

Prologue:

- Daniel has 12 chapters: 6 narratives, 6 vision/prophecy.
- Daniel covers the Diaspora or 70 years of exile from the beginning of the reign of the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar to the start of the Persian empire.
- Chapter 1: Young Daniel and his three friends have been taken captive.
 - We learn about their character and courage.

Parallel Passages: The Chiasm of Daniel's Aramaic – Chapters 2–7

- Chapter 2: Four Gentile kingdoms and the kingdom of God.
 - Chapter 3: God rescues his servants who take a stand (Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah).
 - Chapter 4: The Pride of Nebuchadnezzar
 - God is sovereign.
 - Chapter 5: The Pride of Belshazzar
 - Chapter 6: God rescues his servant who takes a stand (Daniel, Lion's Den).
- Chapter 7: Four Gentile kingdoms and the kingdom of God.

Problem:

- Nebuchadnezzar consults his new staff about a dream he had.
- He may have been testing the advisors he inherited from his father.
- **How does God feel about magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers?**
- The magicians acknowledge their ineptitude.
- The king says: 'Off with their heads'.

Prayer & Praise:

- Daniel is included in the sentence, but asks for time and holds a prayer meeting.
- His response to the answer – praise and thanksgiving.

Prophecy:

- The contrast between Arioch and Daniel w.r.t. taking and giving credit.
- There is a God in Heaven who reveals secrets and mysteries.
- Our God exists outside of time. He can see the future.
- The Dream & Interpretation.
- Daniel is promoted to ruler of the province of Babylon and chief of the wise men.
- He also remembers his friends who helped him and he gets jobs for them.

Peace & Prosperity:

- God wants us to be fruitful in the land of our affliction, poverty, or misery.
- Seek the welfare, peace, and prosperity of the place God sends you.

The Great Statue

Daniel 2:36-45



Metals decrease in value but increase in strength.
A stone is a consistent idiom for Jesus throughout scripture.