

I. Daniel

- a. His name means “God is my judge.”
- b. He was a man of deep and abiding faith his whole life: (1:8; 6:10)
- c. Daniel was blessed by God repeatedly because of his faith: (1:17; 6:22)
- d. Daniel was a contemporary of Ezekiel and Jeremiah.
 - i. Jeremiah remained in Jerusalem. (626-586 BC)
 - ii. Daniel lived in the capital city of Babylon. (605-534 BC)
 - iii. Ezekiel was in Babylon with the Jewish exiles. (592-570 BC)

II. Dates to Remember

- a. 612 - Babylon takes over as world power by defeating Assyria.
- b. 606 - Nebuchadnezzar storms Israel and take captives. (including Daniel)
- c. 597 - Nebuchadnezzar attacks again: 10,000 more are taken. (including Ezekiel)
- d. 586 - In this third attack the temple is destroyed. Many more taken. (not Jeremiah)
- e. 536 - Babylon falls to Persia and the first remnant of Jews return. (Ezra 1-6)
 - i. 520 - A new foundation is laid for the temple in Jerusalem.
 - ii. 516 - The temple project is completed in Jerusalem.
- f. 458 - A second remnant return with Ezra to bring spiritual reform. (Ezra 7-10)
- g. 445 - A third group return with Nehemiah to rebuild the Jerusalem wall. (Nehemiah)

III. Outline of the Book

- a. (Chapters 1-6) - Historical Events
 - i. Stories of Daniel’s days in Babylon as well as his three friends.
 - ii. Spans 70 years of history (605-536 BC), as well as three Kings.
 - 1. Nebuchadnezzar (Ch. 1-4)
 - 2. Belshazzar (Ch. 5)
 - 3. Darius the Mede (Ch. 6)
 - iii. Daniel interprets 3 messages from God, but explanations are given.
 - 1. The Dream (Ch. 2)
 - 2. The Vision (Ch. 4)
 - 3. The Writing on the Wall (Ch. 5)
- b. (Chapters 7-12) - Daniel’s Visions
 - i. These chapters go back through the history to record visions Daniel had.
 - 1. (7:1-14) - 4 Great Beasts.
 - 2. (8:1-14) - A Ram and a Goat.
 - 3. (9:21-27) - The 70 Weeks.
 - 4. (10:5-6) - A Man in Linen.
 - 5. (11:1-45) - Rise and Fall of Many Kings.
 - 6. (12:5-13) – The Man in Linen Speaks.

IV. Main Ideas in this Letter

- a. God is ruler over mankind, without exception! (2:21; 4:17, 25, 32, 34-35; 5:21)
- b. The Kingdom of God is greater than the kingdom of men. (2:44; 7:13-14, 27)
- c. In the generations to come, God’s Authority would never diminish. (12:9-13)

I. Daniel and His Friends are Captured and Selected for Special Training - (1:1-7)

- a. Nebuchadnezzar took Israelites captive in 605 BC. And more in 597 and 586.
- b. He overtook the Jews by the power and intent of God. (2:21)
- c. God's people didn't give honor to the Lord, so when they were besieged, their articles of worship to God were taken from them.
- d. Daniel and his friends were selected from the captives because they were handsome, intelligent, and able to serve well. They were immersed in Chaldean culture.
- e. Notice the significance of their names by meaning:

Daniel (God is my judge)	- Belteshazzar (a servant of Bel)
Hananiah (the Lord is gracious)	- Shadrach (inspired by the sun god)
Mishael (who is what God is)	- Meshach (who is what the moon god is)
Azariah (the Lord helps)	- Abednego (servant of Nebo)

II. Daniel refuses to defile himself - (1:8-16)

- a. You can change his name and environment but not his loyalty.
 - i. Daniel was a very young man here, and his choice was set from the beginning.
 - ii. Not sure why the meat was forbidden, but clearly he would have to sin to eat.
- b. God does not leave His faithful ones on their own (v.9). God helped him through this.
- c. This event appears to be a miracle from God. So they are allowed to continue.

III. God rewards his faithful servants - (1:17-21)

- a. They are blessed with great wisdom. Daniel is gifted to interpret dreams.
- b. In fact, they are 10 times wiser than any other wise men in the kingdom.
- c. For the entire length of Babylonian rule, God utilized and blessed Daniel.

IV. Discussion Questions

- a. (1:8) – How exactly does one “make up his mind not to defile himself”?
- b. What are some examples today that are similar to “the king's choice food”?
- c. (1:9,17) – If God is so pleased with Daniel, why is He subjecting him to this slavery?

I. The dream and decree of Nebuchadnezzar - (2:1-16)

- a. (1-3) - The king has an unsettling dream and expects it has some great meaning.
- b. (4-9) - In his wisdom, he asks that the dream be told to him and then interpreted.
- c. (10) - The locals contend that such is an unreasonable request.
- d. (12-13) - The king is furious and gives order for all wise men to be killed!
- e. (14-16) - Daniel asks the king for a little time.

II. Daniel leans on God for aid and gives God the glory for all blessings (2:17-23)

- a. (v17-18) - Daniel and his friends request compassion from God.
- b. (v19) - God answers by revealing the mystery.
- c. (v20-23) - Praise and credit and majesty is given to God.

III. Daniel praises God before Nebuchadnezzar (2:24-30)

- a. (28) - "There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries..."
- b. (30) - Daniel takes absolutely no personal credit.

IV. The revelation and interpretation of the king's dream (2:31-49)

- a. (31-35) - The dream is told by Daniel to the king. A single statue, with head of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet a mixture of iron and clay, is struck to the ground by a stone cut out of it that struck its feet. The statue is blown away in the wind, but that stone grows to a great mountain.
- b. (36-45) - The dream's interpretation: Babylon is the head of gold. Silver is an inferior kingdom that would rule after. Then a third kingdom would rule. Finally a fourth kingdom would come, but division in it would leave it weak. In the days of those kings, God would set up a kingdom that would never be destroyed.

Head of Gold	Babylon	612-539 BC
Silver arms and chest	Persia	539-331 BC (5:28; 8:20)
Bronze belly and thighs	Greece	331-146 BC (8:21)
Iron and clay legs and feet	Rome	146 BC - 476 AD (7:7)

In the days of the Roman kings, God would set up an indestructible kingdom:

Jesus proclaimed its coming. - **Mark 1:14-15; 9:1**
 Divine origin and eternal duration. - **Hebrews 12:28**
 From God and by God. - **Daniel 2:34**
 This Kingdom belongs to God. - **Matthew 16:18-19**
 Any and all may be saved in it. - **Daniel 7:14**

- c. (46-49) - Nebuchadnezzar credits God and promotes Daniel. By Daniel's request, his three friends are promoted as well.

V. Discussion Questions

- a. What do we learn about God's control over governments in this chapter? And how is your answer affected by **Romans 13:1-7**?
- b. How is it possible for us to live Daniel's example in our own lives, since you and I do not have miraculous revelation from God?

I. The Command For All - (1-5)

a. *"you are to fall down and worship the golden image."*

II. The Punishment To Any - (6-7)

a. *"immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire."*

III. The Violation by 3 Faithful Men - (8-12)

a. *"have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image."*

IV. The Stand by all 3 Men - (13-18)

a. *"our God... will deliver us out of your hand, O king."*

V. The Deliverance by God - (19-27)

a. *"Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire."*

VI. The Reverence of the King - (28-30)

a. *"Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego."*

VII. The King's Sermon (28-30)

a. The 3 Points: "God... delivered His servants..."

i. "who put their trust in Him".

ii. "violating the king's commands."

iii. "yielded up their bodies."

b. Application:

i. All who speak against their God shall die.

ii. And these men shall prosper for their faith.

VIII. Discussion Questions

a. *"Is it true?" (3:14)* - How are people in the world asking us this same question?

b. In what ways does God expect us to have the boldness of these 3 faithful men?

c. The king was positively affected by the men's faith. Where does the New Testament discuss our ability to have a similar effect on the world?

I. Nebuchadnezzar Recounts an Old Story

- a. He is giving glory to God with this story - (4:1-3, 37)
- b. The date is unclear. He ruled for 43 years. This is likely told late in his reign.

II. The King's Dream (4:4-18)

- a. (4-9) - This time he tells the dream, but still none but Daniel could interpret.
- b. (10-12) - A majestic tree in a field is described.
- c. (13-17) - The tree is cut down and a bronze and iron band is put around it. It is exposed to the elements in the open field. This event is personified to describe someone who loses their mind for a time, until this person honors the Most High.
- d. (18) - Nebuchadnezzar asks Daniel to interpret, because of his "holy gods."

III. The Interpretation (4:19-27)

- a. (19-22) - Daniel is apprehensive about telling the king. But at least he begins with good news: *"the tree...it is you...for you have become great..."*
- b. (23-26) - But a time was approaching when the king would be driven away from mankind and would dwell with the animals.
- c. (27) - Daniel tries to save the king from this fate!

IV. The Fulfillment (4:28-33)

- a. (28-30) - One year later, the king continues to hold on to his pride.
- b. (31-33) - Nebuchadnezzar reaps the reward for his foolish pride.

V. The Outcome (4:34-37)

- a. (34-35) - Nebuchadnezzar turn his sights and heart to the Most High God.
- b. (36-37) - The king's reign was restored and he honors the "King of heaven."

VI. Discussion Questions

- a. What is the moral of this story and what are New Testament verses that support it?
- b. If God rules in the kingdom of men (4:17,25,32), then why do evil rulers reign?
- c. What do we learn about Daniel's character in this particular story? How can we apply this character as we interact with ungodly people?

I. Belshazzar is King

- a. Belshazzar is king (553-539). His grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar, had ruled until 562 B.C. After a couple of short lived (assassinated) rulers had office, Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law, Nabonidus, took office from 556-539. During his reign, he appointed his son, Belshazzar, as co-ruler, or the second ruler (553-539). At the time of our story, the year is 539 B.C, and Belshazzar is throwing a great feast, likely in the absence of his father. Daniel is probably about 85 years old at the time.

II. The king has a great feast (5:1-4)

- a. Quite a mess. First, this party is being thrown in the king's honor at a fragile time for the Chaldeans. Second, they defile God's holy vessels in their feast. Third, this party of wine and food was to praise gods of the elements.

III. The writing on the wall (5:5-9)

- a. The king is greatly alarmed when a hand appears and writes on the wall.
- b. None of the "conjurers" or "diviners" can interpret the words:
 - i. "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN" (25)

IV. Daniel is brought before Belshazzar (5:10-16)

- a. It has been about 30 years since Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream, but Belshazzar has no remembrance of Daniel. The queen recommends him.
- b. There is no love for God in the ranks, as even she attributes the power to "holy gods."
- c. Belshazzar offers Daniel all kinds of earthly goods if he interprets the writing.

V. Daniel preaches to the king (5:17-23)

- a. Daniel gives all glory to God and only does this to honor God.
- b. The king is reminded of all God has done and indicts him for his unrighteousness:
 - i. "you knew all of this" (22)
 - ii. "but you have exalted yourself" (23)
 - iii. "you have brought the vessels of His house" (23)
 - iv. "you have praised the gods..." (23)
 - v. "God...you have not glorified" (23)

VI. Interpretation and Fulfillment (5:24-31)

- a. Daniel interprets the words to represent God's disapproval of Belshazzar.
 - i. *MENE* - "God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it"
 - ii. *TEKEL* - "you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient"
 - iii. *PERES* - "your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes..."
- b. Belshazzar's response is odd and misguided, as he seeks to reward Daniel!
- c. That very night the king was slain and the Persians took control. Darius the Mede received the kingdom of that province at that time. (536 BC)

VII. Discussion Questions

- a. How do people continue to make the same mistakes that Belshazzar made?
 - i. Before the Interpretation?
 - ii. After the Interpretation?
- b. What is admirable about Daniel's character and actions in this chapter?

I. The Persians now rule the Land

- a. Darius the Mede was the first Medes / Persian ruler over the city of Babylon after the city fell. Cyrus is the ruler over the whole empire, but Darius has jurisdiction over this region. In **5:31**, we see he took office following the slaying of Belshazzar. It was about 539 BC. So, chapter 6 likely takes place in the near future after that event, which would put Daniel at about 85 to 90 years of age.

II. The Story

- a. We know this well. Daniel has achieved a great amount of respect in the kingdom and his enemies are displeased. They know him to be prayerful, so they devise a plan for all to make petition to no one but the king for 30 days. The king agrees, but Daniel continues to pray as he had done previously. The enemies bring the news to the king, and though saddened, he sends Daniel to the lion's den. The king anxiously goes to the den the following morning to find Daniel unharmed. Daniel gives all of the credit to God (22-23), and so does the king. The enemies are cast in and devoured, while the king makes a decree that all should tremble before "the God of Daniel" (26).

III. Lessons Learned from the Story

- a. Righteous men can be successful in this life. (1-3)
 - i. Daniel is one of only three men with jurisdiction over 120 satraps.
 - ii. Not only had he been promoted but he impressed the king in that role.
 - iii. *Point: you don't have to be ungodly to get ahead in life!*
- b. A holy person's success may draw the jealousy and persecution of the unholy. (4-9)
 - i. They were jealous of him and he was making them look bad apparently.
 - ii. These men knew of his integrity and knew they could use it to hurt him.
 - iii. *Point: it is not always popular to serve God!*
- c. Righteousness chooses God over even life itself. (10-18)
 - i. Daniel knew the document was signed but didn't let it affect him at all.
 - ii. He could have prayed in a closet or taken a month off: no compromise.
 - iii. *Point: commitment is always measured by choices in times of conflict.*
- d. Trust in God always pays off. (19-24)
 - i. The text says Daniel was spared because "he had trusted in his God."
 - ii. As Hebrews 11 reveals, our mortal lives may not always be spared, but God will always take care of, protect and save, people who put their trust in Him.
 - iii. *Point: whether it costs in the flesh or not, faith guarantees a great reward.*
- e. Godly choices affect other people. (25-28)
 - i. The great decree of faith at the end of the chapter comes from king Darius!
 - ii. He was greatly influenced by Daniel's devotion to God and God's protection.
 - iii. *Point: our choices and relationship with God can lead others to honor Him.*

IV. Discussion Questions

- a. In your life, what are some situations you have faced that are similar to **Daniel 6:10**?
- b. How have the truths of this story been seen in the choices you have made?

- I. Setting:** This chapter begins the second half of the letter. From here until the end, the book includes specific visions and prophecies that fit back into the historical setting of the first 6 chapters. Here, the dating information is given in the first verse: “the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon. So, it is about 553 BC, and Daniel is about 70 years old.
- II. A quick recap of the Vision and Interpretation of Daniel 2 will serve us well:**
- a. *Head of God – Babylon (2:38)*
 - b. *Chest of Silver – Medo-Persian (2:39)*
 - c. *Thighs of Bronze – Grecian Empire (2:39)*
 - d. *Legs of Iron – Roman Empire (2:40)*
 - e. *Stone to Great Mountain – Jesus’ Kingdom (2:35,44)*
- III. The Dream of Daniel 7 (7:2-14)**
- a. “Four beasts were coming up from the sea” (7:3)
 - i. “The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle” (7:4)
wings plucked, lifted from the ground, stood on two feet, mind of man
 - ii. “And behold, a second one, resembling a bear” (7:5)
raised on one side, three ribs in his mouth, told to eat
 - iii. “And behold, another one, like a leopard” (7:6)
four wings, four heads, dominion was given to it.
 - iv. “A fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong” (7:7)
large iron teeth, devoured and crushed, had ten horns
 - b. “The Ancient of Days took His Seat” (7:9-12)
 - i. He sits on a blazing throne. Myriads gathered around him. Books opened.
 - ii. The fourth beast was slain and dominion was taken from the others.
 - c. “One like a Son of Man was coming” (7:13-14)
 - i. “to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom...”
- IV. Interpretation (7:15-28)**
- a. “These great beasts... are four kings who will arise on the earth” (7:17)
 - b. “But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom...” (7:18)
 - c. “horn was waging war with the saints... until the Ancient of Days came” (7:21-22)
 - d. “The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth...” (7:23-27)
 - i. One king specifically will speak against the Most High and hurt saints
 - ii. They will be given into his hand for “a time, times, and a half a time”
Daniel 12:7; Revelation 14:12 – Usage of the same time phrase.
 - iii. “his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever”
 - iv. “Then the sovereignty... will be given to the... saints of the Highest One”
Revelation 20:1-4 – Perhaps the peace that follows Rome’s fall.
- V. Discussion Questions**
- a. What’s the point of this vision?
 - b. How can an understanding of this chapter help us interpret the book of Revelation?
 - c. What does this vision teach us about the value of being a Christian?

- I. The Setting:** Once again the date and occasion are laid out plainly in the first verse. The year is approximately 550 BC and Belshazzar is king of Babylon. It is about 3 years after the vision of chapter 7.
- II. Daniel's Vision (8:2-14)**
- a. A rambunctious Ram with two horns of differing lengths struts his stuff. (8:2-4)
 - b. A flying male goat comes from the West with a single horn between his eyes. (8:5)
 - c. The goat struck the ram head-on and broke both of his horns. (8:7)
 - d. The goat triumphed, but soon his larger horn was broken and 4 smaller ones came up in its place. Out of one of those horns, a smaller horn came forth:
 - i. It grew exceedingly South and East. (8:9)
 - ii. It grew up to the hosts of heaven and some stars fell. (8:10)
 - iii. He magnified himself to even equal to the "Commander of the host" (8:11)
 - iv. The Lord's "host" are given over to this horn. (8:12)
 - v. After 2,300 days, the holy place (and host) would be restored. (8:14)
- III. Interpretation (8:15-27)**
- a. The angel, Gabriel, is instructed to give the interpretation. It is important to note this interpretation pertained to "the time of the end" (8:17,19, 26). But you should note this does not always mean the end of the world, or Christ's return, or an event still in our future. Here, (8:11-12), it seems to be the "end time" of the persecution the small horn was inflicting upon God's people. And if the explanation in this lesson holds accurate, this "time of the end" was in about 163 B.C.
 - b. "The ram... represents the kings of Media and Persia." (8:20)
 - c. "The goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn... first king." (8:21)
 - d. "The four horns that arose in its place represent four kingdoms" (8:22)
 - i. Ptolemy (Egypt)
 - ii. Seleucus I (Syria)
 - iii. Antipater (Macedonia)
 - iv. Lysimachus (Asia Minor)
 - e. "In the later period of their rule... a king will rise" (8:23)
 - i. An incredibly evil man! (8:23-25)
 - ii. "But he will be broken without human agency" (8:25)
 1. ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES (175-163 BC)
 - a. Arose out of the kingdom of Syria
 - b. Attacked the Jews and conquered Jerusalem
 - c. He offered false images in the temple.
 - d. He forbid the Jews to circumcise, or keep the Sabbath or even possess a copy of the Scriptures.
 - e. Interestingly, he ruled for about 6 ½ years, or 2,300 days! (8:14)
- IV. Discussion Questions**
- a. How would you respond to someone who believed the prophecy of Daniel 8 pertained to the "time of the end" that still lies in our future?
 - b. What is the significance of the fact that Daniel reveals specific nations to be affected and that such nations did in fact rise and fall just as the vision indicates?

- I. **The date for this chapter is 539 BC.** Darius is the local Medo-Persian ruler in Babylon. Babylon had been in power for 70 years and then had fallen. Cyrus became the Persian ruler over the known world and released the Jews around this same time (**Ezra 1:1-4**).
- II. **Prophecy is fulfilled.** Daniel notes **Jeremiah 25:9-11**. It is interesting that Daniel is reading from the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah finished his prophecy about 40 years earlier, but wrote it from Jerusalem and Egypt. Yet it had passed all the way to Babylon.
- III. **Daniel's prayer. (9:3-19)**
 (v2-5) – He prayed with confession on behalf of the sinful people of Judah.
 (v9-10) – Over and over again he laments the unrighteousness of the Jews.
 (v15) – God has done so much, yet His people have responded so ungratefully.
 (v16-19) – Daniel pleads for God's mercy toward Jerusalem.
- IV. **Gabriel, God's angel, gives Daniel instruction. (9:20-27)**
- a. 70 Weeks have been decreed!
 - i. 6 things would be accomplished:
 1. "finish the transgression
 2. "make an end to sin"
 3. "make atonement for iniquity"
 4. "bring an everlasting righteousness"
 5. "seal up vision and prophecy"
 6. "anoint the most holy place"
 - ii. ALL of these things were accomplished when Jesus came to earth!
 1. **Ephesians 2:15** – Ended the Law, by which the Jews transgressed.
 2. **Hebrews 2:14-15** – Jesus death brought an end to the power of sin.
 3. **Colossians 1:20-22** – Man is atoned by Christ and His sacrifice.
 4. **II Corinthians 5:21** – By Christ we might be God's people forever.
 5. **Acts 2:17-22** - Jesus' coming and triumph fulfilled visions & prophecy.
 6. **Hebrews 1:8-9; 10:19-22** – Jesus is anointed King in heaven.
 - b. 69 of the weeks represents the time between the rebuilding of Jerusalem to the time the Messiah would come (**Daniel 9:25**)
 - c. After the 69 weeks the Messiah would be "cut off and have nothing" (**9:26**), representing His death on the cross.
 - d. In the middle of that last week, "he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offerings" (**9:27**), representing the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
 - e. At the end of the last week (70th week), "complete destruction...is poured out of the one who makes desolate" (**9:27**), which speaks of the fall of Rome to come later, since they were the ones who oppressed the Jews and destroyed Jerusalem.
- V. **Discussion Questions**
- a. Daniel's character and integrity has been a consistent element in our study. Look at the prayer he offered and list more valuable character qualities Daniel demonstrates.
 - b. Why would God reveal all of this to Daniel in the very year that the Jews are returning home? (Consider their natural efforts to restore their lives and honoring the Law of Moses and how God had a greater plan in the works.)

Review of Events in Chapters 1-9:

Ch 1 – In 605 B.C., Daniel is taken into _____ captivity. He refuses to eat the king's _____, because he made up his mind “he would not _____ himself.” After being allowed to eat vegetables, after 10 days, he and his friends looked _____ than all the others.

Ch 2 – In 604 B.C., _____ has a troubling dream. Daniel tells and interprets the dream about a statue of elements. The dream represents _____ kingdoms. In the days of the final kingdom Christ will rise with an indestructible rule.

Ch 3 – Nebuchadnezzar proclaimed that all in the kingdom must fall down and worship the _____ that he had set up. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not do it and were thrown into the _____. Because God saved the men, Nebuchadnezzar turned to _____ and put his trust in Him.

Ch 4 – After giving praise to God, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream about a _____ in a field. As Daniel tells him, the dream represents his future. He would _____ in a field until a period of time has passed. One day while the king was _____ credit for his kingdom, God fulfilled it.

Ch 5 – During Belshazzar's reign, in the 539 B.C., _____ appeared at a feast he was having and began to _____ on the wall. It wrote four words on the wall: Mene, Mene, Tekel, Uphasin, which basically represented the _____ of king Belshazzar. That same night, he was killed.

Ch 6 – Darius the _____ took over shortly after, when the Medo Persians defeated the Babylonians. Under his rule Daniel was very _____ in the kingdom. The other official became jealous and tried to get him destroyed. They did so by getting Darius to sign an edict that no one could _____ for 30 days. Daniel did not relent, but kept right on _____ to God three times a day. Daniel was thrown into the lion's den, but God saved him. After he was saved, the _____ were thrown into the lion's den and perished.

Ch 7 – Back in 553 B.C., when Belshazzar became king, Daniel saw a vision of four beasts coming out of the sea. The four beasts represent the four _____ to come. They are Babylon, Persia, _____ and _____. The fourth one crushed and trampled and would seek to wear down God's _____. Until the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man came from heaven, to set up a kingdom that would never be _____.

Ch 8 – Back in 550 B.C., during the reign of Belshazzar, Daniel had another vision. This one was about a ram butting in all directions, which represents _____. Then comes a goat with a large horn from the West to destroy the ram. This goat represents _____. After the horn breaks into four smaller ones, a rather small horn grows exceedingly and tramples down the stars of the heavens. This represents the evil king Antiochus Epiphanes from _____. He will persecute the Jews for 2300 evenings and mornings, and then the holy place will be fully _____.

Ch 9 – In 539 B.C., the first year of Darius, following a long and heartfelt _____ from Daniel to God, he receives information from Gabriel. Then we learn about the 70 weeks or “sevens.” The first 69 weeks spans from the time of _____ to the time of _____. At the end of this time, _____ will be cut down and have nothing, as is seen on the cross of Calvary. Following this, in the last week, Christ will do two things: make a c _____ with the faithful and put a stop to the _____ of Israel.

- I. **The year is 536 BC.** This is our last time reference in the book of Daniel and probably indicates that all of the visions and prophecies of chapters 10-12 were given around this same time, and just after the “70 Weeks” vision of chapter 9. This vision of warfare, which will be described in the next two chapters, affected Daniel deeply, and he mourned for 3 weeks (**10:2**).
- II. (**10:4-9**) - A heavenly being appeared to Daniel after the three weeks. The description of this being is very similar to the description of Jesus in Revelation 1, however here likely describes that purity and power and heavenly nature of angel.
- III. (**10:10-14**) – The angel spoke to Daniel, complimenting him in two very important ways: “you set your heart on understanding” and “...on humbling yourself before your God.” And because of Daniel’s good heart, the Lord has sent him a response.
- IV. (**10:15-21**) – Daniel is strengthened by the angel, and Daniel shows him great respect. The angel seems to be in a hurry to go and fight against the “prince of Persia.” But before he goes, he will explain the vision Daniel had previously seen.
 - a. Note **10:13, 20-21**. What do you think is going on here? Michael seems to be identified as the prince of the Jews (**12:1**). It seems like there was some spiritual warfare going on and each kingdom was represented by an angel: some good and some evil. Note the terms “prince of Persia” and “prince of Greece.” (Also **11:1**).
 - b. Passages like **Jude 6** and **Hebrews 1:14** may indicate angels are still doing so today.
- V. (**11:1-2a**) – Beginning on the next page, our lesson will break down into verse sections the details of the vision Daniel saw. Please read through chapter 11 in preparation for the next class.
- VI. **Discussion Questions**
 - a. Based on the information about angels in the book of Daniel, as well as what the rest of the Bible teaches, what do you know about the way that angels work? (Good angels who serve the Lord as well as evil angels who serve the adversary).
 - b. In chapter 10, list a few more godly qualities of Daniel that we should seek to emulate and explain how we can all be more like him.

11:1-4 – Much of what we read here we already read about in Daniel 8. When the goat (Greece) came up and slew the Ram (Persia). Then the goat's great horn was broken and four other horns popped up, representing Greece breaking into four smaller kingdoms.

- a. After Darius, or maybe Cyrus (rule Persia at same time), three more kings would rule ordinarily in his place. Then a fourth would arise and gain great riches, and would stir up the anger of the nation of Greece.
- b. Then a mighty Grecian king (Alexander the Great) will arise and will take them over and rule with great authority.
- c. But no sooner than he has taken over, his kingdom will be broken into four smaller kingdoms: Egypt in the South, Syria, Macedonia, and Asia Minor.

11:5-8 – As you will see here, only two of the four kingdoms increase in power. History teaches us that Egypt in the South and Syria in the North swallowed up the other two and became great powers. They are the focus of this section.

- a. Two kings are pointed out here. The king of the South, who was likely the first Egyptian king, Ptolemy I. The prince of Alexander who will be even stronger, was the Northern king of Assyria, likely Seleucus. History backs this up. The Southern kingdom stayed confined to Egypt, while the Northern kingdom had more power by virtue of a larger area of rule.

Keep in mind, as we read "king of the North" and "king of the South" throughout this prophesy, it is NOT limited to the first kings of those nations, but the kings at the time of the prophesy. In other words, this prophesy covers more time than just two men as kings.

- b. History tells us that a daughter of the king of the South (Bernice) was given in marriage to the son of the king of the North (Antiochus I) in an effort to form an alliance between them.
- c. But the alliance would not hold. For the wife (Laodice) Antiochus put away to have Bernice, planned to have Bernice put to death. However, a brother of Bernice, Ptolemy III, came and successfully battled against the North and took captives to Egypt.

11:9-13 – The battle between Syria and Egypt continues.

- a. The king of the North rises against the South but will not prevail. His sons will rise up against the South but will not prevail. This will only enrage the Southern king and cause him to attack the North and take many captive.
- b. The Southern king's "heart will be lifted up," likely referring to his boastful pride.
- c. But, **vs 13**, eventually, the king of the North will come with a greater multitude and attack the South with great force.

11:14-19 – The Jews have been kicked around like a soccer ball between these two nations, so they will get into the action against the South in this section.

- a. Violent Jews will join the fight against the great South, in order to help them fall, but it won't work out well in the end.
- b. For yes, the Northern king of Syria will victor, but then he will invade the "Beautiful Land" (Palestine) "with destruction in his hand."
- c. In order to keep his seat of rule, the Northern king (Antiochus the Great) gives his daughter in marriage to a Southern king or prince. But she will turn on him and side with her husband of the South rather than her father of the North.

- d. He, Antiochus the Great, then turns his attention to the Mediterranean islands, like Cyprus or Crete, and captures many. But soon his advances are stopped, and he stumbles and falls.

Before checking out **11:20-35**, first go back to **8:9-12** – Here we read about a “small horn” that extended out of the Grecian kingdom to rise to great power and destroy much in Jerusalem. This king was Antiochus Epiphanes, who ruled over Syria (175-164). It was a terrible time for Judah, but would only last a certain period of time: “2,300” days.

11:20-28 – A Syrian king will rise and oppress his people. After that, Antiochus Epiphanes, “a despicable person will arise.” He will be cunning and sly and will overtake the kingdom of Syria. He will even get some of the Southern king’s men on his side, so that when they have a huge war the Southern king is defeated by the Northern troops AND his own men. After victory in the South, Antiochus will set “his heart...against the holy covenant.” Thereby greatly oppressing God’s people.

11:29-35 – He will return to plunder Egypt further, but Roman ships from the West will come against him. He will take out his anger and disappointment on God’s people. Many of God’s people, Israel, will fall to death and captivity. However, vs 32, some will oppose him. But the time of Antiochus’ defeat is set by God.

(History teaches us that an officer of Antiochus comes to a Jewish city and commands an aged priest, Mattathias, to build a false idol. He refuses and strikes dead the officer. He and his five sons flee to the hills, and the Maccabees and their revolt began (His third son was nicknamed, Maccabeus the Hammerer). (Three years after Antiochus captured the temple, the Jews captured Jerusalem back. At that point, on December 25th, they set up a feast: Hanukkah.)

11:36-39 – Okay, here’s where it gets tricky. By context, you would think the “king” of verse 36 was Antiochus. However, the prophecy in the rest of the chapter and throughout doesn’t match his actions. Instead, the prophecy matches the actions of the Romans. So, by “king” in this verse, it appears the angel is speaking of the Romans. Here are a few reasons that back up that claim:

1. **Vs 30** – Roman ships have already been introduced as coming against the Syrian king.
2. **Vs 36** – Conduct fits the Roman king in the time he persecuted Christians (**Rev. 13:5-7**)
3. **Vs 36** – Indignation God had planned was the desolation of Jerusalem, done by Rome.
4. **Vs 43** – Conquered Egypt; Libya and Ethiopia. Does not fit Syria, but does fit Rome.

11:43-45 – Rome was the world ruler, and hungered for riches and power. However, they always had trouble with the Parthians in the East and the Germans in the North, and never actually subdued them.

As an extension of Rome’s domination over Israel, they will plant tabernacles in the Palestine area. God allowed all of this to happen, for He had a plan in mind, as we’ll see in chapter 12. But the Romans’ days were numbered. After they carried out God’s plan on Jerusalem, they too would fall.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Why does any of this matter to you?
- b. What does it say about Daniel and the whole Bible if secular history verifies the details of the visions and prophecies and fulfillments?
- c. What dangerous mistake does the pre-millennialist make with chapters like this one?

- I. “**Now at that time...**” is a reference to the Roman domination described at the end of chapter 11. So then, the description of this chapter is limited to that point in history.
- II. (12:1-4) – If our dating is correct, this is not referring to the end of time and the final resurrection, but a spiritual awakening and purification during the collapse of Jerusalem. Some would turn to God unto eternal life and others would not.
 - a. Note, (v4), “the end of time” is not necessarily the end of all time, but the end of the fulfillment of this vision, which contextually is either the fall of Jerusalem or the later fall of Rome.
- III. (12:5-7) – This term: “time, times and half a time” has already been seen in **Daniel 7:25**, where it referred to the Roman persecution of the Christians. We also have observed it in **Revelation 13:5**, where it similarly referred to the Roman dominion over the Jews. Here, the application seems to be the same, “*as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be accomplished*” (Destruction of Jerusalem, 70 AD).
- IV. (12:8-13) – It would be a trying time, and while many will be purified and saved, many other Jews will act wickedly (seen clearly in the time of Christ)
 - a. (v11) - The time of the abolishment of regular sacrifice was the time of Antiochus Epiphanes (11:31) and perhaps this verse is saying there will be a length of time (represented as 1290 days) between that destruction and the next (Roman destruction of Jerusalem). It will be a tough time, that began with Jewish destruction and ends with it as well.
 - b. (v12) – But shortly after that, 45 figurative days later, a blessing will be seen out of all of this. If that blessing followed the destruction of Jerusalem (70 A.D.), then it must be the fall of Rome. Remember **Daniel 2:44**, the Kingdom of Christ would outlast and live all four empires, including Rome. What a triumphant day for the Christian when Rome fell, and Christ’s kingdom continued!
 - c. (v13) – We know the faithful will inherit eternal life after all of this prophecy was long past. For Daniel, a faithful, devoted servant of God, following his life on earth, he would receive his allotted portion of heavenly glory at the end of the ages.
- V. **Discussion Questions**
 - a. Interpretation of Daniel chapters 9-12 is quite difficult, and I do not profess to have done so perfectly. However, this is a HUGE passage for the pre-millennialist, who believe these chapters describe future events. How would you use the text provided to demonstrate that is not the case. (Note: this same issue will come up in your Revelation studies, and we must learn to use context to prove content).
 - b. How might one use the prophecies of this book, and specifically in these last chapters, to build your faith, even though these prophecies do not directly pertain to you?

Intro: What is the main idea of this letter?

Ch 1: What decision did Daniel make as a youth and how did that affect his life?

Ch 2: What do we learn about God's control over world governments in this chapter?

Ch 3: In what ways does God expect us to have the boldness of Shad, Mesh, and Abed?

Ch 4: What is the moral of the story of Nebuchadnezzar eating grass in the field?

Ch 5: What was Belshazzar's mistake and what important lesson should we learn?

Ch 6: How can we use the story of Daniel in the lion's den to fuel and fortify our faith?

Ch 7: Why did Daniel receive the vision of the four beasts coming from the sea?

Ch 8: What's the deal with the Ram and Goat? And is this about events in our future?

Ch 9: What is a contextually supported interpretation of the "Seventy Weeks?"

Ch 10: What can we learn about the work of angels from the events of chapter 10?

Ch 11: This is a long story from long ago. What value does it have for you?

Ch 12: How can we prove to pre-millennialists that this text is not about us?

Final (pt 1): What is the biggest takeaway for you from the story chapters: Ch 1-6?

Final (pt 2): What is the biggest takeaway for you from the vision chapters: Ch 7-12?