seen earlier, one whose feet were made of iron (Rome) mingled with clay (other modern nations). The head of this great image was made of gold, his breast and arms of silver, his belly and thighs of brass (v. 32). Latter in Daniel, and with the help of John's Revelation and Isaiah's book, we learn that this composite "*image*" is a fourth great kingdom *in the last-days*, made of a number of modern European and Eastern Block nations that have fully embraced "Babylon" and her ways. It is destroyed by the "*stone*" seen by Daniel. The *stone* is a great last-days "*seer*" or prophet, a warrior prince eventually crowned king. He appears to be "*the angel of the Lord's presence*" in much of the Old Testament, and the last-days servant of the Lord in His own royal, patriarchal bloodline - that of Israel's Davidic kings. This author believes he is John the Beloved, also known as John the Revelator, a translated being that will direct the Lord's work in the last-days until He arrives on the scene. As the Lord's sent servant, and a potential son possessing the Seal of the living God (D&C 77:9), we observe in Daniel's book that he delivered Daniel, his companions, and Israel, from their captivity. He will be a deliverer in our day too. He is thought to be the right arm of the Lord in Isaiah and the mighty and strong one of the Doctrine and Covenants.

In verse 44 of chapter 2 Daniel tells us that, "the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." This is the last-days peaceful and just government of the Lord, brought in by the Lord and His servant, the *son* sent into the vineyard after others are put away or fall away.

2. *Deliverance in Daniel's Day* The second example of deliverance at the time of Daniel is in verse 28 of chapter 3. King Nebuchadnezzar stated that God, "sent his angel, and delivered his [God's] servants that trusted in him." These were Daniel's three companions, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. They refused to worship a great golden image raised up by the king. Because they trusted in God and stood firm in their refusal to worship a false god, the three men were delivered by an "**angel**," a "*fourth*" being in the furnace, one "*like the Son of God*" (v. 25). He was the sent **angel of the Lord** (v. 28). It was then that the king finally understood the great power of Daniel's living God. He stated, "*there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.*"

3. *Deliverance of King Nebuchadnezzar* In chapter 2 Daniel stated that God was all powerful, able to change the times (the heavens) and the seasons, "he removeth kings, and setteth up kings," and reveals wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and deep secret things to those who thank and praise Him (Dan. 2:19-23). Later in chapter 4, Daniel interprets another of the king's dreams. At this time king Nebuchadnezzar was a boastful, prideful king, like a great "tree." Daniel revealed that he would lose his kingdom and be humbled to the dust. With repentance and humility, the kingdom was returned to him. The king later stated, "those that walk in pride he is able to abase" (Dan. 4:37).

4. *Deliverance of Israel from Captivity in Babylon* Jeremiah informs us that Israel had been taken captive in Babylon for their wickedness, and specifically because they broke their covenant with God to observe the laws tied to the Sabbatical Year of *release*, when slaves were to be set free, debts forgiven, and the land (earth) given rest for a full year (see Jer. 29:1-14). It was a time that *oppression* was to be relieved and eliminated. Not only did they not let their slaves go free as they had promised the Lord and their slaves, they also found ways to collect debts secretly. In addition, they did not give mother earth the rest she needed. Israel was thus held captive in Babylon for 70 years, 10 times the number of years tied to the Sabbatical Year - of "release."

At the end of these 70 difficult years, Israel was finally released from slavery (Dan. 5). It is part of the story of "the writing on the wall," where king Belshazzar (son of king Nebuchadnezzar) saw *a man's* finger (v. 5) writing a message on his palace wall, one he could not understand. The king and his guests were drinking wine to their false gods in the cups once used inside Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem. Daniel once again interpreted the king's message. He and his guests were all being judged. The king was told that the message delivered by the "*man*" expressed that he (the king) had been weighed and measured and was found wanting, and that he would lose his kingdom that night. King Darius the Median conquered the people of Babylon that night. Israel was later set free by him (see chapters 5-6).

5. *Daniel is Delivered in the Lion's Den* Daniel prayed three times a day to God, facing Jerusalem and the temple they once enjoyed while doing so. The temple was a symbol of God's presence. Daniel's petitions were to God and not the king. This was against the law (v. 12). Daniel was thus thrown into a den of hungry lions. King Darius didn't want to harm Daniel. He knew the power of Daniel's God, but was forced to observe his own law. He prayed and fasted for Daniel, who was then delivered this night by God's **angel** (v. 16 & 22).

6. *Our Deliverance in the Last-days* The last example of deliverance in the book of Daniel is our own, that seen by Daniel in our day (chap. 7:13-14 & chapters 8-12). In chapter 7, going back in time to the reign of king Belshazzar, Daniel interpreted the vision of the king again. This time (prior to his judgment with "the writing on the wall"), Daniel heard the voice of a "*man*" telling the angel Gabriel to reveal to Daniel the meaning of the vision. In verse 23 we learn that it is the "latter time," when our transgressions are fully ripe, that a fierce king comes to power. He destroys "the mighty and the holy people" (v. 24). He is "*the king of Assyria*" in Isaiah, leading the great "*beast*" of Revelation, Daniel's great composite "*image*." This leader or "*little horn*" may be Putin, leading a composite army of Russia, China, European Nations, and others against America and all other nations of the world. The "*stone*" of Daniel, the right "*arm*" of Isaiah, rises up to eventually defeat him and the beast, once the Lord's right "*arm*" is commissioned by the Ancient of Days (Michael - Adam) to do so at Adam-ondi-Ahman (Dan. 12:1). This occurs when he "sits" in council with many of the 144,000 and others, all under the direction of Christ. Daniel tells us in chapter 12 verse 1 that Israel "**shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.**" In other verses of scripture we read that the last-days deliverer may be John, *the mighty and strong one*, sent of the Lord as His *right arm* to defeat the beast and false prophet. They have

established their headquarters near the center place in Missouri (Dan. 11:45), that Zion might not be established there. In Daniel 7:9 we read that "the thrones (kings-leaders) were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit." There "**one like the Son of Man**...came to the Ancient of days...and he was given...dominion, and glory, and a kingdom" (verses. 13-14). "Judgment was given to [this **man**, John and] the saints of the Most High" (v. 22), after which he and the 144,000, under the direction of Christ, go defeat the "fourth beast...the fourth kingdom" (v. 23).

References to the Davidic Servant - the Fourth Man or Angel Note the references before and hereafter to this special **servant** and **deliverer**, sent of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is known as the "**man**" (9:21; 10:18), a "**certain man clothed in linen**" (10:5), "the **man** clothed in linen, which was **upon the waters** of the river" (12:7; see also D&C 61:14-17). Daniel sees the "fingers of a **man's** hand" (5:5), one whose body was "like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of **lightning**, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in **colour** to polished **brass**, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude" (10:6). This "**man**" is also described as the "**fourth**" (Dan. 3:25), and the "**angel**" (Dan. 3:28).

In the Old Testament, it appears that John works alongside the Lord as the "**angel of the Lord's presence**." He appears to be the last-days *Davidic Servant*, sent into the vineyard as the Lord's own **son**. He is a translated **man**, ordained under the hands of Christ as an Apostle and member of the First Presidency of the church in the meridian of time. He was the Lord's primary *witness* in the New Testament, and is now the senior Apostle on the earth, possessing power, authority, and the "**seal of the living God**" (D&C 77:9). Note his service to Daniel hereafter.

The Prophet Ezekiel provides good evidence for John being the "**man**" or special "**angel**" that revealed to him *the measurements* of the last-days temple, soon to be built in old Jerusalem. He stated, "and behold, there was a **man**, whose appearance was like the appearance of **brass** [see Dan. 10:6], with a line of flax [linen] in his hand, and a *measuring reed* [see Rev. 11:1]; and he stood in the gate [the place of *judgment*]. And the man said unto me, behold with thine eyes...declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel" (Ezek. 40:3-5). It is this **servant** who will build the new temple in old Jerusalem as *the Branch* (Zech. 6:12). For more on him and his important mission, see *Awake and Arise* by the author. Note these connections in the six Daniel scriptures hereafter.

Dan. 2:34, 45: He appears to be the last-days "**stone**" cut out of the mountain or *nation* of Israel (in the royal bloodline of kings through David - like his father Christ) without hands (not by the power or authority of man, but by God Himself). It is he who defeats the great goliath of the last-days (like David of old), the fourth beast or kingdom of Daniel, the beast of John's own book of Revelation. This beast is led by Isaiah's king of Assyria.

Dan. 3:25, 28: John may be the "**fourth**" *being* present in the fiery furnace with Daniel's three companions, the sent "**angel**" empowered to deliver them.

Dan. 5:5: It was a "**man's** hand" that was seen writing on the wall the message of judgment from God to king Belshazzar and his guests. "God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians" (Dan. 5:26-28).

Dan. 6:22: Daniel told king Darius that he had been saved by God's **angel**. "My God hath sent his **angel**, and hath shut the lion's mouths" (Dan. 6:22). Speaking of God who sent this servant, King Darius stated, "He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions" (v. 27).

Dan. 8:15: Seeking meaning for his vision in Daniel 8, the Prophet Daniel prayed to God. A being was sent to him with "the appearance of a **man**." Daniel overheard this "**man**" speaking to Gabriel, telling him to "make this man [Daniel] understand the Vision" (v. 16). Later in Daniel 9:21, the angel Gabriel provided an explanation of the meaning of Daniel's vision to him. Gabriel was also called a "**man**" in verse 21.

Dan. 10:5-6: After three weeks of a special "Daniel fast" - tied to mourning over Israel's captivity in Babylon (a "Daniel fast" is one limited to certain foods), Daniel looked and saw "a certain **man** clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body was "like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of *lightning*, and his eyes as lamps of *fire*, and his arms and his feet like in *colour* to polished *brass*, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude" (10:6).

In other scriptures, we read of **man** clothed in linen with an *inkhorn* (or well) at his side, that associated with a *writer* (Ezek. 40:3-5). He is John the Revelator, a special eyewitness (an Apostle, recorder, and son) of Christ in the New Testament, one bearing strong witness of him continually on earth. His three-fold last-days mission as a translated being (a *fiery man* or *angel*) is unfolded for us in D&C 77:9 & 14, where Joseph Smith identifies this special Servant as John, he who ministers unto them in the last-days "**who are heirs of salvation**" (D&C 7).

More of John's witness of the Master is promised to come forth in the last-days. We read of this in D&C 93:6 & 18, Ether 4:16, and 1 Nephi 14:19-27.