MMBS – Daniel 8

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PENELOPE

Context
Language shift
- Daniel 1-2:4b (Hebrew), Daniel 2:4b – Daniel 7:28 (Aramaic), Daniel 8:1 – End (Hebrew).
- Timing Shift: 3rd Year of Belshazzar (539BC Persia conquered Babylon)

Daniel 8:1-2 Setting (MAP)

Daniel 8:3-14 The Vision
- What is the ram?
- What is the goat?
- 9-12 – What is the deal with the growing horn, stars, and sacrifices?
- 13-14 – Who is talking to whom?

Daniel 8:15-18 Nap Time

Daniel 8:19-26 Explanation and Interpretation
- Ram: Medes and the PERSIANS Charged West, North, South
- Goat: GREECE Charged East – quickly.
- Goat Horns: Common symbol for a ruler.
    - First horn: ALEXANDER THE GREAT
    - Four horns:
        - Macedonia
        - Kingdom of Pergamon
        - Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt
        - Seleucid Empire
            - Grows towards South, East, and “Beautiful Land”
            - Power climaxes at Antiochus IV Epiphanes
            - “Abomination of Desolation” leads to Maccabean Revolt
            - “He will be broken, not by human hands”
- 2,300 evenings and mornings – about 6 or 3 years.
    - Temple sacrifices were stopped for about 3 years.
- (Timeline)

Two Views on the Authorship of Daniel (Penelope/Penelope)
1. Written around 164 BC: Can’t be any later because of the Dead Sea Scrolls, can’t be any sooner and still have those details. [The author of Daniel is A LATER JEWISH AUTHOR]

2. Written at Daniel's command around 537 BC: Author is DANIEL, God knew and disclosed future events accurately.
    a. Why?? – God's SOVEREIGNTY gives hope to His people.

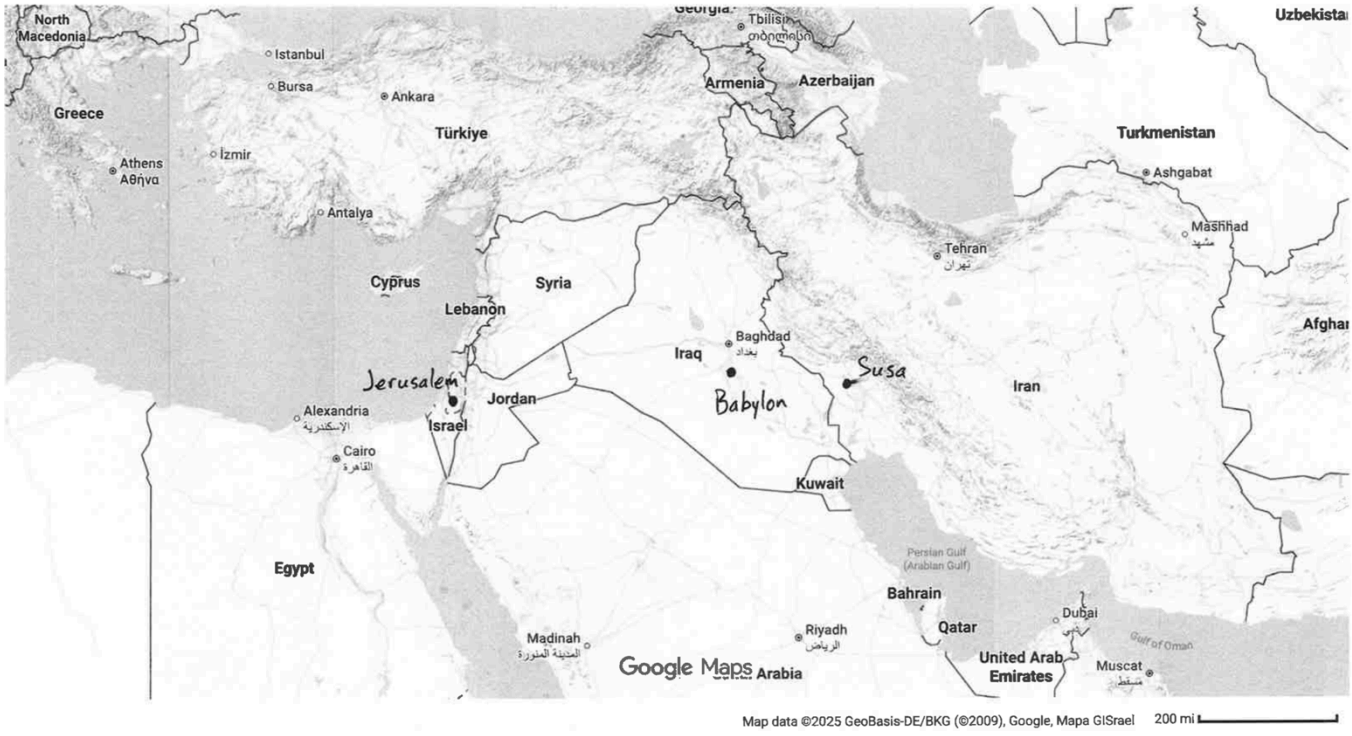
Application

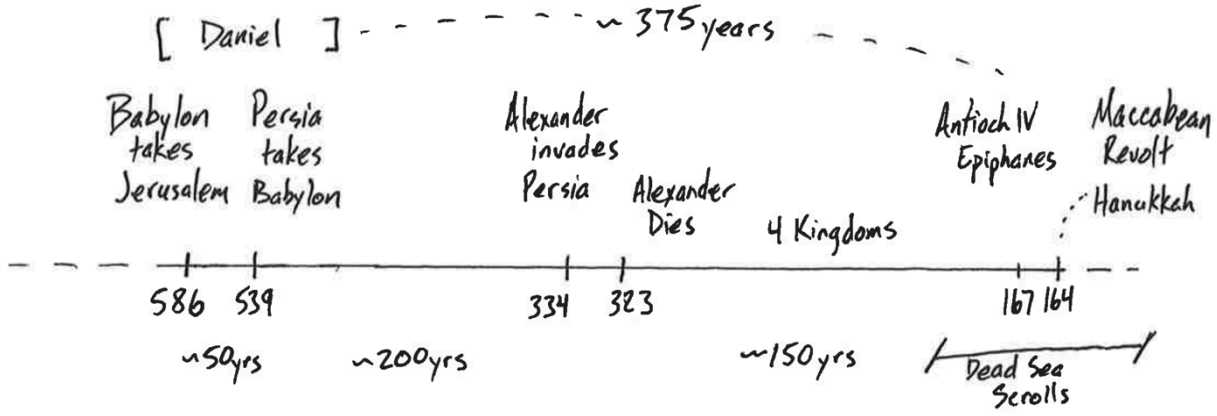
1. Penelope or Penelope? Which do you believe?
2. Assumptions shade analysis.
3. If God knows the future, and if He controls it, what does that mean for you?
    a. Hope: Matthew 6:26 "Consider the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you. Worth more than they?"
    b. Reverence: Matthew 10:28 "Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (….31 – so don't be afraid, you are worth more than many sparrows)
4. v.27 "I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was greatly disturbed by the vision and could not understand it."
    a. Matthew 22:37-40 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."
    b. Matthew 28:19 "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you."

Discussion

Do you have any examples from your own life where God's plan revealed itself in hindsight? A time when you thought things were doomed, but afterward saw God's hand all over it.

Where does this chapter land for you? "Way over my head, and I don't really care about history" or "Love this story of empires!"? Given your lean, what can you take away and apply in your life from this?


North Macedonia
Istanbul
Bursa
Ankara
Greece
Türkiye
Athens
Αθήνα
İzmir
Antalya
Cyprus
Syria
Lebanon
Jerusalem
Jordan
Israel
Alexandria
الإسكندرية
Cairo
القاهرة
Egypt
Madinah
المدينة المنورة
Riyadh
الرياض
Arabia
Tbilisi
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Iraq
Baghdad
بغداد
Babylon
Susa
Iran
Kuwait
Persian Gulf
(Arabian Gulf)
Bahrain
Qatar
Dubai
United Arab Emirates
Muscat
مسقط
Gulf of Oman
Turkmenistan
Ashgabat
Mashhad
مشهد
Tehran
تهران
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200 mi


[Daniel] - - - - - ~375 years - - - -
Babylon takes Jerusalem
Persia takes Babylon
Alexander invades Persia
Alexander Dies
4 Kingdoms
Antioch IV Epiphanes
Maccabean Revolt
Hanukkah
586
539
334
323
167
164
~50yrs
~200yrs
~150yrs
Dead Sea Scrolls