

## DANIEL

Lesson 25  
Dan's the Man

- Between December, 1811, and March, 1812, 1000+ earthquakes rocked the area we (today) call the Mid-South.
- The three biggest quakes, usually referred to as the New Madrid earthquakes, were some of the most powerful and devastating seismic events to take place on the North American continent since Europeans landed in the Americas.

- Reports: The Mississippi ran backward
- The earth near New Madrid, Missouri, opened up and spewed sand and sediment into the air.
- The sky blackened, and birds were so confused they flew upside down.
- The earthquakes permanently altered the geography of the area and were supposedly felt as far away as Canada.

- **Likelihood?** 5-10% of a magnitude 7 event in New Madrid in the next 50 years.
- Prepared? Such a quake would have material implications, so I keep a “go-bag” in each of my vehicles with some physical supplies. Look...
- Daniel is predicting a future **faith-quake**, an extreme faith shake-up. So it makes sense to carry a “go-bag” of heart preparation.

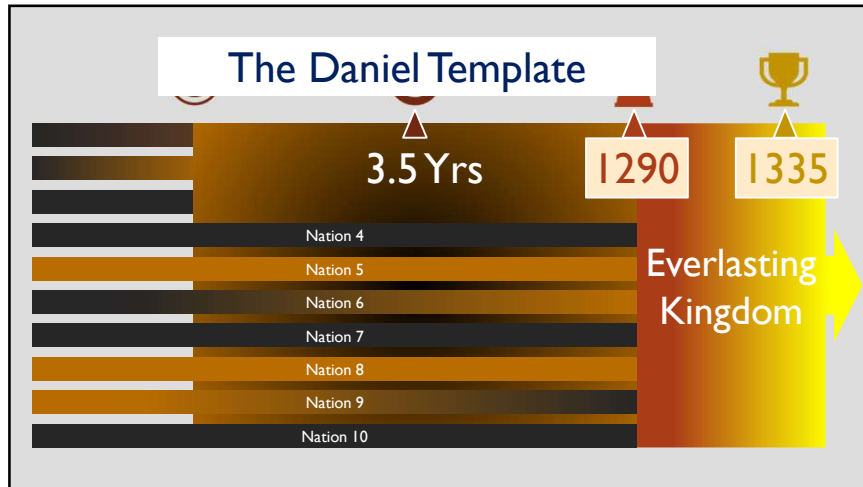
- So what would you want to have packed away in your heart if you were to encounter a **magnitude 10 faith-quake?**
- The Book of Daniel has helped us answer precisely this question.
- First, Daniel outlined for us what will happen when this faith-quake hits.
- Here are key coming events!

### **FUTURE GLIMPSE #1-5 – SUMMARY**

- **Daniel 2: Look for a union of ten nations who are not true equals.**
- **Daniel 7: Look for a God-hating upstart to defeat three of these nations and launch a 3½ year unprecedented and prevailing campaign against the saints.**

- **Daniel 8: Look for someone who reflects but surpasses Antiochus Epiphanes in arrogance against God and animosity toward God's people.**
- **Daniel 9: Look for a prince to come who breaks a treaty after 3½ years and erects something abominable to launch a devastating campaign against the saints.**

- **Daniel 11-12: Look for someone who establishes an expanding Middle Eastern empire capable of eliminating any who do not worship him or his "idol."**
  - When you see events aligning with these predictions, we are close to Jesus' return.
  - But we will also be on approach for an extreme faith-test! **I call this the Daniel template.**



**6 BUCKLE UP!**

- A king who deems himself worthy to take god's place will come into power.
- People who worship God or serve Jesus will have no place in his world.
- This ruler will effectively identify and eliminate all who refuse to worship him.
- **This is where the world is headed.**

**7 HEART PREPARATION NOW**

- In addition, Daniel provided a wealth of insight into what persevering saints do when a magnitude 10 faith-quake arrives prior to Jesus' return.
- In the previous 5 sermons, I introduced 10 faith exercises you can practice now to get your heart ready for whatever the future holds.

**7 HEART PREPARATION NOW**

- 1. Pick up your cross!** Find ways each day to embrace cost as you follow Jesus.
- 2. Know God!** Spend time and energy deepening your relationship with and understanding of God.
- 3. Value trial!** When you experience testing, celebrate that trial produces purity.

7

**HEART PREPARATION NOW**

4. **Be a watchman!** Give others God's words of warning.
5. **Celebrate name shame!** Embrace opportunities to suffer shame for His name's sake.

7

**HEART PREPARATION NOW**

6. **See Him coming!** (Dan. 7:13-14) Look through your present circumstances to Jesus' return! (This is how your "this life" story ends and future story begins!)
7. **Serve One!** Do whatever you do to please God alone.

7

**HEART PREPARATION NOW**

8. **Share a cup!** Help someone who has incurred cost for doing what is right or staying true to Jesus.
9. **Give grace!** Freely forgive those who have hurt you or worked your harm.

7

**HEART PREPARATION NOW**

10. **Say "no" to fear!** Live each day unafraid because you know Who is writing your story and believe how **He** says it will end.
  - Now here is something awe-inspiring:
  - With two exceptions, Daniel (and his friends) demonstrated these very heart skills!

### HEART PREPARATION NOW

- 8 **1. Pick up your cross!** Find ways each day to embrace cost as you follow Jesus.
- 8 Daniel 5:17 – *Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him.”*

### HEART PREPARATION NOW

- 9 **2. Know God!** Spend time and energy deepening your relationship with and understanding of God.
- 9 Daniel 1:4 – *youths ...showing intelligence (sakal) in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding (byn) and discerning knowledge. At 14! God centered wisdom!*

### HEART PREPARATION NOW

- 10 **3. Value trial!** When you experience testing, celebrate that trial produces purity.
- 10 Daniel 4:37 – *“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”*

### HEART PREPARATION NOW

- 11 **4. Be a watchman!** Give others God’s words of warning.
- 11 Daniel 4:27 – *“Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.”*

### HEART PREPARATION NOW

- 12** ➤ **5. Celebrate name shame!** Embrace opportunities to suffer shame for His name's sake.
- 12** ➤ Daniel 6:10–11 – *Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem);*

### HEART PREPARATION NOW

- 12** ➤ *and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously. Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.*

### HEART PREPARATION NOW

- 13** ➤ **6. See Him coming!** (Dan. 7:13-14) Look through your present circumstances to Jesus' return! (This is how your "this life" story ends and future story begins!)
- 13** ➤ Revelation 1:7 – *Behold, He is coming with the clouds*

### HEART PREPARATION NOW

- 14** ➤ **7. Serve One!** Do whatever you do to please God alone.
- 14** ➤ Daniel 1:8 – *But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank;*

### HEART PREPARATION NOW

- 15 **8. Share a cup!** Help someone who has incurred cost for doing what is right or staying true to Jesus.

Jesus adds the Olivet Template to the Daniel template and includes this guidance. Do good to other servants as you would to Jesus!

### HEART PREPARATION NOW

- 16 **9. Give grace!** Freely forgive those who have hurt you or worked your harm.

16 Daniel 4:19 – *Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him. The king responded and said, “Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you.”*

### HEART PREPARATION NOW

- 16 *Belteshazzar replied, “My lord, if only the dream applied to those who hate you and its interpretation to your adversaries!”*

### HEART PREPARATION NOW

- 17 **10. Say “no” to fear!** Live each day unafraid because you know Who is writing your story and believe how **He** says it will end.

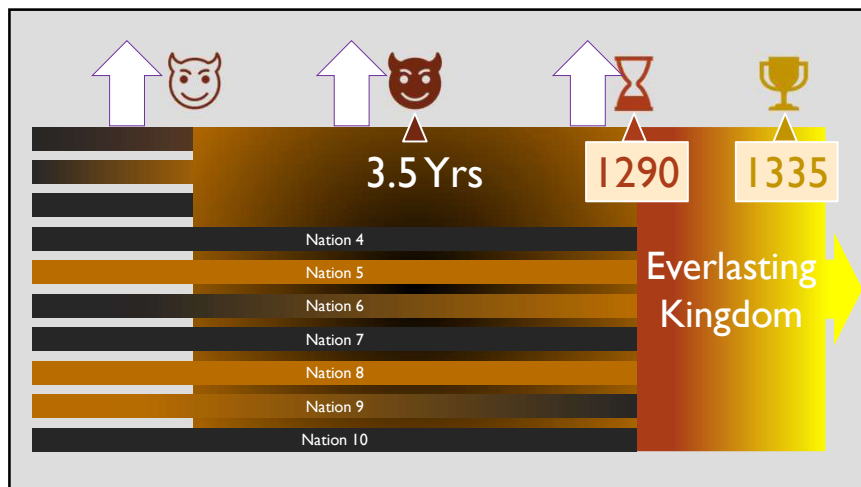
17 Daniel 3:17-18 – *If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.*

## HEART PREPARATION NOW

17 *But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."*

## THE SMART PLAY

- **Live each day in a state of readiness to meet the Lord. Are you ready? Do you know Him?**
- **Live each day prepared to stay true to Jesus no matter what the world dishes out.**
- **Live each day unafraid because you know how your story ends.**



## PRACTICAL DISCIPLINES

- **Regardless of your eschatology, the commands to live from a prevailing faith are not reserved for a subset of believers.**
- **In other words, use the Daniel disciplines regardless of your eschatology.**



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## PRACTICAL DISCIPLINES

- **Pick one a day, or one for 7 days, and find a practical way to do one thing.**
- Pick up your cross! Know God! Value trial! Be a watchman! Celebrate name shame! See Him coming! Serve Him alone! Share a cup! Give grace! Say “no” to fear!

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## PRACTICAL DISCIPLINES

- **Do this as a family! Daniel (and friends) were already engaging in teen years!**
- **Read Daniel and talk about faith-quake prep!**
- Pick up your cross! Know God! Value trial! Be a watchman! Celebrate name shame! See Him coming! Serve Him alone! Share a cup! Give grace! Say “no” to fear!

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## THE GOOD NEWS

- **There are a series of “overcomer promises” in Revelation that are directed at all who will live from a prevailing faith.**
- **Listen as I read them – this is what you have to look forward to if you will live all-in for Jesus.**