

PART TWO

The Premillennial Approach to the Book of Daniel

As was pointed out at the beginning of this dissertation, the primary thesis is that the Premillennial system of eschatology is taught by the Scriptures themselves, and that the Premillennial system alone can satisfactorily interpret the eschatological portions of the Book of Daniel. In the foregoing section I have sought to establish as fact the proposition that the general teaching of the whole Bible supports the Premillennial eschatology. That the Bible teaches one system of doctrine, not many, must be the faith of all who believe it to be the saving Word of God. This being the case, we may reasonably expect that the Premillennial eschatology, developed in general outline in the previous section, will, if correct, provide the key to understanding the details of eschatology presented in the Book of Daniel. Contrariwise, any other system should meet impassable obstacles and create unmistakable confusion in interpreting so eminently eschatological a book as Daniel.

Except as deemed absolutely necessary, I have not made great use of Daniel's predictions in the previous section. This was because it was felt that it wold be best to treat all the pertinent portions of Daniel consecutively and separate from the general discussion of Premillennialism.

The place to treat Daniel's prophecies has now appeared.

It will not be necessary to treat all of the book. The chapters which are primarily predictive in their most significant portions are two, seven, nine, and ten to twelve (really one prophecy). Of these four distinct sections, large portions deal with incidental facts related to the revelation of the material and to predictions which were fulfilled before and during the lifetime of our Lord Jesus Christ. These portions are not germane to our discussion. Evangelical Christians of all shades of eschatological opinion are in quite general agreement (there are a few exceptions) on these portions as far as interpretation is concerned. Therefore treatment of large portions will be omitted entirely, and treatment of some other portions will be complete enough only to prepare the reader for the portions at issue. It is the writer's purpose to eliminate all matter irrelevant to the main point at issue.

The discussion must begin with an analysis of the entire book. This will be followed by treatment of:

- The Prophecy of the Great Metallic Image and of the Stone which struck it (2:28,29,31-45)
- The Prophecy of the Four Great Beasts and of the Ancient of Days (7:2-27)
- The Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks (9:23-27)
- The Prophecy Concerning Daniel's People among the Nations, especially at the Time of the End (10:14; 11:36-45; 12:1-12).