

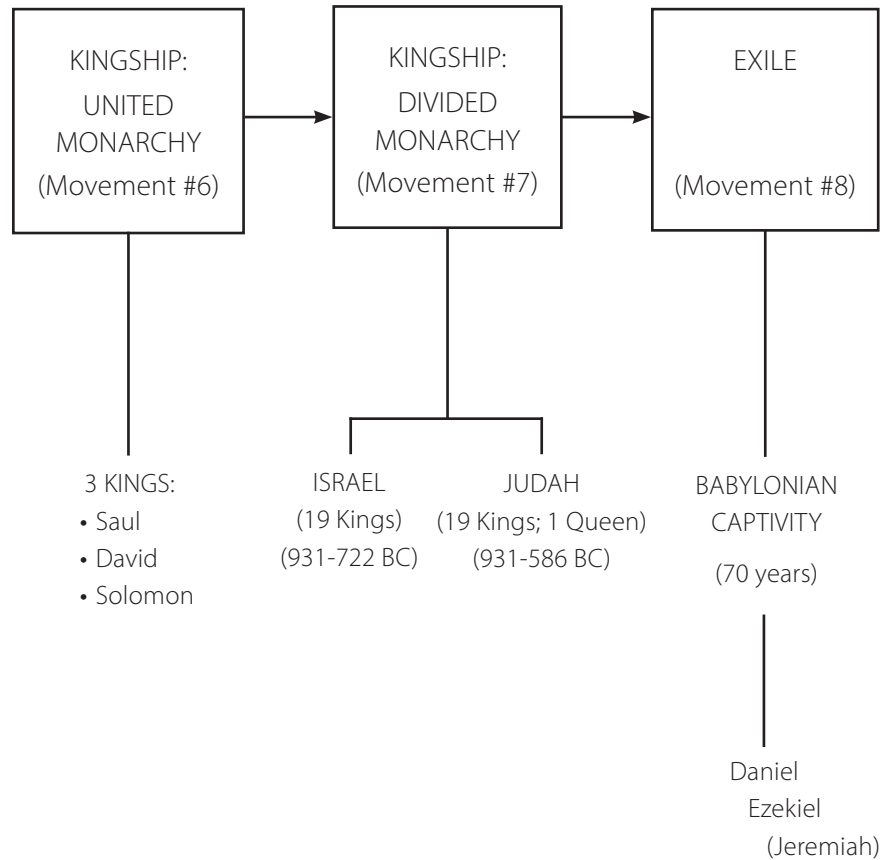
# SESSION 5

## Daniel: Part One

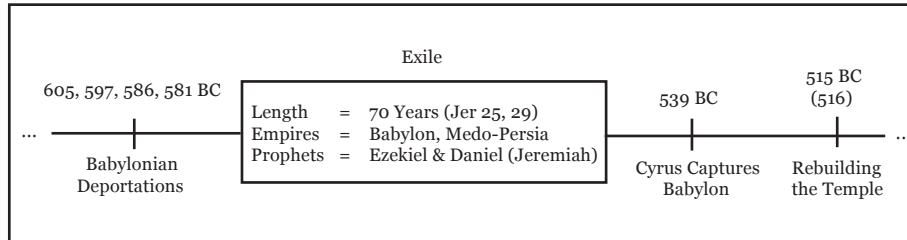
### I. PRAYER

### II. PANORAMA OF THE BIBLE

#### A. Relationship of Movements 6, 7, 8

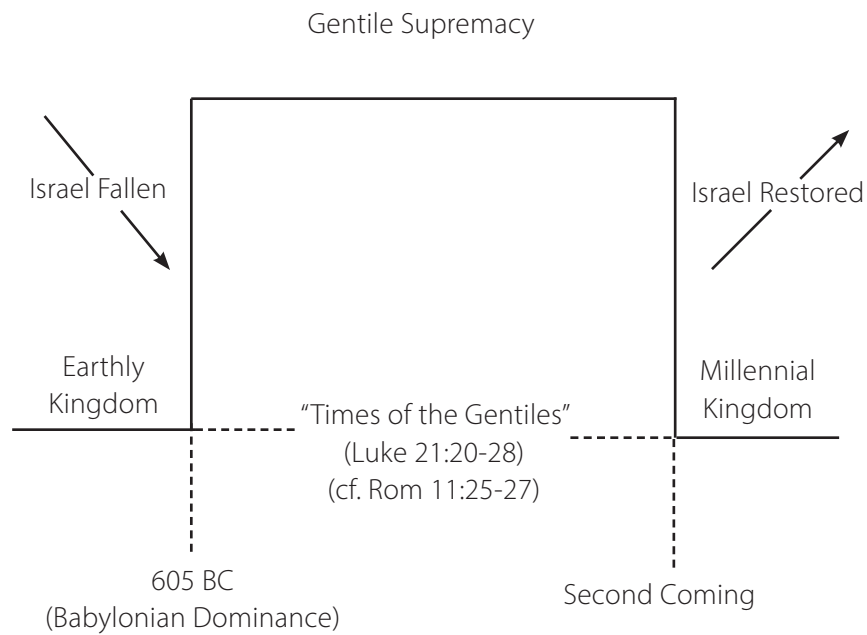


## B. Timeline: Movement #8 (Exile)



## C. Chart: Prophecy of Messianic Kingdom

(Adapted from I. Jensen, 375)



### III. BOOK OF DANIEL

#### A. Author

1. Daniel, whose name means “God is my Judge” (or “God is judging”), was taken from his home in Jerusalem into Babylonian captivity in 605 BC, the first major deportation. He was likely a young man around 15 years of age. It is also possible that he was a member of Judah’s royal family (1:3; cf. Isa 39:6-7). He would live through the seventy year exile and beyond.
2. Daniel functioned as a prophet (authored primarily divine scripture, namely the Book of Daniel) but served throughout his life as a public official in a foreign land. Unlike his contemporary, Ezekiel, Daniel worked and lived among Gentiles while Ezekiel ministered and lived among his fellow Jews.

#### B. Purpose

1. Historical  
“Daniel’s prophecies served to comfort the exiled people of Israel with news that their nation would be restored” (Geisler, 285). It urged the exiled Jews to remain faithful to their God.
2. Doctrinal  
The book of Daniel prophetically chronicles the empires that would exert political control over the nation. These empires would be identified through prophetic visions. “... Daniel emphatically teaches that history has a goal, that it is His-story, and that God is sovereign over the affairs of the world (cf. ch. 4)” (Geisler, 285).
3. Christological  
Christ is prophetically portrayed as the anointed one, the Messiah (9:26). He is the great stone who crushes kingdoms (2:34, 45) and the son of man (7:13).

## IV. BOOK OF DANIEL: CHART

DANIEL		
CHAPTERS 1-6		CHAPTERS 7-12
6 HISTORICAL NARRATIVES		4 PROPHETIC VISIONS
1. Description of Daniel ..... (1) 2. Dream of Nebuchadnezzar ..... (2) 3. Demonstration of Faith ..... (3) Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego 4. Dream of Nebuchadnezzar ..... (4) 5. Dinner of Belshazzar ..... (5) 6. Den of Lions ..... (6)		1. Dream of 4 Beasts ..... (7) 2. Dream of Ram, Goat, Small Horn..... (8) 3. Discussion of "Seventy Sevens"... (9) 4. Destiny of Israel's Future .....(10-12)
CHAPTER 1	CHAPTERS 2-7	CHAPTERS 8-12
Hebrew	Aramaic	Hebrew
Intro	Gentile Nations	Hebrew Nation
"Daniel"	"Times of the Gentiles"	Times of the Jews

## V. BIBLICAL DEVELOPMENT (Historical Narratives - Dan 1-6)

This exposition follows the previous chart on Daniel. Session 6 will continue the biblical development with four prophetic visions of Daniel 7-12.

### A. Description of Daniel (the Person) (Dan 1:1-21)

1. Setting (1-2)

Daniel 1:1-2

*In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> And the LORD delivered Jehoiakim king*

*of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.*

- a. Third year of Jehoiakim (17<sup>th</sup> king of Judah) was 605 BC, the date of the first major deportation to Babylon. Daniel used the Babylonian accession method for Jehoiakim (cf. Jer 25:1... fourth year according to Jewish method).
  - b. Nebuchadnezzar, who at the time was the crown prince in the line of succession to his father, Nabopolassar, defeated the Egyptians in battle at Carchemish in 605 BC. He was called back to Babylon where he was crowned king, yet not before he ransacked Jerusalem and took Jewish prisoners and spoils of war. Daniel and his companions were among those taken.
2. Situation (3-7)
- a. Daniel's selection

Daniel 1:3-6

*Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—<sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. <sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. <sup>6</sup> Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.*

- b. Daniel's companions

Daniel 1:7

*The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.*

The change in names was a stark reminder that Babylon was in control of the youths and that they should begin to think of themselves in Babylonian, cultural terms.

### 3. Stand (8-16)

The dilemma before Daniel and his companions was one of compromise. Would these Hebrew youths defile themselves with the king's food and drink (likely offered to the Babylonian gods) or would they refuse and likely lose their privilege and life?

Daniel 1:11-14

*Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." <sup>14</sup> So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.*

- a. At the end of the test, Daniel and friends "looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food" (1:15).
- b. This first test of conscience as alien captives in a foreign land will lead to strengthening convictions needed in later, more severe tests.

#### **Insight (Pentecost, Daniel: BKC, 1331)**

"This incident would have been a lesson for the nation Israel. God had demanded obedience to the Law. Punishment came because of disobedience but even during a time of discipline, God protects and sustains those who obey Him and trust Him for their sustenance."

4. Success (17-21)

Upon completion of their training, Daniel and his companions excelled and entered the king's service as political administrators. Note the summary statement:

Daniel 1:17

*To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.*

**B. Dream of Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 2:1-49)**

Beginning in chapter 2 and continuing through chapter 7, the language changes from Hebrew to Aramaic, the common international language of the day. Stylistically and theologically this highlights the "times of the Gentiles" which began with Nebuchadnezzar and will end with the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom (see page 98 for the chart on Daniel).

Dyer (704) observes a chiasmic structure in Daniel 2-7 which enumerates four Gentile empires that would exert political influence over Israel. Note the chart which follows:

<b>Daniel 2-7</b>	
A	Prophecy concerning Gentile Nations (2)
B	Supernatural Persecution and Deliverance (3)
C	God's Revelation to a Gentile King (4)
C'	God's Revelation to a Gentile King (5)
B'	Supernatural Persecution and Deliverance (6)
A'	Prophecy concerning Gentile Nations (7)

1. Nebuchadnezzar has a dream (1-23)

Daniel 2:1-3

*In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep.  
<sup>2</sup> So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king,  
<sup>3</sup> he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means."*

The king's wise men or advisers ("astrologers") requested that the king relate the content of the dream in order for it to be interpreted. The king, however, refused and demanded that the royal advisers both tell the dream and the interpretation. This the wise man could not do.

Daniel 2:8-9

*Then the king answered, "I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realize that this is what I have firmly decided: <sup>9</sup> If you do not tell me the dream, there is only one penalty for you. You have conspired to tell me misleading and wicked things, hoping the situation will change. So then, tell me the dream, and I will know that you can interpret it for me."*

In desperation the advisers cry out, "There is not a man on earth who can do what the king asks" (2:10). Enraged by their inability, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered the execution of all the wise men in his service. This would include Daniel and his companions who were not present (probably due to their inexperience at this stage).

Hearing from Arioch, the chief commander of the king's guard, about the soon execution, Daniel apparently asked and received permission to speak to the king.

Daniel was given time to discern the dream and interpretation. God graciously revealed it during the night causing Daniel to praise God (2:20-23).

2. Daniel interprets the dream (24-25)

a. First, a disclaimer (24-28)



Daniel 2:26-28

*The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), "Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?"<sup>27</sup> Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about,<sup>28</sup> but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:*

- b. Second, the dream (29-45)

Daniel related to the king that his mind was on "things to come" which led to the dream of a "large statue." The following chart summarizes the dream and its interpretive significance.

<b>NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM STATUE</b>						
<b>Head</b>	Gold	Valuable	Soft	Self-contained unit	Heavy	Smallest
<b>Chest &amp; arms</b>	Silver	Less valuable	Harder	1 unit & 2 parts	Lighter	Larger
<b>Abdomen &amp; thighs</b>	Bronze	Even less valuable	Even harder	1 unit & 2 different parts	Even lighter	Even larger
<b>Lower legs</b>	Iron	Still less valuable	Still harder	2 parts	Still lighter	Still larger
<b>Feet &amp; toes</b>	Iron & clay	Least valuable	Very hard and very soft	2 parts & 10 segments	Lightest	Largest
(Constable, <i>Daniel</i> , 34)						

Daniel 2:44-45

*"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. <sup>45</sup> This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."*

3. Nebuchadnezzar falls before Daniel (46-49)
  - a. The king (inappropriately) exalted Daniel (46).
  - b. The king exalted Daniel's God of gods (47).
  - c. The king promoted Daniel to high administrative position (and friends to lesser posts) (48-49).

### **C. Demonstration of Faith (3:1-30)**

Some time later, perhaps reflecting on the head of gold of the dream statue, Nebuchadnezzar constructed a massive golden image ninety feet high and nine feet wide (3:1). Dyer (706) suggests that this image may have been connected to a failed coup attempt (ca 595-94 BC). If so, the required ceremony of dedication may have been a strict loyalty test.

1. The proclamation (1-7)

Daniel 3:4-7

*Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: <sup>5</sup> As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."<sup>7</sup> Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

2. The problem (8-18)

When the time came for all to fall down before the image and worship it (perhaps a gold-plated image of the Babylonian god, Nabu), the companions of Daniel did not comply. The astrologers (wise men) accused Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego of disobeying the king's orders.

Daniel 3:13-14

***Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, <sup>14</sup> and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?"***

Although enraged the king was willing to give the Jewish administrators a second chance. This was the second test of spiritual integrity that these men had faced (cf. Dan 1).

Daniel 3:16-18

***Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. <sup>18</sup> But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."***

3. The peril (19-27)

Furious at their refusal, Nebuchadnezzar ordered the furnace to be fired seven times hotter than usual. The men were tossed into the blazing fire.

The king spoke up in amazement.

Daniel 3:24-25

***Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty." <sup>25</sup> He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."***

4. The proclamation (23-30)

Daniel 3:28-30

*Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God."<sup>29</sup> Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."<sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.*

**D. Dream of Nebuchadnezzar (4:1-37)**

There are no historical markers for this second dream of Nebuchadnezzar. It may have occurred near the end of his forty-three year reign. The chapter has a chiasmic structure:

- A Doxology (opening)
- B Dream (related)
- B' Dream (interpreted)
- A' Doxology (closing)

1. Opening doxology (1-3)

The king testifies to the greatness of the Most High God. Later, he will recount his story with dream and fulfillment.

Daniel 4:2-3

*It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me.<sup>3</sup> How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.*

2. Related dream (4-18)

While in the palace "contented and prosperous," the king had a disturbing dream. None of the court wise men were able to interpret the dream, so Daniel (Belteshazzar) was summoned to hear and interpret the dream.

Daniel 4:13-17

*"In the visions I saw while lying in bed, I looked, and there before me was a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven. <sup>14</sup> He called in a loud voice: 'Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches. <sup>15</sup> But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field. "Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him. <sup>17</sup> "The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people."*

3. Interpreted dream (19-33)
  - a. The vision (19-23)

Daniel 4:20-23

*"The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, <sup>21</sup> with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the wild animals, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds— <sup>22</sup> Your Majesty, you are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth. <sup>23</sup> "Your Majesty saw a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live with the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.'"*

b. The interpretation (24-27)

Daniel 4:24-27

*“This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: <sup>25</sup> You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes. <sup>26</sup> The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules. <sup>27</sup> Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.”*

c. The fulfillment (23-33)

All that the dream foreshadowed came to pass. At a moment of personal hubris (30), God spoke and declared, “Your royal authority has been taken from you” (31). The dream was fulfilled, the king suffered madness for seven years.

4. Closing doxology (34-37)

Daniel 4:34-35

*At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. <sup>35</sup> All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: “What have you done?”*

**Insight:** Nebuchadnezzar's Spiritual State

Following the story of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2-4, there seems to be an increasing spiritual awareness of the king. Dyer (709) raises the possibility.

Daniel 2:47

*The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the LORD of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."*

Daniel 3:29

*"Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."*

Daniel 4:34

*At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.*

From an Old Testament perspective was King Nebuchadnezzar a true believer? What do you think?

**E. Dinner of Belshazzar (5:1-31)**

Much later in Daniel's lifetime was the drunken feast of King Belshazzar (actually the crown prince to father, Nabonidus). Chapter 5 occurs about 66 years after the events of Chapter 1 and 36 years after Chapter 4. At this point Daniel was likely in his eighties. Historically, the Medo-Persians had captured all of Babylonia and were outside the walls of the great city, Babylon.

1. Night of revelry (1-4)

Daniel 5:1-2, 4

*King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. <sup>2</sup> While Belshazzar*

*was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them...<sup>4</sup>As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.*

- a. While the Medo-Persians encircled the city, Belshazzar “gave a great banquet” (1).
- b. Babylon, the heavily fortified city, had not fallen to a foreign invader in 1,000 years. Herodotus described the city as a fourteen square mile fortress-city with a double wall system, the wall space between large enough to drive four chariots side-by-side. It was 350 feet high, contained 100 gates, numerous towers (as quoted by Constable, 65). Apparently the king felt secure enough to throw a drunken orgy of wine.
- c. In a prideful display of disrespect and blasphemy, the king ordered that the gold and silver goblets taken from the temple in Jerusalem be brought in for more drinking of wine. Further, they toasted the “gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone” (4).

The psalmist declares forcefully:

Psalm 135:15-18

*The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by human hands.<sup>16</sup> They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see.<sup>17</sup> They have ears, but cannot hear, nor is there breath in their mouths.*

*<sup>18</sup> Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.*

## 2. Night of revelation (5-30)

- a. Hand appears (5-6)

Daniel 5:5-6

*Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote.<sup>6</sup> His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking.*



b. Wise men appear (7-9)

The king (Belshazzar) was so terrified of the divine appearance, he summoned the “enchanters, astrologers, and diviners” to explain the meaning of the message written on the wall by the hand.

Daniel 5:8-9

***Then all the king’s wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king what it meant. <sup>9</sup>So King Belshazzar became even more terrified and his face grew more pale. His nobles were baffled.***

c. Daniel appears (10-17)

The queen mother hears the commotion and enters the banquet hall. Apparently she knew of a particularly old wise man who had the ability to interpret dreams (it would seem that Daniel was not known to the king). She advised the troubled king.

Daniel 5:12

***He did this because Daniel, whom the king called Belshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.”***

d. Daniel interprets (18-29)

Spurning the offer of riches and rewards (17), Daniel consents to reveal the meaning of the supernatural hand and writing. He first reminded the king of his ancestor, Nebuchadnezzar, who was a powerful sovereign of renown, but who was brought down (by Most High God) because of his arrogance and pride (18-21).

Turning his attention to the frightened king, Daniel boldly proclaimed.

Daniel 5:23<sup>b</sup>-28

***But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. <sup>24</sup>Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription. <sup>25</sup>“This is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN***

<sup>26</sup> *“Here is what these words mean: Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. <sup>27</sup> Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. <sup>28</sup> Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”*

e. Belshazzar dies (30)

Daniel 5:30

*That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain...*

- (1) Historically, “that very night” was October 12, 539 BC.
- (2) Isaiah and Jeremiah had predicted the fall of Babylon (Isa 13:17-22; 21:1-10; 47:1-5; Jer 51:33-58).
- (3) The Persians creatively diverted the Euphrates River, walked into the city, and easily scaled the undefended walls. The impregnable fortress was defeated (several ancient sources—Herodotus, Xenophon, others—testify to the successful strategy).
- (4) “Darius” could be a name or, better here, a title (like Caesar or Pharaoh). The actual person was likely Cyrus or one of his trusted generals (Gubaru).

## **F. Den of Lions (6:1-28)**

This chapter falls shortly after the fall of Babylon, perhaps around 539-38 BC or so. The new king will organize his greater kingdom by appointing three administrators to oversee 120 satraps (“protectors of the kingdom”). The structure of this chapter is chiasitic (per Goldingay as quoted by Constable, 74).

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- A Introduction: Daniel's success (1-3)
  - B Darius signs an injunction and Daniel takes his stand (4-10)
  - C Daniel's colleagues plan his death (11-15)
  - D Darius hopes for Daniel's deliverance (16-18)
  - D' Darius witnesses Daniel's deliverance (19-23)
  - C' Daniel's colleagues meet their death (24)
  - B' Darius signs a decree and takes his stand (25-27)
  - A' Conclusion: Daniel's success (28)
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1. Daniel's success (1-3)

Daniel 6:1-3

*It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, <sup>2</sup> with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. <sup>3</sup> Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.*

2. Darius' injunction; Daniel's stand (4-10)

Daniel's rivals could find no charge to bring against Daniel because "he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent" (4). Therefore, they concocted a plan and approached the king to enact it.

Daniel 6:6-9

*So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: "May King Darius live forever!" <sup>7</sup> The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den. <sup>8</sup> Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."<sup>9</sup> So King Darius put the decree in writing.*

3. Daniel's colleagues conspire (11-15)  
Daniel did not heed the injunction. He prayed to God as he customarily did (10). His plotting rivals discovered Daniel's disobedience and approached the king.

Daniel 6:12-14

*So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."<sup>13</sup> Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day."<sup>14</sup> When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.*

4. Darius' hope for deliverance (16-18)

Daniel 6:16-18

*So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"<sup>17</sup> 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 rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.<sup>18</sup> Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.*

5. Darius' witness of deliverance (19-23)

"At the first light of dawn" the anxious king hurried to the lion's den and called out to the prophet-administrator... "has your God... been able to rescue you...? (19-20). Daniel replied.

Daniel 6:21-23

*Daniel answered, "May the king live forever!"<sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his*

*sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”<sup>23</sup> The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.*

6. Daniel’s colleagues put to death (24)

Daniel 6:24

*At the king’s command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions’ den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.*

7. Darius’ decree; Darius’ stand (25-27)

Daniel 6:26-27

*“I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. “For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.”<sup>27</sup> He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”*

8. Daniel’s success (28)

Daniel 6:28

*So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

- a. Grammatically, the “and” could possibly be translated “even,” thus indicating one person is mentioned, not two. Thus, the reading could be “reign of Darius, even the reign of Cyrus.”
- b. As previously noted, “Darius” may be a title rather than a proper name. The actual king of Persia is Cyrus who began his first, full reign over captured Babylonia in 538 BC. This also was the last year of Daniel’s governmental service (cf. 1:21).

## VI. SUMMARY OF DANIEL 1-6

Turn to the chart “Daniel” on page 98. The overview of Daniel up to this point and a preview of Session 6 can be seen. Note that this study has completed the historical narratives. What remains is the very important “Prophetic Visions.”

## VII. TAKEAWAYS

### A. Daniel 1

When taken to a foreign country, when forced into a foreign king’s training program, when faced with a spiritual decision to obey or compromise the Torah (i.e. the Word of God), Daniel and his close companions chose to obey God by suggesting a creative alternative for food. Note the following related passages.

Proverbs 16:7

*When the LORD takes pleasure in anyone’s way, he causes their enemies to make peace with them.*

Romans 12:1-2

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.<sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

1 Corinthians 10:13

*No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

### B. Daniel 2

Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and Daniel’s ability (alone) to interpret it was attributed by Daniel to the Lord (27-28). As Daniel prayed (and praised) in Daniel 2:20-23:

*...and said: “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his.<sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to*

*the wise and knowledge to the discerning.<sup>22</sup> He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.<sup>23</sup> I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king.”*

We are reminded:

1. God is sovereign.

Psalm 75:6-7 (NLT)

*For no one on earth—from east or west, or even from the wilderness— should raise a defiant fist.<sup>7</sup> It is God alone who judges; he decides who will rise and who will fall.*

2. God is revealer.

Deuteronomy 29:29

*The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.*

### **C. Daniel 3**

Even with the threat of being tossed into a fiery furnace, even in the face of certain death, Daniel's companions would not compromise their faith by worshiping a false image.

Exodus 20:3-5 (cf. Deut 6:4-5)

*“You shall have no other gods before me.<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.<sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,*

1 John 5:21

*Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*

### **D. Daniel 4**

Powerful and prosperous King Nebuchadnezzar was humbled by God with a season of madness. His testimony follows:

Daniel 4:34-35

*At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.<sup>35</sup> All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"*

James 4:7<sup>a</sup>

*Submit yourselves, then, to God.*

James 4:10

*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

## **F. Daniel 5**

On the night of King Belshazzar's drunken feast, on the night of his death and the fall of his capitol city, the Lord announced His judgment upon the proud king and haughty nation. The scripture is clear and uncompromising.

Deuteronomy 4:39 (KJV)

*Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.*

## **F. Daniel 6**

Even when cast into the "lion's den" of life, the faithful believer will always trust God.

Psalms 18:17-19 (NLT)

*He rescued me from my powerful enemies, from those who hated me and were too strong for me.<sup>18</sup> They attacked me at a moment when I was in distress, but the Lord supported me.<sup>19</sup> He led me to a place of safety; he rescued me because he delights in me.*