Christ Fellowship

Series: The Life of Christ
The 2nd Advent of Jesus
Lesson 4
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God's Design in the Hebrew Scriptures: Daniel

Chapter 4 — A Humbling Lesson For Heart Transformation

I. Nebuchadnezzar's declaration of the Most High God, 1-3

II. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the Most High God's humbling, 4-18

III. Nebuchadnezzar's divine discipline from the Most High God, 19-33

IV. Nebuchadnezzar's praise and honor of the Most High God, 34-37

The Times of the Gentiles
God's program for the world chs. 2—7

Daniel wrote 2:4b–7:28 in the Aramaic language. This literary change gives the reader a clue that this part is a distinct section of the book. The content of this section also identifies it as special. It concerns the future history of the Gentiles during "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24). Aramaic was the common language of the world in which Daniel lived when he wrote. It is natural that he would have recorded what concerns the world as a whole in the language of the Gentiles.

The writer constructed this section of the book in chiastic form.

A A prophecy of an image concerning four Gentile nations and their end ch. 2
- **B** The supernatural persecution and deliverance of Daniel's three friends ch. 3
  - **C** God's revelation to the Gentile king Nebuchadnezzar ch. 4
  - **C'** God's revelation to the Gentile king Belshazzar ch. 5
- **B'** The supernatural persecution and deliverance of Daniel ch. 6

A' A prophecy of animals concerning four Gentile nations and their end ch. 7

"Chapters 2 and 7 explain the succession of four Gentile empires that would exert control over Jerusalem and the Jews until God's kingdom is established. Chapters 3 and 6 warned the Jews of the persecution they would face during this period and exhorted them to remain faithful to God. Chapters 4 and 5 encouraged the Jewish remnant by reminding them that a time would come when even the Gentile rulers would acknowledge that the God of Israel rules over the nations."

Tom Constable, Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible (Galaxie Software, 2003; 2003), Dan 1:21.