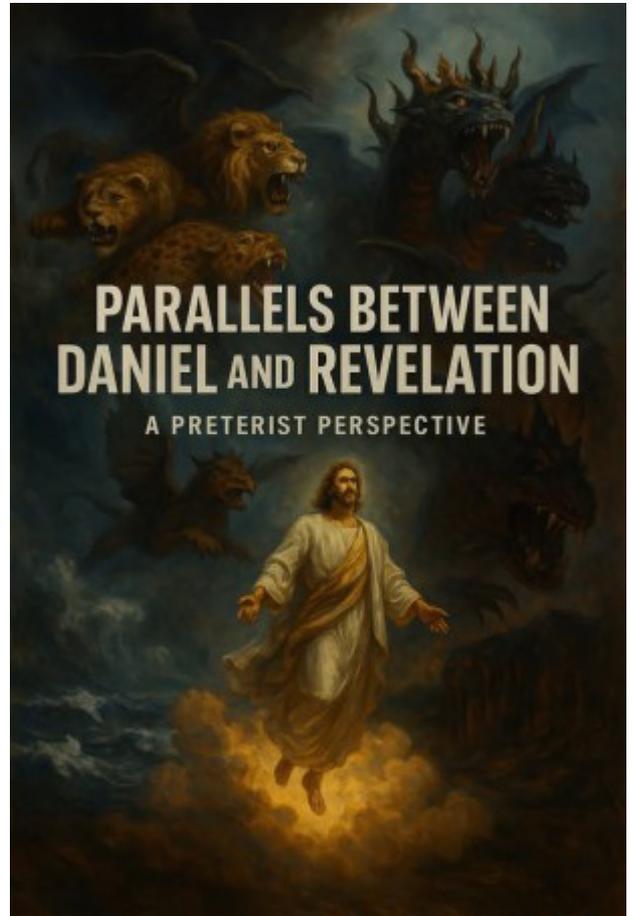


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Parallels - Parallels Between Daniel and Revelation - A Preterist Perspective



By Dan Maines

Parallels Between Daniel and Revelation - A Preterist Perspective

Introduction

The books of Daniel and Revelation are deeply interconnected. Though written centuries apart, both reveal the rise and fall of kingdoms, the faithfulness of God's people under persecution, and the ultimate triumph of God's eternal kingdom. As a Preterist, I understand these prophecies as being fulfilled in the first century, with Daniel laying the groundwork and Revelation

echoing the same themes with greater clarity as the final judgment upon Old Covenant Israel and apostate Jerusalem.

1. The Vision of Four Beasts and the Composite Beast

Daniel 7:3-7 describes four beasts:

Lion with eagle's wings = Babylon

Bear raised on one side = Medo-Persia

Leopard with four wings = Greece

Terrifying beast with ten horns = Rome

Daniel sees these beasts arise from the sea, a common biblical symbol for the Gentile nations. These represent successive world empires dominating Israel.

Revelation 13:1-2: "And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion."

John sees a single composite beast made of the same elements. This beast represents Rome, the final beast of Daniel's vision, empowered by Satan to persecute the saints (see Revelation 17:9-10).

Parallel: Revelation builds on Daniel's fourth beast, emphasizing its climax in Rome's oppression. Daniel sees it from a distance. John sees its judgment at hand.

2. The Son of Man and the Cloud Coming

Daniel 7:13-14: "I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented

before Him."

This is a heavenly scene. The Son of Man comes to the Ancient of Days to receive dominion, not from heaven to earth.

Revelation 1:7: "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him."

The phrase "those who pierced Him" connects this to the first century. Jesus' coming is in judgment, not in physical descent, just as in the Old Testament cloud-comings of God (see Isaiah 19:1).

Matthew 26:64: Jesus tells the Sanhedrin, "You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Parallel: Daniel shows Christ receiving the kingdom. Revelation shows Him using that authority in judgment on Jerusalem.

3. Time, Times, and Half a Time = 3½ Years

Daniel 7:25, Daniel 12:7: "They will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time."

This symbolic period = 3½ years.

Revelation 11:2: "They will trample the holy city for forty-two months."

Revelation 12:6, 12:14, 13:5 mention the same period in days, months, and symbolic terms.

Historical Fulfillment: The Jewish War lasted from AD 66 to 70, with the siege of Jerusalem being roughly 3½ years. This fits the time prophecies exactly.

Parallel: Daniel predicts a limited time of intense persecution. Revelation places it directly in the first century.

4. Sealed Book in Daniel, Unsealed in Revelation

Daniel 12:4: "Seal up the book until the end of time."

Revelation 22:10: "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near."

Also Revelation 1:1, 1:3, and 22:6 stress nearness: "must soon take place," "for the time is near," "things which must soon take place."

Parallel: What Daniel saw as distant, John was told would happen shortly. The sealing and unsealing mark the transition from anticipation to fulfillment.

5. Resurrection and Judgment

Daniel 12:2: "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt."

Revelation 20:12-13: "And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened."

This judgment is covenantal. It is not a physical resurrection of corpses, but the raising of the righteous into the kingdom and the judgment of the wicked, especially apostate Israel.

Revelation 6:10-11: "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood?"

Parallel: Daniel predicts judgment and vindication. Revelation reveals its execution upon those who rejected Christ.

Jesus Confirms the Fulfillment

Matthew 24:15: "When you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through the prophet Daniel..."

Luke 21:22: "These are days of vengeance, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled."

Jesus Himself confirms that Daniel's prophecies find fulfillment in the destruction of Jerusalem. The "abomination of desolation" occurred when the Roman armies surrounded the city, as Luke 21:20 confirms.

Conclusion

Every key element from Daniel finds its echo and fulfillment in Revelation:

The beast empires lead to Rome.

The Son of Man receives the kingdom and judges His enemies.

The persecution lasts 3½ years during the Jewish War.

The sealed vision is unsealed in John's generation.

The resurrection and judgment are covenantal and complete.

We are not looking for some future fulfillment. We are living in the reality of what the prophets saw from afar. The kingdom is here. Christ reigns. Let us walk in the victory of that fulfilled promise, knowing the prophetic Word has proven true.

"The time is near." Revelation 1:3 "And those who have insight will shine like the glow of the expanse of heaven." Daniel 12:3

Amen.

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