

STUDY GUIDE

The Book of Daniel



Michael D. Taylor
www.TaylorNotes.Info

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DANIEL

PART 1: THE TEENAGE CAPTIVE

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info

The book of Daniel though focusing mostly on one period in Israel's history, gives us a glimpse into the future great reign of God which was inaugurated by the first coming of

Jesus Christ. Daniel must have had a great influence on the Apostle John as he wrote the book of Revelation. Both men wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

KEY PASSAGE: DANIEL CHAPTER 1

WHAT TO WATCH FOR



Notice Daniel is able to succeed as a faithful Jew living in a pagan culture. This first chapter is the foundation for the main idea of the book—God's Sovereign rule over the nations past, present, and future. Because Israel was deep into idolatry God allowed a gentile nation to conquer both the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Israel). Was this a surprise move by God? Certainly not, he warned Israel in the days of Moses that this would happen if they disobeyed his laws (Deut. 28:25).

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar's siege
- ❖ Daniel taken to Babylon
- ❖ Daniel's great decision
- ❖ A 10-day test
- ❖ God's reward to the faithful

BACKGROUND



- Daniel was from the royal tribe of Judah and was about 13-14 years old at the beginning of the book.
- The narrative begins immediately with a crisis—the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, who exports many Jews, including a teenage boy named Daniel, to his capital city of Babylon in the year 605 BC. This was the first of three invasions by Nebuchadnezzar.

"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself..."

Dan. 1:8

- Pagan nations at this time believed that each nation had its own god(s) which ruled only over a nation's geographical area. By removing captives from their native land they would be weakened and unable to resist the conquering (suzerain) king.

- After captives were relocated to Babylon they were enculturated into its language, customs, and religion. As part of this strategy, Daniel's name was changed along with those of his three friends.

Hebrew Name	Babylonian Name
Daniel ("God is my judge")	Belteshazzar ("whom Bel favors")
Hananiah ("God is gracious")	Shadrach ("illuminated by Shad" – a sun god)
Mishael ("Who is like God?")	Meshach ("who is like Shach" – a love goddess)
Azariah ("God is my helper")	Abednego ("the servant of Nego" – a fire god)

- As a teenager, Daniel found himself far from his home and now in a strange circumstance. He was selected to be trained as part of the king's court and had to learn the ways of a royal servant to Nebuchadnezzar. Was he to adapt to his new situation and stay on the king's good side by becoming a Babylonian, or remain loyal to God? His faith was being tested.

CHAPTER SUMMARY



- ✓ Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Babylonians, surrounded Jerusalem, took many of the royal family, and seized some of the temple treasures (Daniel 1:1, 2)
- ✓ Daniel, a perfect physical specimen, healthy, good-looking, intelligent, and well-informed, was one of those taken (Daniel 1:4)
- ✓ Daniel determined not to defile himself with the king's food (Daniel 1:8)
- ✓ Daniel suggested that he and his friends be given nothing but vegetables and water for ten days—then be compared to those who ate the king's food. Daniel and his friends were found to be ten times better (Daniel 1:12-15)
- ✓ God rewarded Daniel and his friends with unusual knowledge and understanding. He also gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams (Daniel 1:17)

NEXT STEP

- Read Daniel Chapter 2
- What is the crisis in this chapter?
- How did Daniel respond to this crisis?
- How did Nebuchadnezzar's view of his pagan gods change as a result of what happened?
- What does this chapter reveal about the living God?
- How does this chapter relate to Christians today?

DANIEL

PART 2: NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.info

Nebuchadnezzar had not reigned very long and Daniel was still a teen-ager when the king had a very disturbing dream. The troubled king called in several of his special advisors. He summoned 1) magicians who were skillful in trick and illusions (sleight of hand), understood mysteries, and black magic (using secret charms and spirits to make unnatural things happen); 2) enchanters who were chanters of evil spells

and incantations (sets of words spoken as a magic charm; 3) sorcerers who talked to the dead and practiced magic with the aid of evil spirits; and 4) astrologers who read horoscopes and studied the stars and other heavenly bodies to foretell the future. They now stood before the king who demanded to understand his terrifying dream. Failure to do so would cost them their lives.

KEY PASSAGE: DANIEL CHAPTER 2

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Notice how the narrative serves three purposes: a) to exalt God over Nebuchadnezzar, and indirectly over Babylonian gods, b) to present Daniel as God's agent in interpreting dreams, and c) to anticipate later visions. Watch how these last two purposes are emphasized in Daniel's prayer.



BACKGROUND

- During Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd year as the Babylonian king, and while Daniel is still a teen-ager, the king has a troubling dream.
- Nebuchadnezzar concealed his dream. (According to eastern superstition it was ominous to not be able to remember a dream.)
- Beginning in 2:4b and continuing to the end of Chapter 7, Daniel writes in Aramaic, a cognate language to Hebrew. This is the longest Aramaic passage in the OT, the others being Ezra 4:8--6:18; 7:12-26, and Jeremiah 10:11. Daniel may have wanted this section to be known to non-Jews and it may have been published separately for this reason.
- Nebuchadnezzar's wise men considered themselves as experts in interpreting dreams. Over the years they had developed inordinately long dream manuals which consisted of historical dreams and the events that followed them. Consulting them would take much time.
- These wise men acknowledged that their gods do not live among men (2:12). Daniel inserts this to compare these inferior gods to the living God who is immanent (2:19-23).
- Notice Arioch's arrogance compared to Daniel's humility (2:25, 27, 28).

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar's disturbing dream
- ❖ Deadly consequences if not interpreted
- ❖ Daniel prays
- ❖ God answers Daniel's prayer
- ❖ A destroying rock

- The kingdoms depicted in this dream are referred to in the NT as the “times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24).

DANIEL 2:31-35	DANIEL 2:36-45
1) Head of Gold	Nebuchadnezzar's Empire
2) Arms & Chest of Silver	An inferior kingdom will rise
3) Waist/Thighs of Brass	A kingdom that will rule over the whole earth
4) Legs of Iron	A kingdom that will crush and break all others
5) Feet of Iron & Clay	A divided kingdom; partly strong/partly brittle
6) Rock	An eternal kingdom that will crush all kingdoms

CHAPTER SUMMARY



Nebuchadnezzar has a very disturbing dream (2:10).

Nebuchadnezzar summoned his wise men to reveal the dream and its meaning. In spite of the possibility of losing their lives if they failed to explain it, they were still unable to do so (2:2-12).

When Daniel heard of the king's decree he asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream. Then he went to his friends and urged them to pray for God's mercy (2:13-18).

God revealed the king's dream and its interpretation to Daniel. It concerned a great statue with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet of part clay and iron. Each part of the statue represented a different Gentile world kingdom (2:19-43).

A great rock smashed the statue. The rock grew and filled the earth, representative Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God on earth (2:34, 35, 44, 45).

NEXT STEP

- Read Daniel Chapter 3
- What is the crisis in this chapter?
- How did Daniel's three friends respond to this crisis?
- What does this chapter reveal about the living God?
- How does this chapter relate to Christians today?

DANIEL

PART 3: NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S STATUE

Mike Tavor

www.TavorNotes.info



Nebuchadnezzar had a 90 ft statue built based on his dream in Chapter 2. It arrogantly represented himself as a grandiose expression of his greatness and glory. It was not necessarily made of solid gold, but more likely would have been overlaid with gold, like many objects found in the ruins of Babylon. The

word “image” usually means a human form. Everyone in his kingdom was compelled to worship the image or die. This was in direct conflict with God's first and second commandments. Daniel's three friends were now faced with a faith crisis. Should they quietly go along with everyone else or stand firm in obedience to God?

KEY PASSAGE: DANIEL CHAPTER 3

WHAT TO WATCH FOR



Notice how Nebuchadnezzar's wise men took advantage of the situation to possibly gain back their high positions from under the authority of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego by tattle-tailing on them. Watch too how these three young Jews faced a faith crisis—a turning point or fork in the road that demands a decision. In order to be spared from Nebuchadnezzar's furnace they placed their full trust in God not knowing what he would do. They chose to obey God no matter what. They were confident that God could save them but notice verse 18, “...but even if he does not...”

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

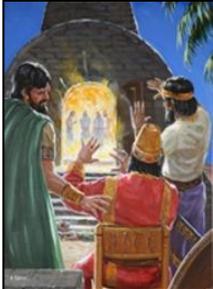
- ❖ Statue of gold
- ❖ Enforced image worship
- ❖ Three faithful Jews
- ❖ God protects the faithful Jews
- ❖ The king praises God

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. The Image of Gold and the Fiery Furnace (3:1-3)
 - A. Ninety-foot image erected on the plain of Dura (3:1)
 - B. All people and officials gather before the image (3:2-3)
- II. Nebuchadnezzar's First Decree (3:4-28)
 - A. All must worship the image (3:4-7)
 - B. Three Jews refuse (3:8-12)
 - C. Three Jews thrown into the fiery furnace (3:13-23)
 - D. Three Jews survive—a fourth man is seen (3:24-27)
 - E. Nebuchadnezzar praises God (3:28)
- III. Nebuchadnezzar's Second Decree (3:29-30)
 - A. No one is to say anything against God (3:29)
 - B. Three Jews rewarded (3:30)

BACKGROUND

- The Plain of Duran was a flat and expansive area south of Babylon, suitable for the gathering of an enormous number of people
- According to the Septuagint this event took place around 585 B.C. when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in their early thirties
- The image was most likely a statue of fewer precious metals covered with gold
- Nebuchadnezzar probably wanted one united religion in his kingdom
- The repeating of all the satraps, prefects, governors, etc., may have been satirical. The same is true for the repetition of named instruments
- Music played an important part of this pagan religious ceremony, just as it often does in leading people away from the living God
- Satraps were similar to a prince; prefects were below satraps and were similar to generals or military heads



- Furnace: most likely a brick kiln much like a train tunnel closed at one end, and heated with charcoal to about 1,000 degree Celsius (1832 deg. Fahrenheit)
- The three young Jewish boys did not have to pray or to deliberate what they would do—they had already resolved that they would not disobey God's first and second commandments.

- The fourth being (3:25), "a son of the gods" was either an angel or pre-incarnate Christ is not clear, but many scholars believe it was pre-incarnate Christ
- Notice that Daniel is not cited in this chapter. He may have been on official business somewhere else

At the conclusion, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges God but also acknowledging that there were other gods.

NEXT STEP



- Read Daniel Chapter 4
- Describe Nebuchadnezzar's dream in this chapter
- How did God humble the great king?
- Compare Nebuchadnezzar's understanding of God in Daniel 4:34-35 to Daniel 2:47 and 3:28. What differences do you see?

DANIEL

PART 4: NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S CONCEIT

Mike Tavor

www.TaviorNotes.info



This fourth and final incident from the life of Nebuchadnezzar belongs to the period when his great building projects had been completed (4:30). He tells the story about what happened to him as a testimony of how the living God dealt with his conceit and brought him to acknowledge God's sovereignty. This chapter has been viewed by some as an edict, but it makes no law; perhaps it would be better to think of it as a confession made in a kind of open letter.

KEY PASSAGE: DANIEL CHAPTER 4

WHAT TO WATCH FOR



Notice who actually wrote this chapter and why the author wanted to document his experience. Follow the worldview of King Nebuchadnezzar from the beginning of this calamity to the end where the powerful king realized the true source of his successes. While Christians today aren't kings it is still very possible that they can fall into the same mindset as Nebuchadnezzar by pushing God's sovereignty into the background.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Written testimony
- ❖ The king's conceit
- ❖ Another terrible dream
- ❖ Refusal to repent
- ❖ The king is humbled
- ❖ The king is healed
- ❖ God's sovereignty affirmed

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Nebuchadnezzar's Conceit (4:1-27)
 - A. The author's purpose (4:1-3)
 - B. The frightening dream (4:4-18)
 - C. The dream interpreted (4:19-27)
- II. Nebuchadnezzar's Calamity (4:28-34a)
 - A. The king's insanity (4:28-33)
 - B. His sanity restored (4:34a)
- III. Nebuchadnezzar's Confession (4:34b-37)
 - A. Of God's sovereignty (4:34b-36)
 - B. Of God's glory and kingship (4:37)



BACKGROUND

- Daniel was well past 50 years old
- Nebuchadnezzar was in his early 70s, nearing the end of his reign, and the end of his life
- Written by the king himself after he experienced God's humbling
- But he still believed in his god, Bel.
- N. wanted to tell the whole world what God did for him
- His is one of the most ancient testimonies known to mankind
- The king was basking in contentment at the thought of all his achievements
- He was at the height of his powers and proud of his achievements as the head of a world empire
- The dream shattered his peace of mind
- Calls for his advisors (magicians, enchanters, astrologers, and diviners)
- But they could not interpret the dream even though he told them what the dream was
- N. calls for Daniel who was not part of this group
- N. acknowledges the Spirit of God as the source of Daniel's wisdom
- The dream tree was huge, representing Nebuchadnezzar himself
- Upon understanding the dream, Daniel delayed to speak suggesting a warm relationship between the two
- After describing the pending calamity, Daniel urges the king to repent and do good
- "Seven times" is generally understood to be seven years
- The mental illness experienced by N. was apparently a form of lycanthropy, thinking one is a wolf or a dog
- N. finally acknowledges God's sovereignty and his kingdom over Nebuchadnezzar's

APPLICATION

How can you apply this chapter to your own life?

NEXT STEP



- Read Daniel Chapter 5
- Describe Belshazzar's state of mind (5:1-6)
- What did Belshazzar do to cause God to take his life (5:22-23)?
- Which kingdom conquered the Babylonian kingdom, and how does this event relate to Daniel 2:39?

DANIEL

PART 5: BELSHAZZAR'S CONTEMPT

Mike Tavlör

www.TavlörNotes.info



About 20 years have passed since Nebuchadnezzar's testimony (Chapter 4) and his grandson, Belshazzar, is now a co-regent with his father Nabonidus. With the Medo-Persian army just outside the gates of Babylon, Belshazzar holds a grand feast with thousands of lords, defiantly ignoring the threat of attack believing their city is impregnable. In contempt of God he brings in the temple goblets and uses them to praise the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. Belshazzar has crossed the line and is about to be condemned by God.

KEY PASSAGE: DANIEL CHAPTER 5

WHAT TO WATCH FOR



Notice how Daniel draws a comparison between Nebuchadnezzar, who eventually recognized God's sovereignty, and Belshazzar's outright contempt for God.

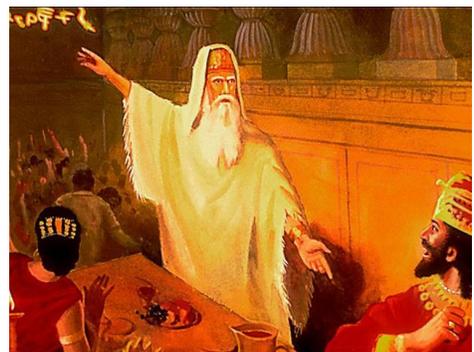
Daniel's attitude toward Belshazzar can be seen by the absence of a respectful greeting to this defiant king. Observe too how Daniel refuses to "paid" for using special abilities God gave to him.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Belshazzar's Feast
- ❖ Belshazzar's contempt for the temple goblets
- ❖ The Indictment against Belshazzar
- ❖ Belshazzar's death
- ❖ The fall of the Babylonian Empire

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Belshazzar's Contempt (5:1-4)
 - a. Handwriting on the Wall (5:5-12)
 - b. Daniel to the Rescue (5:13-16)
 - c. Your Grandfather Knew Better (5:17-21)
- II. The Indictment against Belshazzar (5:22-29)
- III. The Sentencing of Belshazzar (5:24-29)
- IV. The Sentence Carried Out (5:30-31)



BACKGROUND

- Daniel is about 80 years old when this event takes place
- A combined army of Medes and Persians has surrounded the city
- The main character is Belshazzar, who was the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, serving as a co-regent with his father Nabonidus
- Nabonidus had taken an army outside the walls to engage the Medes and Persians but was defeated, then fled, and is now in hiding
- While Belshazzar held his great feast, receiving a verdict from God that his time was up, the Medo-Persian army found a weak point in the defense of the Babylonian city
- Although the walls of the city were too high and too thick to break down, the Euphrates River, which flowed through the great city of Babylon, presented a way to invade the city
- About two weeks before the drunken party Cyrus, Commander of the Medes and Persians, started preparing for an invasion
- He divided his army and sent several thousand troops to the south side, and several thousand troops to the north side of the city
- The remaining troops then diverted the Euphrates River causing its level to drop under the city walls enabling the Medo-Persians to invade the city and capture its leaders
- The city experienced little battle damage and the conquest was so swift and complete that it was several days before many citizens knew there had been a change in the government
- Just as Daniel prophesied in Chapter 2, the gold kingdom (Babylon) was superseded by the silver kingdom (Medo-Persian)

APPLICATION

How can you apply this chapter to your own life?

NEXT STEP



- Read Daniel Chapter 6
- What happened to Daniel under the new Medo-Persian king who just conquered the Babylonians?
- Who plotted against Daniel in this chapter?
- What was Daniel's practice which defied the king's injunction?
- What was the king's attitude toward Daniel in this whole situation?
- What happened to those who plotted against Daniel?

DANIEL

PART 6: THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST DANIEL

Mike Tavor

www.TavorNotes.info



Very little time had passed after the handwriting on the wall (Chapter 5) yet so many changes have taken place. The Babylonian Empire was overpowered by the Medo-Persians who now had their own king. In spite of this change, Daniel again rose to a very high governmental position because of his character and his obedience to God. Jealous of his promotion many of his subordinate administrators and satraps (governors) plotted against him by making his godly practices illegal. Faced with choosing between man's laws and God's laws, Daniel chose the later and God miraculously protected him.

KEY PASSAGE: DANIEL CHAPTER 6

WHAT TO WATCH FOR



Notice how man's legal system can be manipulated to produce laws that are in direct conflict with God's laws. Observe how Daniel sets such a wonderful example for dealing with such conflicts. Watch too at what happens to those who openly oppose God's laws and his obedient servants. Ask yourself, "What would I do in a similar situation today?"

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Daniel Promoted
- ❖ A Plot to Eliminate
- ❖ A Prayer to God
- ❖ Daniel Protected
- ❖ Punishment of Accusers
- ❖ Daniel Promoted Again

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Daniel Prospers (6:1-2)
- II. The Plot Developed (6:3-9)
 - A. Jealous leaders find no fault (6:4-5)
 - B. The proposal to King Darius (6:6-9)
- III. Daniel Prays and is Protected(6:10-23)
 - A. Daniel continues to pray (6:10)
 - B. Daniel observed in prayer (6:11)
 - C. Leaders tell king about Daniel (6:12-15)
 - D. Daniel in the lion's den (6:16-23)
- IV. The Plot Reversed (6:24-27)
- V. Daniel Prospers (6:28)



BACKGROUND

- Daniel is about 80 years old when this event takes place
- The combined army of Medes and Persians had conquered the Babylonians and Darius is ruling as king
- This transition from a Babylonian kingdom to the Medo-Persian kingdom was prophesied about 64 years earlier (Dan. 2:39)
- The head of gold, Babylon, (the first Gentile world kingdom) on God's statue is gone
- Medo-Persia (the second Gentile world kingdom), the chest and arms of silver, are now in power
- History records that Cyrus crucified 3,000 Babylonian political enemies
- Doubtless all of the lords of Babylon who attended Belshazzar's party were included in this number
- Darius divided his newly-conquered kingdom into 120 divisions or provinces
- Over each province Darius appointed satraps (rulers) to protect the interests of the king
- Over the 120 satraps Darius appointed three administrators whose job was most likely to watch the satraps for things like corruption, disloyalty, theft, and poor administration
- The idea of making Daniel second in command found opposition among the other two administrators and all 120 satraps
- In the Ancient Near East the sport of kings was lion hunting, as works of art from Egypt to Mesopotamia depict
- The pit in which lions were kept provided a trouble-free method of disposing of undesirable members of society in Roman as well as Persian times
- Upon seeing that Daniel survived the night in the lion's den provides the most important discovery Darius could make—that God rewards those who trust him
- In accordance with Persian custom. This cruel punishment was transferred to those who had conspired against the king by provoking him into an unjust action

APPLICATION

How can you apply this chapter to your own life?

NEXT STEP



- Read Daniel Chapter 7
- Describe Daniel's dream/vision
- What was the interpretation of the dream in this chapter?
- Make a list of questions you might have about this chapter

DANIEL

PART 7: DANIEL'S VISION OF THE FOUR BEASTS

Mike Tavor

www.TavorNotes.info



Chapter 7 reverts back to the days of Belshazzar, king of Babylon (ca. 553 BC) who was a co-regent with his somewhat retired father, Nabonidus. The four beasts depicted in Chapter 7 parallel the four sections of Nebuchadnezzar's image in Chapter 2 with about 40 years separating the two events. The prophecies of both accounts were intended to encourage the exiled Jews because good days lay ahead when God establishes his kingdom on earth. They also give hope to Christians of all ages knowing that evil will be abolished when God's Kingdom ultimately prevails and is established forever.

KEY PASSAGE: DANIEL CHAPTER 7

WHAT TO WATCH FOR



Notice the parallels between this chapter and Chapter 2. Look also for additional details regarding the world kingdoms depicted in this chapter, especially with the addition of the "little horn." Chapters 1 through 6 are historical while Chapters 7-12 are more prophetic.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. The Vision of the Four Beasts (7:1-8)
 - A. The lion with eagle's wings
 - B. The bear with three ribs in its mouth
 - C. The leopard with four wings
 - D. The fourth beast with iron teeth
- II. The Ancient of Days Reigns (7:9-12)
- III. The Son of Man is Given Dominion (7:13-14)
- IV. Daniel's Vision Interpreted (7:15-28)

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Daniel's vision of four beasts (kingdoms)
- ❖ God is seen sitting in judgment upon the 4th beast and its ruler, the little horn
- ❖ The end of these Gentile world powers will come when Jesus returns and establishes his eternal kingdom on earth



BACKGROUND

Daniel's Vision Interpreted (7:15-28) *Return of Jesus Christ*

↓

"TIMES OF THE GENTILES" (Luke 21:24) (Future)

Daniel Chapter 2	Head	Chest	Waist	Legs	10 Toes
Daniel Chapter 7	Lion	Bear	Leopard	4 th Beast	10 horns (+ little horn)
Most Likely Historical Fulfillments	Babylonian Kingdom	Medo-Persia Kingdom	Greek Kingdom	Roman Kingdom	Revived Roman Kingdom

Sources: J. Dwight Pentecost, John Walvoord, Joyce Baldwin, Alan MacRae, G. Coleman Luck, Daymond Duck/Larry Richards

God's Eternal Kingdom

18

- This chapter parallels Chapter 2 but adds more information.
- Chapter 7 takes place during the first year of Belshazzar, about 553 BC (7:1).
- (7:2, 3) "Great sea" is probably symbolically referring to the tumultuous nature of human life from which human governments spring.
- (7:4) 1st beast, Lion=Babylon, a very powerful lion-like empire.
- (7:5) 2nd beast, Bear=Medo-Persia, one of the largest armies (2 ½ million soldiers) of the four.
- (7:6) 3rd beast, Leopard=Greece, a swift-moving army.
- (7:7, 19-26) 4th Beast=Roman Empire.
- "Ten horns" (kings/kingdoms) corresponds to the ten toes in Chapter 2, representative of the future rise of a powerful federation of ten that comes out of the Roman Empire.
- (7:8, 11, 24-26) "Little horn...uproots three of the ten horns," most likely refers to the future Antichrist who blasphemes God and is eventually destroyed by God.
- (7:22) Referring to God's future judgment.

APPLICATION

Remember, as a believer your life has purpose and direction.

Reflect on the fact that like the Jews in Babylon, this life is merely a sojourn.

Rejoice in knowing that you are part of God's Kingdom.

NEXT STEP



- Read Daniel Chapters 8-9
- Describe the two animals in Chapter 8
- Try to diagram the "70 weeks" described in Chapter 9 (20-27)

DANIEL

PART 8: A GREAT CRISIS PREDICTED

Mike Tavlör

www.TavlörNotes.info



As we have seen, each of the visions described in Daniel 2 and 7 pictures the successive rise of four kingdoms, followed by their complete destruction and replacement by a universal kingdom of righteousness. Though differing in some respects from chapter 2 and chapter 7, chapter 8 has features in common with each of them. Chapter 8, like chapter 7 predicts political history through animal symbolism and predicts one of the greatest crises in the history of the God's people.

KEY PASSAGE: DANIEL CHAPTER 8

WHAT TO WATCH FOR



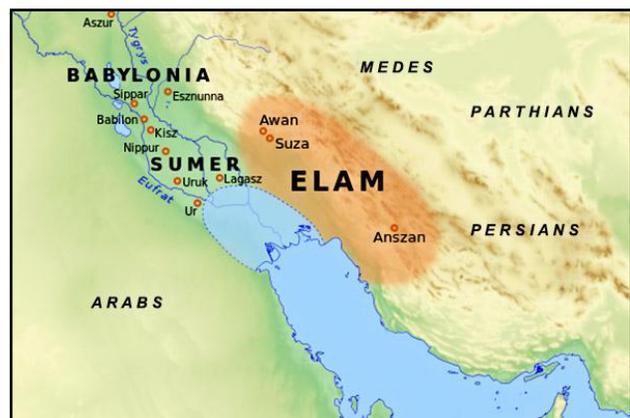
Notice the parallels between this chapter and chapters 2 and 7. Notice also another "little horn" in chapter 8 which is different from the "little horn" in chapter 7. Each horn comes out of a different kingdom, yet both bring calamity on God's people. In these chapters a horn represents someone having a lot of political or military power. Even though the interpretation is given in chapter 8 it does not reveal everything we'd like to know about it, but it does reveal precisely what God intended man to know.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Daniel has a vision of a two-horned ram with one horn longer than the other.
- ❖ He also sees a shaggy goat with one large horn moving swiftly across the whole earth.
- ❖ Another horn, which is small at first becomes greater and takes away the daily sacrifice

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Daniel's Vision of a Ram and a Goat (8:1-14)
 - A. The ram (8:1-4)
 - B. The goat (8:5-8)
 - C. The little horn (8:9-14)
- II. The Interpretation of the Vision (8:15-27)
 - A. Gabriel brings the interpretation (8:15-17)
 - B. The vision interpreted (8:18-26)
 - C. Daniel reaction (8:27)



BACKGROUND

Return of Jesus Christ					
"TIMES OF THE GENTILES" (Luke 21:24)					
(Future)					
Chapter 2	Head	Chest	Waist	Legs	10 Toes
Chapter 7	Lion	Bear	Leopard	4 th Beast	10 horns (+ little horn)
Chapter 8		Ram with two horns	Goat with horns and little horn		
Kingdom	Babylonian 606-539 BC	Medo-Persia 539-331 BC	Greek 331-146 BC	Roman 146 BC-AD 476	Revived Roman Kingdom

Sources: J. Dwight Pentecost, John Walvoord, Joyce Baldwin, Alan MacRae, G. Coleman Luck, Daymond Duck/Larry Richards

- Chapter 8 takes place during the third year of Belshazzar (ca. 551).
- Daniel is about 70 years old and sees himself in the citadel in Susa, beside the Ulai Canal, where he sees the vision of a ram and a goat.
- The ram with two horns represents the Medo-Persians (8:20). One horn was longer than the other (8:3) probably representing the shift in power from the Medes to the Persians.
- The goat represents Greece (8:21) with Alexander the Great most likely being represented by the conspicuous/great horn.
- In this context horns represent kings who have strong political and military power (Dan. 7:24).
- The goat attacked the ram viciously, shattering the two horns depicting Greece's conquering of the Medo-Persians.
- After the goat's great horn is broken, four more arise. These are most likely Alexander's four generals, each of whom receives a portion of the Greek Empire when he died.
- Out of one of these four horns came another horn (8:9) which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land (Palestine).
- Scholars believe this horn (8:9) and the "stern-faced king" (8:23) both apply to the Seleucid king Antiochus Epiphanes IV who reigned from 175-164/3 BC.
- He brought one of the greatest crises in the history of the God's people during his reign.

APPLICATION

This chapter forewarns the Jews in Babylon of a coming crisis but promises God's ultimate victory. How does this apply to Christians today?

NEXT STEP



- Read Daniel Chapter 9
- What do you notice about Daniel's prayer?
- Try to diagram the "70 weeks" described in Chapter 9 (20-27)

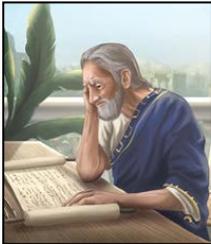
DANIEL

PART 9: THE 70 WEEKS OF DANIEL

Mike Tavor

www.TavorNotes.info

During the reign of Darius, the son of Xerxes, Daniel was reading the scriptures and realized that God was about to allow the Jewish captives to return to their land after 70 years (see Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10). Understanding now, that the 70-year captivity was a consequence of violating the Mosaic Covenant, Daniel prays on behalf of his people asking for God's mercy and forgiveness. Even though Daniel himself was a righteous person he identifies so strongly with his fellow Jews that he uses the word "we" instead of "they" when referring to their rebellious actions. In response to Daniel's prayer, Gabriel the archangel brings further clarification to Daniel's previous vision.



KEY PASSAGE: DANIEL CHAPTER 9

WHAT TO WATCH FOR



Notice how Daniel describes God as a loving covenant keeper. Daniel realizes why he and his fellow Jews were taken out of their Promised Land and made to live in a foreign pagan land. He clearly sees the connection with Deuteronomy 28 which describes the conditions of the Mosaic Covenant. Notice too how Daniel views himself as part of the covenant people, pleading for God's mercy... "we have sinned" he writes, not "they have sinned."

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Daniel's Prayer for His People (9:1-19)
 - A. The time of the prayer (9:1-2)
 - B. The confession of the prayer (9:3-15)
 - C. The request of the prayer (9:16-19)
- II. Gabriel Brings an Answer (9:20-23)
- III. The Prophecy of Seventy Weeks (9:24-27)

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Reading Jeremiah, Daniel discovers that the exile period is coming to an end
- ❖ Penitently he prays for his people, and that God would forgive them for violating the Mosaic Covenant
- ❖ Gabriel then comes and helps Daniel to understand there is more to his vision, one of "seventy weeks"



BACKGROUND

- This vision takes place during the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus (539 BC), about 11 years after the one in chapter 8. See Daniel 5:30.
- Daniel appears to be about 80 years old when this event takes place.
- While reading from Jeremiah, Daniel understands why the exile came upon the Jewish people, and he confesses his own sin and his people's sin, praying for God's forgiveness and mercy.
- His prayer contrasts God's righteousness and faithfulness to Daniel's people who have been so unfaithful.
- In response to his prayer for the restoration of Jerusalem, Daniel receives an angelic message and the prophecy of seventy weeks.

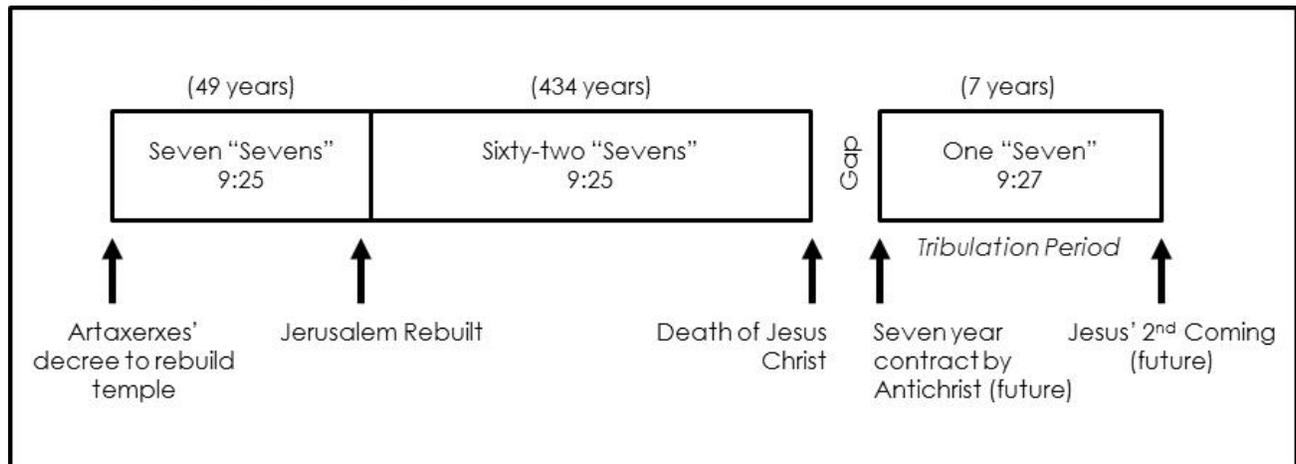


Figure 1: The 70 Weeks of Daniel¹

APPLICATION

From this vision, one can draw four application principles to modern Christians and to national Israel.

- 1) God is immanently involved with those who seek him.
- 2) God controls the past and the future.
- 3) God will ultimately judge evil.
- 4) The believer's hope is based on Christ's glorious return at the end of the seventy sevens.

NEXT STEP



- Read ahead, Chapters 10-12
- What do the prophecies in Daniel have in common?

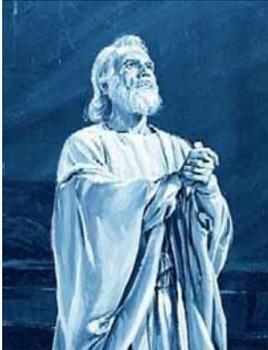
¹ This is one of several views of the "70 Weeks." The reader is encouraged to examine other views such as those described in the English Standard Version (ESV) translation. See also "Daniel's Vision of the Seventy Weeks," Michael D. Taylor. <www.TaylorNotes.Info>.

DANIEL

PART 10: THE VISION OF DISTRESS & DELIVERANCE

Mike Tavor

www.TavorNotes.info



Chapters 10 through 12 describe a single vision where Daniel was told about coming distresses of his people that must take place before their final deliverance. Realizing their seventy-year exile is about over Daniel prays for his people and in response God foretells of two great distresses that will take place before Israel's final deliverance.

KEY PASSAGES: DANIEL CHAPTERS 10-12

WHAT TO WATCH FOR



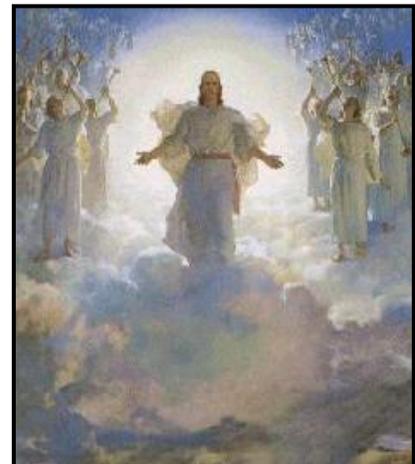
Notice how chapters 10-12 form one continuous passage. Chapter divisions were not put in until the thirteenth century so it is easy to be misled by unjustified chapter divisions. Amazing details are given about wars between the southern kings and northern kings that followed the death of Alexander the Great. The vision also appears to jump to an end time king who is especially powerful and defiant toward God and his people. Read the encouraging words at the end of chapter 12 which are the primary reason why this vision was given to Daniel and his people. Be sure to catch the purpose of this vision in 10:14.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Daniel's Vision of a Man (10:1-11:1)
- II. The Kings of the South and North (11:2-35)
 - a. Three kings, then a greater fourth king (11:2-4)
 - b. Kings of south vs. kings of north (11:5-35)
- III. The King Who Exalts Himself (11:36-45)
 - a. His description (11:36-39)
 - b. His destruction (11:40-45)
- IV. The End Times (12:1-13)
 - a. 3 ½ years of great distress (12:1-11)
 - b. Delivery at the end (12:12-13)

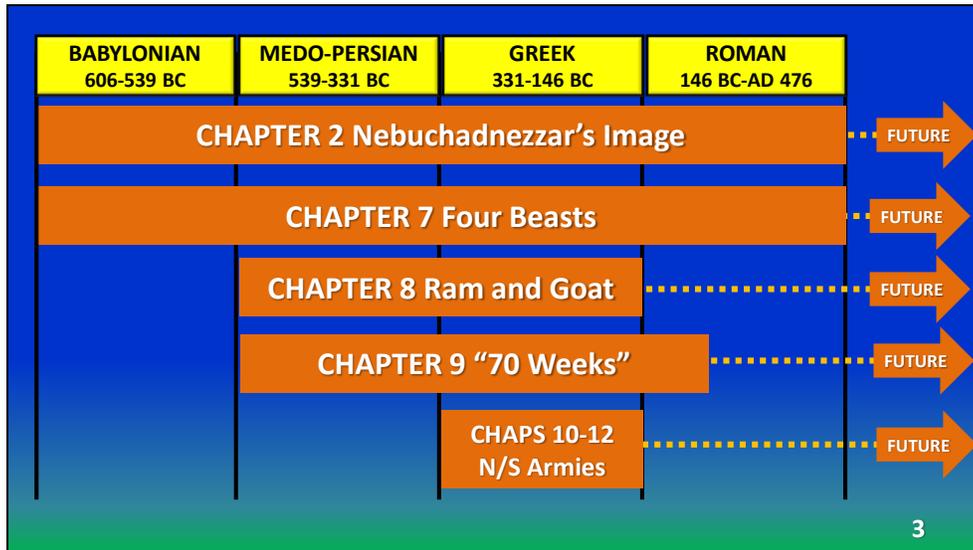
CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ This last vision of Daniel takes place during the reign of the Medo-Persian Empire
- ❖ Daniel is told of coming conflicts between kings of the south and kings of the north
- ❖ He is also told about a particular king who will exalt himself above God
- ❖ Finally, Daniel is warned of a future distress facing his people that is not like any before but a final deliverance will ultimately take place in the end times



BACKGROUND

- Chapters 10 through 12 focus on two traumatic times for Israel; one during the period of the Greek Empire, and the other a future Tribulation. See the diagram below.



- This vision describes amazing details about the struggles between the kings of the south (those who succeeded Ptolemy, one of Alexander the Great's generals), and the kings of the north, (those who succeeded Seleucus, another of Alexander's generals).
- Since Palestine was a "land bridge" between these north/south warring factions, it was often in harm's way
- The "man" described in 10:5-6 closely resembles Jesus Christ in Revelation 19:11-15; however, this is probably not Christ since this being was delayed by the prince of the kingdom of Persia for 21 days.
- The king in 11:36-45 may have been Antiochus Epiphanes IV, yet many Bible commentators see this as a double prophecy referring to the future Antichrist as well. Ultimately, Jesus will return.

WRAP UP: SIX WAYS TO APPLY DANIEL TO YOUR LIFE

	Scripture	Description	Application/Principle
1	Dan. 1:8	He didn't defile himself	Avoid harmful worldly practices.
2	Dan. 1:17	God gave knowledge and understanding	God will equip us to fulfill his purposes
3	Dan. 2:18	He urged his three friends to pray about a crisis	Establish friendships with those who will pray with us when we face problems
4	Dan. 2:19	Daniel praised God when his request was granted	Don't forget to praise God when he intervenes in your life
5	Dan. 6:10	Daniel prayed three times a day	Give prayer a high priority—build a strong relationship with God
6	Dan. 9:3-5	Daniel identified himself with his disobedient nation	We are to pray for our governmental leaders, and for our entire nation