

Sabbath Brothers

Time to Read Scripture

(76 Hours 13 Minutes)

Old Testament 57.65 Hours*

New Testament 18.57 Hours**

Estimated Time to Read	
The Law/Pentateuch/Torah	13.5 Hours
1. Genesis	3.5 Hours
2. Exodus	3 Hours
3. Leviticus	2 Hours
4. Numbers	3 Hours
5. Deuteronomy	2.5 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
The Books of History	18.67 Hours
6. Joshua	1.75 Hours
7. Judges	1.75 Hours
8. Ruth	15 Minutes
9. 1 Samuel	2.25 Hours
10. 2 Samuel	1.75 Hours
11. 1 Kings	2 Hours
12. 2 Kings	2.25 Hours
13. 1 Chronicles	2 Hours
14. 2 Chronicles	2.5 Hours
15. Ezra	40 Minutes
16. Nehemiah	1 Hour
17. Esther	30 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Books of Poetry	9.33 Hours
18. Job	1.75 Hours
19. Psalms	5 Hours
20. Proverbs	1.75 Hours
21. Ecclesiastes	30 Minutes
22. Song of Solomon	20 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Major Prophets	13.08 Hours
23. Isaiah	3.75 Hours
24. Jeremiah	4 Hours
25. Lamentations	20 Minutes
26. Ezekiel	3.75 Hours
27. Daniel	1.25 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
The Minor Prophets	3.07 Hours
28. Hosea	30 Minutes
29. Joel	12 Minutes
30. Amos	25 Minutes
31. Obadiah	4 Minutes
32. Jonah	8 Minutes
33. Micah	20 Minutes
34. Nahum	8 Minutes
35. Habakkuk	9 Minutes
36. Zephaniah	10 Minutes
37. Haggai	7 Minutes
38. Zechariah	40 Minutes
39. Malachi	11 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Gospels	8.5 Hours
40. Matthew	2.5 Hours
41. Mark	1.5 Hours
42. Luke	2.5 Hours
43. John	2 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
Establishment of the Church	2.25 Hours
44. Acts	2.25 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
Paul's Public Epistles	4.1 Hours
45. Romans	1 Hour
46. 1 Corinthians	1 Hour
47. 2 Corinthians	40 Minutes
48. Galatians	20 Minutes
49. Ephesians	20 Minutes
50. Philippians	14 Minutes
51. Colossians	13 Minutes
52. 1 Thessalonians	12 Minutes
53. 2 Thessalonians	7 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
Paul's Private/Pastoral Epistles	34 Minutes
54. 1 Timothy	16 Minutes
55. 2 Timothy	11 Minutes
56. Titus	7 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
General Epistles	1.9 Hours
57. Philemon	3 Minutes
58. Hebrews	45 Minutes
59. James	16 Minutes
60. 1 Peter	16 Minutes
61. 2 Peter	10 Minutes
62. 1 John	16 Minutes
63. 2 John	2 Minutes
64. 3 John	2 Minutes
65. Jude	4 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
End Times Prophecy	1.25 Hours
66. Revelation	1.25 Hours

*Old Testament 57 Hours 39 Minutes

**New Testament 18 Hours 34 Minutes

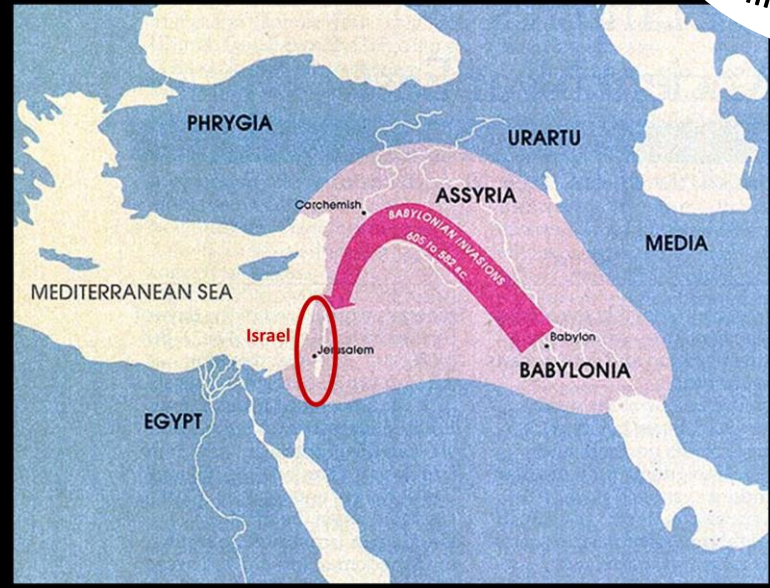
The Three “Captivity” Prophets

- **Daniel** ~605BC (in Babylon - Royalty)
 - The southern kingdom of Judah has been exiled in Babylon (1st Deportation)
 - The Babylonians encouraged to understand God’s Sovereignty over Kingdoms
- **Ezekiel** ~597BC (in Babylon - Exiles)
 - The southern kingdom of Judah has been exiled in Babylon (2nd Deportation)
 - The southern kingdom of Judah taught to follow the Spirit as they endure the consequences of their sin
- **Jeremiah** ~605BC (in Jerusalem)
 - The southern kingdom of Judah to be exiled by Babylon
 - The southern kingdom of Judah warned to repent or experience the Father’s discipline

Jewish worship in Synagogues began in Babylon since they had no Temple. The word “synagogue” means to come together.

Daniel (meaning “God is my Judge”) was one of the three “Captivity Prophets” (Daniel 1:1-4).

Daniel was one of the first exiled to Babylon (605BC) and served through Babylon’s fall to Cyrus of Persia (536BC)



The Babylonians defeated the Assyrian Empire at the Battle of Carchemish. Babylon exiled the Southern Kingdom of Judah in 606BC, 597BC & 586BC

- 2 Egypt
 - 1 Assyria
 - 1 Babylon
 - 2 Medo-Persia
 - 3 Greece
 - 4 Rome
- Daniel's Visions
↓

The Captivity Prophets were contemporaries

Daniel mentions Jeremiah (Daniel 9:2)

Ezekiel mentions Daniel three times (Ezekiel 14:14, 20; 28:3)

Daniel ("God is my Judge")

Jesus encouraged believers to read, understand and apply the truths from the book of Daniel (Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14).

Daniel was elevated to a distinguished status during his lifetime. (Ezekiel 14:14, 20; 28:3)

Daniel Recorded in Two Languages		
Languages	Chapters	Focus
Hebrew	1 – 2:3	Israel
Chaldean/Aramaic	2:4 - 7	Gentile
Hebrew	8 – 12	Israel

God's Men & God's Relationship		
Abraham	Friend of God	2 Chron 20:7; James 2:23
Solomon	Beloved King	2 Samuel 12:24
Daniel	Beloved Prophet	Daniel 10:11
John	Beloved Disciple	John 20:2; 21:7 & 20

"And he said to me, "Daniel, you who are treasured, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand at your place." (Daniel 10:11)



Outline of Daniel		
Chapters 1-6	Narrative History	Chronological Order
Chapters 7-12	Prophecy	Addendum Visions
Obedience during times of tests and trials result in revelation		

Other Prophets Separating the Narrative History From Prophecy		
Prophet	Story Line Chapters	Prophetic Chapters
Isaiah	1-39	40-66
Ezekiel	1-32	33-48
Zechariah	1-8	9-14

The book of Daniel is part of "The Writings" (*kethu'bim*) in the Hebrew canon (*Tanakh*) because Jews view Daniel as a statesman instead of a Prophet.

In spite of his futuristic prophecies, Jews do not believe that Daniel spoke to the Jews on God's behalf. Since the language of Chaldean/Aramaic is utilized, much of Daniel may have been directed to Gentiles (although Jews spoke these languages as well).



Counting a Year

(The Siege of Jerusalem)

*“In the **third year of the reign of Jehoiakim** king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.” (Daniel 1:1)*

- One Civil Calendar beginning in Tishri (October) which Daniel references.

The Jewish community utilized two Calendars:

*“The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the **fourth year of Jehoiakim** the son of Josiah, king of Judah (that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon)” (Jeremiah 25:1)*

- One Religious Calendar beginning in Nisan (April/May) which Jeremiah references.

Palestine counted the first partial year as the first year (as in the 1st century was anything less than 100 years AD); however, Babylon only counted the first year after the first full year was complete.

Correlating Prophets

(The Similarities of Joseph & Daniel)

Similarities of Two Bible Characters		
Plot	Joseph	Daniel
Handsome	Genesis 39:6	Daniel 1:4
Exiled	Genesis 37:28	Daniel 1:1-2
Foreign Land	Genesis 39:1	Daniel 1:1-2
Success	Genesis 39:5	Daniel 5:29
Faithfulness	Genesis 39:8	Daniel 1:8; 6:10
King's Dream	Genesis 41:1	Daniel 2:1
No Interpreters	Genesis 41:8	Daniel 2:10
Introduction to King	Genesis 41:9-12	Daniel 2:25
Incarceration	Genesis 39:20	Daniel 6:17
Leadership	Genesis 41:39-41	Daniel 2:48; 6:3
Denies Power	Genesis 41:16	Daniel 2:27-28
Prophetical	Genesis 41:25-42	Daniel 2:31-45

The written language of Chaldea was cuneiform.

Daniel Exiled (Daniel 1:1-7)

¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, **Nebuchadnezzar** king of **Babylon** came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

² And the Lord handed Jehoiakim king of Judah over to him, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.

³ Then the king told Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles,

⁴ youths in whom there was no impairment, who were good-looking, suitable for instruction in every *kind of* expertise, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability to serve in the king's court; and *he ordered Ashpenaz* to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. **!**

⁵ The king also allotted for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and *ordered* that they be educated for three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service.

⁶ Now among them from the sons of Judah were **Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.**

⁷ Then the commander of the officials assigned *new* names to them; and to **Daniel** he assigned *the name* **Belteshazzar**, to **Hananiah** **Shadrach**, to **Mishael** **Meshach**, and to **Azariah** **Abed-nego.**

When the name "Lord" is not in all capital letters, the word represents "Adonai."

"Yahweh" is represented by the use of all capital letters in "LORD"



Eunuchs were not necessarily castrated, but set aside for a specific service



The captives were renamed with Babylonian names to reflect the gods of the nation (and probably be more easily pronounced on a practical level)

Hezekiah had shown the royal vessels to Babylonian emissaries (Isaiah 39:2).

"Some of your sons who will come from you, whom you will father, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." (Isaiah 39:7)



To name someone shows authority over them

The name "Shinar" is an older name of Babylon (Genesis 10:10, 11:2) which is an area of wickedness.

False Babylonian gods included Morduch, Baal, Nebo and astral worship of a pantheon of false gods.

Babylon was a pagan nation with myriad false gods (instead of a heathen nation with no gods).

The Chaldeans ("as clod breakers") excelled in science (including astronomy/astrology) as well as math, so the training of these brilliant Israeli minds must have been significant. Nebuchadnezzar pridefully collected the racially diverse wise men of his conquered enemies to showcase the nations that he had subdued.

The Attempt to Pollute Israelites Signified by New Names <i>(Daniel 1:6-7)</i>			
Jewish Names	Meanings	Babylonian Names	Meanings
Daniel	God is my Judge	Belteshazzar	Prince of Baal
Hananiah	Beloved of the Lord	Shadrach	Illumined by the sun god
Mishael	Who is as God?	Meshach	Who is like unto the moon god?
Azariah	God is my Help	Abednego	Servant of the shining one
New Names will also be Granted in Heaven <i>(Isaiah 62:2; Revelation 2:17, 3:12)</i>			

Daniel's Commitment (Daniel 1:8-21)

**"You are what you eat..."
(Physically & Spiritually)**

⁸ But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought *permission* from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.



⁹ Now **God granted Daniel favor and compassion** in the sight of the commander of the officials.

¹⁰ The commander of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has allotted your food and your drink; **for why should he see your faces looking gaunt in comparison to the youths who are your own age? Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king.**"



¹¹ But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over **Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,**

¹² **"Please put your servants to the test for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink.**



¹³ Then let our appearance be examined in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and **deal with your servants according to what you see."**

¹⁴ So he listened to them in this matter, and put them to the test for ten days.

Babylon Vegetables
Peas, lettuce, beans, cucumbers, cabbage, turnips, chickpeas, garlic, shallots, cress, leeks, lentils & beets

¹⁵ **And at the end of ten days their appearance seemed better, and they were fatter than all the youths who had been eating the king's choice food.**

¹⁶ So the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink, and kept giving them vegetables.

¹⁷ **And as for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every kind of literature and expertise; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.**



¹⁸ Then **at the end of the days** which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁹ **And the king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service.**

²⁰ **As for every matter of expertise and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the soothsayer priests and conjurers who were in all his realm.**



²¹ And Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king.

"For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, 'Eat and drink!' But his heart is not with you." (Proverbs 23:7)

Daniel made a concerted choice, prior to the event, to not be polluted by the world.

God shows His sovereignty by changing the hearts and attitudes of the pagans towards favor and compassion to Daniel.

Because of the obedient state of their hearts, God blesses their relationships with their bosses

The etymology of "Melzar" (in the King James Version) means "Horse Nose." "Melzar" is probably not a name, but represents the steward.

Daniel asks to eat "sown" things like vegetables and grains for a ten-day testing period.

Daniel encouraged the steward to test with his own eyes and then to respond accordingly; Daniel asked the steward to witness the results for himself.

As the names had been changed, the Jewish dietary laws were replaced with Babylonian foods.

The king's food may have been dedicated to a pagan deity. (Acts 15:20, 29; 1 Corinthians 8:4)

3 years of preparation

God blessed Daniel's obedience through endowments of skill and knowledge

The magicians and enchanters were expected to understand divine will. The Hebrew word for "magicians" (מַכְּשָׁפִים) may have had Egyptian etymological roots for an interpreter of dreams. The Hebrew word for "enchanters" (אֲשָׁפֵט) is only used in this verse; the word refers to a conjurer who would use incantations and curses.

The King's Counsel Fails (Daniel 2:1-16)

¹ Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, **Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him.**

² Then **the king gave orders to call in the soothsayer priests, the conjurers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, to tell the king his dreams.** So they came in and stood before the king.

³ The king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream."

⁴ Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: "O king, **live forever!** Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation."

Beginning of Aramaic Section



⁵ The king replied to the Chaldeans, "The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be turned into a rubbish heap.

⁶ But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation."

⁷ They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will declare the interpretation."



Although Babylon spoke the Akkadian language, they used Aramaic for the politically common language ("lingua franca") of the ancient empires of the fertile crescent.

⁸ The king replied, "I know for certain that you are trying to buy time, because you have perceived that the command from me is firm,

⁹ that if you do not make the dream known to me, there is only one decree for you. For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation is changed; therefore **tell me the dream, so that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation.**"



¹⁰ The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is no person on earth who could declare the matter to the king, because no great king or ruler has ever asked anything like this of any soothsayer priest, sorcerer, or Chaldean.

¹¹ Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh."

¹² Because of this, the king became angry and extremely furious, and he gave orders to kill all the wise men of Babylon.

¹³ So the decree was issued that the wise men be killed; and they looked for Daniel and his friends, to kill them.

¹⁴ Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon;

¹⁵ he said to Arioch, the king's officer, "For what reason is the decree from the king so harsh?" Then Arioch informed Daniel of the matter.

¹⁶ So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him a grace period, so that he might declare the interpretation to the king.



Various ancient methods were used in ripping accused men apart:

- Bending two large trees together before tying a man between them and cutting the ropes
- Tying the offender between horses and beat the horses to pull away.

The King's four learned positions:

1. Magician: horoscopes
2. Astrologer: astrology & mediums
3. Sorcerer: spells and incantations
4. Chaldean: professional astrology

Archeologists have discovered "Old Babylonian Tablet" which records "If a man cannot remember the dream he saw – his god is angry with him."

The statement to "live forever" is a form of secular blessing similar to "long live the King" (1 Kings 1:31; Nehemiah 2:3)

Only God alone knows certain things (Isaiah 41:23); however, the wise men would be proven incorrect as the Lord Jesus Christ came to dwell with men.

Nebuchadnezzar becomes inconsolably angry several times (Daniel 3:13)

Daniel and his companions were sought to be included in the execution. This may infer a separation (sanctification) of Daniel from the idolatrous wise men.

The function of Arioch ("lion like") was "chief executioner" or "chief slaughterer" who was responsible for putting meat on the king's table. Potiphar had this same role (Genesis 39:1)

Daniel asserts that only God can explain the dream

God Reveals Dream (Daniel 2:17-30)

¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter,

Answers to prayer depend on God's compassion & mercy

Daniel went directly to prayer, and he did not pray alone, but he recruited additional prayer support

The Hebrew names of Daniel's companions are used for the last time in the book of Daniel: Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

¹⁸ so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his friends would not be killed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

¹⁹ Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven;

²⁰ Daniel said, "May the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him.

²¹ It is He who changes the times and the periods; He removes kings and appoints kings; He gives wisdom to wise men, and knowledge to people of understanding.

²² It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him.

DREAM



²³ To You, God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king's matter."

²⁴ Thereupon, Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to kill the wise men of Babylon; he went and said this to him: "Do not kill the wise men of Babylon! Take me into the king's presence, and I will declare the interpretation to the king."

In the midst of this earth's darkness ("night time"), God gives light (revelation). Babylonian idolatry was based on astral worship of the heavenlies; however, Daniel's God was the Lord over all of heaven.

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream (unconscious level) at night, Daniel had a night vision (conscious level)



Daniel praises the Lord even before the King had confirmed that Daniel had correctly identified and interpreted the dream.

²⁵ Then Arioch hurriedly brought Daniel into the king's presence and spoke to him as follows: "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can make the interpretation known to the king!"

²⁶ The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?"



²⁷ Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the secret about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, sorcerers, soothsayer priests, nor diviners are able to declare it to the king.

²⁸ However, there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days.

Babylon, Persia, Greece Rome



This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed.

²⁹ As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will take place.

³⁰ But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living person, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.



The true "wise men" of Babylon were the ones who sought Him (Mt 2:1)

The King saw "Daniel" ("God is my judge") as "Belteshazzar" ("Prince of Baal").

Daniel was a man who "stood in the gap" before the King, so that men might not die – Jesus did the same thing in a spiritual sense (Ezekiel 22:30; John 19:5)

Daniel Praises God (Daniel 2:20-22)	
1	Wisdom and might are His
2	He changes the times and the seasons
3	He removes kings and raises up kings
4	He gives wisdom and knowledge
5	He reveals deep and secret things
6	He knows what is in the darkness
7	Light dwells in Him

Daniel's Men of Learning		
Magician (חַרְטָם)	Horoscopes	Interpreters of Dreams
Sorcerer (כַּשְׁף)	Spells/Incantations	Witchcraft
Astrologer (כַּשְׁדִּים)	Mediums	Predict Future & Communication
Chaldean (כַּשְׁדִּי)	Professional Astrology	Race & Wise Men (Scholars)

The Meaning of the Dream (Daniel 2:31-45)

³¹ “You, O king, were watching and behold, there was a **single great statue**; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary radiance, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome.

³² **The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its chest and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,** ³³ **its legs of iron, and its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.**

³⁴ You continued watching until a **stone was broken off without hands,** and it struck **the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them.**

³⁵ Then **the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed** to pieces all at the same time, and they were like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. **But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the entire earth.**

³⁶ “This was the dream; and *now we* will tell its interpretation before the king.

³⁷ You, O king, are **the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the honor;**

³⁸ and wherever the sons of mankind live, *or* the animals of the field, or the birds of the sky, **He has handed them over to you and has made you ruler over them all. You are the head of gold.**

³⁹ **And after you another kingdom will arise inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.**

⁴⁰ **Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; just as iron smashes and crushes everything,** so, like iron that crushes, it will smash and crush all these things.

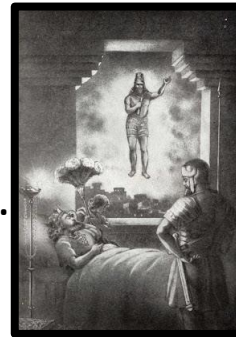
⁴¹ And in that you saw **the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom;** but it will have within it some of the toughness of iron, since you saw the iron mixed with common clay.

⁴² And *just as* the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, **so some of the kingdom will be strong, and part of it will be fragile.**

⁴³ In that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in their descendants; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not combine with pottery.

⁴⁴ **And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.**

⁴⁵ Just as you saw that a stone was broken off from the mountain without hands, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is certain and its interpretation is trustworthy.”



The image in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was bright and shining; however, it was also frightening to see.

This statue represents the four (*Biblical symbol of creation & testing*) national Gentile powers that were to rule before Jesus’ coming

Egypt and Assyria are not included because Israel was still nationally represented by Judah at that time.

Mountains are symbolic of political systems and governments. The Babylonians believed that the earth was a large mountain with mankind dwelling on top of the mountain.

The “stone” represented Jesus Christ as He was not made through “self-effort” (cutting of the stone); instead, He was divinity incarnate who interrupted all earthly governments

God has given Nebuchadnezzar four elements:
 1. sovereignty
 2. power
 3. strength
 4. glory

During the Roman Empire, the Lord Jesus Christ would establish His divine, eternal kingdom (Daniel 2:44, 4:2, 34; 6:26; 7:14; 2 Samuel 7:13; Psalm 45:6, 89:36-37; Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:31-33; Hebrews 1:8; 2 Peter 1:11)

1 Babylon was the head (start) of the worldly empires

The Statue of a Man

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)



<p>Head of Gold</p> <p>ASSYRIO-BABYLONISH MONARCHY THE LION</p> <p>(Nebuchadnezzar - Belchassar) 671 - 538 B.C.</p>																				
<p>Breast and Arms of Silver</p> <p>MEDO - PERSIAN EMPIRE THE BEAR</p> <p>(Cyrus and Darius) 538 - 331 B.C.</p>																				
<p>Belly and Thighs of Brass</p> <p>GRECO - MACEDONIAN KINGDOM THE LEOPARD</p> <p>(Alexander the Great) 331 - 160 B.C.</p>																				
<p>Legs of Iron</p> <p>THE GREAT ROMAN EMPIRE THE DRAGON</p> <p>(under the Caesars) 160 B.C. - 395 A.D.</p>																				
<p>Feet and Toes - Part Iron and Part Clay</p> <p>KINGDOMS OF THE (10) TOES</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1. Italy</td> <td>496</td> <td>6. Portugal</td> <td>1138</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. France</td> <td>752</td> <td>7. Prussia</td> <td>1139</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. England</td> <td>803</td> <td>8. Austria</td> <td>1159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Belgium</td> <td>806</td> <td>9. Spain</td> <td>1179</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Holland</td> <td>922</td> <td>10. Greece</td> <td>1829</td> </tr> </table> <p>496 - 1829 A.D.</p>	1. Italy	496	6. Portugal	1138	2. France	752	7. Prussia	1139	3. England	803	8. Austria	1159	4. Belgium	806	9. Spain	1179	5. Holland	922	10. Greece	1829
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The Statue in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream					
<i>(Daniel 2:31-45)</i>					
Body	Fraction	Ruling Nation	Age	Ruling Nation	Age
Head	8%	Babylon	625 BC – 538 BC	Spain	1492 – 1618
Chest/Arms	19%	Medo-Persian	537 BC – 331 BC	France	1618 – 1815
Stomach/Sides	28%	Greece	330 BC – 180 BC	Britain	1815 – 1945
Legs/Feet	45%	Imperial Rome	180 BC – 385 AD	America	1945 - ?

2 The inferior kingdom represented Media and Persia (the two arms) that ultimately became the Persian empire (chest). In the Bible, silver symbolizes redemption, and Persia redeemed Israel from Babylon and returned them to their native country. Persia was inferior in that the kingly authority was diminished and government became bureaucratic.

3 The third kingdom represented the Greek empire with the strength of brass being played out with Alexander the Great's warring domination of the world.

4 The fourth empire represents the Roman Empire (East & West relating to the two legs). Diocletian divided the kingdom with Maximian at the Drina River (east and west empires).



"Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having TEN HORNS and seven heads, and on his horns were TEN CROWNS, and on his heads were blasphemous names."
(Revelation 13:1)

Daniel Chapter 2 is man's perspective while Daniel Chapter 7 is God's perspective of the same Empires

Visions of Future Kingdoms			
Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8	Daniel 11
Gold	Lion		
Silver	Bear	Ram	Persia
Bronze	Leopard	Goat	Syria/Egypt
Iron/Clay	Beast		Rome
Stone	Son of Man	Prince	

The Testimony of Others is Encouraging,
but Experience God Personally

Nebuchadnezzar's Personal Conversion

Daniel 2:46-49

⁴⁶ Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and paid humble respect to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and incense.

⁴⁷ The king responded to Daniel and said, "**Your God truly is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of secrets, since you have been able to reveal this secret.**"

⁴⁸ Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon, and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

⁴⁹ And Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel was at the king's court.

The King Praises Daniel's God

Daniel 3:28-30

²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "**Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and surrendered their bodies rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

²⁹ Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or *population of any* language that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses made a rubbish heap, because there is no other god who is able to save in this way."

³⁰ Then the king made Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego prosperous in the province of Babylon.

The King Praises The God of Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego

Daniel 4:1-2

¹ Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and *populations of all* languages who live in all the earth: "May your peace be great!

² I am pleased to declare **the signs and miracles that the Most High God has done for me.**

Daniel 4:34

³⁴ "But at the end of that period, I, **Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me**, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:37

³⁷ **Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven**, for all His works are true and His ways just; and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

God Humbles Nebuchadnezzar For His Personal Testimony

"Though He slay me, I will hope in Him." (Job 13:15)

Mandated Idolatry (Daniel 3:8-18)

⁸ For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews.

⁹ They began to speak and said to Nebuchadnezzar the king: "O king, live forever!

¹⁰ You, O king, have made a decree that every person who hears the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, and bagpipe, and all kinds of musical instruments, is to fall down and worship the golden statue.

¹¹ But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into the middle of a furnace of blazing fire.

¹² There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, *namely* Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods, nor do they worship the golden statue which you have set up."

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; then these men were brought before the king.

¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar began speaking and said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods, nor worship the golden statue that I have set up?"

¹⁵ Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe, and all kinds of musical instruments, to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, *very well*. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be thrown into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can rescue you from my hands?"

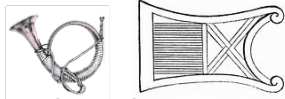
¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king, "Nebuchadnezzar, we are not in need of an answer to give you concerning this matter.

¹⁷ If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will rescue us from your hand, O king.

¹⁸ But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods nor worship the golden statue that you have set up."



These proper Chaldeans act as though they are solely concerned about the King.



Nebuchadnezzar struggles with his anger (Daniel 2:12)



The Ultimatum



Daniel is not mentioned in Chapter 3

Dura (meaning "enclosing wall") is located in a flat plain where this 90 feet tall (9 feet wide) idol was constructed.

The Septuagint documents the timing as the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 52:29); however, this is not included in the Masoretic Text.

Music is used to sway emotions; seductive music has caused many men to bow and worship to their peril instead of uplifting, inspirational songs (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16) This may have also been similar to standing for the national anthem although worship was mandatory.

Three Charges Against Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego (Daniel 3:12)

1. These men pay no attention to the king
2. These men do not serve the king's gods
3. These men worship the golden image that you have set up

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that God could save them, but even if God chose not to save them, they understood the truth and could not deny Him.

Great faith is not dependent on circumstances, but instead it is walking with God in spite of the circumstances.

People often characterize their view of God by their circumstances instead of viewing their circumstances by how Scripture characterizes God.

These apocryphal parts document that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were saved by the angel of the Lord as the dew of heaven surrounded them in safety.

Insertions from the Furnace

“Apocryphal” means “doubtful authenticity”

At Daniel 3:23 in the Septuagint, two apocryphal sections are inserted:

The Song of the Three Youths & The Prayer of Azariah (Abednego)

The “*Prayer of Azariah*” is an “apocryphal insertion” of 22 verses into chapter 3 of the book of Daniel in the Septuagint that was later included in the Latin Vulgate.

And they walked in the midst of the fire, praising God, and blessing the Lord. Then Azarias stood up, and prayed on this manner; and opening his mouth in the midst of the fire said, Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers: thy name is worthy to be praised and glorified for evermore: For thou art righteous in all the things that thou hast done to us: yea, true are all thy works, thy ways are right, and all thy judgments truth. In all the things that thou hast brought upon us, and upon the holy city of our fathers, even Jerusalem, thou hast executed true judgment: for according to truth and judgment didst thou bring all these things upon us because of our sins. For we have sinned and committed iniquity, departing from thee.

In all things have we trespassed, and not obeyed thy commandments, nor kept them, neither done as thou hast commanded us, that it might go well with us. Wherefore all that thou hast brought upon us, and every thing that thou hast done to us, thou hast done in true judgment. And thou didst deliver us into the hands of lawless enemies, most hateful forsakers of God, and to an unjust king, and the most wicked in all the world. And now we cannot open our mouths, we are become a shame and reproach to thy servants; and to them that worship thee. Yet deliver us not up wholly, for thy name's sake, neither disannul thou thy covenant

After verse 23 (the Prayer of Azariah), another apocryphal addition is included called the “Song of the Three Young Men”, which is a hymn (psalm) of praise.

Now the king's aides, who had thrown them into the furnace, were constantly feeding the fire with petroleum, tar, kindling, and dry sticks.

Flame shot out of the furnace to a height of more than seventy feet, spreading out and burning the Babylonians who stood near the furnace.

But the Lord's angel came down among Azariah and his friends and waved the fiery flames out of the furnace. He made the middle of the furnace seem like a cool breeze was blowing through it.

The fire didn't touch them at all; it didn't hurt or upset them. Then with one voice the three began singing hymns, praising and blessing God right there in the furnace.”

"When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you." (Isaiah 43:2)

Nebuchadnezzar Witnesses Salvation (Daniel 3:19-26)

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial expression was changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.



20 And he ordered certain valiant warriors who were in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in order to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire.

Fire was used for corporal punishment as well as for magical purposes. Fire was thought to destroy demons, and put to flight the spirits of disease.

21 Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps, and their other clothes, and were thrown into the middle of the furnace of blazing fire.

22 For this reason, because the king's command was harsh and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.



23 But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell into the middle of the furnace of blazing fire still tied up.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up quickly; he said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the middle of the fire?" They replied to the king, "Absolutely, O king."



25 He responded, "Look! I see four men untied and walking about in the middle of the fire unharmed, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!"



26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the middle of the fire.



The number "seven" means complete, so Nebuchadnezzar demands that the furnace be made as hot as possible.

Ancient bas-reliefs show carvings of tall, muscular men who served the king.



Nebuchadnezzar gave a figurative command to heat the brick kiln which can withstand temperatures up to 2,300°F

Clothing (Revelation 19:8) in Scripture symbolizes righteousness (either self-righteousness - Is 64:6 or God's - Is 61:10), and these witnesses were even more tightly bound to the righteousness in which they were clothed

The king unnecessarily acted urgently, and the furnace was overheated which resulted in the deaths of some of the best men in Nebuchadnezzar's army.

The consequences of sin often equate to the sin itself (the punishment fits the crime).

God did not deliver the three from the fiery trial, but He was with them in it (Isaiah 43:2)

The king looked through the opening in the side of the kiln that was used to stoke the fire and where the ashes are removed.

Although Nebuchadnezzar saw four men in the fire, he only called for three of them to come out; the king did not address the one with the divine appearance.

Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego had disregarded Nebuchadnezzar's commands because they were servants of the "Most High God."

The Witness of the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3:19-30)

²⁷ The satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together *and saw that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men, nor was the hair of their heads singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had even the smell of fire touched them.*

²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and surrendered their bodies rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

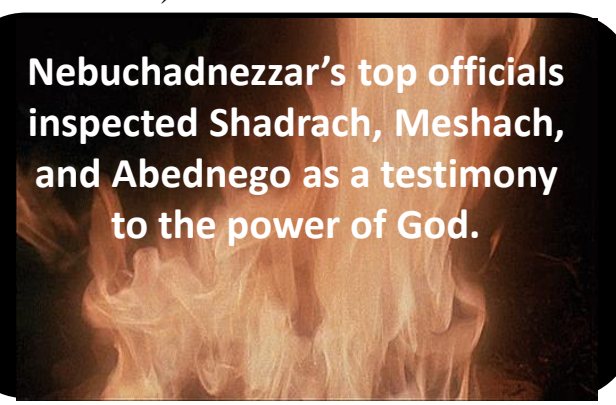
²⁹ Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or *population of any* language that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses made a rubbish heap, because there is no other god who is able to save in this way."

³⁰ Then the king made Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego prosperous in the province of Babylon.

Official Assessments of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego after the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3:27)

1. The hair of their heads was not singed
2. Their cloaks were not harmed
3. No smell of fire had come upon them

Nebuchadnezzar's top officials inspected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as a testimony to the power of God.



After the miracle, Nebuchadnezzar's focus was on God who sent His angel to deliver His servants.

The Actions of God's Three Servants (Daniel 3:28)

1. They trusted in God
2. They set aside the king's command
3. They yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God

Nebuchadnezzar testified to the unique ability of God to offer salvation like no other.

Speaking anything negative against the one true God was a capital offense worthy of execution along with their household. (Daniel 2:46-48)

In chapters 2 and 3, Nebuchadnezzar's anger shows itself (Daniel 2:12; 3:19), but then he has an emotional response to the miracles and testimonies of the other believers.

The King blesses Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego after they survive the trial



**"Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before a fall"**
Proverbs 16:18

Daniel Foretells The King's Downfall (Daniel 4:19-27)

¹⁹ "Then Daniel, whose name is Belshazzar, was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him. The king responded and said, 'Belshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you.' Belshazzar replied, 'My lord, *if only the dream applied to those who hate you, and its interpretation to your adversaries!*

²⁰ The tree that you saw, which became large and grew strong, whose height reached to the sky and was visible to all the earth,

²¹ and whose foliage *was* beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which *was* food for all, under which the animals of the field lived and in whose branches the birds of the sky settled—



²² **it is you, O king; for you have become great and grown strong, and your majesty has become great and reached to the sky, and your dominion to the end of the earth.**



²³ And in that **the king saw an angelic watcher, a holy one, descending from heaven and saying, "Chop down the tree and destroy it; yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze *around it* in the new grass of the field, let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the animals of the field until seven periods of time pass over him,"**

²⁴ this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:

²⁵ that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the animals of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, **until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.**



²⁶ And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, **your kingdom will remain as yours after you recognize that *it is* Heaven *that* rules.**

²⁷ Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: **wipe away your sin by *doing* righteousness, and your wrongdoings by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.'**

Daniel was physically impacted by the prophetic truths of the king's dreams.

The king saw a divine decree from a kingdom greater than his own.

The divine decree was for Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom to be destroyed.

The remaining stump ensured that Nebuchadnezzar could be restored to his position once he understood God's sovereignty

Daniel courageously directed the King Nebuchadnezzar to repent and live righteously by showing mercy to the oppressed.

This response by the king would have benefited his slaves (the Israelite exiles) who were also in Babylon.

Daniel believed these prophetic interpretations were so true that they affected him physically and emotionally.

Believers rarely behave as if Scriptural truths are imminent, but biblical truths are just as certain as Daniel's interpretations.

Prideful and exalted Nebuchadnezzar would be humbled as he became animalistic in madness until he understood that power and authority is given by God alone

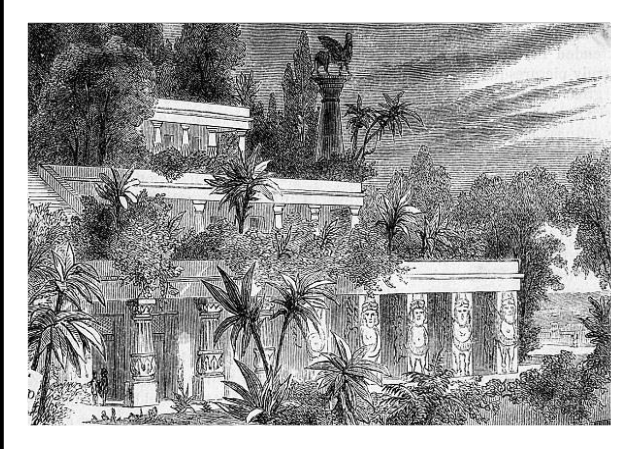
The righteous works of Nebuchadnezzar would not save him from judgment, but they were able to lengthen the time of his prosperity before judgment.

Babylon

Nebuchadnezzar was a builder. Babylon's city walls consisted of an inner and an outer wall.

The inner wall was 21 feet thick and 75 feet tall with towers every 60 feet.

The outer wall was 11 feet thick and 42 miles long surrounded by 6 feet of a manmade moat that channeled the water of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers.



Babylon was beautiful as Nebuchadnezzar had constructed the hanging gardens for his Median (Persian) wife, Queen Amytis, because she missed the hills and flowers of her homeland (Media in Persia).



The ancient "Gate of Ishtar" bears the image of a winged lion that symbolized Babylon. Ishtar (Ashtoreth / Isis) was the Babylonian goddess of love and war.

The "Gate of Ishtar" was a massive burnt-brick entryway located over the main thoroughfare in the ancient city of Babylon; it was more than 38 feet (3½ stories) high and was decorated with glazed brick reliefs.



The Sovereign God is the only "Giver of Value"

Nebuchadnezzar's Testimony (Daniel 4:28-37)

²⁸ "All of this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king.

²⁹ Twelve months later he was walking on the *roof* of the royal palace of Babylon.

³⁰ The king began speaking and was saying, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which **I myself** have built as a royal residence by the might of **my power** and for the honor of **my majesty**.'

³¹ While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: **sovereignty has been removed from you,**

³² and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place *will be* with the animals of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'

³³ Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles' *feathers* and his nails like birds' *claws*.

³⁴ "But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation.

³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are of no account, but He does according to His will among the army of heaven and *among* the inhabitants of earth; and no one can fend off His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?'

³⁶ At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the honor of my kingdom, and my state counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was

reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.

³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just; and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

1 Year Later



INSANITY

Nebuchadnezzar walked proudly on his roof (as did King David) and claimed responsibility for success; God hates pride (Isaiah 14:12; 1 Corinthians 4:19-21; 1 Timothy 46:3-4; Philippians 2:3)

Nebuchadnezzar Looked Down on the Kingdom

God Looked Down on Nebuchadnezzar

King Nebuchadnezzar was walking on his roof to stay cool. (Babylon swelters To 120 degrees in the summer).

The King takes credit for personally building Babylon for his personal majesty

God's voice "falling from heaven" (Daniel 4:31) may be likened to a thunderbolt striking Nebuchadnezzar

Nebuchadnezzar would become "as an animal." God determined who would oversee the global kingdom and not the efforts of this king.

The condition of Nebuchadnezzar was called "Boanthropy" which is a psychological disorder where the human believes that they are a bovine (i.e. cow, ox). This is similar to the insanity of thinking one's self to be a werewolf (possibly "lycanthropy")

Nebuchadnezzar probably lived in the palace enclosure. Oral tradition was that Daniel cared for Nebuchadnezzar during these years.

Man is at his most sane when he looks to God in heaven, the only true provider. Nebuchadnezzar understood that God is worthy to be praised as His kingdom is eternal.

No human (even the king of a world empire) can stop God or even question Him.

Bat Kol בַּת קוֹל

During the silent years from Malachi (430BC) until John the Baptist, there was no prophetic voice in Israel.

The Jewish Rabbis developed the "*Bat Kol*" (meaning "*Daughter of the Voice*") which meant that God would speak from heaven to provide direction

Unlike prophecy where the Lord had a unique relationship with the prophet, the Bat Kol described God's communication with any man.



The King saw "the writing on the wall"

Belshazzar's Banquet (Daniel 5:1-12)

1 Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.

2 While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which *was* in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives, and his concubines could drink out of them.

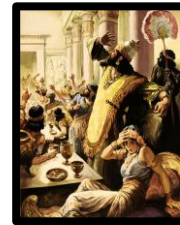


3 Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which *was* in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives, and his concubines drank out of them.

4 They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

5 Suddenly the fingers of a human hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing.

6 Then the king's face became pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and his hip joints loosened and his knees began knocking together.



7 The king called aloud to bring in the sorcerers, the Chaldeans, and the diviners.

The king began speaking and said to the wise men of Babylon, "Anyone who can read this inscription and explain its interpretation to me shall be clothed with purple and *have* a necklace of gold around his neck, and have authority as third *ruler* in the kingdom."

8 Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the inscription or make known its interpretation to the king.

9 Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, his face grew *even more* pale, and his nobles were perplexed.



Archeologists have found a Babylonian banquet room with walls of white plaster.

10 The queen entered the banquet hall because of the words of the king and his nobles; the queen began to speak and said, "O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts alarm you or your face be pale.

11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight, and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—your father the king—appointed him chief of the soothsayer priests, sorcerers, Chaldeans, *and* diviners.



12 *This was* because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of riddles, and solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation."

At one time, early records were discovered listing the kings of Babylon, but Belshazzar was not listed.

Critics of the Bible exploited this finding until another archeological discovery revealed that King Nabonidus had appointed Belshazzar to reign in his absence while he traveled. (Daniel 5:7).

Temple vessels had been utilized in the Jerusalem Temple for holy purposes. (2 Kings 24:13, 25:15)

Belshazzar was not under the influence of God, but of alcohol (Proverbs 31:14) and disrespected the things of God.

The false gods that Babylon idolized (Daniel 5:4)

1 Gold	Divine Glory (from Temple)
2 Silver	Redemption (from Temple)
3 Bronze	Judgment
4 Iron	Strength
5 Wood	Humanity
6 Stone	Resolute purpose

Similar metals were listed in Daniel chapter 2 for the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream

The Hebrew wording of Daniel 5:6 conveys that Belshazzar was so frightened by the image that he literally lost control of his bowels and "wet himself"

Belshazzar's father (Nabonidus) was alive at the time making Belshazzar the co-regent, so Belshazzar offered the third in authority behind himself and his father.

Belshazzar's evil advisors failed three times (Dan 2:10; 4:7) to interpret the things of God (1 Cor 2:14)

Seven Last Babylonian Rulers

627-605BC	Nabopolassar
605-562BC	Nebuchadnezzar
562-560BC	Evil-Merodach
560-556BC	Neriglissar
556BC	Labashi-Marduk
556-539BC	Nabonidus
549-539BC	Belshazzar (Rules as Co-Regent)

The Empire of Babylon



Evil-Merodach (the grandson of Nabopolassar and son of Nebuchadnezzar) only reigned for two years, but he did reinstate King Jeconiah (Jehoiachin/Coniah) to the royal table (Jeremiah 52:31).

Neriglissar assassinated Evil-Merodach and usurped the throne.

Neriglissar is listed in Scripture as one of the military commanders who conquered Jerusalem (Jeremiah 39:13). Neriglissar married a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar. Neriglissar died under mysterious circumstances.

Labashi-Marduk (the son of Neriglissar) only reigned for nine months. Labashi-Marduk was so wicked in his youth that he was killed in a palace coup (tortured to death) by Nabonidus.

Nabonidus described himself as the “son of nobody.” He was a very religious man in an idolatrous manner. Archeologists have discovered a relief of Nabonidus worshipping the moon god (Nanna/Sin), the sun god (Shamash), and Venus.

During the decade absence of Nabonidus, his son (and co-regent) Belshazzar rules over Babylon.

The mother of Nabonidus (Adda-guppi) had been a priestess of the moon god (Nanna/Sin). Adda-guppi had been a priestess at the Temple to the Moon god in Haran (at the headwaters of the Euphrates).

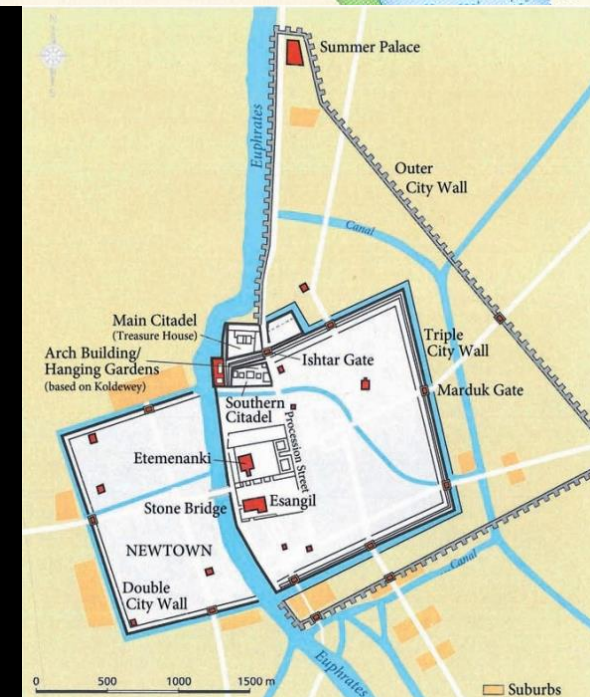
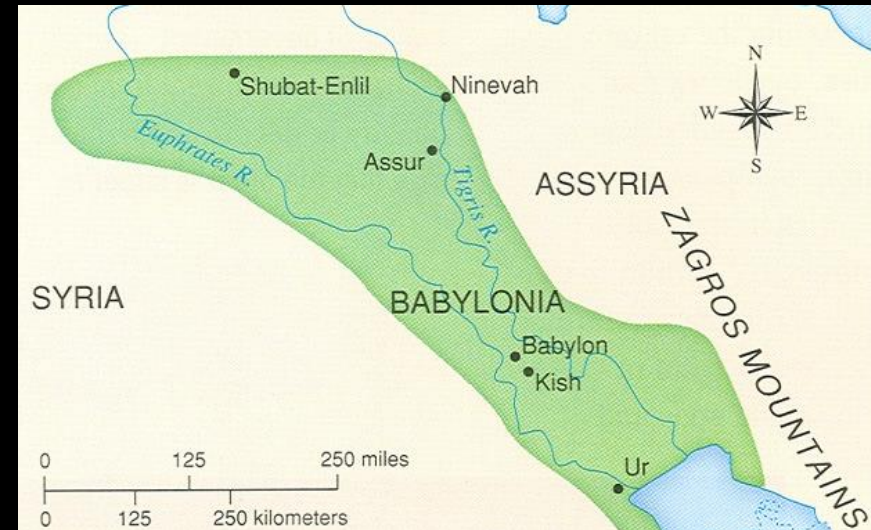
- After the Medians and the Babylonians defeated Assyria in 612BC, the Medes took Haran and much of the northern land of the fertile crescent.
- Nabonidus appealed to Cyrus, a Persian prince, to assist him in taking over Haran (to re-establish the Temple of the Moon god) and Nabonidus would help Cyrus conquer the world of the Medes and Persians.
 - Cyrus overthrew his grandfather (Astyages) and united the Medes and the Persians in 551BC.
- Nabonidus recovers Haran in 550BC and reestablishes it as a major Temple for the moon god (Nanna/Sin)
- In 549, Nabonidus moved to Tema (in Arabia) on a mystical quest for ten years.

The Fall of Babylon

The Euphrates, which ran diagonally through Babylon, was diverted to lower the water level as the Persians waded into the city. Just 16 days later, Cyrus marched in, and it is said that Daniel showed Cyrus a scroll written 150 years earlier prophesying about him by name (Isaiah 45).

Oct 10, 539 BC Persian armies took control of waterways and just several days later, Persians had diverted the Euphrates to other canals, so that water dropped to half of the height of a man's thigh

The first four chapters of Daniel occurred at the beginning of the Babylonian captivity, and chapter 5 occurred at the conclusion of captivity; approximately seventy years had passed between the two chapters.

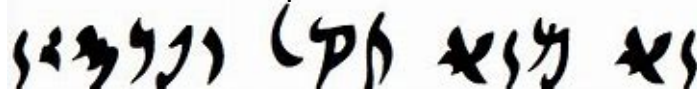


"You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting."

Judgment on Babylon (Daniel 5:17-30)

¹⁷ Then Daniel replied and said before the king, "Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him.

¹⁸ O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, greatness, honor, and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father.



¹⁹ Now because of the greatness which He granted him, all the peoples, nations, and *populations of all* languages trembled and feared in his presence; whomever he wished, he killed, and whomever he wished, he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated, and whomever he wished he humbled.

²⁰ But when his heart was arrogant and his spirit became so overbearing that he behaved presumptuously, he was deposed from his royal throne, and *his* dignity was taken away from him.

²¹ He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like *that of* animals, and his dwelling place *was* with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind, and *that* He sets over it whomever He wishes.



²² Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this,

²³ but you have risen up against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives, and your concubines have been drinking wine out of them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see, nor hear, nor understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified.

²⁴ Then the hand was sent from Him and this inscription was written out.

²⁵ "Now this is the inscription that was written: 'MENĒ, MENĒ, TEKĒL, UPHARSIN.'

²⁶ This is the interpretation of the message: 'MENĒ' — God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.

²⁷ 'TEKĒL' — you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.

²⁸ 'PERĒS' — your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

²⁹ Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he *now* had authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom.

³⁰ That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed.

³¹ So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.



Daniel was not enticed by the momentary rewards of this world because he knew Belshazzar's "just rewards" were about to be given to Belshazzar

The world feared Nebuchadnezzar who had the power to end life or exalt anyone he desired.

"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28)

The pride of Nebuchadnezzar resulted in his downfall leading to his repentance (Daniel 4)

The pride of Belshazzar resulted in his downfall & total destruction of the Babylonian Empire

King Belshazzar died on the night of his party. The date was November 2, 539 BC, and all of the worldly rewards and accoutrements that were awarded Daniel did not last through the night.

In complete absurdity, Belshazzar continues in his gifts and proclamations even though he would be dead within hours.

1. God will end Babylon's Empire
2. Babylon has been assessed & judged deficient
3. The Medes & Persians will conquer

Darius ("investigation") "received" the kingdom of Babylon from God's sovereign will. (Daniel 5:31)

“Mene, Mene, Tekel and Parsin”

The words inscribed on Belshazzar’s wall were: “*Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin.*”

All three of these words are nouns which Daniel would change & use as participles (to number – to weigh – to divide).

- 1 Mene: The weight of a “Mina” (monetary unit) which can be used “to weigh” (1 Kings 10:17; Ezra 2:69)
 - A mina equaled 60 shekels (a shekel weighed 10.6 g), so a mina weighed 640 g (23 oz → 1.43 lbs.).
 - Worth approximately \$470 USD; according to Plautus’ Pseudolus, a slave costed 20 minae in 191BC.



The sequence would be a larger weight, a smaller weight and half of a weight. Daniel interprets these three as: Mene (“To Number”), Tekel (“To Weigh”), Parsin (“To Divide”).

- 2 Tekel: Shekel (monetary unit) which can be used “to weigh”



- 3 Parsin: “Half of a weight” which can be used in the sense of “dividing.”



MENE – God numbered (judged) the Babylonian kingdom

“TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting.”

“PARSIN” is the plural form of “Peres” which may well be a play on words meaning the “Persians.” The Lord would divide (conquer) Babylon by the Persians.

**The King's Law Cannot Be Undone...
But New Laws Can Be Established**

Daniel Elevated in Persia (Daniel 6:1-9)

¹ It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, to be in charge of the whole kingdom, ² and over them, three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), so that these satraps would be accountable to them, and that the king would not suffer loss. ³ Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king intended to appoint him over the entire kingdom.



⁴ Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel regarding government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or *evidence of corruption*, because he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was *to be* found in him. ⁵ Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him regarding the law of his God."



⁶ Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: "King Darius, live forever! ⁷ All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors, have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who offers a prayer to any god or person besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be thrown into the lions' den. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it will not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked."



⁹ Thereupon, King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.

The New Testament fulfills the Old Testament (Matthew 5:17)

Satraps were royal representatives or Princes; these 120 men would have governed their Territory/Province of Babylon.

Daniel was one of three individuals that was elevated to authority over the satraps; each high official would have managed approximately 40 direct reports if evenly divided.

Just as Jeremiah was saved by Babylon when Jerusalem fell (Jeremiah 40:1-6), Daniel had now been saved by Persia when Babylon fell (Daniel 6:2).

Daniel's peers desired to undermine his advancement, but they could not find any error or fault with him. (1 Peter 2:12)

The spirit (Daniel 4:8; 5:11) within Daniel continued to distinguish him above his peers.

The only foible that Daniel's peers found with him was in his observance of the law of God. Clearly, Daniel prioritized God's word and ways above worldly customs.

The only exposure that Daniel's peers found with him was in his observance of the law of God. Clearly, Daniel prioritized God's word and ways above worldly customs.

Political leaders may be unknowingly used as pawns against believers. The conspirators came to the king flattering him as they encouraged him that anyone with any request for thirty days would need to request from the king.

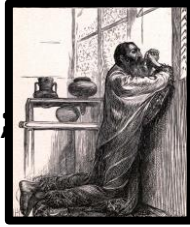
Once a Persian king signed a decree, he could not change what he had written. He could write another decree to counteract the initial decree that had been made. (Esther 1:19, 8:8)

"Pray Without Ceasing"
(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

ἀδιαλείπτως
προσεύχεσθε

Daniel Breaks The Law (Daniel 6:10-15)

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the document was signed, he entered his house (and in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem), and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and offering praise before his God, just as he had been doing previously.



¹¹ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel offering a prayer and imploring *favor* before his God.

¹² Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king's injunction: "Did you not sign an injunction that any person who offers a prayer to any god or person besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be thrown into the lions' den?" The king replied, "The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked."

¹³ Then they responded and spoke before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps offering his prayer three times a day."

¹⁴ Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed, and set *his* mind on rescuing Daniel; and until sunset he kept exerting himself to save him.

¹⁵ Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed."



In spite of the king's ordinance and the ruins of Jerusalem, Daniel gave thanks to God in a quiet time three times each day (2 Chronicles 6:36-39)

Scripture directs believers to respect and obey the government (Romans 13:1; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Matthew 12:17); however, believers are to obey the chain of authority which means that they should submit to God first and foremost. (Acts 4:19, 5:29)

Most homes had flat roofs with an open-air room on the roof with many windows as there summer residence.

Daniel would pray on his knees (Psalm 55:17-18. 95:6; 1 Kings 8:54; Isaiah 45:23).

The king referenced a higher authority ("the law of the Medes and Persians") that would not allow him "carte blanche" power.

The aggressors against Daniel described him as an exile and slave; clearly, there was racial prejudice (anti-Semitism).

Jews repeatedly prayed towards Jerusalem throughout Scripture (1 Kings 8:44, 48; 2 Chronicles 6:34; Psalm 5:7, 28:2, 138:2, Jonah 2:4), but during Daniel's time the Temple (as well as all of Jerusalem) had been demolished.

The conspirators came together to catch Daniel in the same way that they had unified to approach the king – "these men came in agreement" (Daniel 6:6, 14)

Just as the fiery furnace was a common practice of execution in Babylon, the lion's den was a common form of execution in Persia. (Daniel 3)

As the leaders coerced Darius to kill Daniel, the Jewish leaders would compel Pilate to crucify Jesus.

The Lions were ravenously Hungry,
but Daniel Trusted God

Daniel In the Lion's Den (Daniel 6:16-28)

¹⁶ Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "Your God whom you continually serve will Himself rescue you."

¹⁷ And a stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed regarding Daniel.

¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.

¹⁹ Then the king got up at dawn, at the break of day, and went in a hurry to the lions' den.

²⁰ And when he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice.

The king began speaking and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you continually serve, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

²¹ Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever!

²² My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, since I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

²³ Then the king was very glad and gave orders for Daniel to be lifted up out of the den. So Daniel was lifted up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

²⁴ The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they threw them, their children, and their wives into the lions' den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

²⁵ Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations, and *populations* of all languages who were living in all the land: "May your peace be great!

²⁶ I issue a decree that in all the realm of my kingdom people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, and His dominion *will be* forever.

²⁷ He rescues, saves, and performs signs and miracles in heaven and on earth, He who has *also* rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

²⁸ So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.



Daniel was put in charge of the magi (Mede Priests) who were a hereditary priesthood

The lion's den may have been a pit in the earth with an excavated lower entrance, so the fall into the pit should have hurt Daniel who was approximately 90 years of age.

Daniel is a foreshadowing of Christ. A stone was rolled over the tomb of Jesus expecting that he would never come out alive (Matthew 27:60) Pilate sealed the stone over the tomb of Jesus (Matthew 27:65-66), the king sealed the stone over the den.

Guardian angels exist (Matthew 18:10; Acts 12:15; Hebrews 1:14) The reason that no harm had come to Daniel was because he had trusted God.

The king testified that Daniel served his God continually & entrusted Daniel to his God

The Hebrew word for "diversions" or "entertainment" (wəḏaḥwān [דַּחַוּת]) is used only in Daniel 6:18. Scholars are divided as to whether the word means music, food, pleasure or concubines.

Entire households of those who condoned the murderous scheme were punished (Luke 22:41)

King Darius' Seven Truths about God (Daniel 6:26-27)	Compared to Daniel's Perspective of God (Daniel 2:20-22)
1 He is the living God	Wisdom and might are His
2 He is steadfast (endures) forever	He changes the times and the seasons
3 His kingdom is eternal	He removes kings and raises up kings
4 His dominion has no end	He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those with understanding
5 He rescues and delivers	He reveals deep and secret things
6 He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth	He knows what is in the darkness
7 He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions	Light dwells in Him

Daniel's Vision of the Beasts (Daniel 7)

Chapter 7 is not in chronological order in that it occurred after chapter 4 but before chapter 5.

These Gentile kingdoms have already been represented in Daniel from a man's perspective (from Nebuchadnezzar) with awe as he sees them being majestic, grandiose and great.

At this point, God's point-of-view (through Daniel's vision) characterizes these authorities as beastly with savage and cruel characteristics.

These four kingdoms spanned the time from the fall of Jerusalem to the Kingdom of God.

There are a number of eschatological passages that provide additional insight to this passage (Zechariah, Matthew 24, Mark 13, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Revelation)



The Key Points of Chapter 7

- Sovereign God is in control and has authority over worldly and spiritual powers.
- Wicked spiritual powers will be translated into worldly powers, but God has power over the spiritual and the physical depictions.

The Beasts of the Vision (Daniel 7:1-8)

Daniel did not capture the detail, but instead, he wrote down a summary of his dream.

¹ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind *as he lay on his bed*; then he wrote the dream down *and* told the *following* summary of it.

This is out of chronological sequence as Belshazzar died in chapter 5 (Daniel 5:30).

Belshazzar became co-regent before 549BC when his father, Nabonidus, moved to Tema (in Arabia) for a decade

- Scholars have theorized about the symbolism of the "Great Sea"
- The Nations (Isaiah 17:12, 27:1, 57:20; Revelation 17:15; Psalm 65:7)
 - Mankind/Mass of Humanity (Matthew 13:47; Revelation 13:1)
 - Jesus made "fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19)
 - The Mediterranean Sea (Numbers 34:6; Joshua 9:1)
 - The Cosmic Ocean (Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 51:10; Psalm 36:6; Amos 7:4)

² Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.

³ And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another. **1**



The national symbol of Babylon was a "winged lion," the general interpretation of the wings being torn off is the humbling experience of Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 49:22; Habakkuk 1:8; Ezekiel 17:3)

- The lion is the "king of the beasts." Nebuchadnezzar became like a beast (Daniel 4:33)
- The ancient "Gate of Ishtar" bears the image of a winged lion that symbolized Babylon.

⁴ The first *was* like a lion but had *the* wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and set up on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

⁵ And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs **2** were in its mouth between its teeth; and they said this to it: 'Arise, devour much meat!'



The second beast like a bear (brute strength without agility) was raised on one side meaning the power was unbalanced beginning with the strength of the Medes while concluding with Persia as the more dominant power.

- The Medo-Persian army consisted of 150,000 categorized into regiments of one thousand men (known as a "hazarabam")
- The three ribs being devoured represent the three defining military campaigns and prominent conquests: 1. Lydia (546 BC) 2. Babylon (539 BC) 3. Egypt (525 BC)
 - Lydia is modern day Turkey in Asia Minor.
 - Three conquests are usually identified as North (Lydia), West (Babylon) and South (Egypt) – Daniel 8:4



⁶ After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. **3**

⁷ After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. **4**

⁸ While I was thinking about the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the previous horns were plucked out before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like human eyes, and a mouth uttering great *boasts*.



The third beast as the leopard with four wings represented the swift military and strategies of Alexander the Great and the Greeks

- When Alexander died at age 32, his empire was divided between four generals: Cassander ruled in Macedon, Lysimachus in Thrace (western Asia Minor), Seleucus in Mesopotamia and Persia, and Ptolemy I Soter in Egypt.

The Fourth Beast (Daniel 7:7-8)

⁷ After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a **fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth.** It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

⁸ While I was thinking about the horns, behold, **another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the previous horns were plucked out** before it; and behold, this horn possessed **eyes like human eyes, and a mouth uttering great boasts.**

From an eschatological perspective, the 10 horns (horns Biblically symbolizing authority) represent the union of the end time kings (Daniel 7:24; Rev 13:1 & 17:3)

Unlike the three other kingdoms, an animal is not identified to represent this fourth kingdom.

This fourth kingdom would fall apart from internal struggles instead of being defeated by another kingdom. Afterwards, the authority would be parsed out between various survivors.

The iron teeth (Daniel 2:41) show the weaponry of the Roman military.

The ten horns may represent the first ten emperors/kings of Rome in the first century who were Augustus (27BC-14AD), Tiberius (14-37AD), Caligula (37-41AD), Claudius (41-54AD), Nero (54-68AD), Galba (68-69AD), Otho(69AD), Vitellius (69AD), Vespasian (69-79AD) and Titus (79-81AD).

The little horn, the boastful one who attacked the saints may represent Domitian (81-96AD), who was the first to systematically attack the early church.

There were 44 Roman Emperors before the reign of Constantine (306-337AD) established Christianity as the national religion of Rome.



This little horn which comes in the fourth kingdom (the anti-Christ) is different than the little horn (Antiochus Epiphanes) in chapter 8 which comes in the third kingdom (Daniel 8:9).

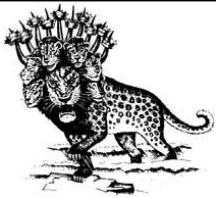
The Roman Emperors, from Augustus to Constantine

Augustus	B.C. 27–A.D. 14	L. Verus	A.D. 161–169	Trebonianus	A.D. 251–253
Tiberius	A.D. 14–37	Commodus	180–192	Aemilianus	253
Caligula	37–41	Pertinax	193	Valerianus	253–260
Claudius	41–54	Didius Iulianus	193	Gallienus	253–268
Nero	54–68	Septimius Severus	193–211	Claudius Gothicus	268–270
Galba	68–69	Caracalla	211–217	Aurelian	270–275
Otho	69	Geta	211–212	Tacitus	275–276
Vitellius	69	Macrinus	217–218	Florianus	276
Vespasian	69–79	Elagabalus	218–222	Probus	276–282
Titus	79–81	Severus Alexander	222–235	Carus	282–283
Domitian	81–96	Maximinus	235–238	Carinus	283–285
Nerva	96–98	Gordian I	238	Numerianus	283–284
Trajan	98–117	Gordian II	238	Diocletian	284–305
Hadrian	117–138	Balbinus	238	Maximian	286–305
Antoninus Pius	138–161	Pupienus	238	Constantius	292–306
M. Aurelius	161–180	Gordian III	238–244	Galerius	293–311
		Philip	244–249	Licinius	311–323
		Decius	249–251	Constantine	306–337



The anti-Christ (the powerful beast ruler in Revelation 13:1) will arise from an inconspicuous area (humble beginnings)

The eyes are prominent for this leader (e.g. the ultimate “big brother” with many informants) and a proud, boastful mouth (Daniel 7:20).



The Two End Time Books of God

Two End Time Books of God (Revelations 20:12)	
The Book of Life (God's People)	Exodus 32:32-33 Psalm 69:28 Daniel 7:10; 12:1 Luke 10:20 Philippians 4:3 Revelation 3:5; 17:8
The Book of Remembrances/Works (All People)	Psalm 56:8, 139:16 Isaiah 65:6 Malachi 3:16

*“A river of fire was flowing
And coming out from before Him;
Thousands upon thousands were serving
Him, and myriads upon myriads were
standing before Him; The court convened,
And the books were opened.” (Daniel 7:10)*

*“Now at that time Michael, the great
prince who stands guard over the sons
of your people, will arise. And there will
be a time of distress such as never
occurred since there was a nation until
that time; and at that time your people,
everyone who is found written in
the book, will be rescued.” (Daniel 12:1)*

- This is one of the few places in the Old Testament that defines afterlife judgment with eternal consequences (Ezekiel 32:17-32).
- The same Hebrew description (עֹלָם : עולם) meaning “everlasting” is used for eternal life and eternal shame. (Daniel 12:2)

The Fourth Beast (Daniel 7:15-28)

¹⁵ "As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.

¹⁶ I approached one of those who were standing by and began requesting of him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:

¹⁷ 'These great beasts, which are four *in number*, are four kings *who will arise from the earth*.

¹⁸ But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and take possession of the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.'



¹⁹ "Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze,

and which devoured, crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet,

²⁰ and *the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, and before which three of the horns fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts*, and which was larger in appearance than its associates.



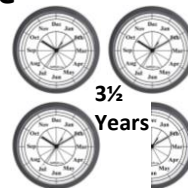
²¹ I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and prevailing against them,

²² until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when **the saints took possession of the kingdom.**

²³ "This is what he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms, and will devour the whole earth and trample it down and crush it.

²⁴ As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will humble three kings.

²⁵ And he will speak against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time.



²⁶ But the court will convene *for judgment*, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.



²⁷ Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of **all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One;** His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the empires will serve and obey Him.'

²⁸ "At this point the revelation ended. *As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face became pale, but I kept the matter to myself.*"

When someone does not understand the communication of God, it causes them distress in their spirit. Nebuchadnezzar's spirit was troubled by not understanding (Daniel 2:1) while the spirit within Daniel was shown exceptional through his understanding of God's communication (Daniel 4:9; 5:12; 6:3)

The heavenly hosts seem to understand God's communication perfectly. The heavenly one seemed approachable by Daniel. In order for Daniel to receive understanding, he simply had to ask for understanding.

The ten horns may symbolize an organized group of nations; the anti-Christ will increase his power and authority as three of the nations decline and fall out of the organization.

The anti-Christ will publicly assault believers and successfully torment, persecute and execute God's people.

The fourth kingdom will be different from the rest and bring worldwide disaster.

The saints of God will be successfully persecuted by the anti-Christ for 3 ½ years (Rev 11:2; 12:6; 13:5); immorality will grow as laws become more lenient. (2 Thessalonians 2)

This kingdom that is given to the saints was previously given to the "Son of Man" (Daniel 7:13). The pronoun in this verse is "His kingdom" (meaning the Lord Jesus Christ) instead of "their kingdom" (meaning all of the saints) because everyone will "serve and obey Him."

The Greco-Roman Empire

(Daniel 7:19)

"Greco-Roman" Deities Renamed for Conquering Romans

Greek	Roman	Description
Zeus	Jupiter	Primary God of the Air
Hera	Juno	Primary Goddess - Marriage
Aphrodite	Venus	Goddess of beauty
Apollon	Apollo	God of Music/Sun
Ares	Mars	God of War
Artemis	Diana	Goddess of hunting
Athena	Minerva	Goddess of wisdom
Demeter	Ceres	Goddess of nature
Hephaistos	Vulcan	God of the Blacksmiths
Hermes	Mercury	Messenger of the gods
Poseidon	Neptune	God of the sea

- **The Romans were historians that respected the Greek arts, so they renamed the Greek gods with Roman names.**
- **Although the language of Rome was Latin, the elite often spoke Greek.**

"Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet"
(Daniel 7:19)

Bronze
Greece

In the chapter 2 statue, the Bronze was associated with the 3rd Kingdom of Greece while Iron was associated with the 4th Kingdom of Rome.

Iron
Rome

Iron w/
Bronze

However, Daniel 7:19 identifies an Iron/Bronze mixture because the Romans appreciated history and the Greek arts, so they renamed the Greek gods with Roman names

Grecian
Influence
On Rome

Reverts from Aramaic Language to the Hebrew Language

Vision of the Ram & Goat (Daniel 8:1-8)

1 In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar the king, a vision appeared to me, Daniel, subsequent to the one which appeared to me previously.



2 I looked in the vision, and while I was looking, I was in the citadel of Susa, which is in the province of Elam; and I looked in the vision, and I myself was beside the Ulai Canal.

3 Then I raised my eyes and looked, and behold, a ram which had two horns was standing in front of the canal. Now the two horns *were* long, but one *was* longer than the other, with the longer one coming up last.



4 I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no *other* beasts could stand against him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power, but he did as he pleased and made himself great.



5 While I was observing, behold, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of the entire earth without touching the ground; and the goat *had* a prominent horn between his eyes.

6 He came up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen standing in front of the canal, and rushed at him in his mighty wrath.

7 And I saw him come up beside the ram, and he was enraged at him; and he struck the ram and smashed his two horns, and the ram had no strength to withstand him. So he hurled him to the ground and trampled on him, and there was no one to rescue the ram from his power.

8 Then the male goat made himself exceedingly great. But once he became powerful, the large horn was broken; and in its place four prominent *horns* came up toward the four winds of heaven.

Daniel prophecies about Persia & Greece before Babylon even Falls

Susa (Shushan) is 230 miles southeast of Babylon; he may have been literally in Persia or his spirit may have been transported. In the future, this would be the summer capital of Medo-Persia.

Ulai ("my leaders") was a canal linking two rivers which flowed past the city of Susa; archeologists believe that this canal was 900 feet (300 yards) wide.

Persia was in the east, and these west/north/south weaker beasts represent the nations (beasts) subjected to Persian rule and might

Historically, the Ram was the symbol on the Persian banners & coins while the Male Goat would be the symbol on Grecian banners & coins.

Alexander's 40,000 warriors routed the much larger Persian army three times, and the trampling of Persia may symbolize Alexander's speedy cavalry.

Medo-Persian Kings		
550-530BC	Cyrus II	538 Medo-Persian
530-522BC	Cambyses II	Egypt
522BC	Pseudo-Smerdis	Nickname/Imposter
522-486BC	Darius I	Son of Hystaspes
486-465BC	Xerxes	Esther's Husband
465-424BC	Artaxerxes I	Ezra; Nehemiah
424-404BC	Darius II Nothus	Ruled 19 Years
404-358BC	Artaxerxes II Mnemon	Zoroastrian
358-338BC	Artaxerxes III Ochus	Conquered Egypt
338-336BC	Arses	Killed by Father's Assassin
336-331BC	Darius III Codomannus	Cousin of Arses

The horns represented the Medo-Persian empire where Media was the larger of the allies; however, Cyrus was the more aggressive as Persia became the dominant power.

Elam were ancestors of the Persians (Jeremiah 49:34-39); the Persians wore golden crowns shaped like ram's heads.

Persia's three conquests were campaigns against: Lydia in the North (546BC) Babylon in the West (539BC) Egypt in the South (525BC)

After the battle of Issus, the Persian King Darius offered to surrender half of his empire to Alexander the Great, but the offer was rejected as not being enough.

The death of Alexander the Great led to his four generals dividing the empire

- Lysimachus – Thrace (northwest Asia Minor)
- Cassander - Greece
- Seleucus – Syria/Babylon (most land)
- Ptolemy - Egypt

Persia the “Ram”



“Then I raised my eyes and looked, and behold, a ram which had two horns was standing in front of the canal. Now the two horns were long, but one was longer than the other, with the longer one coming up last. I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no other beasts could stand against him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power, but he did as he pleased and made himself great.”

(Daniel 8:3-4)

Persia’s three conquests were campaign against:

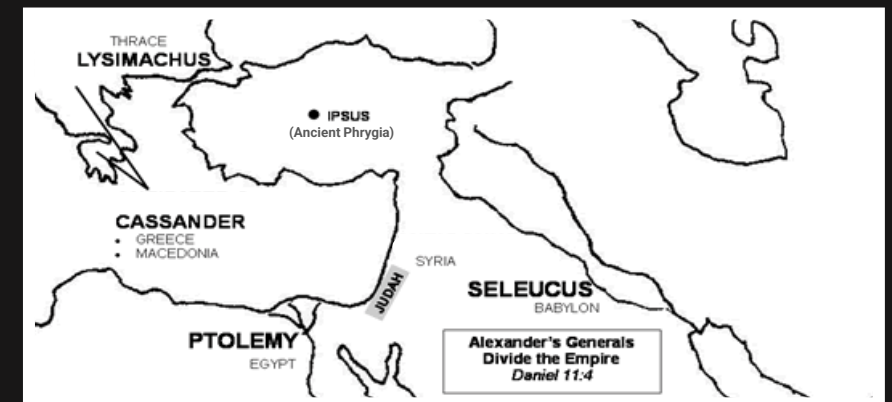
- Lydia in the North (546BC),
- Babylon in the West (539BC)
- Egypt in the South (525BC)

Greece the “He-Goat”



At the height of Alexander the Great's empire, it spanned 2 million square miles

- Alexander the Great and the Grecian military were known for speed with Cavalry (“not touching the ground” – Daniel 7:6).
- The Grecian Army had 40,000 warriors while Persia had 150,000.
- Alexander died at the young age of 33 which led to his four generals dividing the empire (Daniel 7:6).



“The Little Horn” (Daniel 8:9-14)

10 Characteristics of the “Little Horn” (Daniel 7)		
1.	A “little” horn (king)	Daniel 7:8
2.	Comes up among the other horns (kingdoms)	Daniel 7:8
3.	Three horns pulled up by the roots	Daniel 7:8
4.	Eyes of a man, and a mouth boasting great things	Daniel 7:8
5.	Speaks out against the “Most High”	Daniel 7:25
6.	Arises after the 10 horns (kingdoms)	Daniel 7:24
7.	Different from the other horns	Daniel 7:19
8.	Persecutes the Saints	Daniel 7:21, 25
9.	Intention to alter times and the law	Daniel 7:25
10.	Saints given into his hand for a time, times and ½ time.	Daniel 7:25

⁹ And out of one of them came a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful *Land*.

¹⁰ It grew up to the heavenly lights, and some of the lights, that is, some of the stars it threw down to the earth, and it trampled them.

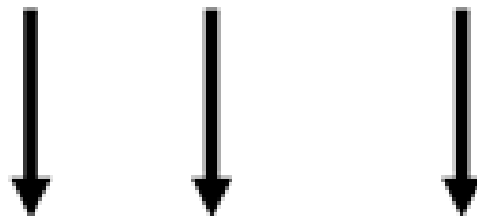
¹¹ **It even exalted itself to be equal with the Commander of the army; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was overthrown.**

¹² And because of an offense the army will be given *to the horn* along with the regular sacrifice; and **it will hurl truth to the ground and do as it pleases and be successful.**

¹³ Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, “How long will the vision *about* the regular sacrifice *apply*, while the offense causes horror, so as to allow both the sanctuary and the army to be trampled?”

¹⁴ And he said to me, **“For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be properly restored.”**

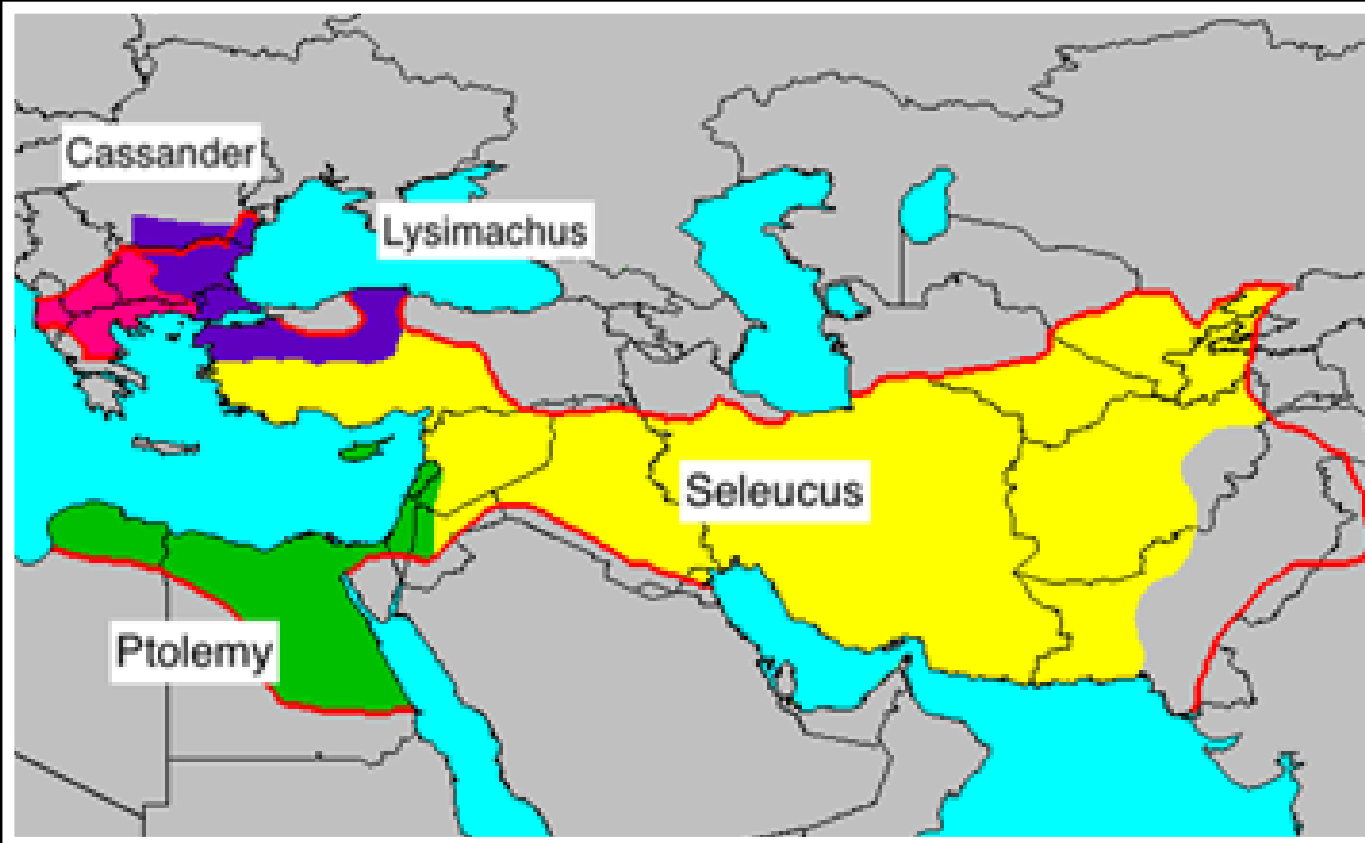
Time, Times, and ½ Time



Prophetic Years: **1 2 ½ = 3 ½ Years**



Antiochus Epiphanes: "The Little Horn"



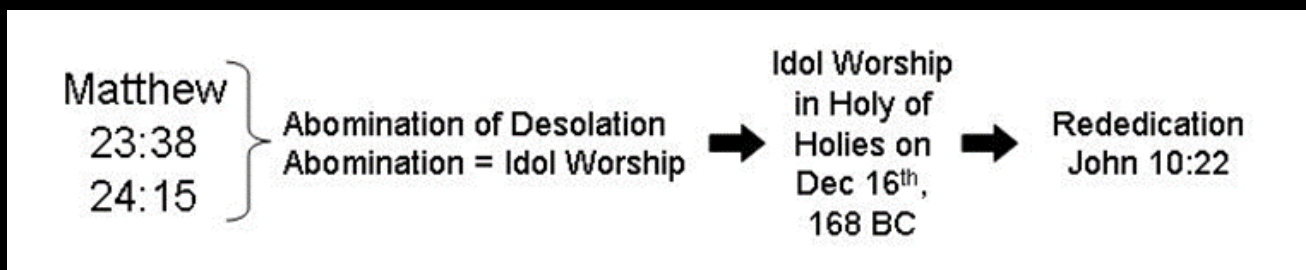
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes was a Seleucid Emperor
- Antiochus sought to eliminate Judaism by desecrating the temple and forbidding all Jewish practices (167BC)
 - Sacrificed a Pig on the Altar
 - Prohibited Temple Worship
 - Erected an Altar to Jupiter
 - Outlawed Circumcision (Capital Punishment)
 - Destroyed Every Scripture Found
 - Executed Anyone Found With Scripture
 - Sold Thousands of Jews into Slavery
 - Tortured Jews to coerce them to renounce Judaism
- A Jewish Priest (Mattathias) rebelled and when he died, his son (Judas Maccabaeus) recaptured Jerusalem and reconsecrated the temple 3½ years after the High Priest had been executed
- The Maccabees became the Hasmonean dynasty.
- This event is celebrated annually as Hanukkah (*the "Festival of Lights"*)
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes is a forerunner of the Antichrist

- Epiphanes was not part of his name; instead it was a title relating to his having an epiphany (e.g. "the discovery).
- The Jews changed the title of Antiochus IV from Epiphanes to "Epimanes" ("The Insane One")

At the re-opening of the Temple, the menorah only had enough oil for one night, but miraculously, the lamp remained lit for eight days until enough holy oil could be procured.

Antiochus Epiphanes: “The Little Horn”

Comparison between Antiochus Epiphanes and the Anti-Christ
Both begin modestly but increase in power and influence
Both blaspheme God with mouths that speak great things
Both persecute the Jewish people
Both claim to be gods and put images in the Temple
Both impose their own religion on the people
Both are opposed by a believing remnant that knows God



The Atrocities of Antiochus Epiphanes

- He defiled the Temple by offering a pig on the altar and sprinkling its blood on the vessels of the Temple (circa 171BC).
- Antiochus Epiphanes set up an image of the false god Jupiter in the Holy of Holies.
- Antiochus Epiphanes wanted to “Hellenize” the Jews into Greek gods and customs.
- Beyond the desecration of the Temple, it is estimated that Antiochus murdered more than 100,000 Jews.

Daniel asks God to take action because of Who He is, not who they were

Daniel's Prayer for Forgiveness (Daniel 9:16-23)

16 Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the wrongdoings of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people *have become* an object of taunting to all those around us.



17 So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his pleas, and for Your sake, Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary.

18 My God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our pleas before You based on any merits of our own, but based on Your great compassion.



19 Lord, hear! Lord, forgive! Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

20 While I was still speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God,
21 while I was still speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering.



22 And he instructed *me* and talked with me and said, "Daniel, I have come now to give you insight with understanding.



23 At the beginning of your pleas the command was issued, and I have come to tell *you*, because you are highly esteemed; so pay attention to the message and gain understanding of the vision.

Daniel prays for the restoration of Jerusalem in spite of the sin of himself, Israel and their forefathers

God acts for the sake of His name in keeping with His identity and character

Daniel understands that God's people (including himself) are unworthy, but he asks God to act in mercy and reestablish His Temple.

Daniel understands that salvation is by grace and not works. Daniel calls on God to see their desperate plight instead of their sin because of His mercy.

This is similar to the Chaldeans pleading with their king, Nebuchadnezzar to act for his name's sake (Daniel 3:8-12)

Although Daniel had prayed exhaustively, God had sent at the beginning of his prayer.

In our weakness, He is strong (2 Corinthians 12:10). Gabriel arrived when the evening offering should have been.

The interpretation never originated with Daniel but was divinely given to him by the Lord.

By this time, Babylon had destroyed the Temple as well as all of the Jewish rituals that occurred there, so there was no evening offering, but Daniel's focus was on the restoration of the Temple and services that took place there.

God gave Daniel "*insight and understanding.*"

Three times, Daniel is said to be "*treasured/beloved*" by God (Daniel 9:23; 10:11; 10:19).

Believers should pray for "*insight and understanding*" when they begin to read God's Word as well.

Twice, Daniel is told to "*know and understand*" (Daniel 9:23, 25)

“The Seventy Week Prophecy” (Daniel 9:24-27)

Overall Structure of 70 Week Prophecy <i>(Daniel 9:24-27)</i>	
Daniel 9:24	Scope of All Time
Daniel 9:25	69 “Weeks” (490 years)
Daniel 9:26	Christ’s Last Week
Daniel 9:27	Gap between 69 & 70 week (no one knows span of gap – not even Satan)

- In the Jewish culture, “7 days” equals a “week of days” and “7 years” equals a “week of years.”
- The timing would be $70 \times 7 = 490$ years (70 units of 7) from 454 BC (Nehemiah’s Temple) to 29 AD (Christ’s death) equaling 483 years with 7 years remaining for Tribulation.

Prophecy for Israel/Jerusalem Seven years = One Week of Years <i>(Daniel 9:24)</i>	
Prophecy	Interpretation
Three Negative	
1 To bring rebellion to an end	Tribulation judgments will force dependence
2 To put a stop to sin	National sins of Israel (Zechariah 13:1)
3 To wipe away injustice	Christ’s Death making atonement
Three Positive	
4 To bring in everlasting righteousness	Christ’s Return & Millennial Rule
5 To seal up vision and prophecy	Fulfillment of Messianic/Millennial Prophecy
6 To anoint the most holy place	Construct Holy of Holies in Millennial Temple

²⁴ “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the wrongdoing, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

²⁵ So you are to know and understand that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, until Messiah the Prince, *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, *with* streets and moat, even in times of distress.

²⁶ Then after the sixty-two weeks, the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

²⁷ And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.”

Angels Impart Strength
(Hebrews 1:14; Matthew 18:10)

Daniel is Comforted (Daniel 10:10-21)

¹⁰ Then behold, a hand touched me and shook me on my hands and knees.

¹¹ And he said to me, "Daniel, you who are treasured, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand at your place, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

¹² Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding *this* and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in *response to your words*.

¹³ But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was standing in my way for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.



¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the latter days, because the vision *pertains to the days still future*."

¹⁵ When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.



¹⁶ And behold, one who resembled a human was touching my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who was standing before me, "My lord, due to the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength.

¹⁷ For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me."

¹⁸ Then *this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me*.

¹⁹ And he said, "You who are treasured, do not be afraid. Peace *be to you*; take courage and be courageous!" Now as soon as he spoke to me, I felt

strengthened and said, "May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

²⁰ Then he said, "Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am leaving, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come.



²¹ However, I will tell you what is recorded in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.

"Michael" means
"Who is like God?"

An angel assists Daniel to his feet, and Daniel is reminded that God treasures/loves him (Daniel 9:23; 10:19)

Influential Daniel who has bravely stood before Kings (Babylonian, Persian, etc.) and has courageously faced lions was overwhelmed with fear of the angelic

Daniel's sincere (not casual) prayers resulted in this angelic visit (Ephesus 6:12).

There was a 21-day gap between the Angel's origin and arrival.

Michael, the archangel, is mentioned five times in the Bible, and each time related to judgment (Daniel 10:13, 10:21, 12:1, Jude 1:9, Revelation 12:7).

Satan is the ruler of this earth (Ephesus 2:2), and Jesus did not correct Satan when he claimed to have all authority on earth (Luke 4:6).

Daniel had desired for God's wrath on Jerusalem to end (Daniel 9:16), but instead was told of the coming world empires & end times

Angelic warfare is real; the fall of the angels preceded the fall of man.

An angel in human form now touched Daniel's lips (Isaiah 6:6; Jeremiah 1:9), and enabled speech between Daniel and the angel

When Daniel could talk, all he could say was that he had no strength or breath to talk with his Lord.

This passage shows the reverence in which believers are to have in prayer and worship, and the peace of God that comes through His word when approached in humility

Michael (the archangel – Jude 1:9; Revelation 12:7) is the Guardian of Israel

Each nation has a "prince" to spiritually battle against; Persia would fall to Greece 200 years later, and then Greece to Rome; ultimately, the future "Rome" will fall to Christ at the Tribulation ushering in His millennial rule.

Greece Conquers Persia (Daniel 11:1-4)

Kings of Greece

359-336BC Philip II of Macedon

336-323BC Alexander II the Great

323 - Generals Divide Empire

1. Cassander – Macedonia

2. Lysimicus – Thrace (Western Asia)

3. Seleucus I – Syria and Persia

4. Ptolemy – Egypt and Palestine

175-163BC Antiochus IV Epiphanes

¹ “In the first year of Darius the Mede, I arose to be of assistance and a protection for him.

² And now I will tell you the truth. Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of *them*; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, **he will stir up the entire *empire* against the realm of Greece.**

³ And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases.

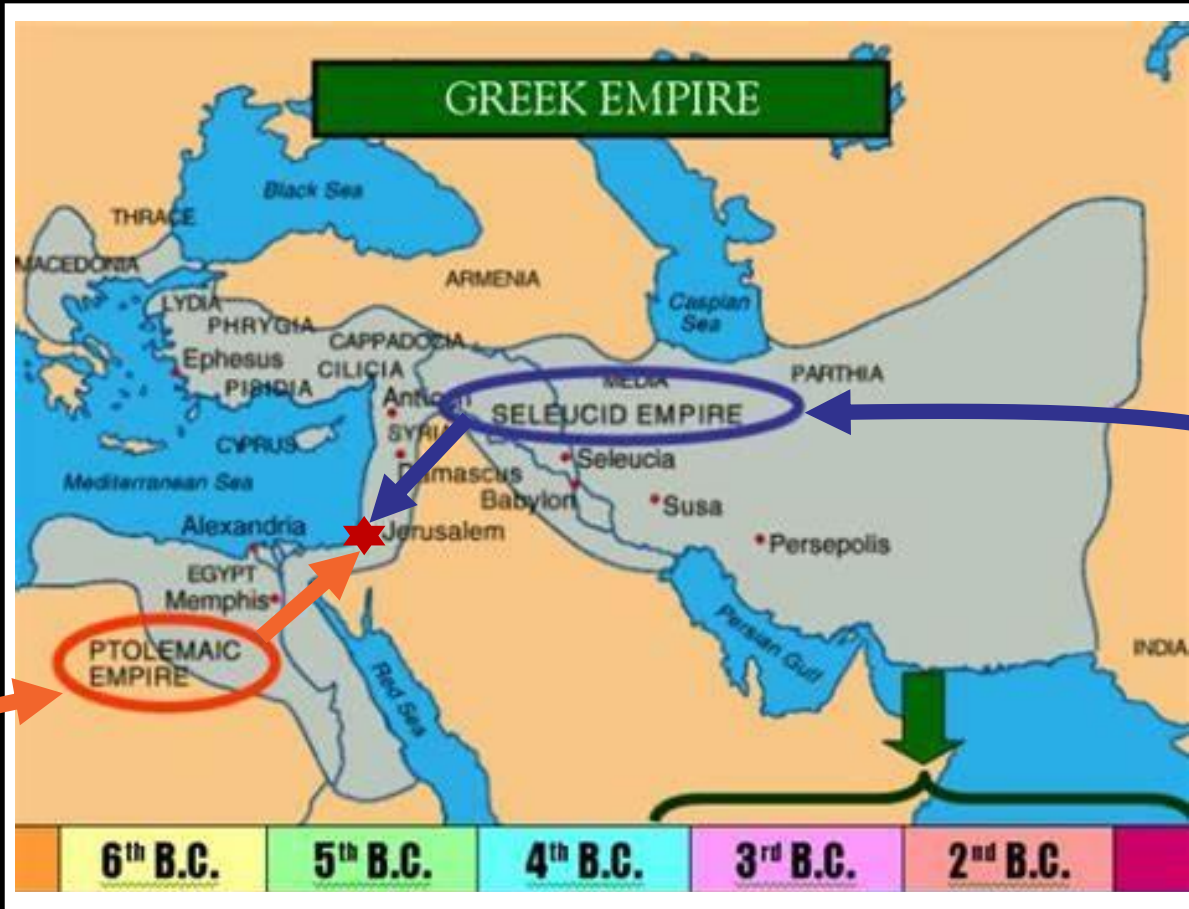
⁴ But as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass, though not to his *own* descendants, nor according to his authority which he wielded, because his sovereignty will be removed and *given* to others besides them.

Prophecy of Greece Defeating Persia

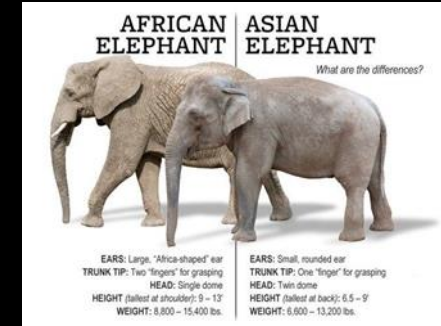
- Daniel 2:32 (Statue)
- Daniel 7:6 (Beast)
- Daniel 8:5-8 (Ram & Goat)
- Daniel 11:1-4 (King Darius)

Syria/Seleucid vs. Egypt/Ptolemy (Daniel 11:5-20)

The battles between Syria & Egypt occurred for 150 years after Alexander's death "Silent Period" until Rome asserted control.



The Seleucid Empire spanned to the border of India where India's elephants were recruited into the Seleucid military



Syrian Kings (Seleucids)	
312-280BC	Seleucus I
280-261BC	Antiochus I Soter
261-246BC	Antiochus II Theus
246-226BC	Seleucus II Callinicus
226-223BC	Seleucus III Ceraunus
223-187BC	Antiochus III The Great
187-175BC	Seleucus IV Philopator
175-163BC	Antiochus IV Epiphanes
163-162BC	Antiochus V

Egyptian Kings (Ptolemies)	
327-285BC	Ptolemy I Soter
285-246BC	Ptolemy II Philadelphus
246-221BC	Ptolemy III Euegetes
221-203BC	Ptolemy IV Philopater
203-181BC	Ptolemy V Epiphanes
181-146BC	Ptolemy VI Philometor



African elephants weigh 3-6 tons at a height of 13' & are more aggressive



Indian/Asian elephants weigh 2-4 tons at a height of 9'

End Time Tribulation (Daniel 12:1-4)

1 “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.



2 And 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**.



3 And those who have insight will shine like the glow of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

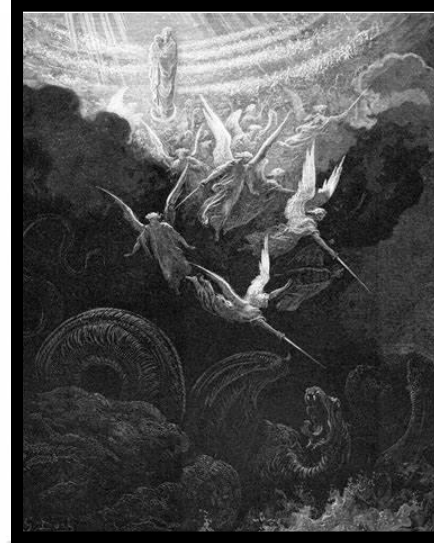
4 But as for you, Daniel, keep these words secret and seal up the book until the end of time; many will roam about, and knowledge will increase.”

The intensity of persecution increases to an unprecedented level of distress (Jeremiah 30:7; Is 26:20), and Michael (“who is like God” – Daniel 10:13, 29; Jude 1:9) rises up for action

Jesus quoted part of Daniel 12:1 (Matthew 24:21-22) about the distress during end time events. Jesus would change the word from “nations” to “world.”

As with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., those Jews who are believers will escape

“The dust of the ground/earth” is literally (in Hebrew) “the land of the dust.” (Genesis 2:7)



At the first resurrection (1 Corinthians 5:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Rev 20:5), some will be brought from the dead for eternal life and others to eternal shame/punishment.

This is the resurrection of life which follows Christ’s return to end the Tribulation. Following the millennium, there will be a resurrection of death.

This is one of the few places in the Old Testament that defines afterlife judgment with eternal consequences (Ezekiel 32:17-32). The same Hebrew description (“*owlām* :דלילע) meaning “everlasting” is used for eternal life and eternal shame.

Spiritual insight has been given as an act of grace (Daniel 9:13, 25), and God’s people are to share this insight with others (Daniel 11:33).

In Daniel 12:4, he is directed to protect and keep these words preserving them (Daniel 8:26, 12:9) for those who live at the time of the end (the “end times”) which will be characterized by much travel and increased knowledge (e.g., airplane volume and internet access)

Other interpretations of Daniel 12:4 would include the eyes of those who study God’s Word moving back and forth across the pages of Scripture or possibly the godless individual searching frantically for the truth of God (Amos 8:12).

Daniel's Departure (Daniel 12:5-13)

⁵ Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, **two others were standing**, one on this bank of the stream and the other on that bank of the stream.



⁶ And *someone* said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long *will it be* until the end of these wonders?"

⁷ And I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that *it would be* for a time, times, and half *a time*; and as soon as they finish smashing the power of the holy people, all these *events* will be completed.



⁸ But as for me, I heard but did not understand; so I said, "My lord, what *will be* the outcome of these *events*?"



⁹ And he said, "Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these words will be* kept secret and sealed up until the end time.

¹⁰ Many will be purged, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.

¹¹ And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days.

¹² Blessed is the one who is patient and attains to the 1,335 days!

¹³ But as for you, go *your way* to the end; then you will rest and rise for your allotted portion at the end of the age."



The time of the abomination of desolation will be 3 ½ years and one month (30 days more than in Revelation 11:3, 12:6).

In a prior vision, there were two angelic beings on either side of the Tigris River (Daniel 10:4). The Hebrew word used for "river" in Daniel 12:5-7 (hay'or: הַיָּאֵר) is a different word for "river" than prior uses (hannāhār הַנְּהָר). The Hebrew word for river in Daniel 12:5-7 (hay'or: הַיָּאֵר) usually references the Nile River (Genesis 41:1-3, 17-18; Exodus 2:3, 5; 4:9, 7:15, 18, 21, 24-25; 8:3, 17:5).

Jesus (Daniel 10:5) is above the waters (out of and over the chaos of the world). An angel may have asked this question to the man in linen (Daniel 8:13).

Although the Masoretic Text has "He said", the Septuagint (and Vulgate) records this as "I said" (meaning Daniel asked the question).

The angels have historically been curious about God's plan for His creation (1 Peter 1:10-12).

Jesus prophesied that the remainder of the Tribulation would be 3 ½ years (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 10:5-7) until the rebellion and hard hearts of Israel will be broken.

The raising of the hands (Genesis 14:22; Exodus 6:8, Deuteronomy 32:40; Isaiah 62:8; Ezekiel 20:5; Revelation 10:4-5) was the act of taking an oath in God's name (Judges 8:19; 1 Samuel 14:39 & 45; 19:6; 20:3 & 21; 25:26 & 34).

God's people would endure heavy persecution (Daniel 8:24; Luke 21:24).

There may be 45 days between Jesus second coming and the beginning of the millennium

As with much Biblical prophecy, Daniel still had an interest in understanding mysteries, but here, Daniel is encouraged to live his life (focus on the here and now) because the future events would not come for some time.