

The Major Prophets: Daniel

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Daniel Part 1 “Daniel and King Nebuchadnezzar”

Lesson Plan Chapter 1 "Daniel and his Friends are Captured by Babylon"

Opening Prayer

Introduction to Daniel (See handouts) *The book of Daniel is one of the most exciting and intriguing books of the bible. While shorter in length than Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, this book is packed with heroic stands, miracles of God, and prophetic dreams. It gives us insight into the depths of character of a man taken from his homeland, but yet was anointed to become a powerful influence in both the Babylonian and Persian Empires. His love for God was insatiable, his loyalty unmatched, and his wisdom and knowledge supernaturally given. He was given the title "One beloved of God."*

Introduce the Video: Who was this young man? Why was he so special? In this four session look at the Prophet Daniel, we will be taught by another very special Bible Character, Queen Esther! In the narrative, Esther explains some of her own story, as she teaches about Daniel, and his rise to power in the Persian Empire. This is the very same empire of King Xerxes, the husband of Esther! After watching each of the chapters of the video, discuss the video, and then fill out the worksheet. Be ready to share your greatest takeaway from each section.

Play the Video for Chapter 1: to 4:59

Questions: Chapter 1 "Daniel and his Friends are Captured by Babylon"

1. What character traits would you use to describe Daniel so far?
2. Daniel was "sent" to a place he did not want to go. What was his response? Has God ever taken you in your life to a place you did not want to go? Where was that? What was your response?
3. How might being obedient in the place God puts you give you new gifts needed to survive in that place and also to serve God there?
4. Daniel was sent to Babylon as a slave, but he remained bold and faithful. Then, God used this boldness to advance the four young men to a position of power and influence. What were the new gifts God gave to Daniel and his friends? (Knowledge and skill in literature, wisdom, and Daniel-understanding in visions and dreams.)
5. Why was it so important to God what his people ate?
6. God's law is above man's law to Daniel. How does that relate to our situation today?
7. What was Daniel's life like "pre-Babylon?" This is similar to "pre-Covid" for us. What would yours be like? How is it now different for Daniel and for you?
8. How did Daniel navigate living in a non-Jewish culture? The Babylonians believed in many gods. How is this similar/different than our culture today?
9. Was Daniel's "diet" a fast? Why or why not?
10. What was your greatest take away from Chapter 1?

Activity: Try going one day eating only water and vegetables. Be prepared to tell the group how it went!
Closure and Final Prayer: Remember to read Chapter 2 for next week.

Video Notes for Daniel Part 1

Introduction

- My Jewish name is actually Hadassah, which means “myrtle.” But I believe you may have heard of me under my Persian name, Esther, which actually means “Star”.
- By God’s amazing grace I was allowed to rise to the position of Queen of the Persian Empire, when I married my husband, King Xerxes
- Cyrus was the first king of the Medo-Persian Empire.
- My husband, Xerxes, was the fifth emperor of the Medo-Persian empire.
- This teaching, though, is about Daniel.

Chapter 1

Land of Judah, 605 BC

- Daniel was a young prince of Judah, living in the city of Jerusalem along with three of his friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.
- All of the young men were upper class nobles who were well-educated, and in the process of being trained to serve in the government of Judah, which was currently in the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim.
- Spiritually, the kingdom of Judah was in idolatry and decline. Politically, the country was on its last legs.
- General Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came up against Jerusalem and besieged it.
- In this first attack, he put the city under tribute to Babylon. As a bonus, he took many of the gold and silver articles from the Yahweh’s temple, and also, the young nobles... young men that he could train up to serve the Babylonian empire back home.
- Daniel and his friends were deported in the year 605 BC and put under the authority of the head eunuch in Babylon for three years of training.
- The food given to them violated the dietary regulations for God’s people that were outlined in the Torah.
- Bold Daniel, requested that the four of them were only given vegetables to eat!
- They could eat vegetables and drink water for 10 days, and then the chief eunuch would examine their appearance.
- The Jewish nobles appeared stronger and healthier than the other young men being trained!
- After three years, they were all brought before Nebuchadnezzar, who had now advanced to the position of king.
- Yahweh had given them knowledge, skill in literature and wisdom.
- Also, Daniel had been given the gift of understanding visions and dreams.
- After interviewing them, the king himself decided that none of the other young men could compare to those four! In the matters of wisdom and understanding, they were ten times better than the astrologers and magicians in his realm. So, they were chosen to serve before the king.

Lesson Plan for Daniel Chapter 2

Chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream.

Opening Prayer

Review Lesson 1

Introduce Chapter 2: Read the chapter out loud from the NKJV or KJV. Then, watch the video for chapter 2 and discuss the questions below. Next, be sure to fill out the portion of the worksheet that pertains to chapter 2 of Daniel. Finally, be sure to introduce the homework activity and spend time praying. Be sure to give the students a copy of the image of the statue found on the website. This is helpful to study while watching the video or reading the text.

Play Video: (4:59-8:21)

1. Compare and contrast Joseph's story and Daniel's. How are they similar? How are they different?
2. Daniel, like Joseph, takes matters to God in prayer. What was Daniel's first response to the revealing of the dream?
3. What does Daniel say before revealing the dream and interpretation to the king? Does this show pride or humility on Daniel's part?
4. Because he could reveal the dream, Daniel was promoted in the kingdom of Babylon.
5. Why did God give Nebuchadnezzar the dream? Who was the dream for? How much of this dream has already happened? What part is next? Why is this dream important to us now?
6. How do you think the "wise men" of Babylon, that is, the magicians, sorcerers, princes, military leaders, advisors, etc, felt about Daniel and his friends being promoted?
7. What was your greatest take away from Chapter 2?

Activity: Research how many times in the scriptures Jesus is referred to as a rock or a stone. Or, watch the attached video on the website.

Conclusion and Final Prayer: Make sure the women have written their titles and takeaways for each of the two sessions. If you would like, play one of the related videos shared on the website. For next week, read chapter 3.

Video Notes for Daniel Chapter Two

- One night about a year later, King Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing dream, so disturbing that he could not sleep.
- He called for all the wise men in his realm, demanding they not only give the interpretation of the dream, but the contents of the dream itself! He was so insistent that he declared that if they could **NOT** do as he requested, he would cut them in pieces and burn their homes.
- However, if they **could** reveal the dream and its meaning, they would receive gifts and great honor.
- When the king was reminded that what he had asked the wise men to do was humanly impossible, he became angry and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon, including our four young Jewish heroes.
- Wisely, Daniel then went into the king and asked him for time to pray.
- Daniel and his friends, pray, and God revealed the meaning of the dream to Daniel.
- Daniel immediately began to praise and thank God!
- Just like Joseph had done, so long ago, Daniel went to the king with the news, being careful to give credit to Yahweh for revealing the contents of the dream, and the interpretation. (2:1-24)
- “He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. It was revealed to me, not because I am wise myself, but for the sake of our lives, and also to answer the questions of your heart.” (2:30)
- Daniel went on to say, “The dream that was revealed was for the “latter days.”
- The head of gold represented himself. The God of heaven had given the king of Babylon a kingdom, power, strength, and glory.
- After him, another kingdom of silver would arise but would be inferior,
- and then another one, of bronze would also rule over all the earth.
- Looking back, We know now that these kingdoms represent the Persian kingdom,(of which I was queen) and also the Greeks. After that, there would be an iron kingdom-- the Romans. That kingdom would be as strong as iron!
- That kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. In later years, that kingdom will be divided. And-just like the feet were a mixture of iron and clay, so too that kingdom will be partly strong and partly fragile.
- It will always be divided. In the days of these last kings, God will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. It will consume the other parts of the statue, consuming the other kingdoms, and stand forever. We know now, it will be the kingdom of Messiah!

At this, King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face before Daniel and declared that truly Daniel's God was the God of Gods! The king honored Daniel, gave him many great gifts, and promoted him to ruler over the whole province of Babylon and also chief administrator of all the wise men! The king even gave promotions to his three friends, too! But Daniel, Daniel had risen to celebrity status!

Daniel Chapter 3 “The Fiery Furnace”

Opening Prayer

Review Chapters 1 and 2: Daniel taken to Babylon, and The Statue.

Have the students read what they wrote for chapter 2 on their sheets. Also discuss the homework question: What does Daniel 2:43 mean ?

Introduce Chapter 3 Video: What happens when we encounter situations in life that require us to go against God’s law? Here is another example of faith in action, this time, the stakes are higher, or at least more visible. As you watch the video, think about a time that you may have walked with God in a “fiery furnace.”

Play Video Chapter 3: The Fiery Furnace (8:21-11:29) If time watch the supplemental video found on the website.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Daniel is not present in this story?
2. The three Jewish men did not obey the king/government when it went against' God's law. Was God happy about that? Why or why not? What should we do?
3. Who did God send to help the three friends of Daniel? How do we know? (Theophany)
4. Jesus saves us from a fiery judgment as well. How is the way Jesus “saves” them different from the way he saves us?
5. Name the many parts of this miracle.
6. After declaring that God was the greatest God in Chapter 2, why do you think Nebuchadnezzar built the statue in Chapter 3?
7. Who are the villains in the story? How can you tell this event may have been deliberately planned by enemies of the three men?
8. If the book of Daniel was written for us in the last days, what is it God wants us to know? Is the plight of Daniel’s three friends similar to what is happening in culture today? Why or why not?
9. Has God ever walked with you in the fiery furnace? Tell what happened.
10. What was your greatest take away from Chapter 3?

Fill out the worksheet for Chapter 3 before continuing.

Conclusion and Final Prayer: Make sure the students have written their titles and takeaways for each of the three sessions. For next week, read chapter 4.

Homework Activity: What is the Talmud? See if you can find out!

Video Notes for Chapter 3

- Nebuchadnezzar's decided to build a gold statue.
 - The king sent out invitations to all his officials to attend the dedication of the statue.
 - At a given moment, everyone was required to bow down to the gold image.
 - Whoever would not bow down, would be thrown into the fiery furnace!
 - Some of the Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews of misconduct.
 - The king became very angry. But, the men refused to bow.
 - At this news, the king became truly furious toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He told the guards to heat the furnace seven times hotter!!
 - The fire was SO hot, that the guards themselves were killed as they carried out their orders. After a time, the king, becoming curious about their fate, looked into the furnace.
 - Behold! The men were walking, unbound, in the furnace! Not only that, there was a fourth man, whom the king called, Bar elahin, or "Son of God" Yeshua, Jesus, was walking there with them!
 - When the King called to the men to come out, they walked out, unaffected! Their hair was not singed, nor their bodies burned! Even their clothes were unaltered, and they did not smell of smoke in the least!
-
- The King was so overwhelmed with this miracle that he made a decree that no one could speak against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!
 - The three "miracle men" were then promoted in the kingdom!
-
- Where was Daniel through all of this? No one knows!
 - However, the plot formed by the enemies of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego was thwarted, and what was meant for evil, God used for good!

Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream (11:29- end)

Opening Prayer

Review Chapters 1-3: Daniel and his friends, Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the statue, The Fiery Furnace
Read something you wrote on your summary sheet from last time. Also, research results! What is the Talmud?

Introduce the Chapter: In Chapter Four, possibly 10 years later, Nebuchadnezzar has another dream. Again, Daniel is called upon to interpret the dream. The purpose of this dream? The King's pride... and his salvation! As we read the chapter aloud, note any questions you might have.

Play Video: 11:29-end. Also, Supplemental Video from the Website.

Group Discussion:

1. What is your greatest take away from this chapter?
2. In your opinion, will we see King Nebuchadnezzar in heaven? Why or why not?
3. According to the Talmud, Daniel is the one who cared for Nebuchadnezzar during this time. Why do you think this "God Assignment" was given to him?
4. What was God trying to teach Nebuchadnezzar?
5. What do you think the other wise men in Babylon thought of this "proclamation?"
6. How does this experience Nebuchadnezzar had relate to America today?
7. The king was given 7 years of insanity. Was this a punishment or a blessing? Why or why not?
8. What was happening back in Jerusalem during this time? What was happening with Ezekiel?

Conclusion and Final Prayer: Make sure the women have written their titles and takeaways for each of the four sessions. For next week, read chapter 7.

Video Notes Chapter 4

The next event in Daniel's life is actually written on a scroll by King Nebuchadnezzar himself.

- It was written as an edict, which meant it would have gone all over the empire in 562 BC.
- A foreign king actually writes a chapter of the bible!

The Dream:

- The king was sitting at rest in his palace, when he had another dream
- , he called the wise men of Babylon to interpret the dream, but none of them could do it.
- Finally, Daniel entered.
- By this time, Daniel was referred to as, "the master of the magicians."
- He gingerly went on to tell the dream and interpretation, which was strange indeed.
- It told of a great "tree" (the king himself) who was growing tall and prospering, bearing fruit, and providing a home for many animals.
- However, an angel, which was called a "watcher" came down from heaven, and cut down the tree (the king) , shaking its leaves and scattering its fruit.
- Only a stump of its roots was left. The interpretation?

- The king would be changed into a beast and would live that way for seven years, tied to a tree, and living in the grass of the field.
- Daniel relayed that Yahweh wished to humble Nebuchadnezzar, reminding him that HE was the one who had given him his kingdom!
- The king would remain that way until he knew that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.
- His kingdom would be restored to him after he came to know that Heaven rules.
- Daniel advised the king that a humble attitude might change his future. He encouraged him, “ Be righteous, show mercy to the poor! The dream may possibly be a warning.”

One Year Later:

- One year went by and the king forgot about the dream.
- He said this. “Is this not **Great Babylon**, that **I** have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of **My** power, and for the honor of **MY** majesty?”
- While the words were still in his mouth, God reminded him of the dream.
- Within an hour, the king had been transformed into a beast.
- His hair grew like feathers, and his nails became as bird’s claws. He ate grass as oxen, and was hidden from men. (33)
- It is said that Daniel, himself, took care of the king during that time, but no one knows for sure
- .However, just as Yahweh had foretold, the king lifted up his eyes to heaven after seven years, and blessed the Lord of Heaven.
- He finally praised Yahweh, who lives forever!
- After this experience with God, Nebuchadnezzar was never the same.
- He had learned his lesson! He testified of God’s glory and power, his ways of truth, and ability to discipline the proud.
- He was completely restored back to his right mind and body, and reinstated as monarch over the kingdom for one more year.
- At his death, his son, Evil-Merodach (what a name!) became king in 562 BC. (2 Kings 25:27)

Conclusion:

- During the lifetime of King Nebuchadnezzar much happened to my people, Israel. The captives who had been taken by the Babylonians during the three sieges of Jerusalem were settling into life in Babylon now.
- Mordecai’s great-great grandfather Kish and Ezekiel the prophet, along with the group of exiles living by the Chebar River, were hanging on to hope, as were other pockets of Jewish people settled in other places across the realm.
- Our people had been told by the prophet Jeremiah in a letter, that the Jewish remnant would be in Babylon for 70 years.
- They were not surprised when Jerusalem fell in 586 BC. The country was gone.
- But the captives had hope! This hope would be realized 24 years after the death of King Nebuchadnezzar, shortly after the Persians defeated Babylon.
- But what would become of Daniel? Be sure to come back for Section 2: Daniel and Belshazzar!

Chapter 5 “The Writing on the Wall”

Opening Prayer

Review: Section 1, Chapters 1-4, Section 2, Daniel’s 2 Dreams. (The Four Beasts, The Ram and the Goat)

Introduce Chapter 5: Give historical background. Read Chapter 5 out loud.

Play Video Lesson: (10:33- end)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was Belshazzar having a party? Who was there? What were they doing that offended God? What would that be the equivalent of today?
2. Why did the mysterious hand appear on the wall?
3. What do you think is going through Daniel's mind during this event and afterward?
4. The Medes and Persians walked right into Babylon and took it without a fight. Why was this good for the Jewish remnant?
5. Who was Darius the Mede?
6. What do you believe caused the fall of the Babylonian Empire?
7. Why do you think God bothered to write on the wall and give Belshazzar a warning? Who was the message really for?

Conclusion: If God were to write something on your wall, what would it be? If there is time, play the videos included on the web page. Be sure to close with prayer.

Next Week: Chapter 6

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Video Notes for Daniel Chapter 5

The Banquet

- 12 years later, Daniel is 81
- Belshazzar, made a great feast for 1000 of his lords.
- As he tasted the wine, he gave the orders to bring out the gold and silver vessels which his grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem almost 70 years ago, so that his guests might drink from them.
- Right in the middle of the banquet, fingers of a man's hand appeared and began to write a message on the plaster of the wall!
- None of the king's wise men could read it!
- But then, the queen hurried into the banquet hall.
- Most likely, Belshazzar's mother. She reminded Belshazzar about Daniel!

Daniel Enters

- Daniel was brought before the king and proceeded to give him a message from Yahweh.
- The young king, God said, had not humbled his heart before Him.
- Belshazzar should have known to honor Yahweh, because he had had the benefit of learning from what his grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar, had testified.
- He also had angered God, because in his pride, he had brought out the sacred vessels from the temple in Jerusalem and used them as drinking vessels for his party.
- Finally, Daniel interpreted the message of the writing.
- "Belshazzar, your number is up! I have judged you, and you have been found wanting. Your kingdom will be divided and given to the Medes and the Persians." (Dan 5:25-28)
- Indeed this message from Yahweh came true.
- That very night, while the banquet was going on, King Cyrus' army, under the direction of his general, diverted the river that circled the city of Babylon like a moat.
- The army of Persia walked right into Babylon and took the city by surprise and without a fight.
- King Cyrus himself arrived seventeen days later, on October 12, 539 BC.
- Daniel was there to meet him of course!
- He presented King Cyrus with a scroll of Isaiah 45, written 150 years earlier.

- Isaiah's prophecy named Cyrus as the king who would allow the people of Yahweh to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

Conclusion

- Cyrus, the king of the newly united Medo-Persian Empire, was stirred in his heart by the words of Yahweh!
- The first great beast of Daniel's vision, the great lion with wings, was no more. The Babylonian Empire had fallen.
- How excited the Jewish exiles must have been, when they learned that the name of their new Persian emperor was Cyrus!
- It was only a short time until their 70 years of captivity would be over, and they would be allowed to go home!
- The words of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, as well as other prophets had come true, and were continuing to light the path of the Jewish remnant into the future, stirring them with hope.
- Don't miss the end of Daniel's narrative!
- Next week we will find out what happened to Daniel during the rise of the Persian Empire!

Lesson Plan for Chapter Six: Daniel in the Lion's Den!

Opening Prayer

Review of Chapters 1-5, 7 and 8 Fill in Review Papers, Go over antichrist worksheet

Introduce Chapter 6: Trivia quiz... what do we already know?

Play Video Number 3: (0-8:33) If time, play the video on the website.

Group Discussion Questions:

1. What one thing stood out to you the most about this lesson?
2. How would you describe the relationship between King Darius and Daniel?
3. Oftentimes, people are jealous of the successes of others, even within the church. Have you ever experienced that? Tell what happened. How would you counsel Daniel in this situation? How would you counsel his coworkers who were jealous, especially if they were all members of the same church?
4. Why do you think Daniel did not choose to pray in private after this decree?
5. Why was King Darius "stuck" in this situation? Do you think he really wanted to throw Daniel into the lion's den?
6. How did Daniel know that God would save him from the Lions?
7. How did God receive glory in this situation?
8. What might it mean to be known as a person that "serves God continually?"
9. What might be the equivalent of being thrown into the Lion's Den today?
10. Have you ever felt like you are in the "Lion's Den?"
11. How does this scenario foreshadow the death and resurrection of Christ?

Closure and Final Prayer: Pray for God to shut the mouths of the Lions in our own lives.

Next Week! Chapter 9!

Video Notes for Chapter 6:

Introduction:

- Seventy years passed, from the first deportation of the Jewish exiles to Babylon, until the Persian emperor, Cyrus, invaded Babylon in 538 BC
- Daniel was still there in the palace, now 83 years old
- Jeremiah had predicted it would be 70 years of captivity and the time was nearly up.

The Captives Return:

- Daniel greeted the new conqueror, and presented King Cyrus with a scroll of Isaiah 45, written 150 years earlier.
- This scroll named Cyrus as the king who would allow the people of Yahweh to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple!
- Cyrus, the king of the newly united Medo-Persian Empire, was very moved by the words of God! In that same year, King Cyrus, stirred by the spirit of Yahweh, sent out a proclamation.
- The Jews were going home! Just as Jeremiah had written.
- And they were to rebuild the temple! Under the direction of Joshua, the high priest, and Zerubbabel, the Jewish governor, approximately 50,000 of God's people chose to return to their homeland with the full blessing of the emperor, along with the original gold and silver articles from the temple. (Ezra 1-4)

Why Didn't Daniel Return?

- Whatever the reason, Daniel was not among the returning exiles. Miraculously, he was chosen to serve as a leading official in the Persian Empire as a man of high status and influence.
- At this point in time, a man named Darius, a Mede, was set up as "king of Babylon" by the Persian emperor Cyrus. Cyrus had purposely married the daughter of the Median King to unite the two peoples.
- Placing a Mede in charge of this portion of his realm was a politically correct thing to do!
- In your day they are called the Kurds. And the Persians are the modern-day Iranians.

Daniel's New Job

- Because the Persian empire was very expansive at this time, the former Babylonian empire was divided into provinces and ruled by 120 princes.
- Daniel was named as one of three governors, who were the overseers of these princes. In fact, he was named the most preferred one!
- What a miracle! Daniel, who had slipped into obscurity under the reign of Belshazzar of Babylon, was now in a high ranking position in the Medo-Persian Empire.
- The reason? "He had an excellent spirit in him!"

The Plot

- As often happens when an extremely competent servant of Yahweh works under the Lord's anointing, the other governors and princes around him became jealous and envious of Daniel.
- These envious men who despised Daniel were both of Chaldean and Persian descent, and they resented the influence and power this "exile of Judah" held over them.
- Secretly, they concocted a plot to bring down Daniel.
- The princes proposed, --"ALL of us are in agreement about this wonderful idea! We desire to make a royal statute, and make a decree, that whoever shall pray to any God or man for 30 days, except you, Oh King, shall be cast into the den of lions."
- Foolishly taken in by their scheming, Darius signed the decree.
- In the Persian Empire, decrees were not allowed to be altered or canceled. They were law, and even the king himself could not change it.

Daniel's Response

- Daniel prayed in front of an open window facing east toward Jerusalem, as was his custom according to the Torah (2 Chronicles 6:36-39).
- Daniel always prayed to Yahweh this way, three times a day, and the princes knew it!
- Daniel was immovable. He continued to pray as he had done before.
- What a challenge! He must have known this plot was created to destroy him, yet he prayed on and walked right into the battle.
- At the first opportunity, Daniel was spied praying by the princes, and of course they immediately tattled to the king.
- Darius, who loved Daniel, was determined to deliver him, but nothing could be done! He blamed himself for being tricked, but it was too late.

King Darius' Response

- As the king prepared to cast Daniel into the lion's den, he encouraged him. "Thy God, whom thou serves continually, he will deliver you!"
- King Darius, himself, proclaimed faith in Daniel's God! He believed God was going to deliver Daniel.
- After the king sealed the tomb, he went home and fasted
- In the early morning, as the king rushed to the tomb, he called to Daniel, "Oh Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God able to deliver you from the lions?"
- Amazingly, Daniel answered him from the lion's den. "O, King, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before him. I have done no wrong before you!"
- The king could hardly contain his joy, as Daniel was taken out of the den. Then, he commanded that Daniel's accusers and their families were to be thrown into the den, instead.
- This time, they were immediately destroyed by the lions! Darius, amazed at the miracle, sent out a decree to the entire realm, extolling the living God, and testifying that Yahweh had saved Daniel from the lions! After this, Daniel prospered under the reign of Darius the Mede, and King Cyrus, the Persian Emperor.

Lesson Plan for Chapter 7: Belshazzar's Dream of the Four Beasts (0-5:44)

Opening Prayer

Review Section 1; “Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar” Chapters 1-4. Go over the summaries for each of the four lessons.

Introduce Section 2: Who was Belshazzar? Go over the family tree of Nebuchadnezzar. Then, go over the timeline listed on the web page. Have the students consider the question... how was this dream of Daniel’s similar/different to Nebuchadnezzar’s first dream. What is God saying to us today?

Look for information God gives us about antichrist in this vision!

Play Video 2: Part 1 (Chapter 7)

Discussion Questions for Chapter 7:

1. What were the four beasts in the dream? Where did they come from? What did they represent? How do we know?
2. Why did the lion have wings? What does it mean that this first beast was given a "man's heart?"
3. The bear had three ribs in his mouth. What does this represent? Why was the bear unbalanced?
4. The leopard had four heads. What other characteristics were given for the leopard?
5. Why was the fourth beast so different? What kind of teeth did it have?
6. What does the 11th horn on the last beast represent? What did this "little horn" do?
7. How did this dream enhance or validate King Nebuchadnezzar's dream?
8. How does this vision from Daniel 7 give us more information about the antichrist? What are the new things we learned?
9. Who is the "Ancient of Days?" What books were opened? Who is God judging in this dream?
10. The last beast loses his power not by conquest, but by divine judgment. Why is it important that we know that now?
11. Since this dream is similar to Nebuchadnezzar's dream, why do you think God gave it to us?
12. Who is the "son of man?" How is the end of this vision similar/different than Nebuchadnezzar's first dream?
13. Were "the saints" Christians or Jews? How do we know?

Going Further Homework:

1. Read Hosea 13:7-8. Knowing what you know now, how do you interpret these verses?
2. Read Revelation 13:2 Is this the same as Daniel's fourth beast? Why or Why not?
3. What can we learn about Jesus from this chapter? (List)
- 4.. What can we learn about the coming world leader/antichrist? (List)

Conclusion: Spend time recording your thoughts from this lesson on your worksheet. Next week we will go on to another vision, Chapter 8.

Closing Prayer

Timeline Events:

605 BC Daniel Taken in First Siege to Babylon

604 BC Nebuchadnezzar's First Dream

597 BC Ezekiel Taken in Second Siege to Babylon

586 BC Jeremiah presides over the death of Judah and Jerusalem, the country falls to Babylon after the third Siege

562 BC. Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream

561 BC Nebuchadnezzar becomes insane

554 BC Nebuchadnezzar is well, and is reinstated as king

562 BC Nebuchadnezzar dies. His son, Evil Merodach becomes king

559 Neriglissar (son in law) takes throne in army coup

555 Another coup, and Neriglissar's son takes the throne, he loses it to another son in law, Nabonidus

553 Nabonidus takes the throne, leads army to Northern Arabia, puts his son Belshazzar as co-regent in Babylon

539 BC King Cyrus takes Babylon for Persia, Babylon Falls and Belshazzar is killed

Daniel Chapter 7: Video Notes

Introduction:

- When Mordecai and I would go through the scrolls written by Daniel, I am amazed at how close he was to God, and at the detailed visions he was given
- His writing very accurately predicted the history of the gentile empires that ruled and reigned in the Middle East, before Messiah and beyond,
- Yeshua himself quoted from the book of Daniel and called him a prophet!

Chapter 7

- When King Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 BC there was a great scramble for power, and the throne.
- The king had one son and 2 daughters. His son, Evil Merodach, ruled for 2 years, but was overthrown by an army coup led by Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law, Neriglissar!
- It was not long until he was ousted, and **his** son also tried to reign.
- But after two months of wrangling, the **second** son-in-law of Nebuchadnezzar, named Nabonidus, ended up with the throne.
- Nabonidus was a military leader, who then led his army to Northern Arabia.
- Because he was absent most of the time, he decided to allow his own son, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, to share the throne with him.
- So this is how the young king, Belshazzar, came to be a co-regent of Babylon in 553 BC, just nine years after the death of his maternal grandfather.
- In the meantime, Daniel, was now 67 years old, in the first year of Belshazzar, (7:1)
- Daniel had an amazing vision by night. Because it was so significant, he immediately recorded the details. (7)

Beast 1

- In his vision, the Great Sea, or Mediterranean Sea, was churned by the action of the four winds, or spirits.
- Four beasts rose up out of the sea.
- The first beast, was like a lion with eagle's wings.
- The winged lion was carved onto the gates of Babylon! The first beast must represent the Babylonian Empire!

Beast 2

- The second beast was like a bear. It raised itself onto one side and it had 3 ribs in the teeth of it.
- The "unbalanced" bear represented the blending of two nations to create one empire, the Medo-Persian empire!
- The three ribs in the bear's mouth were the three empires the Persians had taken: Babylon, Egypt, and Lydia.

Beast 3

- The third beast looked like a leopard, with 4 bird wings on it's back. The beast also had 4 heads, and it had been given a dominating power.

- This beast represented the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great!
- Coming from the west, he conquered all the known world at that time.
- When he died, the empire was divided among his four top generals.

Beast 4

- The final beast resembled a scary monster more than an animal that we were acquainted with.
- The beast was dreadful, and terrible, and had great iron teeth.
- It had ten horns and was trampling everything it came in contact with underfoot. These ten horns were ten kings.
- As Daniel watched, a little horn began to grow, and as it did, three of the first horns, or kings, were plucked out by the roots, or conquered by the little horn.
- The little horn had eyes like a man, and was speaking pompous words against God.
- Again, we know now that this beast represented the Roman Empire.
- This “Roman Empire” is still powerful, in different forms, on the earth in your day, and this vision represents what will happen in the future.
- The “little horn” was making war against the saints and winning.
- You call this powerful leader the antichrist.
- During the last days, he will try to change the times and the law. For 3 ½ years, he will wage war against the saints of God and win!

Ancient of Days

- After seeing the four beasts, Daniel was given a glimpse into the heavenly court..
- Thrones were being put in place.
- The Ancient of Days, all in white, was seated on a throne of flames; it's wheels were burning fire!
- Thousands were around the throne, ministering to the Lord.
- The court was seated and the books were opened!
- This final beast was slain, and its body destroyed and burned.
- The other three beasts had their dominion taken away, but were allowed to live for a season and a time.

Jesus Returns

- As Daniel watched, the Son of Man came on the clouds of heaven!
- Yeshua, the Messiah! His kingdom was given glory, dominion and power over all peoples, nations, and languages forever!
- Yeshua's Kingdom was given to the saints of the Most High.
- His kingdom is to be an everlasting kingdom, and all nations shall serve and obey Him. (7:27)
- As Daniel came out of the vision, his thoughts troubled him regarding it, but he kept the matter in his heart.

Chapter 7B: Belshazzar's Dream of the Four Beasts (0-5:44)

Opening Prayer and Song (Blooms)

Review Section 1: Review chapters 1-4, also Belshazzar's Family tree.(See timeline below.)

Review again the pictures of the 4 beasts, and the empires that they represent. (2 pictures).

Discussion Questions for Chapter 7:

1. What were the four beasts in the dream? Where did they come from? What did they represent? How do we know?
2. Why did the lion have wings? What does it mean that this first beast was given a "man's heart?"
3. The bear had three ribs in his mouth. What does this represent? Why was the bear unbalanced?
4. The leopard had four heads. What other characteristics were given for the leopard?
5. Why was the fourth beast so different? What kind of teeth did it have?
6. What does the 11th horn on the last beast represent? What did this "little horn" do?
7. How did this dream enhance or validate King Nebuchadnezzar's dream?
8. How does this vision from Daniel 7 give us more information about the antichrist? What are the new things we learned? (Make a list.)
9. Who is the "Ancient of Days?" What books were opened? Who is God judging in this dream?
10. The last beast loses his power not by conquest, but by divine judgment. Why is it important that we know that now?
11. Since this dream is similar to Nebuchadnezzar's dream, why do you think God gave it to us?
12. Who is the "son of man?" How is the end of this vision similar/different than Nebuchadnezzar's first dream?
13. Were "the saints" Christians or Jews? How do we know?

After discussing Chapter 7, Go over the following:

1. Read Hosea 13:7-8. Knowing what you know now, how do you interpret these verses?
2. Read Revelation 13 part 1: Is this the same as Daniel's fourth beast? Why or Why not? (see video)

3. What can we learn about Jesus from this chapter?

4.. What can we learn about the coming world leader/antichrist? (List)

Conclusion: Spend time recording your thoughts from this lesson on your worksheet. Next week we will go on to another vision, Chapter 8.

Closing Prayer

Timeline Events:

605 BC Daniel Taken in First Siege to Babylon

604 BC Nebuchadnezzar's First Dream

597 BC Ezekiel Taken in Second Siege to Babylon

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553 Nabonidus takes the throne, leads army to Northern Arabia, puts his son Belshazzar as co-regent in Babylon

553 Daniel's First Dream of the 4 beasts

551 Daniel's Second Dream– The Ram and the Goat

539 BC King Cyrus takes Babylon for Persia, Babylon Falls and Belshazzar is killed

Lesson Plan for Daniel Chapter 8

Opening Prayer

Review: Chapters 1-7, Go over the diagram from Chapters 2 and 7, also review briefly Rev. 13.

Introduce Chapter 8: Daniel speaks in first person, writes in Hebrew. Show pictures of the River Ulai. Where is it?

Play Video Chapter 8: (5:44-10:33) and Part 1 of Video on Web page. (8:00)

Read the text of Chapter 8 out loud. As you read the text, get volunteers to act out the story.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the two animals named in Chapter 8?
2. What do each of these represent? How do we know? What do the horns represent? What do the animals represent?
3. If this vision is for the "end times" could this vision represent another war between Persian (Iran) and Turkey? Why or why not?
4. Alexander's Empire was divided by Alexander's Generals into four parts. This era is known as the Greek Empire. Who was the most infamous ruler over Judea during this time?
5. What can be learned about Antichrist from studying Antiochus Epiphanes IV? Add these things to our list from last week.
6. Who is it that interprets the vision for Daniel?
7. How do we know this prophecy is still yet to be fulfilled? Why do you think God gave this vision to Daniel? To us?

Closure and Final Prayer Next Week: Chapter 5!!! The Writing on the Wall!

Homework: Be sure to read Chapter 5 in the Missler Book!

Video Notes: Daniel Chapter 8

Introduction:

- Daniel had another vision two years after the one in Chapter 7.
- It was very similar to the first one, but gave more details.
- Daniel was taken in a dream to the palace in Shushan, in the province of Elam, by the river Ulai.(8:1)
- In physical terms, this is like being transported from Iraq to Iran.
- Susa is 230 miles east of Babylon
- Later, Susa was the main residence of the Persian kings, including Darius and also Xerxes, Esther's husband.

The Ram

- In his vision, there was a ram and a goat.
- The ram, representing the guardian spirit of the Persian Empire, had two horns.
- They were both high on its head, but one was higher than the other. (Remember, the Medes and the Persians blended to create the Medo-Persian Empire..the bear of the first vision....)
- This ram was pushing from the River Ulai in Persia to the west and north and south.
- King Xerxes, was the leader of a great western campaign of the Persian army!
- Actually, **he** was the higher horn on the head of the ram!
- Xerxes wanted to expand the Persian empire into Greece, and the rest of Europe, but he was defeated at Thermopylae.
- The entire Persian fleet was destroyed by the Greeks.

The Goat

- The male goat with one large horn, (who was figuratively the same beast as the leopard in the first dream,) represented the Greeks and Alexander the Great.
- The one-horned goat had long been the symbol for the ancient Macedonians.
- Their army seemed to be moving so fast toward the Persian attack, that their feet did not even touch the ground! The goat (The Greek army) decimated the "Ram" (The Persian Army) and he was trampled down.
- The Single Horn on the Goat, Alexander the Great, died in the city of Babylon at the age of 32.
- Alexander's kingdom was then divided among his four generals
- In the vision, Daniel saw the single horn(Alexander) break, and four notable horns rise up, representing his 4 generals.
- In the dream, the most notable of those "horns"or generals,(Selucus) grew strongly toward the south, east, and the land of Judah and Israel.
- While in Judea, this leader supernaturally rose up to heaven, and took with him some of the host of heaven!

- He exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host.
- By him, the daily sacrifice was taken away, the sanctuary of Yahweh was desecrated, and he cast truth to the ground. He did all this and prospered.
- He was allowed by God to do this for 2300 evenings and mornings. (6 years and 140 days)

The “Little Horn”

- One of Alexander’s Generals, Selucid, was given Syria, and the lands east to India.
- One infamous Selucid emperor, Antiochus IV, known by the Hebrews as “the madman” came into power and defeated Egypt.
- He called himself, “The Illustrious One.”
- While in Jerusalem, he did much harm to the Jewish people.
- He stopped the daily sacrifices, profaned the Sabbaths and feasts, and forced them to follow foreign customs in the land.
- Altars for idol worship were built, and were used for unclean animals, including pigs.
- In a sense, he was trying to totally change their culture. Anyone who would not comply would be killed.
- In fact, it was about 61/2 years that Antiochus ruled Jerusalem, before the Jews were able to overthrow him and drive out the Syrian army.
- Judas Maccabeus, a Jewish priest, led the rebellion and took back the temple. They cleansed the temple and rededicated it after its desecration.
- The Jews still celebrate this event at Hanukkah.

Gabriel Explains the Vision

- An angel in human form appeared to Daniel. It was Gabriel!
- Gabriel was to explain the vision to Daniel.
- The vision was for the time of the end!
- This prophecy seemed to be fulfilled once already by Antiochus IV
- It will be fulfilled again in the very last days.
- In those coming days, a king will arise who understands sinister schemes! He will be mighty, but not by his own power. He will destroy the mighty on earth and also God’s people, Israel.
- He will cause deceit to prosper under his rule. Full of pride, he will destroy the prosperous on the earth, and rise against Jesus, Yeshua, himself.
- His power will be broken by God, not man.
- And the vision of 2300 days will be true! Again!
- Then, Daniel was told to seal up the vision. It was for many days into the future.

Lesson Plan for Daniel Chapter 9

Opening Prayer

Review Chapters 1-8, Last week, the Lion's Den

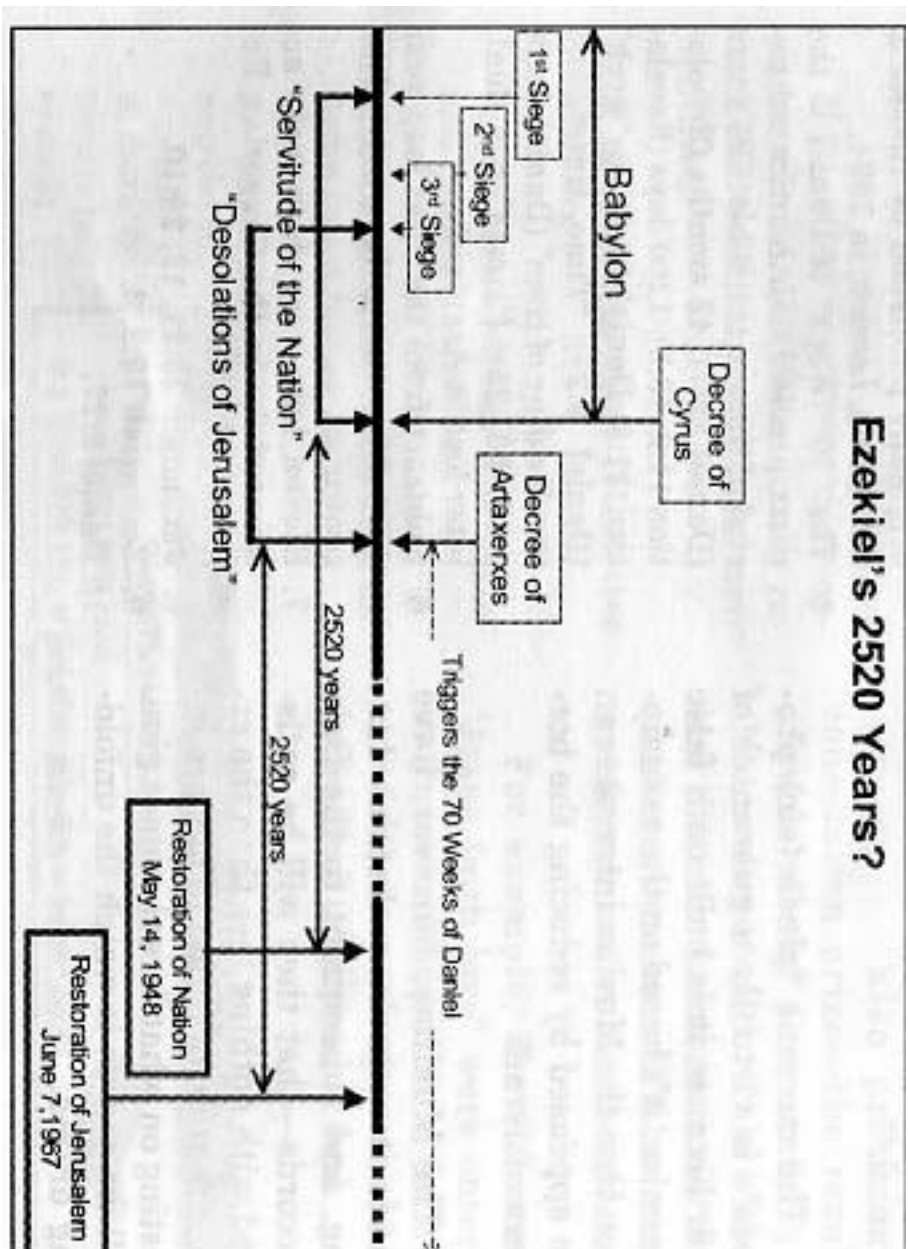
Introduce Chapter 9: This chapter is one of the most exciting in the entire Bible! Daniel prayed a prayer of confession. Read the prayer out loud. Then pray the "updated" prayer together.

Watch the Video: Part 3: 8:14- 15:15. Then, Read the rest of Chapter 9 text out loud, stopping for discussion and also to explain the charts.

Discussion Questions (8:06-15:16)

1. What was your greatest take-away from this lesson?
2. Why do you think the Jewish leadership did not know the time of Jesus' appearing?
3. There are two 70 year periods predicted by the prophet Jeremiah. When were they? Why is this important to know?
4. What was Nehemiah's main purpose for returning to Jerusalem?
5. Daniel prayed a prayer of confession for his entire nation. Why was that necessary?
6. Why did the Angel Gabriel appear? What was it he really wanted Daniel to know?
7. What is "The Church Age?" Where did that expression come from? Are we in the church age now? How do we know?
8. What does seventy weeks of years mean?
9. What new things can we learn about antichrist from Daniel Chapter 9?

Conclusion and Final Prayer:



Notes for Daniel Chapter 9

Two Periods of 70 Years

- Many Christians believe that chapter nine of Daniel's book, written in the first year of King Darius, is one of the most exciting chapters of the entire Bible.
- As I mentioned earlier, in the first year of the Persian takeover of Babylon, the Jewish people were released from slavery, and allowed to return home to Jerusalem to rebuild Yahweh's temple.
- It had been 70 years. "The Servitude of the Nation, " (Jeremiah 29:10) as it was called, was the time from the very first deportation of exiles from Jerusalem to the return of the captives to rebuild the temple.
- It was 70 years to the day, just as Jeremiah had said.
- However, as Daniel searched the scrolls of Jeremiah, he realized that there seemed to be **two** seventy year periods of time predicted by Jeremiah.
- The second period, called the Desolations of Jerusalem, (Jeremiah 25:11-12) would be from the time of the actual destruction of the city, to the rebuilding of the city itself (2 Chronicles 36:21).

Daniel Prays

- Daniel fasted , wore sackcloth and covered his head with ashes.
- He confessed the many sins of the people of Israel, and asked God to turn his fury away from Jerusalem.
- He acknowledged that his people had sinned and done wickedly and rebelled.
- They had refused to listen to the prophets.
- They had disobeyed God, and did not walk in his laws.
- They had brought upon themselves the curses written in Deuteronomy 28:15-68.
- Finally, they had not been sorry, and had not prayed a prayer of confession. As Daniel prayed, he interceded for the sin of the entire nation. "Oh Lord, hear! Oh Lord forgive! Oh Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name!" (9:19)

- Gabriel, appeared again, telling Daniel that he had been sent to bring him a new vision, and also the ability to understand it!
- There were 70 weeks of years, or 490 years, that were a set number of years in which much would happen to the nation of Israel and Jerusalem.
- What were these things? "...To finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy! (9:24)
- Upon close examination, we know these things were all to be accomplished by Messiah !
- This 490 years prophecy would be in two parts, really two events.

The First Event– After 483 years, or 69 weeks of years

- The first event would be after 483 years. Know and understand!
- From the day of the decree to restore and build Jerusalem (the day Daniel was praying for!) until Jesus would be presented as Messiah of the Jews, there would be 483 years.
- King Artaxerxes of Persia, my stepson, gave a decree on March 14 of 445 BC, authorizing Nehemiah to join the exiles that had previously returned to rebuild the temple of Yahweh in Jerusalem, with the sole purpose of rebuilding the city itself!
- If we begin with the date of the King's decree, and count the exact number of days found in 483 Jewish years, the date is April 6, AD 32!
- The tenth of Nisan! This is the exact day Jesus was riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people were waving palm branches, exclaiming, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"
- No wonder Jesus held the Jewish leadership accountable for not recognizing him!

The Second Event - Following an unknown gap, of 7 years

- The second event, the final one "week" of years, or seven years, does not immediately follow the first 493 years.
- There is a "gap" between the first 483 years and the final seven years.
- These last 7 years are known as the tribulation.
- The exact amount of time of the gap is not given to Daniel. During the time of the gap, Messiah would be "cut off", making way for the birth of His church. This is the church age, born at Pentecost.

- During the gap, or the church age, the people of the “prince of Satan” will destroy Jerusalem and the sanctuary once more. (70 AD)
- Wars against Israel will continue until, finally, Satan’s “prince” will confirm a covenant with Israel for 7 years.
- However, in the middle of the seven years, the prince, otherwise known as the antichrist, will end the sacrifice and offering to Yahweh, breaking the covenant.
- During the final 3 ½ years of the seven, this “prince” will commit abominations.
- However, there is hope! At the end, this “antichrist” will experience the consummation or end of all things, as determined by God. (9:27)

Conclusion:

- Daniel’s prayer unleashed much of God’s favor over Israel.
- Back in Jerusalem, the newly returned exiles were working at the task of settling back into their homes and land, and collectively building the altar of Yahweh amidst the desolate ruins of Jerusalem.
- With Yahweh’s help, they overcame opposition and renewed the daily sacrifice.
- They eventually completed the temple under the direction of Joshua and Zerubbabel, and the prophets Haggai and Zechariah.
- It would not be long until Nehemiah would come and direct the rebuilding of the city walls, the gates, and the homes.
- Meanwhile, back in Persia, Daniel, a man beloved of God, received some of the most detailed and exciting prophecies outlined in the bible.
- In our final session, I will share with you more of his visions of the end times!

Prayer of Confession for America (Daniel 9: 4-19)

“O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, **5** we have sinned and committed iniquity as a nation, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your words in the bible, and your warnings if we do not obey. **6** Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, our pastors, and church leaders who spoke in Your name to our elected leaders, to our fathers and all the people of the land. **7** O Lord, righteousness *belongs* to You, but to us shame of face, as *it is* this day—to the people of America, to the inhabitants of the cities and all the United States, all those even those under your discipline that have scattered away from you because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.

8 “O Lord, to us *belongs* shame of face, to our governors and President, our leaders, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. **9** To the Lord our God *belongs* mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. **10** We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. **11** Yes, all America has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. **12** And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done during Covid 19.

13 “As *it is* written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our collective sin and understand Your truth. **14** Therefore the Lord has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the Lord our God *is* righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. **15** And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as *it is* this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly! We have taken for granted the grace you poured out through Jesus Christ at the cross, and through his resurrection.

16 “O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from America, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, the United States, and all Americans *are* a reproach to all *those* around us. **17** Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord’s sake [_a]cause Your face to shine on [_b]Your temple, the holy church in America, which is desolate. **18** O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the country which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. **19** O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your country, America which was born through a covenant made to you.

Amen

Daniel Chapter 10 “Daniel’s Final Vision”

Opening Prayer

Review of Previous Chapters:

Part One: Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon)

Chapter 1; The Exile

Chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar’s Statue Dream

Chapter 3: The Fiery Furnace

Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar Becomes a Beast, A Lesson in Pride

Part Two: Daniel and Belshazzar (Babylon)

Chapter 7: Daniel’s Vision of the 4 Beasts

Chapter 8 Daniel’s Vision of the Ram and the Goat

Chapter 5: The Writing on the Wall

Part Three: Daniel and the Persian Empire

Chapter 6: Daniel and the Lion’s Den

Chapter 9: The Prophecy of the 70 Weeks

Part Four: Daniel’s Final Vision (Persian Empire) (Chapters 10, 11, 12)

Introduce Chapter 10: In Chapter 10, we are allowed to see a glimpse into the hidden spiritual realm in which there is angelic warfare that is going on around us all the time. The Bible speaks of this in Ephesians Chapter 6. Through this chapter in Daniel, we are encouraged to put on the whole armor of God! Read Chapter 10 out loud.

Play Video: 0-4:00, Supplemental Video (see website)

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you the most about this chapter?
2. What is God teaching us about the hidden war going on in the metacosm? Why do you think he does not allow us to see it all the time?
3. Why did it take so long for the angel to arrive? Who was the angel? Who helped the angel?
4. Who is the “Prince of Persia?”
5. How is a fallen angel different from a demon?
6. Why was Daniel fasting?

Closure and Final Prayer! Chapter 11 next week! Only two weeks left of Daniel!

Notes for Chapter 10 Video

Introduction

- When Mordecai and Esther would go through the scrolls written by Daniel, she was amazed at how close he was to God, and at the detailed visions he was given.
- Looking back now, his writing very accurately predicted the history of the gentile empires that ruled and reigned in the Middle East, before Messiah and beyond.

Review

- In Daniel's later years, we find him living and working as a top administrator in the Persian Empire.
- Remember the story of Daniel being thrown into the lion's den?
- He survived the plot to take his life by those envious of his position, remaining loyal to Yahweh all the while.
- He happily watched as the Jewish exiles were allowed to return to Judah and Jerusalem to rebuild the temple, and in his eighties, he received even more visions and prophecies that were to be recorded for Yahweh's holy book.

An Angel Appears

- The first of these latter visions is recorded in Chapter 10. It was in the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia... now two years after he had last heard from the angel Gabriel.
- The scroll reports that Daniel was in mourning for three full weeks.
- He was partially fasting, and was with a group of men who were also praying by the Tigris River.
- Why was he mourning? Daniel had had a new vision, which he did not understand, and it had made him sorrowful and taken his strength.
- He wanted to know what would happen to his people, Israel, in the latter days. The others wanted to know, too!
- He lifted up his eyes and saw a man in linen.
- His face was like lightning, and he had eyes of fire. His voice was different, like the voice of a multitude
- No one but Daniel saw the vision, but at the moment the man in linen appeared, the scripture says a terror fell upon the other men and they ran to hide!
- Could this man have been the Christ? Or was he an angel?
- And the man in linen said to him, "Oh, beloved Daniel, stand up! Don't fear!"

- Speaking directly to Daniel, this angel went on to explain, that he would have arrived just after Daniel and the men had started to pray, but he had been battling the Prince of Persia (a powerful fallen angel who had dominion over the Persian Empire), for twenty one days, and finally Michael, the Prince of Israel, a holy angel, had come to help him in the battle.
- This angel in linen had been sent by Yahweh to help Daniel understand the vision, which was for many days yet to come.
- As he spoke, Daniel became less fearful, and became stronger.
- The angel went on to reveal to Daniel that he could be with him only a short time.
- He had to return to battle the Prince of Persia, and following that, the Prince of Greece. The battle was difficult, he confided, because he had no one helping him, except Michael.
- He reassured Daniel that he had been there all along, though, confirming and strengthening Darius, to Daniel's benefit!

Lesson Plan for Daniel Chapter 11 “The Final Vision”

Opening Prayer

Review of Chapters 1-10

Part One: Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon)

Chapter 1; The Exile

Chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar’s Statue Dream

Chapter 3: The Fiery Furnace

Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar Becomes a Beast, A Lesson in Pride

Part Two: Daniel and Belshazzar (Babylon)

Chapter 7: Daniel’s Vision of the 4 Beasts

Chapter 8 Daniel’s Vision of the Ram and the Goat

Chapter 5: The Writing on the Wall

Part Three: Daniel and the Persian Empire

Chapter 6: Daniel and the Lion’s Den

Chapter 9: The Prophecy of the 70 Weeks

Part Four: Daniel’s Final Vision (Persian Empire) (Chapters 10, 11, 12)

Chapter 10: Daniel sees the “man in linen”/ Spiritual Warfare

Chapter 11: More prophecy about the Greek Empire and Antiochus

Introduction of Chapter 11: Go over the list of what we know about the antichrist so far. Look for new clues for what we know about antichrist through studying Antiochus Epiphanes.

Watch Video 4: Chapter 11: (4:20-11:18)

Discussion Questions:

1. What about this section of scripture makes it so confusing? Why do you think God wanted us to know these details of history that took place during the 200 years before the time of Christ?
2. What stood out to you the most in this chapter?
3. God gives us a detailed timeline of gentile history during this period of time. What were the Jews doing during this same time period? What verses describe that?
4. Antiochus Epiphanes was an evil ruler. What new clues do we know about antichrist through studying Antiochus?

5. Was there anything in this chapter that surprised you? Why or why not?
6. Does anyone in our world today have the same characteristics as Antichrist? Who would that be?

Closure and Final Prayer: Let's spend time praying for Israel, and Jerusalem.

Next week! End of the Book of Daniel! Bring your favorite scripture from the book of Daniel to write on the rocks!

Video Notes for Daniel 11

The Angel in Linen Speaks to Daniel

- The angel went on to explain what would happen to our people, the Jews, in the future.
- There would be three more kings of Persia, and then the fourth (Xerxes) would stir up a conflict with Greece.
- Xerxes was a very powerful king. He attacked Greece in 480 BC.
- This battle began a feud between the Persians and Greeks that lasted for many years.

The Third Kingdom—Greece

- Greece was represented by the bronze belly and thighs of Nebuchadnezzar's statue.
- Greece was also symbolically represented by the leopard with four wings in the vision of the four beasts, and also, the goat with one large horn, in the vision of the ram and the goat.
- In each of Daniel's visions, more and more details are revealed regarding different periods of time.
- Remember that eventually, in 334 BC Alexander the Great, from Greece, who was a mighty king, ruled with great dominion!
- He conquered the known world at that time, including the Persian Empire.
- After his death, the kingdom was divided into 4 parts, and 4 of his generals each took a section to rule.

The Period of The Four Generals

- Ptolemy, ruled over Egypt, Cyrene, Arabia, and Petra.
- Seleucid, ruled Syria, and the lands to the East, all the way to India.
- The other two generals were given Asia Minor, Macedonia, and Greece.
- Now this new prophecy given to Daniel goes on to tell what would happen between these generals and their dynasties, particularly Ptolemy, "the King of the South" and Seleucid, the "King of the North."
- Daniel's vision, recorded in Chapter 11 is a detailed account of the ongoing conflict between these two dynasties for over 150 years.
- Upon examination of history, years after the fact, this prophetic scenario was fulfilled in amazing detail.

- In fact, in chapter 11, verses 5-35, there are 135 prophetic statements. All of them came true!
- During this time, the great library in Alexandria was built and the Hebrew scriptures were translated into Greek, which was called the Septuagint translation .
- This back and forth between the Ptolemies and Selucids went on until finally, Rome defeated them both.

More about the “little horn” Antiochus/type of Antichrist

- Near the end of this conflict between the Ptolemies and the Seucids, the “little horn” from the vision in Daniel Chapter 8, appeared on the goat that represented the Greek Empire.
- Remember, there was the large horn (Alexander) and then the smaller 4 notable horns, (the four generals).
- Then, out of one of the notable horns, came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great to the south, the east and Israel.
- This horn, or ruler, can now be identified as the King of the North, from the Seleucid (Syrian) dynasty, named Antiochus Epiphanes.
- He took the throne in 175-164 BC.
- This man clearly models a “type” of the antichrist! By studying him, we can observe his habits and behaviors that may help us identify this coming world leader as he emerges in the last days.

New Clues about the Behaviors of Antichrist!

- He gained the throne through many intrigues.
- His method of warfare was different, “unlike his fathers.”
- He robbed the richest places under his control!
- Because his father had been defeated in battle by the Roman Empire, he was required to give up any claims to land in Europe or Asia Minor.
- He was forced to pay heavy tribute to the Romans.
- Where would he come up with the money?
- He took it out on his own people, plundering the temples found in the remaining part of his lands, including Israel.

- Not only were the people in Judea taxed to pay tribute to Rome, he polluted the sanctuary, took away the daily sacrifice, and placed the abomination of desolation in the holy of holies!
- He corrupted the enemies of the Jews living in the area with flattery, and falsely engaged them to turn against God's people and customs.
- Antiochus attacked his enemies when they least expected it!
- Because his empire was shrinking, he decided to try to take the pride of Egypt, the city of Alexandria!
- When he arrived, he discovered the Romans were already there.
- Turning back north, he camped once again in Judea, and took out all of his aggression on the people of Yahweh.

Israel's Response

- About this time, Daniel records, the people that know Yahweh will be strong and carry out great exploits!!
- And those of the people who understand, will instruct many.
- Yet for many days the people of God will fall by the sword, and flame, by captivity and plundering. (11: 32).
- The scripture records further that when the people fall, they will be aided with help, but the so-called "help" will be a deception.
- God allows some of them to fall because he wants to refine and purify them, and make them holy, until the time of the end!
- This is a clue that hints that this prophecy will be fulfilled again, in the last days!

More on Antiochus/Antichrist

- Then, this "king" Antiochus, or this king, Antichrist, shall do according to his own will. (36)
- He will exalt himself and magnify himself above every God, speaking horrible things against Yahweh
- He will be allowed to prosper until "the end of the wrath" (or the tribulation).
- The time has been set, and it will not be altered.
- This satanic ruler shall not regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women. (Is he Jewish???) (Gay?)

- Instead, he will honor a god his fathers did not know, a god of fortresses.
- He will honor this god with money-- with gold, silver, jewels and other pleasant things.
- He will act against the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god, and he shall work to advance this false god's glory.
- He shall rule over many and divide the land for gain.

The Time of the End

- This prophecy goes on to describe the time of the end. (40)
- A king will rise up from the south and attack the antichrist, who is symbolically the "king of the North."
- There will be a great battle with weapons and ships
- Antichrist will enter many countries and take them militarily, even Egypt,
- NOT Edom, Moab, and Ammon. (Jordan)
- He will take all the treasure of Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia!
- Rumors of opposition about to come from other parts of the world will make him even more furious and destructive.

Daniel Chapter 12 “Daniel’s Final Vision”

Lesson Plan Daniel Chapter 12, Last Session!

Opening Prayer:

Review of Chapters 1-11

Part One: Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon)

Chapter 1; The Exile

Chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar’s Statue Dream

Chapter 3: The Fiery Furnace

Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar Becomes a Beast, A Lesson in Pride

Part Two: Daniel and Belshazzar (Babylon)

Chapter 7: Daniel’s Vision of the 4 Beasts

Chapter 8 Daniel’s Vision of the Ram and the Goat

Chapter 5: The Writing on the Wall

Part Three: Daniel and the Persian Empire

Chapter 6: Daniel and the Lion’s Den

Chapter 9: The Prophecy of the 70 Weeks

Part Four: Daniel’s Final Vision (Persian Empire) (Chapters 10, 11, 12)

Chapter 10: Daniel sees the “man in linen”/ Spiritual Warfare

Chapter 11: More prophecy about the Greek Empire and Antiochus

Chapter 12: Final Words, End times

Play Video: Part 4: 11:00-end

Discussion:

1. What happens to the OT Jews? Are they “saved” or not? How are they judged?
2. What does, “Having your name in the book of Life” mean?
3. What happens after the 7 year tribulation for the final 45 days before the Millennial Kingdom begins?
4. What question do you think you might like to ask Daniel?
5. Which of the 12 chapters of Daniel did you like studying the most? The least? Why?
6. Why do you think God told Daniel to “Seal up the scroll until the time of the end?” What do you think that means?
7. What do you think it might look like, in modern terms, for Antichrist to erect the abomination of desolation in the temple?
8. What was your favorite bible verse in the book of Daniel?
9. What new thing about Daniel will you remember from this study?

Closure and Prayer: Have the class write their verses out on rocks, and have a time of prayer, asking God to unseal the scroll so that we can understand its meaning right now.

Video Notes: Chapter 12

- In the final chapter of Daniel's holy book, the prophecy about the end time continues.
- "At that time, Michael, the great prince, will stand up!"
- There will be such a time of trouble, that Israel has never seen since they have been a nation.
- The Great Tribulation!
- At that time, Israel will be delivered!
- Anyone who has their name written in the book!
- The Old Testament saints will be resurrected... some to everlasting life, and some to everlasting contempt.
- Daniel, who was awestruck by the vision, was told to seal up the vision until the time of the end.
- At that time, many will run to and fro, and knowledge will increase!
- Daniel looked again at the river bank, and there were two more men there.
- One on each side of the river, and the man in linen, Daniel's guide, was above the waters.
- One of them asked the man in linen, "When will this vision be fulfilled?"
- The man in linen lifted up his arms to heaven, and swore by Yahweh, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time.
- And when the power of the holy people, Israel, was completely shattered, all would be finished."
- Daniel looked up and admitted, he heard what was said, but had no clue what it meant!
- Upon asking for clarification, the angel told Daniel to go on his way. Some things would not be revealed until the time of the end.

Conclusion, A few more things!

- Many of the people in the end times will be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked will be very wicked!
- There will be a division between the wise and the wicked in those days.

- The wise will understand, but the wicked, they will not.
- Bible scholars over the eons, tell us that time, times and a half time means 3 ½ years. The time of the Great Tribulation! The final half of the final 7 years
- From the time that the abomination of desolation is set up by the antichrist in the temple in Jerusalem, until Christ returns there will be 1290 days!
- Three and a half years, plus 30 days! Blessed will be the man who waits till the end, another 45 days!
- Daniel was then told to go his way. All of this would happen long after he died. His life was secure till the time of the end.
- He would “rest” and rise to his inheritance at the end of the days.

Esther’s Final Thoughts

- I, Esther, was encouraged by these words.
- Yahweh already had planned the end from the beginning. Nothing was a surprise to him.
- Even in difficult times, God would be with his people, giving us understanding, and promising to deliver us!
- Daniel was a mighty man of God, who was an example to us all. His love for Yahweh never failed, from his youth through his death... through captivity, slavery and hardship.
- Daniel persevered during persecution and success, through power and loss. He spoke God’s truth and fulfilled God’s mission for his life. He led a life that earned him the title, “greatly beloved one.”

Oh, yes, what happened to Antiochus Ephipanes? The Jewish people, under Judah Maccabee, led a military revolt, and took back the city and the temple! It was cleansed and rededicated. The Jewish people today celebrate this victory on Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights! At the end of days, antichrist, too, will be defeated by Jesus Christ himself, and our Messiah-king will come to rule and reign on the earth!

Timeline for the Fall of Judah and Jerusalem, Jeremiah/Ezekiel/Daniel

Red/Judah, Blue/Prophets/Orange/Babylon Green/Persians

*Son of Josiah **Grandson of Josiah

639-609 BC King Josiah reigns in Judah

629 BC Jeremiah Called

612 BC Fall of Ninevah (Assyrian capital)

605 BC Fall of Assyrians to Babylon

609 BC * King Jehoahaz reigns (3 months) Taken to Egypt

609-597 BC *King Jehoiakim reigns

605 BC Babylon's First attack of Jerusalem, Daniel Taken with Exiles to Babylon

604 BC Nebuchadnezzar's First Dream

597 BC **King Jehoiachin reigns (3 months) **2nd Babylonian Attack of Jerusalem**

Ezekiel and the king taken with Exiles to Babylon

597- 586 BC *King Zedekiah reigns (11 years)

592 BC Ezekiel called while in Babylon to be a prophet, First Vision

588 BC Third Siege of Jerusalem by Babylon

586 BC Jerusalem falls to Babylon, Jerusalem Destroyed Jeremiah presides over the death of Judah and Jerusalem, the country falls to Babylon after the third Siege

586 BC Jeremiah released, Gedaliah appointed governor

572 BC Ezekiel's final vision of the Temple

562 BC. Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream (Chapter 4)

561 BC Nebuchadnezzar becomes insane (Chapter 4)

554 BC Nebuchadnezzar is well, and is reinstated as king

562 BC Nebuchadnezzar dies. His son, Evil Merodach becomes king, Releases King Jehoiachin from Prison

559 Neriglissar (son in law) takes throne in army coup

555 Another coup, and Neriglissar's son takes the throne, he loses it to another son in law, Nabonidus

553 Nabonidus takes the throne, leads army to Northern Arabia, puts his son Belshazzar as co-regent in Babylon

552/53 Daniel's 2 Dreams Chapters 7 and 8

539 BC King Cyrus (Emperor) takes Babylon for Persia, King Darius set up as King in Babylon, Belshazzar of Babylon is killed

539 BC The Edict of Cyrus, The Jews Return Home with Joshua and Zerubbabel

539-530 BC Cyrus is King (Emperor) of Persia, Darius is king in the area of Babylon within the empire

538 BC Daniel's Vision Chapter 9, Daniel in Lion's Den, Daniel Rises to power in Persia

536 BC Daniel's Final Vision (Chap 10-12)

529-522 Cambyses is Persian King (son of Cyrus)

522 Artaxerxes (very short time)

520-486 Darius I Hystaspes (Not the same one as the Lions' Den)

486-465 Xerxes I (Husband of Esther) Book of Esther

465- 425 Artaxerxes Longimanus (Nehemiah 2)

457 BC Ezra sent back to Jerusalem to teach the people by Persian King Artaxerxes

445 BC (March 14) Nehemiah sent to Jerusalem to rebuild the City and Walls, By Decree of Artaxerxes

424 Xerxes II

423-405 Darius II

404-359 Artaxerxes II Mnemon

358-338 Artaxerxes II Ochus

337-336 Artaxerxes IV Ares

335-330 Darius III

334-323 Alexander the Great (Greece) takes out the Persians under Darius III
 After 323 After Alexander dies, four generals divide the Empire: Cassander, Lysimachus, **Selucus**, and Ptolemy (Daniel 11-12)

323-285 Ptolemy I Soter is the “King of the South” over Egyptian area, Seleucus Nicator is “King of the North” Sets off 150 plus years of Warfare between the two.

321 Ptolemy takes Jerusalem

316 Selucus takes Jerusalem from him

312 Ptolemy takes it back

283- 245 Ptolemy II (Builds the great library of Alexandria, The Septuagint

246-226 **Selucus II Callinicus set on throne by his mother. (Bernice, Ptolemy II's daughter, is sent to marry the son of Seleucus, Antiochus II. His first wife Laodicia murders Bernice and Antiochus II and puts her own son, Selucus II on the throne. (v. 6)**

245-(221) Ptolemy III Euergetes, brother of murdered Bernice, invades Syria, overruns The Selucid Empire in the North, takes Damascus (plunders gold, silver, idols) (v. 7,8)

243 **Selucus II reorganizes and tries to attack Egypt, with no luck. Later, his son, Selucus III is murdered, and Antiochus III (The Great) takes over (v 9 and 10)**

223-187 **Antiochus III is now the King of the North**

221-203 Ptolemy IV Phiopator rules as King of the South

221 Ptolemy IV marches through Judea and attacks Antiochus III

219 The Battle of Raphia (south of Gaza near Egypt) The South had 70,000 men.

Ptolemy IV. The North had 60,000. Antiochus III. **The North was defeated and a peace treaty was signed.** Ptolemy IV, the victorious leader, tries to enter the holy of holies, but becomes paralyzed. Persecution of the Jews begins in Judea. (v 11-14)

203-181 Ptolemy V rules, beginning at age 4!

191 Antiochus III attacks the South again.

197 BC Antiochus III attacks Cilicia, Lycia, Caria. His daughter, Cleopatra, given to Ptolemy V as a bride. The King of the North gives Syria, Phoenicia, and Judea to Ptolemy V as a dowry. However Cleopatra sides with her new husband and Rome.

196 Antiochus III moves away from the South and attacks Greece and Asia

191 Antiochus III defeated by the Romans (in Greece) and is ruined. Was forced to give up all lands in the NE of his kingdom.

187-175 The new king of the North, Selucus IV Philopater, began to heavily tax the people of Judea to pay his Roman tribute. He is murdered in 175 BC

175-164 Antiochus Epiphanes takes over as King of the North, with intrigues. He attacks Egypt two times. The Romans are beginning to take over (v. 30)
They push Antiochus Epiphanes back to Judea. This is when the famous Abomination of Desolation takes place. Then the Jews revolt (Maccabean revolt/Hanakkah)

146 Rome Conquers Greece as follows:

133 Lysimachus's kingdom falls

64 Seleucid Kingdom falls (King of the North)

31 Battle of Actium (Ptolemy's Kingdom falls in Egypt) King of the South

44 Julius Caesar assassinated

2 BC Jesus is Born

Characteristics of Antichrist: Watch and Pray!

Lesson 7 (The little horn on the terrible beast) 7 heads, 10 horns, 3 are removed by the little horn #11 (Revived Roman Empire)

- Speaks blasphemy of the Lord
- Makes war against “The saints” (Jews?)
- Oppresses the holy people
- Changes the times and laws
- Rules over the holy people 3 ½ years
- Subdues 3 kings
- Breaks into pieces (tramples) (Changes boundaries?)
- Mortally wounded

Lesson 8 (The Ram and the Goat, The Goat drops the large horn, has 4 new horns. One little horn grows off of one of them. Selucid Dynasty) Antiochus Epiphanes is a “type” of antichrist

- He will have fierce features
- He will be an Assyrian, but also from the Syrian branch of the Greek Empire
- He understands sinister schemes
- His power is mighty, but from Satan
- He will destroy fearfully
- He will prosper and Thrive
- He will destroy the Jews
- Through his cunning, deceit will prosper
- He will exalt himself
- He will destroy the prosperous
- He will rise against Jesus
- He will be taken out by Yahweh
- He will grow his influence to the south and east, and through the land of Israel
- He will “grow up to heaven” and cast out “stars” or angels, and trample them
- He will take away the daily sacrifices
- He will defile the Jewish sanctuary
- He will be a ruler of an army
- He will cast truth to the ground
- He will be very prosperous
- Both the sanctuary and the “host” (Priests, or angels?) will be trampled underfoot for 2300 days or six years and 140 days (During the tribulation)

Lesson 11: (King of the North vs. King of the South)

- This horn, or ruler, can now be identified as the King of the North, from the Seleucid (Syrian) dynasty, named Antiochus Epiphanes.
- He took the throne in 175-164 BC.
- This man clearly models a “type” of the antichrist! By studying him, we can observe his habits and behaviors that may help us identify this coming world leader as he emerges in the last days
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- He was forced to pay heavy tribute to the Romans.
- He plundered the temples found in the remaining part of his lands, including Israel.
- He polluted the sanctuary, took away the daily sacrifice, and placed the abomination of desolation in the holy of holies!
- He corrupted the enemies of the Jews living in the area with flattery, and falsely engaged them to turn against God’s people and customs.
- Antiochus attacked his enemies when they least expected it!
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- When he arrived, he discovered the Romans were already there.
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At the End

- A king will rise up from the south and attack the antichrist, who is symbolically the "king of the North."
- There will be a great battle with weapons and ships,
- Antichrist will enter many countries and take them militarily, even Egypt,
- NOT Edom, Moab, and Ammon. (Jordan)
- He will take all the treasure of Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia!
- Rumors of opposition about to come from other parts of the world will make him even more furious and destructive.

Daniel Part 1 Worksheet!

Chapter 1:

Title for this Chapter _____

What is the main thing that happened in this chapter?

What is your greatest takeaway from this chapter, or something you don't want to forget?

Chapter 2:

Title for this Chapter _____

What is the main thing that happened in this chapter?

What is your greatest takeaway from this chapter, or something you don't want to forget?

Chapter 3:

Title for this Chapter _____

What is the main thing that happened in this chapter?

What is your greatest takeaway from this chapter, or something you don't want to forget?

Chapter 4:

Title for this Chapter _____

What is the main thing that happened in this chapter?

What is your greatest takeaway from this chapter, or something you don't want to forget?

Chapter 5:

Title for this Chapter _____

What is the main thing that happened in this chapter?

What is your greatest takeaway from this chapter, or something you don't want to forget?

Chapter 6:

Title for this Chapter _____

What is the main thing that happened in this chapter?

What is your greatest takeaway from this chapter, or something you don't want to forget?

Chapter 7:

Title for this Chapter _____

What is the main thing that happened in this chapter?

What is your greatest takeaway from this chapter, or something you don't want to forget?

Chapter 8:

Title for this Chapter _____

What is the main thing that happened in this chapter?

What is your greatest takeaway from this chapter, or something you don't want to forget?

Chapter 9:

Title for this Chapter _____

What is the main thing that happened in this chapter?

What is your greatest takeaway from this chapter, or something you don't want to forget?

Chapter 10:

Title for this Chapter _____

What is the main thing that happened in this chapter?

What is your greatest takeaway from this chapter, or something you don't want to forget?

Chapter 11:

Title for this Chapter _____

What is the main thing that happened in this chapter?

What is your greatest takeaway from this chapter, or something you don't want to forget?

Chapter 12:

Title for this Chapter _____

What is the main thing that happened in this chapter?

What is your greatest takeaway from this chapter, or something you don't want to forget?