

# √A Few Special Needs for the Study of Daniel's Prophecies

## 1. Knowledge of Ancient History

Before one can hope properly to interpret Daniel's predictions about events that are still future he should carefully study those already fulfilled, and thus increase his understanding of the relation between prophecy and fulfillment.

Much of Daniel's prophecy deals with events that occurred in ancient times. Our present generation is woefully ignorant of ancient history. Even students who take courses in the subject may find that their attention is primarily focused on the classical period of Greece and Rome, and that the areas and times with which the greater part of Daniel's prophecy deals are largely neglected.

Daniel gives more extensive and remarkable predictions of events in secular history than any other prophet. The present writer has made full investigation of most of the extant material dealing with these periods of history, and, as a result, has been shocked by the gross ignorance regarding clearly established facts of ancient and medieval history that is sometimes found in commentaries on the book of Daniel.

If a student is properly to understand Daniel's prophecies about the great empires of antiquity it is important that he have in mind the nature of empire and some of the history involved. Therefore it will be necessary at this point briefly to survey the origin of human government and the principal facts in the history of the great empires involved in Daniel's prophecies. Though the information is well attested, much of it is not widely known today.