



Serving the King

Daniel

11 Studies for Youth Group

Introduction – What is Daniel about?

“The book of Daniel tells the story of a young Israelite taken from Jerusalem in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon (605 – 562BC). Despite a life-long exile and much opposition he remained faithful to his God. Like Joseph before him (Gen 37 – 40), he was gifted with the ability to understand dreams and visions; he rose to prominence in a foreign court and was privileged to receive insight into the future purposes of God in history.”¹

Daniel deals with many big problems “such as the problems of evil and persecution, of suffering, and of being Christians in an alien world. For us who face these issues with differing degrees of harshness, Daniel offers guidance and help.

The book of Daniel helps us to understand much about the person of Jesus and the nature of his work. When Jesus talked of the Kingdom of God and called himself the Son of Man he seems to have done so with Daniel in the back of his mind. Daniel also helps us to understand Jesus’ teaching about the end of the world and the teaching found in Hebrews, 1 and 2 Peter and Revelation.”²

How the studies work



This picture will always refer to the **opening question**. The starter’s block. This question will help to get your brain in gear and your thoughts out of your head.



This picture is all about **observation**. To answer these questions all you have to do is look at what the passage is actually saying. It is OK to quote the Bible word for word when answering these questions.



This picture is all about **interpretation**. These questions are going to help you think about what the passage means. For these type of questions you are going to have to go deeper, you can’t just quote the passage here!



This is where the rubber hits the road. This picture is about **application**. This is where we will think about how the passage is going to change our lives. This is what being a Christian is all about; we trust in Jesus and do what he says. We find out how Jesus wants us to live from the Bible.

¹ Information taken from New Bible Commentary, IVP, pp. 745.

² Information taken from Daniel: Kingdoms in Conflict, Andrew Reid, Aquila Press, pp. 3-4.

Contents Page

Study One	Is God dead???	Page 4
Study Two	Knocked down but not knocked out	Page 7
Study Three	‘The Rock vs. ‘The Statue’	Page 10
Study Four	When the heat is on	Page 13
Study Five	Nebuchadnezzar vs. God	Page 16
Study Six	A freaky hand writing	Page 18
Study Seven	Daniel vs. The Lions	Page 20
Study Eight	The Son of Man	Page 22
Study Nine	The end is in sight	Page 25
Study Ten	Daniel prays	Page 27
Study Eleven	A vision of the end	Page 29
Appendix 1	How Time Works	Page 31
Appendix 2	For the History Buffs!	Page 33
Appendix 3	The Dream	Page 36
Appendix 4	Antiochus Euphrates	Page 39

Study One — Is God Dead???



What do you already know about Daniel?

Activity

When you study a book of the Bible it is really important to see where it fits in with the big picture, the overall story of the Bible. With a partner try and put these significant events in the Bible in the correct order. Don't stick them in until you have checked they are correct.



Read:
2 Kings 23:36 – 25:21
Daniel 1:1-2

1. Fill in the following table to show what happened to each of the people in these passages.

Passage	Name of person	What did they do?	How did Babylon Respond?
2 Kings 23:36 – 24:2			
Daniel 1:1-2			
2 Kings 24:8—14			
2 Kings 25:1-7			

2. What does each of these verses say about God's involvement?

2 Kings 24:2 –

2 Kings 24:3 –

2 Kings 24:13 –

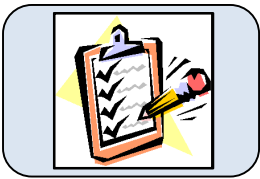
2Kings 24:20 –

Daniel 1:2 –



3. What does Israel being punished tell us about God?

4. What do you think the Israelites (like Daniel) would have been thinking about God and his promises?



5. Why is being disciplined sometimes hard to deal with?

6. Why is it comforting to know that God disciplines his people?

7. How should you act when someone disciplines you?
(Proverbs 3:11-12)

Pray

- **Thank God that he is in control of the world**
- **Thank God that he disciplines his people**
- **Ask God to help us be Godly people**

Study Two – Knocked down but not knocked out



Share a situation where you thought something bad was going to happen but it turned out OK in the end?



Read:
Daniel 1:1-21

1. List the things that the Babylonians did during and after they attacked Judah (v1-5).

2. Fill in this table to show what Daniel and his mates agreed to and refused to do.

Yes	No

3. What do these verses say about God’s involvement?

- v2
- v9
- v17



4. What does Daniel and his mates' decision to not defile themselves (v8-14) tell us about them?

Getting a name change (v6-7) and being educated (v4) might not sound like such a big deal, but here it shows a cosmic struggle going on: Israel's God verses the Babylonian gods. Daniel and his mates' original names all were linked to God's name 'Yahweh'. The new names they were given are linked to the Babylonian gods. Learning all the Babylonian literature and language was designed to make you a Babylonian. This struggle is also shown in the Babylonian army looting the temple in Jerusalem. They were trying to show that they had beaten Yahweh; that their gods were better than Yahweh.³

5. What things in the passage show us that God has not been defeated but is still very much in charge?

6. What do you think was the hardest thing for Daniel and his mates to deal with?



**Read:
2 Timothy 3:16 &
Matthew 5:11-12**

7. In what ways are Christians today similar to Daniel and his mates?

³ See Appendix 1: This is the beginning of an apocalyptic cycle. Next week we are going to see God's plan to save his people.

Daniel and his mates were happy to go along with some things (name change and education) but they made it clear that they were not going to change completely. They were not going to do anything that they thought would dishonour God.

8. What things in your life should you make a stand on like Daniel and his mates?

9. How would God's control over the world have comforted Daniel and how does it comfort us?

Pray

- **Thank God that he is in charge of the world**
- **Ask God to help us to stand firm when faced with compromising situations**
- **Thank God for Daniel's example and encouragement**

Study Three – ‘The Rock’ vs. ‘The Statue’



Share the weirdest dream you have ever had.



Read:

Daniel 2:1-49

1. What reason did the astrologers give for not being able to tell Big Neb his dream? (v10-11).

2. How was Daniel different? (v17-23).

3. Fill out this table to show the content of the dream and its interpretation.

Passage	Dream	Interpretation
v32 – Head of gold & v36-38		
v32 – Chest and arms of silver & v39a		
v32 – Belly and thigh of bronze & v39b		
v33 – Legs of iron, feet of iron and clay & v40-43		
v34-35 – The Rock & v44-45		



4. How does this passage show us God's plan to save his people?

5. What do you think the 4th Kingdom (v44-45) is referring to?
(Luke 1:26-33)

6. Can you think of any other mysteries God has revealed to his people?
Ephesians 1:3-10



7. In what ways can we respond to God's saving actions?

Daniel was told the dream was about a future time (v45b) when God would set up a powerful eternal kingdom. The New Testament shows us that this kingdom is brought in when Jesus died and rose again. It is talking about the Kingdom of God in heaven. Looking to the future changes the way we live now.

8. Pretend that Jesus is going to come back at the end of next week. Circle the things on this list that are the most important to be doing.

Reading the Bible

Downloading Illegal music

Obeying parents

Getting angry

Praying

Being selfish

Doing what our teachers ask

Holding grudges

Telling people about Jesus

Letting leisure activities get more important than following Jesus

Standing firm when our friends tease us for following Jesus

Insulting people

9. What things stop us from following Jesus wholeheartedly?

Pray

- **Thank God that he has always had a plan to save his people**
- **Ask God to help us to be Godly while we wait for Jesus to come back**
- **Ask God to help us avoid the things that stop us following Jesus**

Study Four – When the heat is on



If a policeman asks you to steal should you do what they say? Why / why not?



Read:

Daniel 3:1-30

1. Draw what Big Neb wanted for his people. (Remember to include: a statue, heaps of people bowing down, musicians playing, a furnace, 3 blokes not bowing down and Big Neb watching everyone)

2. Write a dot point version of what Shaddy, Maddy and Abedneddy say to Big Neb. (v16-18)

3. What does Big Neb say Shaddy, Maddy and Abedneddy did? (v28)



4. What does this passage tell us is the most important priority for God's people when they face suffering and persecution?

5. How is God's control over the situation demonstrated?



6. Circle the things you would be willing to suffer for the sake of Jesus.

Being teased	Being called arrogant and closed minded for believing in Jesus	Having head chopped off
Family kicking you out and pretending you don't exist	Having no friends at school	Not hanging out with your friends if they are doing something that is dishonouring to God.
Being put in prison	Being set on fire	Family annoyed at you
Having your house burned down	Being sacked from your job	People thinking you are weird

7. What stops you from standing out for Jesus in all situations?

Following Jesus is not just about waiting for a chance to get tortured, beaten and killed for the sake of Jesus. Laying down your life literally is something that Christians all over the world have to do but by God's grace that is not a reality in Australia at the moment. We are, however, still called to lay down our lives to serve Jesus. Luke 9:23-24 says:

The he (Jesus) said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it."

8. In what ways do you need to 'deny yourself' to follow Jesus?

9. What comfort does Daniel (and the rest of the Bible) give us when serving Jesus gets hard?

Pray

- **Thank God that ultimately he has saved us through Jesus**
- **Ask God for help to change our lives to serve Jesus**
- **Ask God to help us stand firm when we suffer as Christians**

Study Five – Nebuchadnezzar vs. God



How do you act towards people who are in authority over you?



Read:
Daniel 4:1-36

1. Fill out the following table to show the dream and the interpretation.

Passage	Dream	Interpretation
4:10-12 & 4:19-22		
4:13-16 & 4:23-26		

2. Fill out the following table to show Big Neb's problem and the solution.

Problem	Solution
4:4	4:25
4:28-30	4:26
	4:27

3. How do the following passages show Big Neb responding to God's actions? (What does he say about God?)

- v1-3
- v34-37



4. Write a sentence a kindergarten kid would understand to explain Big Neb's problem.

5. Write a sentence a kindergarten kid would understand to explain how Big Neb should have acted.



6. How can Christian teenagers show that they are living under God's ultimate authority?

7. How does living under God's authority affect the way we follow other people in authority?
Romans 13:1-2

Pray

- Thank God that he is in charge
- Ask God to forgive us for the times when we don't follow his authority
- Ask God to help us follow him and other authorities

Study Six – A freaky hand writing



Share a time when you made the same mistake over and over and over again.



Read:

Daniel 5:1-31

This chapter marks a change in the story. King Nebuchadnezzar will no longer appear. Now we are going to see the very short lived story of his son King Belshazzar. Daniel is an old man now, but is going to be brought out of retirement to once more interpret a strange dream.

1. What did Big Bel do wrong?

- v1-4
- v22-23

2. Write the meaning of the ‘writing on the wall’ in your own words. (v25-28)



3. Big Bel should have remembered how God had dealt with his father and honoured God appropriately. Instead he chose to ignore what had happened in the past and do his own thing. **What has God done in our past that should change how we act towards God?**

4. How would you describe Daniel's attitude in this passage?



5. What does being humble look like? (v22-23)

6. How do you honour God?

Colossians 3:1-17

Put to death ...	Clothe yourselves ...

Pray

- **Thank God for Jesus**
- **Ask God to help us remember what Jesus has done for us**
- **Ask God to help us change our lives to serve Jesus**

Study Seven – Daniel vs. The lions



Try and retell the story of Daniel in the lions den as accurately as possible with out looking at the bible first.



Read:
Daniel 6:1-28

1. Fill out this table listing all the actions of all the characters.

King Darius	Corrupt officials	Daniel	God



2. Way back in chapter 1 we saw a young Daniel continuing to follow God even though he was in a foreign land and it looked like God was beaten. Now Daniel is up to his 3rd foreign king and he is still trying to follow God. Living in the world, waiting for Jesus to return, is a bit like Daniel living in exile waiting for God to save his people. We are in exile waiting for heaven. **What do we learn from Daniel about how we should live while we wait?**

3. What does Daniel's example teach us to do when someone in authority tells us to do something that does not honour God?

4. How is God's control over the world despite what is happening demonstrated in this passage?



5. What things could authorities ask you to do that dishonours God?

6. Write down some things you could say to people when they ask you to do something you know God would not like you to do?

7. Daniel's actions lead to Darius praising God. **How can our examples lead to our friends praising God or becoming Christians?**

Pray

- Thank God that he is in control no matter what happens
- Ask God for help to honour him in all situations
- Ask God that our example might lead others to becoming Christians

Study Eight – The Son of Man



How do you feel / react when a promise comes true?



Read:
Daniel 7:1-28

1. Draw each of the beasts and write the interpretation in your own words.

Passage	Beast
7:4	
7:5	
7:6	
7:7-8	
7:15-18 & 23-28	Interpretation

2. Fill out the following table to describe the actions of the other characters in this chapter.

	Ancient of Days	Son of Man	Saints of the Most High	Fourth Beast / Kingdom
Passages	v9-10, v22	v13-14	v18, v21, v27	v8, v11, v19, v21, v23, v25-26



3. Write a sentence that explains the big picture of what is going on here.

Read:
Mark 8:31 – 9:1 &
Acts 7:54-56

4. Who is the Son of Man and how does he fulfil the role given him in Daniel chapter 7? (Daniel 7: 13-14 & Luke 1:26-33)

5. Why do you think God chose to tell Daniel about Jesus in the future rather than how he was going to be saved from Babylon and Persia in his lifetime?



6. How does knowing that Christians are going to be part of an everlasting, all powerful kingdom help us to stand firm when we face suffering or hardships because of our faith?

7. Daniel 7:14 shows that the Son of Man (Jesus) has been given authority and sovereign power. What, then, should our attitude to Jesus' teaching be?

8. Circle the things below that are good ways of following the authority of the Son of Man.

Reading the Bible and praying regularly

Gossiping

Obedying the law

Teasing and bullying

Obedying parents

Stealing

Being generous with our money and time

Lying

Helping other Christians to be Godly

Doing something with a boyfriend or girlfriend that you wouldn't want your mum to know about

Telling our friends about Jesus

Deliberately ignoring what God wants

Pray

- **Thank God that he came through on his promises to save his people**
- **Ask God to help us live under the authority of Jesus**
- **Pray that our non Christian friends would start to follow Jesus**

Study Nine – The end is in sight



Why does knowing the holidays are coming soon make school that much more bearable?



Read:
Daniel 8:1-27

1. Fill out the table showing the dream and the interpretation.

Passage	Dream	Interpretation
8:3-4 & 8:20		
8:5-8 & 8:21-22 ⁴		
8:9-12 & 8:23-25 ⁵		

2. What future hope is foretold in this passage? (Daniel 8:13-14, 26)

⁴ See Appendix 3 for information about Alexander the Great and how he is involved in the Daniel narrative.

⁵ See Appendix 4 for information about the potential historical figure behind these visions



3. By now you might be feeling like Daniel is repeating himself a bit. **What ideas / actions / events are repeated in this chapter that we have been seeing in Daniel so far?**

4. Daniel was appalled by the vision. It made him sick for several days. We have an advantage over Daniel because we are looking back on history while Daniel is looking forward. We also have an advantage because we know all about Jesus. Daniel would have known that God was going to save his people with a new covenant (Daniel would have been reading Jeremiah in his quiet times) but he wouldn't have seen exactly how it was going to all work out. **How does knowing about Jesus stop us from being freaked out by all the bad things that have happened to God's people and might happen to us?**



5. **Rate on a scale of 1 to 10 how much you trust that God is in control?**
(1 = don't trust God is in control at all, 10 = believe God is completely in control)

6. **What things help you to trust God and what things stop you from trusting God.**

Help you to trust God	Stop you from trusting God

Pray

- **Thank God that he is in control**
- **Ask God to help us to trust him no matter what is going on**

Study Ten – Daniel prays



List some really important things to pray for



Read:
Daniel 9:1-3;
Jeremiah 25:8-11 & 29:10-14

1. How does Daniel respond to God’s promise of Salvation?

Read:
Daniel 9:4-19

2. Fill out the following table to show the contents of Daniel’s prayer

What Daniel says about God	What Daniel confesses	What Daniel asks God for

Read:

Daniel 9:20-27

3. What good news for the future is prophesied here?



4. What are some words that you could use to describe Daniel's character and attitude towards God in this chapter?

5. In what ways are the words in Jeremiah and Daniel's prayer answered in this passage?
(Who is the ultimate anointed one?)



6. Circle the things that show a person is humbly following God and treating him with the proper respect (fearing God)?

Working hard at Godliness

Not caring about my sin

Asking God for guidance in life

Saying that you follow Jesus but not making any changes to your life

Confessing sin to God

Trying to make deals with God (if you... then I'll...)

Living God's way even if it is hard and brings suffering

Using words like God, Jesus and Christ as swear words

Praying and reading the Bible regularly

Acting as if God has nothing to do with real life

Looking forward to the day when Jesus comes back and Christians go to heaven

Thinking that going to Youth Group makes God love you more than other people

7. Why is prayer such an important part of living under God's authority and responding to what he has done for us?

Pray

- Choose some things from Daniel's prayer to pray

Study Eleven – A vision of the end



Pretend one of your friends has asked you what the book of Daniel is all about. What would you say to them?



These three chapters are a record of what Daniel saw while he was standing near the Tigris River (modern day Iraq) (10:4-5 & 12:5-6). In this case Daniel is not given a dream as we've seen many other times. He's given a 'revelation' or vision.

Other people are with him but they run away in terror (10:7). As we read these chapters you'll notice that the vision is different from what we have seen so far in Daniel. There's no mention of beasts coming out of the sea, no bears, goats or horns. But there are kings and rulers who are all playing a part in the overall plans of God – which is what we've come to expect.

Read:

Daniel 10:1 - 11:1

1. What does v1 and v14 say about Daniel's vision

2. What effect does the vision have on Daniel? (v2-3, 8, 16)

Read:
Daniel 11:2 - 45

The vision presents the ongoing rivalry between two kings and the surrounding struggle. Historians have pointed out that the various elements in this vision match the tumultuous times in the period following the break up of the Greek empire in the 2nd Century BC. Following the death of Alexander, the empire was divided between four of his generals (11:4)⁶. At this point, the land of Israel finds itself at the centre of two of these new Greek kingdoms: The Ptolemies (south-Egypt) and the Seleucids (North-old empires of Persia and Babylon). There are many battles and much political manoeuvring in their quest for supremacy. From the Seleucids in the north emerges the power hungry and deceptive King Antiochus IV or Antiochus Euphianes⁷ who will brutally attempt to put a stop to the Jewish religion in Israel. Jewish freedom fighters resist Antiochus and much blood is shed in this period.

⁶ See Appendix 3

⁷ See Appendix 4

3. From verses 29-33 what can God's people expect during this struggle?

4. From verses 11:19-20, 27, 31-35 what is the 'light at the end of the tunnel'?



**Read:
Daniel 12:1-4 &
12:5-13**

5. What does Daniel see happening in the future?

6. How does this fit with what we have been learning in Daniel so far?

7. What is Daniel told to do?



**Read:
1 Peter 1:3-16**

8. What does this passage say about the purpose of suffering?

9. How does this passage tell us to live in light of the above?

Pray

- **Thank God for the good effect suffering has**
- **Ask God to help us to be Godly when we suffer**
- **Pray that Jesus would come back soon**

Appendix One — How Time Works

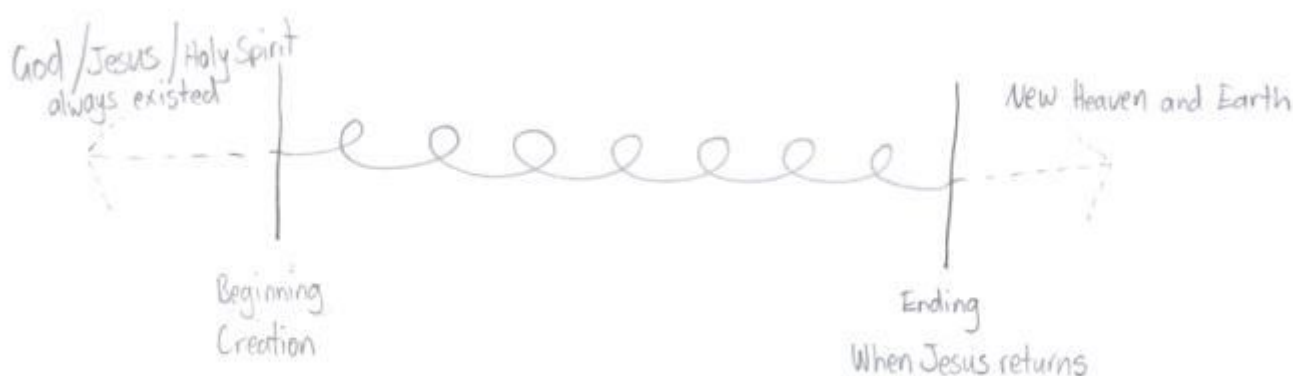
Normal Time

Normal time has a beginning and an ending and it runs in a straight line. This means we can study the past and look forward to the future.



Apocalyptic Time

In Apocalyptic Literature (Revelation and some parts of Daniel, Isaiah, Zechariah and Mark) time works a little bit differently it works in a cycle with either the same event being described in different ways or a series of events that are very similar happening over and over again.



Some things to remember when reading and trying to understand apocalyptic literature:

- It is always written when someone becomes an enemy of God, God's people, God's king or the Temple
- It is written to encourage the people who are suffering and help them to keep trusting God and his ability to save his people either now or in the future.
- There is a repeating pattern:
 1. Something or someone opposes God
 2. God shows the way salvation will come (now or future)
 3. God does what he says he will do.
- This means that we can sometimes work out what the weird visions and dreams are referring to in history (sometimes the bible even tells us what will happen). **There is always a bigger picture going on.** God is working to save his people. Ultimately this happens when Jesus comes back and we spend an eternity with him in Heaven. That's why apocalyptic literature was written when God's people were suffering, to remind them that God is a saving God.
- It is interesting to see the historical details (sometimes we can't work it out, in Daniel we will see lots of historical details) but we need to be careful not to get bogged down. **We need to focus on the bigger picture.** People will always oppose God, God's people will always be persecuted and **God will always save.** He will save once and for all when Jesus returns bringing an end to the presence of sin for eternity.

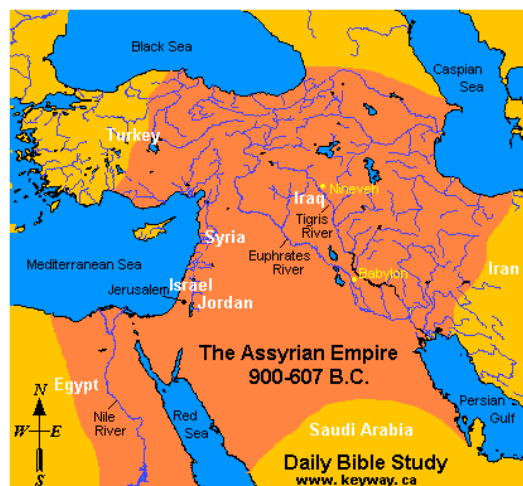
Appendix Two — For the History Buffs!

Timeline:

Events before Daniel
chapter 1

Assyrian Empire⁸

Approximately 1200BC — 600BC



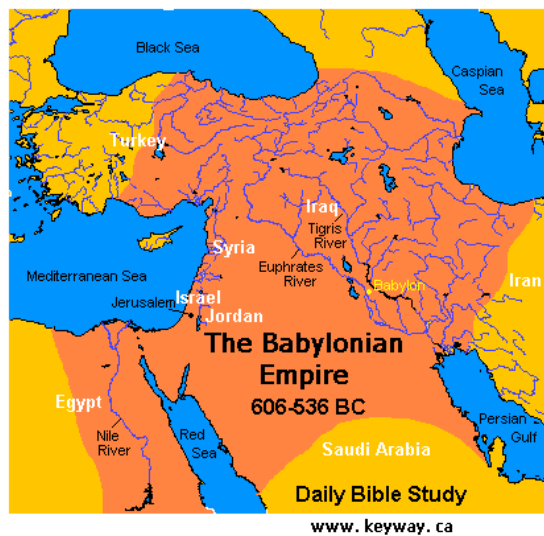
- By the 9th century BC controlled most of the Middle East, from Egypt to the Persian Gulf
- The Assyrians regarded warfare as their most important activity, and considered it a divinely-inspired goal to impose their gods upon conquered territories
- The Assyrian strategy for conquest used psychological warfare. They would first send representatives of the king to try and persuade a city to surrender. If this failed, the Assyrian army would then surround the city and shout at the defenders, trying to convince them that resistance was useless
- Destroyed the northern kingdom Israel. (**2 Kings 17:1-6**)



⁸ Information about Assyria found at: <http://ancienthistory.about.com/cs/egypt/a/assyriaintro.htm>, <http://www.amazingart.com/seven-wonders/assyria.html> and Google Image Search

Babylonian Empire⁹

Approximately 600BC – 550BC



- Ancient Babylon was located between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, about 60 miles southwest of Baghdad, Iraq.
- The most famous innovation of ancient Babylonian culture was astronomy, which began as a study of astrology. They created stellar catalogues and a nearly perfect calendar
- They were able to predict eclipses, which they believed announced dangerous and evil times. Eclipses were predicted through two mathematical systems they developed. These systems are the scientific basis of the mathematical and astronomic legacy of ancient Babylonia.



⁹ Information about Babylon found at: <http://www.allabouthistory.org/ancient-babylon.htm> and Google Image Search

Leading up to Daniel chapter 1¹⁰

605BC

- Assyria is getting weaker
- Prince Nebuchadnezzar takes control of Babylonian Army
- Fights Egypt who were allied to Assyria at Carchemish (**Jeremiah 46:13-24, Habakkuk 1:5-11**)
- Assyria ceases to be the dominate power in the region now that they have no allies
- Nebuchadnezzar's father dies , he returns home and he becomes king

604BC

- Jeremiah and Habakkuk continue to prophecy God using Babylon to punish Israel
- Nebuchadnezzar returns and conquers Egypt and Judah, as he returns home he takes with him some hostages and some gold from the temple. Daniel is one of these men (**2 Kings 24:1-20, Daniel 1:1-2**)

601BC

- Nebuchadnezzar is beaten by Egypt
- Judah rebels and stops paying tribute (**2 Kings 25:1**)
- Nebuchadnezzar returns, retakes lost territory, kills all the noble families, steals everything out of the temple, destroys Jerusalem and carries off the Israelites into exile (**2 Kings 25:1-21**)

¹⁰ Remaining Timeline information found in Daniel: Kingdoms in Conflict, Andrew Reid, Published by Aquila Press

Appendix Three – The Dream

Some people think this dream is predicting the rise and fall of empires after Babylon. It is clear from the dream that Babylon is the head and there are clues elsewhere in the book that the rest of the parts of the statue are kingdoms that rose to power after that. The rock is referring to Jesus dying and rising again bringing in God's eternal kingdom. God has saved his people, just like he said he would.



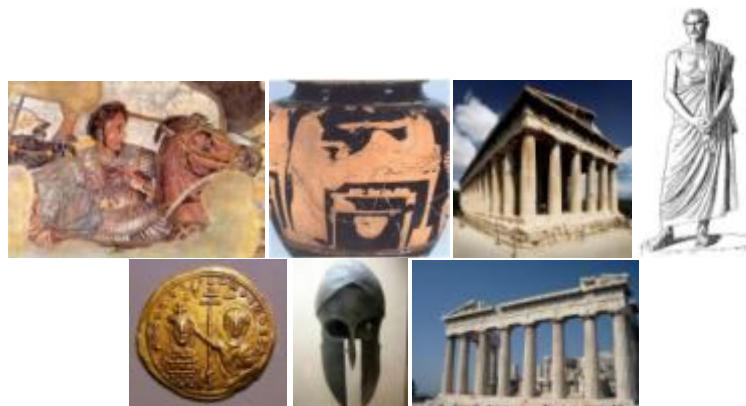
- Kingdom 1 – Babylon (2:36-38)¹¹
- Kingdom 2 – Medo-Persia (5:30-31)
- Kingdom 3 – Greece (8:19-22)
 - Alexander the Great conquered more territory than any empire before him. After his death his kingdom was broken up into four separate kingdoms ruled by his four generals.
- Kingdom 4 – Rome (7:7)¹²
- The Rock
 - Jesus – His death and resurrection bringing in the eternal Kingdom of God. God has saved his people

¹¹ See Appendix 2

¹² For information about how Rome enters the story of God's work in the world, read the New Testament



- Alexander the Great was born in 356 B.C
- At the age of 20, Alexander assembled forces in Greek Cities in Corinth and then invaded the Persian Empire
- Alexander was determined to conquer the world. He continued through what is now Afghanistan to the Indus River Valley and reach Punjab in 326BC.
- When Alexander died his empire was divided into four areas ruled by his generals. They fought each other grappling for power (**Daniel ch 10 and 11**)
- Eventually three main kingdoms emerged:
 - ‘Macedonia and Greece’ ruled by Antigonus – Antigonid Dynasty.
 - ‘Modern Israel, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan’ ruled by Seleucid – Seleucid Dynasty.
 - ‘Egypt’ ruled by Ptolemy – Ptoleimid Dynasty.



¹³ Information about Greece from: <http://ancienthistory.about.com/cs/greecehellas1/a/greecehellenist.htm>, <http://www.ancientgreece.com/s/People/Alexander/>, <http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/greeks/history/hellenistic.htm> and Google image search.

Medo-Persia¹⁴



- Darius is introduced in Daniel 5:31. Very little is known about him. He ruled until 486BC
- The most famous Persian king is King Cyrus the Great (559BC - 530 BC). Cyrus freed the Jews in exile (Ezra and Nehemiah).
- The greatest Persian god of antiquity was Ahura-Mazda, the god of light and wisdom.
- The god of fire, Atar, was very important. He sent the sacrifices to the gods, which enabled them to combat the forces of evil and darkness. The god Rapithwin was considered to be like the warmth of the sun which is reborn each spring.



¹⁴ Information found at: <http://hsci.cas.ou.edu/exhibits/exhibit.php?exbgrp=-999&exbid=47&exbpg=8>, <http://historel.tripod.com/orient/08perse.htm> and Google Image Search

Appendix Four – Antiochus Ephiphanes

As we have looked through Daniel we have seen many historical events being spoken about. We have also remembered to look at the big picture of God saving his people and we have seen how encouraging that is when we face suffering as a Christian. In Daniel 7:8, 20-22, 24-27 and 8:9-12 and maybe in 9:27 and 11:31-32 the actions of a man called King Antiochus IV or Antiochus Ephiphanes are foretold. The following quotes are from: Daniel: Kingdoms in Conflict, by Andrew Reid, published by Aquila Press. They give a brief overview of where Antiochus fits in.

‘The small horn, however, probably has reference to a particular Seleucid king, Antiochus IV, otherwise known as Antiochus Ephiphanes. It was this king who won notoriety as the most vicious and out of control ruler since the exile under Nebuchadnezzar.

It was also Antiochus Ephiphanes who forced his way onto his throne and who tried to *change the set times and the laws* (7:25). This reference to *set times*, while possibly referring to his attempts to replace the 365 day solar calendar with a 360 day Lunar calendar, is more probably referring to his defiance of the proper course of history (cf the similar usage in 2:21 where God *changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them*). Similarly, the reference to *laws*, in 7:25 could be talking about Jewish laws, but is perhaps better understood as a reference to God’s decree of judgement on him. In this case, the dream tells us that although Antiochus assumed the position of God and tried to change and control history, his attempts were in vain.

Although he had been given authority to rule (that is, although he has *eyes like the eyes of a man*), Antiochus lifted himself up before God and spoke boastfully against him, seemingly taking control of history and his own destiny into his own hands.’ (page 123)

‘Although not named the small horn was obviously Antiochus IV ... Antiochus is as arrogant as his predecessors and in some respects excelled them.

- He banned the temple sacrifices and a broad range of Jewish religious practices
- He stole things from the temple
- He destroyed copies of the Torah and banned circumcision and the public recital of the law (page 149)

‘Antiochus believed himself to be the earthly manifestation of the Greek god Zeus and it was to this god that he dedicated the Jerusalem temple when he took it over in 167BC. (page 151)

