

Israel From Daniel Until Today

- The book of Daniel opens in the third year of King Jehoiakim of the southern kingdom of Judah, with King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon coming to Jerusalem. The date is 605 B.C.
- Just a few years earlier, the Babylonians had defeated the Assyrians to become the world power.
- King Nebuchadnezzar will take captives from Judah, along with some of the Temple vessels back to Babylon. Daniel was part of that first group of captives.
- King Nebuchadnezzar will come a second time in 598-597 B.C., and then a third time in 586 B.C.
- The third time, Nebuchadnezzar burned and destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple
- After the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B.C., the southern kingdom of Judah would be ruled and governed by other nations
- First, by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian world empire (Daniel chapter 1)
- Then in 539 B.C., the Medes (Darius) & Persians (Cyrus the Great) conquered the Babylonians (Daniel chapter 5)
- Making the second world empire to rule and govern Israel the Medo-Persian Empire
- Then in 333 B.C., Alexander the Great and Greece conquered the Medes and Persians
- Making the third world empire to rule and govern Israel the Greek Empire
- In just ten years, Alexander the Great will die, and his empire will be divided between his four strongest generals
- Over the next hundred plus years, the actions and decisions by these generals, laid the foundations for continued dominance of the Greek culture
- One of those generals was Ptolemy I Soter, who secured control of Egypt, and founded the Ptolemaic dynasty. During this time, the great Library of Alexandria will be developed, and the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible will be completed – called the “Septuagint”
- During the third century B.C., Rome will begin to expand, challenging the stronger nations.
- Around 146 B.C. the Roman Republic will conquer both Carthage and Greece, and become the new world power.
- Around 27 B.C., shortly before the birth of Christ, the Roman Empire will be established by the Caesars, ending the Roman Republic
- In 70 A.D. the Romans will destroy Jerusalem and the Temple
- The Roman Empire will continue until the fifth century A.D.
- Briefly in 614 A.D., the Persians will return and control Jerusalem
- In 637 A.D., the new religion of Islam will begin to spread, and in only a few years, the Arab Muslim leader Omar will take control of Jerusalem – the “Mosque of Omar” will be built in Jerusalem where the Temple once stood
- Around 1099 A.D. the Pope will call for a crusade against the Muslims to reclaim the Holy Land
- Around 1500 A.D. and until the early 1900’s, the Ottoman Empire (Turks) will rule the Holy Land
- Two world wars will take place in the first half of the 1900’s
- On May 14, 1948, Israel will declare their independence, re-establishing the Jewish homeland and Israel again as a sovereign nation - it had been over 2,000 years since Israel was a sovereign nation
- Israel still stands today, and according to the Bible, Israel will continue to exist, although often in peril and attack, throughout the remainder of world history