

Daniel

The Greatly Beloved

I. PREPARING TO STUDY

A. Authorship

In 606 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem, the capital city of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. This was the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecies of coming judgment upon Judah's spiritual _____ against the Lord.

In 605, Nebuchadnezzar deported the first of Jerusalem's residents. He took members of the aristocracy, the best of the Hebrews as he reckoned them, and brought them to Babylon. Among these captives were _____, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Eight years later, Ezekiel was brought to Babylon in another deportation.

B. Relationship to the Other Books of the Bible

The book of Daniel is an inexhaustible treasury of the ways of God. Daniel himself is called by the Lord "the greatly beloved" (9:23, 10:11, 19), and he is one of the few men of Scripture about which only _____ is said. He has much in common with John, "the beloved apostle," and Daniel's prophecy is the Old Testament parallel of John's _____.

Daniel is referenced twice in the New Testament, both times by Jesus Himself: Mt. 24:15, Mk. 13:14

II. EXAMINING THE TEXT

A. MINISTRY UNDER BABYLONIANS (1-5)

1. (Chapter 1) **In Babylon**, Daniel and his friends are immediately put to the test. Like the other captives being prepared for the king's service, they were offered the king's meat and wine. Daniel humbly asked the eunuch in charge if they could eat food approved of God for _____ days to prove that they would be stronger and healthier if they followed God's way. When the trial was over, Daniel and company were found to be better physically and mentally (not to mention spiritually) than all of those who ate the king's way. _____ to the ways of God always produces the best result!
2. (Chapter 2) The wisdom God gave to Daniel was soon put to the test. **Nebuchadnezzar had a dream** about a huge image, a statue. He insisted that his magicians and wise men tell him what he dreamed and then what it meant. They could not. The king would have killed all his counselors, but in

response to prayer, God revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel. He said that the dream was about what would happen in the _____. The following table summarizes the dream and its meaning.

STATUE	INTERPRETATION	HISTORICAL MEANING
Head of gold	Kingdom of _____	Babylon
Chest and arms of silver	An inferior kingdom to follow	Medo-Persia
Belly and thighs of bronze	A third kingdom that will rule the earth	_____
Legs of iron	A fourth kingdom strong as iron that crushes; eventually _____	Rome
Feet of iron mixed with clay	The fourth kingdom weakened, partly strong, partly fragile	The _____ Revived Roman Empire
Stone that grows into a mountain	An _____ kingdom established by God which shall replace all human kingdoms	The Kingdom of God

Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed with Daniel that he made Daniel chief of the wise men, the forerunners of the _____ mentioned in the New Testament.

- (Chapter 3) Nebuchadnezzar’s response to God’s revelation was to continue his attitude of pride and self-exaltation. So he built **an image of gold** ninety feet tall and set it up in the plain of Dura. He then gave commandment that when the royal orchestra played, everyone should bow down and _____ the image.

Apparently, Daniel was out of the city during this time for his response to the king’s command is not mentioned. But Daniel’s three friends, who are now in governmental service, are present. And they steadfastly _____ to bow to the image.

Nebuchadnezzar at first tries to persuade them, but failing in that attempt, he threatens to throw them into the furnace used to bake the _____ used in his building projects. Read the response of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (the Babylonian names of Daniel’s friends).

Dan. 3:16-18 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. 18 But if

not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

Nebuchadnezzar ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than ever before, had the three men bound and ordered them cast into the furnace. The heat was so intense at the entrance that the guards who threw them into the furnace were killed. But when the king looked in from a safe distance, he asked, “Did we not cast three men in bound?” And then exclaimed, “I see _____ men, loose. And the fourth is like the Son of God.” When the king summoned the men from the furnace, they were _____. Even the smell of smoke was not upon them.

4. (Chapter 4) Nebuchadnezzar might be labeled a slow learner when it comes to the things of God. For although God has given him two clear evidences of God’s power, wisdom, and control, **Nebuchadnezzar** is still **consumed** with self-**pride**. Therefore God sends him another dream.

This time the dream is of a great tree that provides food and shelter to all the birds and beasts of the region. The tree is chopped down and its stump banded. Daniel is again called upon to interpret. He tells the king that Nebuchadnezzar himself is the _____. For his arrogant pride, God will cut him down. He will be driven out into the wild to look and live as an animal until he comes to know that God is the One who _____ the rulers of kingdoms and the One to whom worship is due.

God gave Nebuchadnezzar _____ months to respond, but the king only glorified himself over the great kingdom he had built. So God brought the sentence to pass, and for _____ years Nebuchadnezzar lived in the wild as a beast until He acknowledged that the Lord rules over the kingdoms of the earth. Read his proclamation in **Dan. 4:37** **Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.**

5. (Chapter 5) By the time of the events of this chapter, Nebuchadnezzar has been dead for nine years. Babylon has been ruled by several successors, each reigning for brief periods. Now Nabonidus is ruler of the empire and is out of Babylon leading the army. His son **Belshazzar** is the king of the _____ of Babylon which is under siege by the Medes and Persians. Belshazzar is not at all concerned because he and the city are protected by a _____ and double wall that he was confident could not be penetrated.

In arrogant pride like his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar threw a party; a drunken, licentious feast in which he used the _____ that had been stolen from the temple to drink to the pagan gods he worshipped. The Lord God whom he mocked sent an unattached _____ to suddenly write upon the wall four words: mene, mene, tekel, upharsin.

Once again, Daniel had to be summoned to reveal the meaning of the heaven sent message.

MENE – God has numbered the years of your kingdom and finished it.

TEKEL – You have been weighed in the balances and found _____.

PERES – (a form of upharsin) Your kingdom is _____ and given to the Medes and the Persians.

Dan. 5:30-31 30 That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, *being about sixty-two years old.*

B. MINISTRY UNDER PERSIA (6)

- 1. Daniel was faithful to pray.** When some of his fellow government officials became jealous, they attempted to use his faithfulness in prayer to bring about his destruction. They tricked king Darius into making a law which decreed that anyone petitioning anyone except the king for 30 days would be thrown into the _____ den to be devoured. Once the king signed the law, the law of the Medes and the Persians forbid the law to be repealed or _____.

Although he was aware of the price to be paid, Daniel chose to obey God rather than _____ and voluntarily accepted the penalty. He continued to pray, and he was thrown into the den of lions. But God sent an _____ to close the mouths of the lions, and Daniel came out of the den the next morning without as much as a scratch.

And what of those who plotted against this man of God? Darius ordered that they and their families be thrown into the lion’s den. The Scripture says they were destroyed before they hit the bottom of the pit.

C. THE VISIONS OF DANIEL (7-12)

1. The Four Beasts (7)

This vision which God sent to Daniel occurred shortly after Belshazzar ascended the throne of Babylon.

VISION	INTERPRETATION	HISTORICAL MEANING
Lion with eagle’s wings	King One	_____, especially King Nebuchadnezzar who as the lion is king of the beasts was a worldly king of kings. His wings were plucked due to pride, but then restored as a man with a heart as he acknowledged the One True God.
Bear with three ribs in mouth	King Two	Medo-_____ which devoured Lydia, Babylon and Egypt. The side

		raised up was Persia, the strong side of the alliance.
Leopard with four wings and heads	King Three	_____, agile and swift like a leopard under Alexander the Great. The four heads picture the four kingdoms which arose after his death: Thrace, Macedonia, Syria and Egypt.
Dreadful beast	King Four	_____ Empire
... with ten horns	Ten kings arising from the fourth kingdom	Revived Roman Empire with _____ nations
Three horns plucked up	Three kings removed from power by a new king	Three leaders of a ten nation confederacy
A little horn with eyes speaking pompous words	A king who takes over the ten nation confederation, makes war on the saints, attempts to change God's appointed plan for history, but is eventually cast into the flames	The _____ of Rev. 13 who leads a one world government during the tribulation. He is the object of judgment by God. This "beast" as he is called in both Daniel and Revelation is the first to be cast into the Lake of Fire.

2. The Vision of the Ram and Goat

Two years after the vision of the four beasts (Chapter 7), God sends Daniel another vision which offers greater detail of the things that were to come. The chart below summarizes the vision and interpretation.

VISION	INTERPRETATION	TYPE	FULFILLMENT
Ram	Medo-Persia		Medo-Persia
With 2 horns, one higher	Kings of Medo-Persia, Persia stronger		Kings of Medo-Persia, Persia stronger
Goat	Greece		Greece
Came from the west	West of Persia		West of Persia
Notable horn	First King of Grecian Empire		_____ the Great

Goat broke 2 horns and trampled Ram			In 331 B.C. Alexander defeated Darius at the Battle of Arbela, officially conquering Medo-Persia
Goat's large horn broken and 4 horns stood up in its place	Four nations will arise in place of this empire but not with its power		Alexander died in 323 B.C. at age of _____. Greece divided between his 4 _____.
A little horn grew out of one of the 4 horns; it grew toward the "Glorious Land."	A king will arise with fierce countenance and sinister schemes.	Antiochus Epiphanes, a king who ruled _____ as successor of one of Gk. Generals	The Antichrist, the Man of Sin, shall enter Israel by deception.
The horn cast down some of host of heaven and exalted himself as high as Prince of Hosts	His power is not his own. He destroys the holy people. He rises against the Prince.	Satan, who caused some of heavenly host to fall from heaven empowers Antiochus	Antichrist will be empowered by _____. He will be the most evil man who ever lived.
He stopped daily sacrifices in sanctuary		He stopped the temple sacrifices in Jerusalem	The temple sacrifices have begun again
He commits a transgression of desolation		He set up an altar to Jupiter in the temple and sacrificed a _____.	At midpoint of tribulation Antichrist sets himself in temple as _____.
He desecrated the sanctuary for 2300 days, then the sanctuary was cleansed		2300 days later (Dec. ____, 165 B.C.) temple is cleansed and dedicated by Judas Maccabeas.	Antichrist is cast into lake of fire at end of tribulation. _____ rebuilt during Millennium.

3. The Prophecy of the 70 Sevens (9)

- a. Revelation by the Word of God (1-2)

Daniel was reading the Scriptures (the books) particularly **Jeremiah 25:11** **And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.**

By this passage, and perhaps by also reading or remembering Isaiah 44:28, Daniel understood that the time of Judah’s captivity would be limited to ____ years.

b. The Prayer of Repentance (3-19)

American believers need to learn how to pray like this if the Lord tarries. Note that Daniel confesses:

- 1) Their _____ – God’s righteousness
- 2) Their _____ – God’s mercy
- 3) Their _____ – God’s justice

c. The 70 Sevens (20-27)

The angel Gabriel brings to Daniel a prophecy that begins “Seventy ‘sevens’ are determined.” The word here is sometimes translated weeks because a week is seven days. The original text however only means “_____,” and in this case the sevens turn out to be years. The chart below summarizes the prophecy.

70 weeks are determined for your people and your holy city	God's plan for the _____ and Jerusalem will be accomplished over a period of 70 '7s' (490 years).
To finish transgression, end sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, bring in righteous-ness, seal prophecy, and anoint the Most Holy.	In this period of time God will bring about an end to sin and a way for reconciliation with God by means of the Messiah.
From the command to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah will be 7 "7s" and 62 "7s"	From command of Neh. 2 by King Artaxerxes until Jesus entered Jerusalem on _____ Sunday was 483 years
the street and wall shall be built again	Jerusalem was rebuilt under Nehemiah
After 62 "7s" (69 total) Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself	Jesus died on the cross for _____ sin a few days after entering Jerusalem
the people of the "prince to come" shall destroy Jerusalem and the temple	The _____ destroyed the temple and Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

the "prince" will enter a covenant with Israel	The _____ will enter a covenant (treaty) with Israel
in the middle of the last "7" he will commit the abomination of desolations	Antichrist will _____ the treaty at the midpoint of the tribulation
until the consummation	This state continues until the Lord _____ at Armageddon

4. Daniel sees the Lord! (10:1-9)

Compare the description of 10:5-6 with Rev. 1:12-15. While the passage in Daniel does not identify who Daniel saw, the text in Revelation clearly identifies the risen, glorified _____.

5. Gabriel's message of what will happen to Israel (10:10 – 11:33)

While Daniel is prostrate before the Lord, Gabriel comes and explains that he has been delayed because of the spiritual _____ with the demonic power with charge over Persia. Now he will explain what is going to happen to Daniel's people, a future that is full of heartache and trouble up to the tribulation.

6. The promise of hope in the midst of tribulation (12)

The Lord shows Daniel an overall picture of what the Lord will accomplish during these terrible days.

- 1) The period of tribulation shall result in the _____ of the Jews.
- 2) The Jews shall share in the _____, the righteous to everlasting life and the unrighteous to everlasting abhorrence.
- 3) The wise Jews (those who believed the prophecies of God) shall shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who led others to Christ like the stars forever and ever.