

 <h2>Daniel 01 – Historical Perspective</h2> <p>Dr. Leon L. Sanders Daniel</p>	
 <h2>Normative Hermeneutics: Exegetical Study of God's Word</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The normative hermeneutical approach to understand Scripture<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Hermeneutics – Searching out the meaning of Scripture (Hermes was the Greek messenger god who revealed the will of the gods to man)■ Normative Method – Interpret each type of literature according to its own methodology; i.e., history as history, poetry as poetry, prophecy as such, etc.■ Exegesis – Means to gain the meaning <u>out of Scripture</u> rather than to read one's meaning into Scripture■ Ancient faithful Jews used this methodology; Daniel read Jeremiah this way■ Many evangelical Christians read the Bible this way; however, this is now a minority approach to understanding Scripture as it challenges one's sinful worldview■ Scripture will define Scripture and become the context for historical and scientific facts rather than man's current evolutionary context that violates the Bible (Ps 137)	
 <h2>Looking at the Forest: Historical Perspective Required</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Book of Daniel is mired in controversy due to his prognosis (foreknowing)<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Many mainline denominational scholars believe Daniel was written after recorded events; i.e., hindsight rather than foresight; thus, God/Daniel lied■ Thus, Daniel is oft studied as allegorical fantasy rather than prophetic history■ The book of Daniel is more than a synopsis of one man's ministry in a foreign land; through Daniel God revealed man's sinful future and Christ's victory<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Many studies of Daniel ignore or give a cursory nod to world history■ Many studies focus on Israel's future revealed in Daniel; especially Antichrist and Christ's coming eternal kingdom (Abnormal focus on eschatology)■ These are topics we will touch on in our studies, but they give us little insight if we do not understand broad historical trends before and surrounding Daniel	

Iron Age Kingdoms: Preparing for the Modern Era

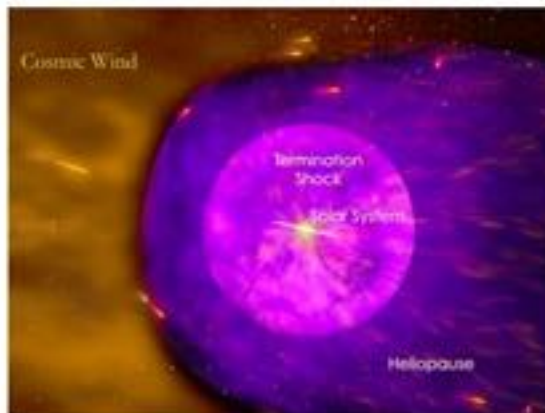
- Daniel reveals four major Iron Age Kingdoms which will lay the foundation for the Modern Age, our age, but to understand them we must know from whence they came to understand the direction of our age
 - History is a continuum; God explains the historical influences that prepared for Christ, and Satan's/man's ongoing responses [ps 137:12](#)
 - Earth is not isolated but part of a systematic continuum which God declared to man at the beginning and the heavens [ps 134:16, ps 135:4](#)
 - Ancient man believed heavenly events influenced earthly events; Enlightened scientific man discounted such ignorance; however, true science [ps 136](#) reveal Earth, and thus history, is greatly influenced by heavenly events until the end
 - We will briefly study how galactic and solar events may have affected Earth's geography and man's ongoing history even during the Great Tribulation

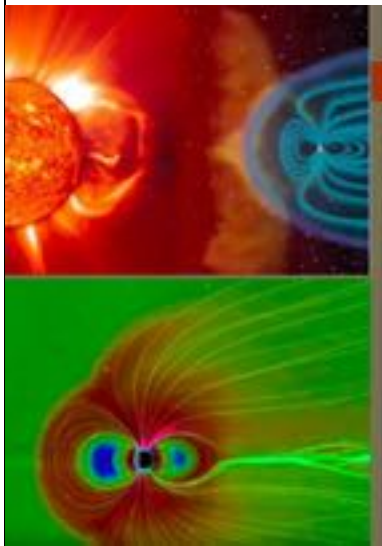
Heavens Declare His Glory: History Before History

- Bible is the only book coherently explaining Creation and man's early history apart from historical records; lost in the Cataclysm
 - Only the Bible gives a coherent understanding of creation, universe, earth, man, sin and history; rejection of God's word means man must find [another](#) context [ps 137:14](#)
 - Lost man takes the position of *Nof* God (ungodliness: [ps 136:2](#), [ps 136:3](#)); explaining the world, man's history and morality, apart from God but through the Creation of gods; this necessarily results in chaotic incoherency; nihilism [ps 136:25](#)
 - Whereas man begins with evolutionary scientism, God begins with revelation of Christ who brings order from chaos, light from darkness [ps 136:2, ps 136:3, ps 136:11, ps 136:12](#)
 - We gain coherency by placing the facts within a biblical context: God is, God is sovereign and God's Creation fulfills His plan of salvation [ps 2](#)

Invisible Dangers of Space

- Interdependent systems influencing Earth
- Earth nestled within several invisible shields protecting us from ionizing energies
- Ancients called this ether
- Modern man thought space empty until 1958
- Earth has its own protective mechanisms that are still poorly understood





Sun-Earth Interaction

- Sun continually bombards Earth with ionizing radiation and matter
- Earth's magnetosphere was very strong at Creation but is now weakening
- Magnetosphere does protect us from much of this energy; but not all
- This energy is the largest contributor to weather, volcanos and earthquakes
- Sun also produces Coronal Mass Ejections and Solar Flares that can impact Earth; think sunspot cycles

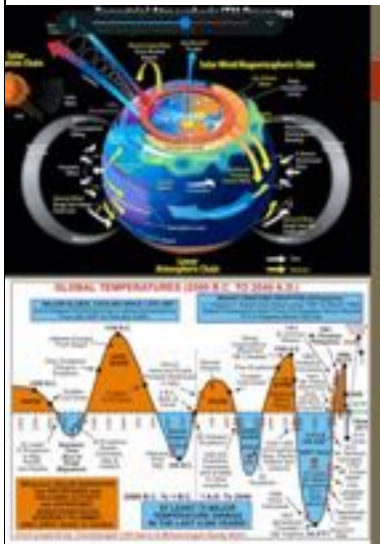
Antediluvian History: Before Noah's Cataclysm

- Modern man marks history before writing as Prehistory or the Stone Age
 - Modern man only believes in the slow continuous processes currently observed
 - Ignores adage: Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence (Job 33-5)
 - Subordinating the Bible account of this period below pagan sources reveals more about man's sinful worldview than the truth of their surmises
 - Belief that people before the discovery of writing were ignorant presupposes that man evolved and had to discover knowledge; thus, first tools were stone
 - Bible shows that man was created highly developed; thinking became darkened due to sin; sinful man used earth's resources to make metal weapons
 - Violence and degrading immorality became so great that those possessing faith in God were being eliminated; God intervened; Noah's Cataclysm (Job 4-8)

God Used Sun's MicroNova

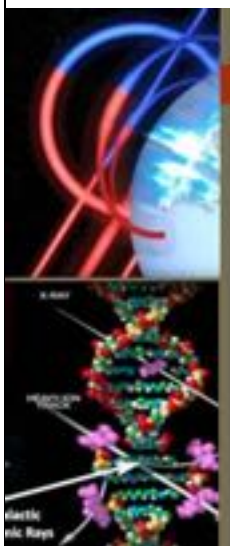
- Matter-energy wave from Sun fractured our eggshell crust releasing the waters below (Job 1:9-11; 12)
- Plate Tectonics was born
- Noah and family protected from massive plate shifts via the ark floating on waters
- As water subsided, land and plants appeared; Noah, family and animals left the Ark; New World





Earth Constantly Undergoing Flux

- Cosmic Winds and Solar influences constantly affect the earth
- Cyclic solar influences appear to cause earthquakes and volcano eruptions
- Solar radiation is major influence causing sea and wind formations which in turn influences where rain does and does not fall; deserts, jungles and all in between
- Solar radiation also produces clouds, lightning and major storms; all unknown in the antediluvian world



Earth's Biosphere Altered: Postdiluvian Man to Babel

- Weakening magnetosphere major factor in the weather, volcanos and earthquakes since that time
- Influx of solar energy also affected man's DNA resulting in negative mutations and shortening life spans
- Man instructed to populate the Earth but refused
- Nimrod revived Cain's govt uniting people via religion, government and information under one central rule
- Nimrod, and people, built a unified self-worship center at Babel; God intervened and divided people into three ethnicities; Man self-separated in all directions

Table of Nations: People Spread Out D/T Prejudice

- After Babel, upper Mesopotamia, man began following receding waters
 - Bible discusses what is commonly called the Table of Nations detailing man's self-selection based on language and increasingly finer ethnic and physical distinctions (Example of man's sin fulfilling God's plan)
 - Bible gives only generalities making it difficult to match today's ethnicities with those given during this very early period; majority stayed in Mesopotamia area (Gen. 10:1)
 - Stone Age peoples never existed as such; these are those who migrated north then endured the postdiluvian ice Age resulting from the Cataclysm
 - Faced with frozen lands these people barely survived, reduced to stone tools and poor rations; Neanderthals are simply normal people exhibiting malnutrition disorders and forced to live in caves; this reversed as the ice receded and the ground thawed (Only one ice age, Neanderthals died out as nutrition improved)
 - Bible now concentrates on the development of His people via one man; Abram

Bronze Age 3500-1200 BC: Overview

- Top graphic depicts early spread of man from Noah's three sons
- Bottom graphic shows relationship of major Bronze Age civilizations
- Begins recorded history, characterized by bronze weapons & central govts
- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived approximately 1900-1800 BC (Middle Bronze Age) concluding Genesis book
- Moses and Exodus, 1440 BC, occur Late Bronze Age (Early phase); Exodus though Deuteronomy



Bronze Age Societies



Late Bronze Age {LBA} Societies

- Trade required diplomatic stability and cooperation to obtain bronze
- Nomadic husbandry groups roamed vassal state areas: Canaan, etc.
- Highly structured centralized rule needed large farming slave labor
- Religion supported the government: king also high priest (Nimrod)
- Relatively inflexible states could not cope with huge catastrophic events
- Myceneans destabilized the region



Bronze = Tin + Copper



Why Did the LBA Collapse?

- By 1100 BC nearly every LBA culture disappeared except Egypt and Assyria which were both very weak
- Egypt already severely weakened by the trials of Moses and the loss of much gold to the Hebrews
- Hatti inexplicably eliminated Mitanni and continual border warfare exhausted her resources
- Protracted Mycenaean warfare, Troy, disrupted trade and destroyed their own fiefdoms (Iliad-Odyssey)
- LBA cultures were brittle and when faced with multiple stressors, simply disintegrated resulting in total system collapses that lasted several hundred years



General Features of Systems Collapse

- (1) Collapse of the central administrative organizations
- (2) Disappearance of the traditional elite class
- (3) Collapse of the centralized economy and
- (4) Widespread death and population decline

Interrelated Factors Ended the LBA

- Earth, influenced by the Sun, caused massive earthquakes and volcano eruptions such as Hekla 3 which dimmed the Sun for about 18 years
- Disrupted weather patterns brought droughts and famines; ergo, migrations
- Displaced marauders would topple small city-states and disrupt trade toppling already weakened governments
- Through these influences God ended the LBA so the Hebrew nation could grow and develop in relative security

Gone, all gone; but what caused it?

of the Peoples originally (and frequently still named) it has not clear if they did all that they are blamed for

to what else could have caused it? Also evidence for:
 1) drought - in Levant and Cyprus
 2) famine - in Anatolia, Egypt, and elsewhere
 3) invasions - Egypt, Asia, Syria, Tyre, and Egypt
 4) earthquakes - Greece, Anatolia, and Levant




Bronze Dark Age: Birth and Growth of Israel

- The collapse of the LBA kingdoms occurred over a century or more allowing Israel to conquer portions of Canaan and live under the Judges
 - God had a witness during the Bronze Age, Melchisedec an example, but their numbers were probably being reduced; why God raised a people
 - Hebrews divided and conquered much of Canaan, though not all because of disobedience and unbelief
 - Hebrews were disobedience God allowed defeat and when they repented He worked through a series of judges; these judges and priests often reflected the failures of the people: Samson, Gideon and Eli with his sons
 - During this time a Sea Peoples settled in coastal Canaan who came to be called the Philistines, descendants of Mycenaean warriors who fought at Troy
 - With the major powers nearly gone, Israel wanted a king like them: The World

Israel's United Kingdom: Greatness in a Vacuum

- Israel's unified kingdom period occurred in a Bronze Age power vacuum allowing her to absorb or eliminate the small surrounding tribal regions
 - Israel's major rival, the Philistines, appeared to decrease in power while Israel increased in power; probably because of inland trade routes
 - As trade revived Phoenicia, a new major sea power, moved westward into the Great Sea, Israel would grow wealthy taxing the inland trade routes
 - Israel, under Solomon, gained great wealth; much of it squandered copying LBA Egyptian technology such as chariots; unsuited to Israel's terrain (1K 10:14-17, 20:1, 14:15)
 - As Iron Age kingdoms grew, Israel fell into disarray due to Solomon's sins and excesses; dividing into northern (Israel) and southern (Judah) kingdoms (1K 12)
 - Israel leapt into idolatry; Judah followed sin-repentance pattern of its ancestor but sank ever lower into idolatry and vanity; both paths led to defeat



Early Iron Age 1200-800 BC: Struggling with Change

- During Bronze Age, iron difficult to find and hard to work; however, during the latter years of the LBA Dark Ages plentiful sources of iron were located and smelting technology developed
 - Iron treated with carbon was stronger and more durable than bronze
 - Iron weapons did not require large central governments to import and make
 - Small bands, tribes and governments could easily make their own weapons; it is probable the Sea Peoples had iron weapons
 - From 800-200 BC new nations began emerging from the disarray of LBA empires
 - Israel was absorbed by a re-strengthened Assyria due to idolatry (722 BC)
 - Judah was led into captivity by Neo-Babylonian kingdom; also for idolatry but temporarily due to God's Davidic Covenant (598 to 587-526 BC) (2Sa 7:12-13)



Punished and Protected: Judah's Blessing of Captivity

- As the Iron Age began, Gentiles were again forming strong nations. God both protected and punished His people
 - Israel and Judah were punished for their idolatry, rejection of God, which removed them as political entities and thus prey for these new kingdoms
 - Israel never regained her political identity; but Judah returned as a political entity but governed under a Gentile government, thus protected but infuriated her
- Daniel sandwiched between the retiring Bronze Age and early Iron Age
 - Jews had been a political, religious entity for a millennium, influencing many
 - God allows Satan to develop world powers. He will raise the Seed in humility; Satan's plan will come to naught. Christ's Gospel survives eternally (Jn 1:9, 1:12, 1:14)
 - Daniel would write of those coming changes; both near and far views



Daniel: Faithfulness in Midst of Unfaithfulness

- Iron Age coincided with the Axial Age, development of religions based less on societal membership and more on personal responsibility
 - God's Moral Law influenced nations that encountered the Jews, such as the Queen of Sheba (1K 10:1-12, 2Ch 9:1-11, Mt 12:41-42)
 - During this period God begins revealing His Messiah who will come to save with His New Covenant, a personal relationship with God hitherto unknown: Isaiah
- Daniel was taken from his home, his nation and his Temple and thrust into the very heart of unfaithfulness
 - Daniel consistently demonstrated faithfulness in the face of faithlessness
 - His testimony condemns both the Jews of his day who embraced Babylonian culture and those who returned but turned Judaism into a business of greed
 - Daniel's message: Satan's faithless NWO **defeated** by Christ's faithful Gospel