

Nebuchadnezzar

605 - 587 B.C.





Who was Daniel

- A Judean exiled in 597 along with 10,000 others
- "Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to
 - bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace,
 - and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans." (Daniel 1:3-4)
- Followed the Lord's precepts (chapter 1)
- Trusted God above all (chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6)
- Ruler over Babylon and chief prefect over the kings wisemen (chapter 2)
- Most distinguished of the 3 presidents and prospered during the reigns of Darius and Cyrus (chapter 6)
- Prophet (chapters 7-12)
- "Greatly loved" and "humble" (chapter 10)

The Book of Daniel

Chapter 1	Introduction	Hebrew
• Chapter 2	Nebuchadnezzar's dream	Aramaic
Chapter 3	Furnace rescue	Aramaic
Chapter 4	Nebuchadnezzar judged	Aramaic
• Chapter5	Belshazzar judged	Aramaic
Chapter 6	Daniel rescued	Aramaic
Chapter 7	Daniel's vision	Hebrew
Chapter 8	Post Babylonian kingdoms	Hebrew
Chapter 9	Daniel's Prayer / Vision for Jerusalem	Hebrew
 Chapters 10-12 	Post Babylonian kingdoms	Hebrew

Chapter 1 - Boundaries

- Daniel is taught Chaldean wisdom, language and literature.
- Daniel is tempted to eat foods other than those God ordained in Exodus.
- Daniel stands firm, he doesn't bend. Although Jews strayed (idolatry, intermarriage, and social injustice) they remained steadfast in following God's prescribed diet.
- Compare with Luke 4:2-4

"for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone."

What's your line? What line will you not breach?



"We are in Babylon – and God is sovereign even here. Nothing is actually out of control and nothing is about to get out of control. But, given the push-back of twenty-first century secularism, you and I are going to face challenges. The crises will come; the moments will arrive when we are called to go with the flow of our culture rather than obedience to our God in the workplace, or the sports club, or in how we raise our children, or what we say from our pulpits, and so on. These crises will reveal what is inside us. Don't assume you'll stand firm in those moments.

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So, know your lines. And know the God who will give you all you need in the situation he has put you into, to enable you to stand firm for Him and say, "No, I am not going to give in.""

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Chapter 2 – Doing the Impossible

"if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation." The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh." (Daniel 2:9-11)

Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar acted this way?

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Daniel's Response

- Daniel remained calm and was confident that the Lord would interpret the dream.
- After asking King Nebuchadnezzar for a little time, what is the first thing that Daniel did?
- What's the second?
- What's the dream and it's significance?

The Dreams Significance

"Nebuchadnezzar had dreams...

The secret was revealed to Daniel...

[God] made known what will be in the latter days."

(Daniel 2:1, 19, 28)

The Rock

34-35

destroys the

Image: Daniel 2:



The head of gold = Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon

(verses 36-38)

Chest and arms of silver = Medo-Persia (verse 32; Daniel 5: 30-31)

Belly of bronze = Greece (Daniel 2:39; 8:21–22)

Legs of iron = Rome (Daniel 2:40)

Feet and toes = Strong and weak governments of the Endtime (Daniel 2:41–43)

The Rock = Jesus (Matthew 21:42-44)

The mountain fills the earth
= The Kingdom of God
(Daniel 2:44; Micah 4:1)

Daniel 2:43-45

"As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.""

Matthew 16:16-18

"Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ""

Matthew 21:42-44

"Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.""

1 Peter 2:6

"For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.""

Chapter 3 – Nebuchadnezzar Lesson 2

- Plain of Shinar and of Dura
- The king was already known for burning people.
 "The LORD make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire," (Jeremiah 29:22)
- Idolatry confidence in somenting other than God
- What are today's idols?
- Are we immune from the fiery trials of today? What are your trials?

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Chapter 4 – Witnessing

- Who wrote this chapter?
- Why did this happen?
- Did you note God's patience?
- Did you note God's graciousness?
- Can you imagine the stress of having to take such a message forward?
 What does this say about Daniel's relationship with the king?
- What does this chapter tell you about witnessing?
 - What is our job?
 - What is God's?
- Do you think we'll see Nebuchadnezzar in Heaven?

Chapter 5 – A Frightful Story

- A banquet of 1000 learned about
 - Pride
 - Sacrilege
 - Idolatry
- "So they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20b)
- Compare to our banquets praising accomplishments
- "Opposite the lampstand" (v5)



Chapter 5 – Lampstand and Table

Exodus 26:35

"And you shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand on the south side of the tabernacle opposite the table, and you shall put the table on the north side."

Exodus 25:30

"And you shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before me regularly."

Isaiah 63:9

"In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old."

Chapter 6 – Stand Firm, Trust!

- Daniel was one of three presidents

 Jeremiah 29:7 relates God's direction to "seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf."
- Should we always follow the government's laws?

Romans 13:1-2

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment."

Acts 5:29

"But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

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The Lions Den and Christ

- Officials opposed and lied concerning Daniel and Jesus
- Both were unfairly judged
- Stone was rolled across the opening of the den and the tomb.
- Darius and the women expected those entombed to be dead, neither were.
- Daniel was delivered from the mouths of the lions and we are, through Jesus, delivered from the lion of whom Peter refers.

1 Peter 5:8

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

Correlation Between Chapters 2 and 7, 8

Chapter 2

Chapter 7

Chapter 8



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Chapter 7:9-10, 13-14 - Prophecies

The Ancient of Days Reigns

the court sat in judgment,

and the books were opened."

"As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;

The Son of Man Is Given Dominion

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion,

which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

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Chapter 7 – Prophecies Fulfilled

Luke 1:31-33

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

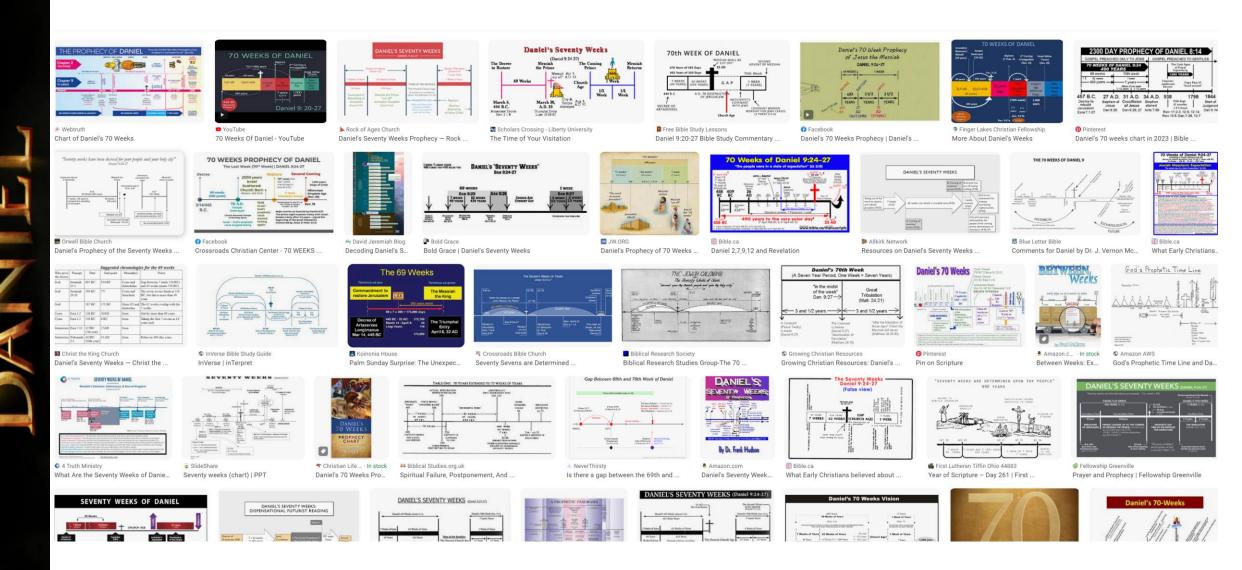
Matthew 28:18

"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Prophecies – Daniel 9:24-27

"Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

When Was Jesus to Come?



When Was Jesus to Come?

Between Cyrus' edict to rebuild Jerusalem (536 B.C.) and the final destruction of Jerusalem which occurred in 70 A.D.

"Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

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Other Prophecies – Daniel 10, 11, 12

- Chapter 10 is sort of an introduction to chapter 11 where the coming conflicts are prophesized. What do you make out of 10:13 concerning angels?
- Why did the Lord show Daniel what would take place post the Babylonian empire? (chapter 11)
- Chapter 12

Chapter 12 - The Time of the End

"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. ⁴ But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

Chapter 12 - The Time of the End

Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. ⁶ And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" ⁷ And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished. 8 I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?" 9 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. ¹⁰ Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. 11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. ¹² Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. ¹³ But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days." 25

What's Important?

- God is over all, all nations, all authorities, all history
- God hears and listens to our prayers
- God showed that he knows our limits, through prophecies He gives us hope
- God follows through, does what he says He will
- Jesus is coming back, be ready