

Context

- 1] Section is in Aramiac (2:4-7:28) the rest is in Hebrew
- 2] 3rd year Belshazzar's (Neb's grandson)
 - a) 3 divine number – God's in charge?
 - b) c 549 BC. 10 years before his fall at the great Banquet (5:1)
- 2] Daniel (c 65 yrs old?) – marginalised (5:11), exiled, Home (Jer.) in ruins.

KV ‘.. he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed but not by human power’ (25)

MP Be assured amidst humiliating defeat that God will inevitably destroy those who oppose him / his people

Situation

- 1] Year **3** Belshazzar (6th C BC)
- Nb *God is in control?*
- 2] Daniel – powerless/ a ‘has been’ (recalled in 10 yrs time c 75) (5:10-12)
- Nb don't succumb to the lie that your time is past!
- 3] Position
 - a) Elam, Susa – capital of Persian Empire (cf Esther 1:2)
 nb *anticipates the demise of Babylon and rise of Persia*
Kingdoms / civilisations for a time - rise and fall
 - b) by Ulai Canal
 cf *beside the canal (Ezekiel 1:1-3)*
 nb *Water represents the presence of God? (8:16; Jn 7:38)*

Vision (3-14)

- 1] Think! (5&15)
- Nb Need to apply ourselves mentally to the Word of God
- 2] Two beasts Ram then defeated by a Goat
- Nb *different from the beasts (7:2)?*
- 3] The small horn (9ff; cf 7:8)
- 4] Rebellion
 - a) Grew toward beautiful land (Jerusalem)(9)
 - b) Challenged God (10)
 nb *threw some of the starry host down (cf Rev 12:4)*
 - c) became great (11)God permits rebellion – for a time
 - d) ended daily sacrifices in the Temple (12)- (2nd C BC)Success and ease is not in itself a sign of the Lord's approval

5] How long? (13, 14) (Ps 74:10)

a) rebellion that causes desolation - the host trampled

cf Abomination that causes desolation (9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matt 24:15; 2Thess 2:4)

b) c 3 yrs then sanctuary re-consecrated (14)

The Lord will win / defeated death in 3 days (Lk 24:7)

God speaks and it is / will be

Interpretation (15-27)

1] tell him the meaning (15,16)

Nb There is a heavenly dimension to perplexing earthly events

2] the attitude (17-19) – to the end times – terrified & prostrate

Nb the wrath of God (cf Zech 1:12)

contemplation of end times not a 'Sudoku puzzle'

3] The history (20-22) (Medes/Persia, Greece - Alexander then 4generals)

Nb 4 centuries in a couple of sentences 'Alexander the great' – half a verse (cf 8) – It is not worldly greatness but our treatment of God's people that is noted

4] the 'stern faced master of intrigue'(23-25) *cf the adulteress (Prov 7:13)*

a) power not his own (24a)

b) devastating success (24b)

c) destruction of the people of God (24c)

nb not by his own power cf by the Dragons power (Rev 13:2) or God's (17:12-17)

d) stand against prince of princes(25)

?Why?? God postpones judgement (Gen 15:16)

5] Destroyed not by human power – BY GOD! (25c)

God's enemies are defeated but not by human power cf hand (5:5,24;Zechariah 4:6)

God defeats his enemies through the cross (Col 2:15) Nuremburg rallies and trials.

Aftermath (26, 27)

1] Seal up the future (26)

Nb prophecy not to speculate but know God is in control and be 'braced' (John 16:1)

2] Go about the king's business (27)

Nb get on with God's commission (Mark 13:33-35)– build saints and reach lost!

Conclusion

1] To recognise God's time scale - a day is as a 1000 yrs (2 Pet 3:8)

2] To trust that God is in charge / wins when he chooses