

## INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK

**Author:** Daniel

**Audience:** Other Jews who were in captivity in Babylon

**Setting:** Daniel was taken captive from Judah as a young teenager and deported to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. He spent the rest of his life in the heart of the empire, rising to prominence as a leading administrator and trusted adviser to Nebuchadnezzar. Over the course of roughly 70 years, Daniel served in the highest levels of government under four successive rulers: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, and Cyrus. (See the final page.)

## THE BOOK OF DANIEL AT A GLANCE

### Key People:

1. *Daniel*: The author, whose adventures as a teen and an 80-year-old still have power to inspire us.
2. *Nebuchadnezzar*: The ruler of the great Babylonian Empire, whose contact with Daniel led him to come to know the true God.

### Key Events:

1. *Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream* (Daniel 2). God's revelation of the great king's dream brings Daniel to prominence in Babylon's administration.
2. *The fiery furnace* (Daniel 3). Three of Daniel's fellow captives refuse to worship the king's idol and are miraculously rescued by the Lord.
3. *Nebuchadnezzar's madness* (Daniel 4). Pride leads to a divine humbling of the great king and to his acknowledgement of the Lord as God.
4. *Daniel in the lion's den* (Daniel 6). The 80-year-old Daniel is faithful to God, and the Lord preserves him.

### Outline of the Book

1. Daniel's life and work: Chapters 1 to 6
2. Daniel's visions and prophecy: Chapters 7 to 12

### Key Prophecies.

1. *Visions of the years to come* (Daniel 7-8). Vivid dreams outline history from Daniel's day to the time of Christ.

2. *Revelation of the seventy sevens* (Daniel 9). An angel reveals a specific schedule for the appearance of Israel's long-awaited Messiah.
3. *Images of History's end* (Daniel 11-12). An angel describes terrible events to take place at the end of time, when all prophecy is destined to be fulfilled.

## CHAPTERS 1-6: STANDING FAITHFUL IN A FOREIGN LAND

**Lesson Aim:** To understand how Daniel lived faithfully, served excellently, and trusted God completely while working within ungodly systems and how we can do the same today.

**Key Scripture:**

*“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself...”*  
— Daniel 1:8 (KJV)

**Lesson Overview:** Daniel chapters 1 through 6 are historical narratives that reveal how God's people are to live in exile, remaining faithful to God while functioning effectively in secular and often hostile environments. These chapters focus less on prophecy and more on character, courage, and conviction.

### I. DANIEL'S IDENTITY IN EXILE (Daniel 1)

#### Historical Context

Daniel was taken captive as a young man when Babylon conquered Judah (605 BC). He was:

- Removed from his **homeland** (1:1)
- Given a new name (1:7). Daniel's new name was **Beltshazzar**.
- God gave Daniel and his three friends **knowledge** and skill in all learning and wisdom (1:17).
- Daniel had **understanding** in all visions and dreams (1:17).
- Immersed in Babylonian **education**.
- Pressured to adopt Babylonian **culture**.

Yet Daniel did not lose his identity.

**Main Takeaway:** Faithful obedience to God, especially in small, everyday decisions, positions us to receive His wisdom, favor, and influence.

Daniel made an **internal** decision before **external** pressure intensified. His refusal to defile himself with the king's food was not about **diet** alone, it was about **devotion**.

*“Daniel purposed in his heart...”* (Daniel 1:8)

These young men's integrity led to God granting them exceptional wisdom, understanding, and favor, setting them apart in a **foreign** land.

This chapter shows that spiritual resolve doesn't always begin with dramatic moments; it often starts with simple, disciplined choices that honor God. Those choices shape character and character opens doors for God to work.

### **Life Application:**

1. You can be surrounded by ungodly culture without compromising godly convictions.
2. Faithfulness begins with settled decisions, not emotional reactions.

### **Introspective Questions**

1. Where am I being pressured to compromise my values to fit in or get ahead?
2. What convictions do I claim publicly but neglect privately?
3. What "table" have I been invited to that looks harmless but weakens my devotion to God?

## **II. DANIEL'S GOD-GIVEN WISDOM AND EXCELLENCE (Daniel 2)**

### **The King's Impossible Demand**

Nebuchadnezzar demanded that his wise men:

1. Tell him his **dream**
2. **Interpret** it correctly

Human wisdom failed (2:10-11).

Daniel's Response (2:17-20, 23, 28)

- He **prayed**
- He sought God's **mercy**
- He gave God the **glory**

*But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these (Daniel 2:28, KJV)*

*But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed. (Daniel 2:28, NLT)*

### **Main Takeaways:**

1. Daniel's influence came not from ambition, but from **dependence** on God.
2. God alone reveals what is hidden, and His sovereignty stands above every earthly **kingdom**.

## Nebuchadnezzar's Dream in Babylon



**Table 1: Meaning of the Statue's Parts (Daniel 2:31–45)**

Part of the Statue	Material	Represents	Notes / Life Application
<b>Head</b>	Gold	Babylonian Empire (Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom)	Symbol of glory, strength, and wealth. Babylon is supreme at this stage, but not eternal. Teaches that even the greatest human kingdom is temporary.
<b>Chest &amp; Arms</b>	Silver	Medo-Persian Empire	Weaker than gold, yet strong enough to conquer Babylon. Demonstrates that successive kingdoms may be less "glorious" but still significant.
<b>Belly &amp; Thighs</b>	Bronze	Greek Empire (Alexander the Great & successors)	Powerful, expansive, but less refined. Shows the rise of military genius and culture that still falls under God's sovereignty.

Part of the Statue	Material	Represents	Notes / Life Application
Legs	Iron	Roman Empire	Strong, crushing power. Iron represents military dominance and political control. Note that strength alone cannot endure forever without God's guidance.
Feet	Iron mixed with clay	Divided / weak kingdoms (End-times nations)	Mixture shows instability: partly strong, partly fragile. Points to future divided empires, often interpreted as nations at the "end times."
Stone "cut without hands"	Solid rock	God's eternal Kingdom	Destined to crush all human kingdoms. Represents Jesus Christ's eternal rule and God's ultimate sovereignty. Application: God's kingdom will outlast every human effort; submission to Him is wisdom.

Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's God-given interpretation shows that human power, wisdom, and empires are temporary, but God's kingdom is eternal. Daniel emphasizes that the mystery was revealed not because of his own insight but because God is the true source of wisdom and understanding.

*But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart. (Daniel 2:30, KJV)*

*And it is not because I am wiser than anyone else that I know the secret of your dream, but because God wants you to understand what was in your heart. (Daniel 2:30, NLT)*

This chapter highlights two powerful truths:

1. God is the revealer of **mysteries**, the one who knows what lies in darkness and brings light to it.
2. God rules over history, raising up and removing kings, and ultimately establishing a **kingdom** that will never be destroyed.

**Life Application:**

1. God places believers in strategic positions to reveal His wisdom.
2. Excellence flows from prayer, not pressure.

**III. COURAGE UNDER FIRE (Daniel 3)**

Although Daniel is not mentioned by name in this chapter, the narrative reinforces the faith culture he helped shape.

**The Fiery Furnace**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow to the golden image of Nebuchadnezzar (90 feet tall, 9 feet wide ).

*"Our God whom we serve is able... but if not..." (Daniel 3:17-18)*

**Main Takeaways:**

1. Faithfulness is not based on outcomes; it is based on **obedience**.
2. Faithfulness to God is worth the **cost**.
3. God's presence is strongest in the **fire**.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's golden image, choosing loyalty to God over safety. Their courage shows that obedience doesn't depend on outcomes. They declared that God could save them, but even if He didn't, they would remain faithful.

**Life Application**

1. True faith says, "even if God doesn't deliver me the way I expect, I will still obey."
2. God often reveals Himself most clearly in the fire.

**Introspective Questions**

1. Do I seek God first when facing impossible situations or rely on my own strategies?
2. Would my faith remain visible if obedience cost me comfort, reputation, or security?
3. Is my trust in God conditional on deliverance, or is it settled regardless of outcome?

# DANIEL

## LESSON 2



### CHAPTERS 1-6: STANDING FAITHFUL IN A FOREIGN LAND Continued

**Lesson Aim:** To understand how Daniel lived faithfully, served excellently, and trusted God completely while working within ungodly systems and how we can do the same today.

#### IV. GOD'S POWER TO HUMBLE THE PROUD (Daniel 4)

##### Nebuchadnezzar's Pride

- Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful man in the world, yet powerless before God.
  - Earthly authority is delegated, not independent.
1. The king exalted himself and God humbled him. *“Those that walk in pride he is able to abase.”* (Daniel 4:37)
  2. He credited himself for what God had allowed him to build (Dan. 4:30).

**Daniel 4:30.** *As he looked out across the city, he said, ‘Look at this great city of Babylon! By **my** own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as **my** royal residence to display **my** majestic splendor.’*

3. Daniel boldly warned the king, showing both truth and compassion (4:27).

**Daniel 4:27.** *“King Nebuchadnezzar, please accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right. Break from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper.’*

##### Main Takeaways:

1. God is **sovereign** over all kingdoms.
2. Pride precedes a **fall**.
3. God **warns** before He disciplines.
4. God opposes pride but restores the **humble**, even leaders.
5. True restoration begins with acknowledging **God**.

Nebuchadnezzar's story in this chapter is a dramatic reminder that no human power, achievement, or authority is secure when rooted in pride. The king boasted in his greatness, but God brought him low until he recognized that "the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men". His eventual restoration shows that God's discipline is purposeful and is meant to lead us to repentance, humility, and a right view of His rule.

### Life Application

1. God's discipline is **redemptive**, not destructive (4:34-37).
2. Pride is often most dangerous when **success** is real and visible.
3. God disciplines after He **instructs**, not before.
4. **Humility** positions us for restoration (1 Peter 5:5-6, James 4:6-7)
5. Influence does not exempt anyone from **accountability** to God.
6. When God humbles, He often targets how we think, not just what we have.
7. Our season of correction is not permanent, but it is **purposeful**.
8. Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is recognizing God as **supreme**.

### Introspective Questions

1. How do I respond when God blesses me, is it with gratitude or self-credit?
2. Has success quietly shaped my identity more than submission to God?
3. What warning signs has God given me that I may be ignoring?

## V. THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL (Daniel 5)

### Belshazzar's Recklessness

1. He dishonored **God** openly and arrogantly (5:22-23).
2. He **ruled** with careless arrogance rather than reverent fear.

While Belshazzar celebrated in Babylon, the Medes and Persians, led by Cyrus the Great, were besieging the city and about to conquer it, with Cyrus's general, Darius the Mede, ultimately receiving the kingdom after Belshazzar's death that very night.

3. He dishonored what was **holy**.
4. He panicked when confronted by **God**.
5. He delayed **repentance** until it was too late.

Even after hearing Daniel's interpretation, Belshazzar made no move toward repentance. Judgment came the very night. His story warns that persistent irreverence shortens the window for mercy.

6. God's **judgment** was swift. "*God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.*" (Daniel 5:26)

**In short, Belshazzar showed contempt for God, misused his authority, and ignored clear warnings, resulting in total loss.**

**Main Takeaway:** Pride and irreverence toward God ultimately lead to downfall, while God's sovereignty stands firm over every earthly ruler.

Belshazzar knew the lessons from Nebuchadnezzar's life but refused to humble himself. His arrogance, especially his disrespect for the sacred vessels, became the tipping point for God's judgment. The "writing on the wall" is a vivid reminder that God holds nations and leaders accountable and that ignoring His warnings has real consequences.

### **Life Application**

1. Sacred things should never be treated casually.
2. Irreverence toward what is holy leads to moral blindness / dullen spiritual sensitivity.
3. God's evaluation matters more than human celebration.  
While the king celebrated, God weighed his life and found it lacking. Applause from people cannot offset disapproval from heaven.
4. Disregarding God's warnings does not delay consequences.
5. God's patience should never be mistaken for approval.

### **Introspective Questions**

1. Am I treating sacred things like God's presence, His Word, or my calling casually?
2. Where might I be celebrating while God is calling me to repentance?
3. If God weighed my life today, what areas might be "found wanting"?

## **VI. FAITHFUL PRAYER IN A HOSTILE SYSTEM (Daniel 6)**

### **The Lion's Den**

1. Daniel's enemies manipulated the law to trap him (Daniel 6:7-8, 12, 15).  
Jealous officials tricked King Darius into decreeing that anyone praying to any god (other than the king) for 30 days would be punished
2. Daniel's response? Daniel did not protest, he prayed.

*Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. (Daniel 6:10, KJV)*

*But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. (Daniel 6:10, NLT)*

3. God's Deliverance: God shut the lions' mouths and elevated Daniel again.

### **Main Takeaway:**

1. A life of consistent faithfulness to God creates integrity that withstands opposition.
2. God is fully able to protect those who **trust** Him.

Daniel's enemies could find no corruption in him, so they attacked the one area they knew he would never compromise, that is, his devotion to God. Daniel continued his **regular** prayers despite the threat, demonstrating that **faithfulness** is formed **before** the crisis.

God's deliverance in the lions' den shows His power to protect and vindicate those who remain steadfast.

3. **Prayer** must take a central place in our lives.
4. Prayer helps us stay faithful when **obedience** is costly.

**Daniel didn't change Babylon, but he remained faithful in it. And through his faithfulness, God was made known.**

*And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. (12:3, KJV)*

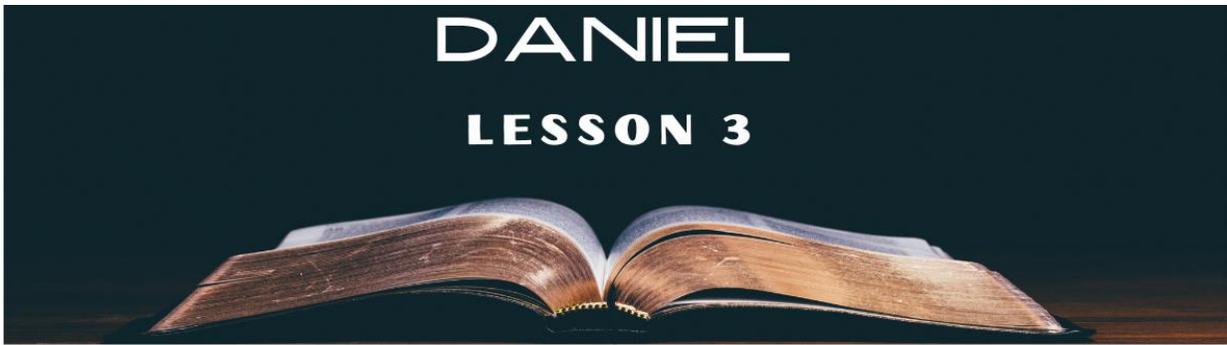
*Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever. (12:3, NLT)*

### **Life Application**

1. Don't abandon spiritual disciplines when pressure increases.
2. God honors public faithfulness rooted in private devotion.

### **Introspective Questions**

1. Is my prayer life consistent, or does it fluctuate with circumstances?
2. Would my devotion to God still be evident if it became illegal, unpopular, or costly?
3. Do I trust God to vindicate me, or do I feel pressure to defend myself?



## DANIEL'S VISIONS AND PROPHECY

### Daniel 7 to 12

#### Key Prophecies.

1. *Visions of the years to come* (Daniel 7-8). Vivid dreams outline history from Daniel's day to the time of Christ.
2. *Revelation of the seventy sevens* (Daniel 9). An angel reveals a specific schedule for the appearance of Israel's long-awaited Messiah.
3. *Images of History's end* (Daniel 11-12). An angel describes terrible events to take place at the end of time, when all prophecy is destined to be fulfilled.

### I. VISIONS OF THE YEARS TO COME (Daniel 7-8)

**Lesson Aim:** To understand Daniel's prophetic visions in chapters 7–8, recognize God's sovereignty over world empires, and strengthen our faith in the certainty of God's eternal kingdom amid turmoil and persecution.

#### 1. THE VISION OF FOUR BEASTS (Daniel 7)

Daniel 7 marks a major turning point in the book of Daniel. Instead of historical narratives, the chapter introduces prophetic visions that reveal God's sovereignty over earthly kingdoms and the certainty of His eternal rule.

Danielle first sees four beasts who kills and supplant each other (7:18), with God appearing to put an end to the last beast (vv. 9-14). An Angel explains that the beasts represent successive kingdoms. A ruler will arise from the last Kingdom to oppose God and the saints, after which God will appear to establish his eternal Kingdom (vv. 15-28).

#### A. The Setting (Daniel 7:1–2)

1. The vision occurs during the reign of **Belshazzar**
2. Daniel receives the vision in a **dream**
3. Unlike Daniel 2, this vision is given directly to **Daniel**, not a king

#### Main Takeaways:

1. God entrusts revelation to **faithful** servants.

2. Earthly kingdoms rise and fall, but God’s kingdom is **eternal**.

The four beasts represent powerful yet temporary human empires. Their dominance is limited by God’s authority, while the Kingdom of the “Son of Man” will never pass away (Dan. 7:13–14).

3. Human power without **God** becomes beastly.

The kingdoms are portrayed as beasts, not noble rulers, highlighting how authority divorced from God’s righteousness turns cruel, oppressive, and self-serving.

4. God remains **sovereign** even when history looks chaotic.

Though the vision is frightening and unsettling, God is still seated on the throne. Judgment is rendered, evil is restrained, and the saints ultimately receive the kingdom (Dan. 7:9–10, 18).

### B. The Four Beasts (Daniel 7:3–8)



The beasts rise from a turbulent sea symbolizing chaos, nations, and human unrest.

#### 1. The Lion with Eagle’s Wings

- Represents **Babylon**
- Wings plucked represent loss of **power**
- Standing like a man (v. 4) represents **Nebuchadnezzar’s** humbling and restoration

## 2. The Bear Raised on One Side

- Represents **Medo-Persian** Empire

A vast ancient Persian realm formed when the Persians, led by Cyrus the Great, conquered the Medes and other territories. The last king that David served was Cyrus. (Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, Cyrus)

- Raised on one side highlights the Empire's unequal **power** structure where Persia eventually dominated the Medes.
- Its aggressive, consuming nature, represented by the three ribs in its mouth signify the conquests of Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt.

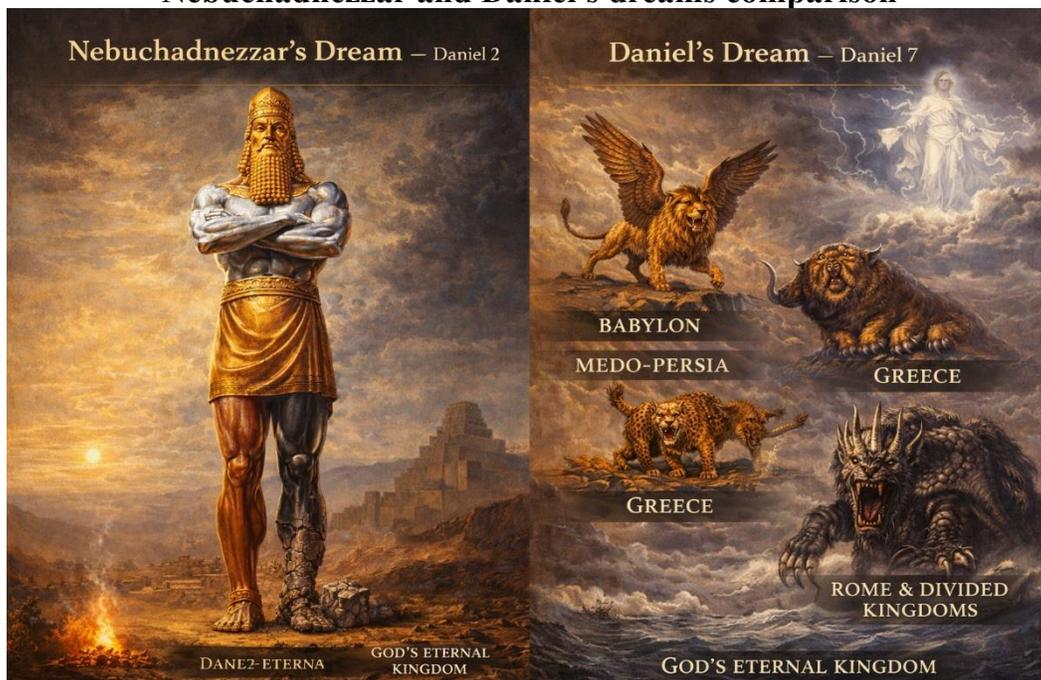
## 3. The Leopard with Four Wings and Four Heads

- Represents **Greece**
- Speed represents rapid conquest under Alexander the Great
- Four heads represent **division** of the Empire after his death

## 4. The Terrifying Beast

- Represents **Rome**
- Iron teeth represent crushing **power**
- Ten horns represent future rulers or kingdoms
- A “little horn” represents a powerful, blasphemous figure or power that emerges from the remnants of the **Roman** Empire (the fourth beast).
  - Subdues three other kingdoms,
  - Persecutes God's people (saints) for a limited **time**.
  - Attempts to change divine laws, ultimately culminating in **judgment** by God at Christ's **return**

### Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel's dreams comparison



**Key Insight:** Human empires grow increasingly violent and arrogant over time.

**C. God’s Courtroom and Judgment (Daniel 7:9–12)**

Daniel sees:

- The Ancient of Days (God) take His seat on the **throne**.
- God is radiant, pure, and eternal.
- God is not reacting, He is presiding.
- Books are opened, signaling divine **judgment**.

While the beasts rage on earth, their power is limited and revoked by God. The fourth beast is destroyed, and although the others are allowed to exist briefly, their dominion is taken away.

**D. The Son of Man and the Eternal Kingdom (Daniel 7:13–14)**

One like the Son of Man comes with the clouds and receives:

- **Dominion**
- **Glory**
- An everlasting **kingdom**

This title is later claimed by Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:63–64)

**Key Insight:** God’s final kingdom is ruled by a righteous King.

**E. Interpretation and Assurance (Daniel 7:15–28)**

The angel explains:

- The saints will **suffer** temporarily
- God will ultimately give them the **kingdom**

*And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. (Daniel 7:27, KJV)*

*Then the sovereignty, power, and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be given to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will last forever, and all rulers will serve and obey (Daniel 7:27, NLT)*

**Table 2: Daniel 7 – The Four Beasts and the Eternal Kingdom**

Vision Symbol	Description	Historical Kingdom	Key Characteristics	Scripture
Lion with Eagle’s Wings	Regal beast, wings removed, made to stand like a man	Babylon	Power, pride, later humbled	Daniel 7:4
Bear Raised on One Side	Three ribs in its mouth	Medo-Persia	Unequal alliance, aggressive conquest	Daniel 7:5

Vision Symbol	Description	Historical Kingdom	Key Characteristics	Scripture
Leopard with Four Wings & Four Heads	Extremely fast	Greece	Rapid expansion, divided after Alexander	Daniel 7:6
Terrifying Beast with Iron Teeth	Ten horns, crushing power	Rome	Brutal authority, long-lasting rule	Daniel 7:7
Little Horn	Arrogant, persecutes saints	Antichrist / Anti-God power	Pride, blasphemy, persecution	Daniel 7:8
Ancient of Days	Seated Judge	God	Sovereign, eternal judge	Daniel 7:9–10
Son of Man	Comes with clouds	Messiah (Jesus Christ)	Eternal dominion and kingdom	Daniel 7:13–14

## II. THE VISION OF THE RAM AND THE GOAT (Daniel 8)



In his second vision Daniel sees a ram and he-goat struggling (8:1-12). The Angel Gabriel explains this vision, which gives a general summary of the rise of Medo-Persia and Greece and the four-part division of the empire after the death of Alexander the Great (vv. 13-27). Verses 23 to 25 seemed to describe Antiochus Epiphanes who persecuted the Jews in the 160s B.C., but who here serves as a type of the Antichrist destined to appear at the history's end?

Antiochus IV Epiphanes, a Seleucid king (175-164 BCE), persecuted Jews to enforce Hellenization (Greek culture) by outlawing Judaism, desecrating the Jerusalem Temple with pagan idols (like Zeus) and swine sacrifices, and executing those who practiced their faith, sparking the Maccabean Revolt, a pivotal Jewish resistance movement led by Mattathias and his sons, ultimately resulting in Jewish independence and Hanukkah.

#### A. The Setting (Daniel 8:1–2)

- Occurs later during **Belshazzar's** reign
- Vision given in Susa, a future Persian capital

**Key Insight:** God reveals events before they happen.

#### B. The Ram (Daniel 8:3–4)

- Two horns, one higher
- Represents Medo-Persia
- “The higher horn came up last” represents Persia’s **dominance**.

#### C. The Goat (Daniel 8:5–8)

- Comes swiftly from the west
- Prominent horn represents **Alexander the Great**
- Horn breaks represent Alexander’s early **death**
- Four horns arise represent **division** of his empire

**Key Insight:** Human power is impressive but brief.

#### D. The Little Horn (Daniel 8:9–14)

This horn:

- Grows arrogantly
- **Persecutes** God’s people
- Defiles the **temple**
- Stops daily **sacrifices**

Historically fulfilled in Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who desecrated the temple.

**Prophetic Foreshadowing:** This also points to future end-time persecution.

#### E. Divine Interpretation (Daniel 8:15–26)

Gabriel explains the vision clearly:

- These events concern the “time of the **end**”
- God limits the duration of **persecution**
- The oppressor will be **broken** “without human hand”

**Key Insight:** Evil has boundaries set by God.

**Table 3: Daniel 8 – The Ram and the Goat**

Vision Symbol	Meaning	Historical Fulfillment	Key Insight	Scripture
Ram with Two Horns	Medes and Persians	Medo-Persian Empire	One horn greater (Persia)	Daniel 8:3–4
Goat from the West	Greece	Alexander the Great	Swift conquest	Daniel 8:5
Large Horn Broken	Alexander’s death	Greece divided	Human power is temporary	Daniel 8:8
Four Horns	Four generals	Divided Greek Empire	Political fragmentation	Daniel 8:8
Little Horn	Antiochus IV Epiphanes	Temple desecration	Foreshadowing end-time persecution	Daniel 8:9–14

**III. MAJOR THEMES IN CHAPTERS 7–8**

- 1. God Controls History.** Empires rise and fall by divine appointment.
- 2. The Temporary Nature of Human Power.** No empire, not political, economic, or cultural, lasts forever.
- 3. The Reality of Persecution.** God’s people will face opposition, but not abandonment.
- 4. The Certainty of God’s Kingdom.** God’s reign is eternal, righteous, and victorious.
- 5. The Messiah Is Central.** The “Son of Man” is the true King who receives everlasting dominion.

**Table 4: Big Picture Timeline**

Period	Kingdom	Scripture	Outcome
605–539 BC	Babylon	Daniel 1–4	Falls to Persia
539–331 BC	Medo-Persia	Daniel 5–6; 8	Falls to Greece
331–168 BC	Greece	Daniel 7–8	Divided
168 BC onward	Rome	Daniel 7	Leads to Messianic expectation
Eternal	God’s Kingdom	Daniel 7:13–14	Never ends

**Life Application**

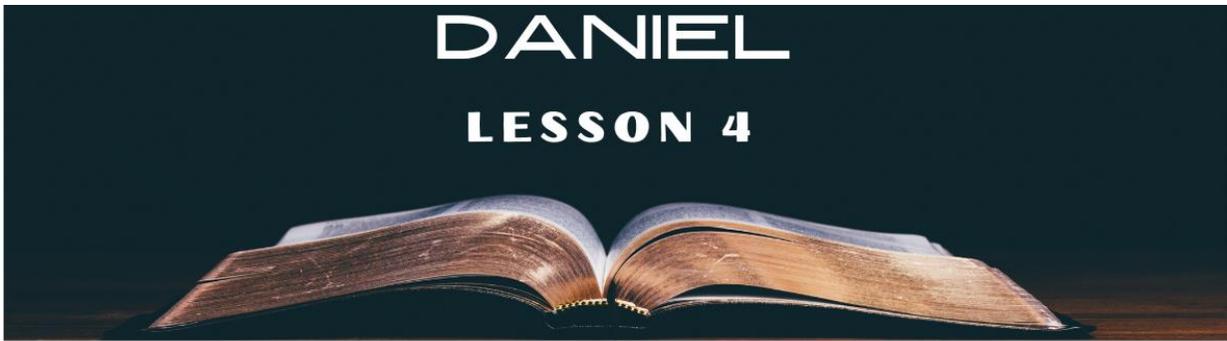
- Do not place your hope in governments or systems.
- Expect pressure when you live faithfully.
- Stay anchored in God’s Word and prayer.
- Live with eternal perspective, not temporary fear.

**Conclusion**

Daniel 7–8 assures us that history is steadily moving toward the fullness of Christ’s reign. The terrifying beasts that rise and fall across the ages will ultimately be judged and brought low. In the end, the saints of the Most High will inherit the kingdom prepared for them.

And above all, the Son of Man will receive everlasting dominion, reigning forever with justice, glory, and unshakable authority.

*“He shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.” (Zechariah 9:10)*



## II. THE REVELATION OF THE SEVENTY SEVENS (Daniel 9)

Daniel's vision of the "70 weeks" is pivotal for those who interpret prophecy in any literal way. Daniel learns from Scripture that God intends to restore his people (9:1-3) and went into prayer to beg God to keep his promise of restoration soon (vv. 4-19). God sends Gabriel, who explains that God has decreed "seventy sevens" for the Jews and the Holy City (vv. 20-23). At the end of that time, He will complete His plan for the world (v. 24). Gabriel goes on to explain when to begin counting, and how the time period is divided, focusing on events in the 70th week, which is separated from the other 69 by the "cutting off" of the Messiah (vv. 25-27).

### Lesson Aim

To understand the meaning, purpose, and prophetic significance of the "seventy sevens" revealed to Daniel, and to see how this prophecy centers on God's redemptive plan through the Messiah.

### Key Scripture

*Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. (Daniel 9:24, KJV)*

*A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. (Daniel 9:24, NLT)*

God reveals His redemptive timetable not to satisfy curiosity, but to strengthen faith, fuel repentance, and anchor hope in the Messiah. Christ will return, "when" is up to God.

### Historical Context

1. Daniel 9 takes place during:
  - The **Babylonian** exile

- Near the end of the 70 years of **captivity** prophesied by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 25:11–12; 29:10)
2. Daniel is now an elderly man, deeply aware of:
- Israel’s **sin**
  - God’s **faithfulness**
  - The urgency of **repentance**

## I. Daniel’s Prayer of Repentance (Daniel 9:1–19)

Before God reveals the future, He addresses the heart.

### A. Daniel Understood the Times (Daniel 9:1–2)

Daniel studied Jeremiah’s writings and realized the exile was nearing completion.

*“I Daniel understood by books the number of the years...”*

### B. Daniel’s Posture Before God (Daniel 9:3–6)

Daniel:

- **Fasted**
- Wore **sackcloth**
- Confessed sin; not just personal, but **national**. He prayed *“we have sinned,”* even though he lived **righteously**.

### C. Themes of the Prayer

1. God’s **righteousness**
2. Israel’s **rebellion**
3. **Mercy** over merit
4. Appeal to God’s **name** and reputation

*O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name. (Daniel 9:19, KJV)*

*O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For your own sake, do not delay, O my God, for your people and your city bear your name. (Daniel 9:19, NLT)*

## II. God’s Immediate Response (Daniel 9:20–23)

While Daniel is still praying, the angel Gabriel arrives.

*“At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth...”*

- **God responds to sincere repentance and humble prayer.** Daniel was confessing sin and interceding not just for himself, but for his people.
- **Heaven responds quickly, even when answers unfold slowly.** The angel was dispatched at the beginning of Daniel’s prayer. Delay does not mean denial; it often means divine timing.
- **You are heard and valued by God.** Daniel is called “greatly beloved,” reminding us that our prayers are not processed impersonally, they are received relationally.
- **Understanding follows obedience.** God sent insight because Daniel positioned himself rightly before Him.

- **Prayer aligns us with heaven’s activity.** Daniel’s prayer became the trigger for angelic movement. When we pray according to God’s heart, heaven moves on earth.

### III. The Revelation of the Seventy Sevens (Daniel 9:24–27)

This is one of the most important prophetic passages in Scripture.

#### A. The Meaning of “Seventy Sevens”

These are **weeks of years**, not days.

- 1 seven = 7 years
- 70 sevens = **490** years

The 69 sevens (v. 25) and the 70th week come from Daniel’s prophecy (9:24-27), outlining 70 “weeks” (interpreted as seventy 7-year periods, totaling 490 years) for Jerusalem and Israel, culminating in Messiah’s coming. The first 69 weeks (7 + 62) led to the Messiah being “cut off” (crucified), with a gap before the final 70th week (7 years). This final week, often called the Great Tribulation, involves a covenant, a cessation of sacrifices, and the “Abomination of Desolation,” pointing to future fulfillment like the Antichrist and Second Coming.

#### The 69 Sevens (69 x 7 = 483 Years)

- **Starting Point:** A decree to **rebuild** Jerusalem (around 445 BC).

**Why they needed to rebuild:** The first temple (Solomon’s Temple) in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Neo-Babylonian Empire, led by King Nebuchadnezzar II, around 587/586 BCE, after conquering the city and exiling much of its population to Babylon. The Babylonian commander, Nebuzaradan, then burned the Temple and other key buildings, marking a pivotal moment in Jewish history.

- **Breakdown:** 7 weeks (49 years) for rebuilding, then 62 weeks (**434** years).
- **End Point:** After 69 weeks (483 years), the **Messiah** (Jesus) is “cut off” (crucified), fulfilling the prophecy.

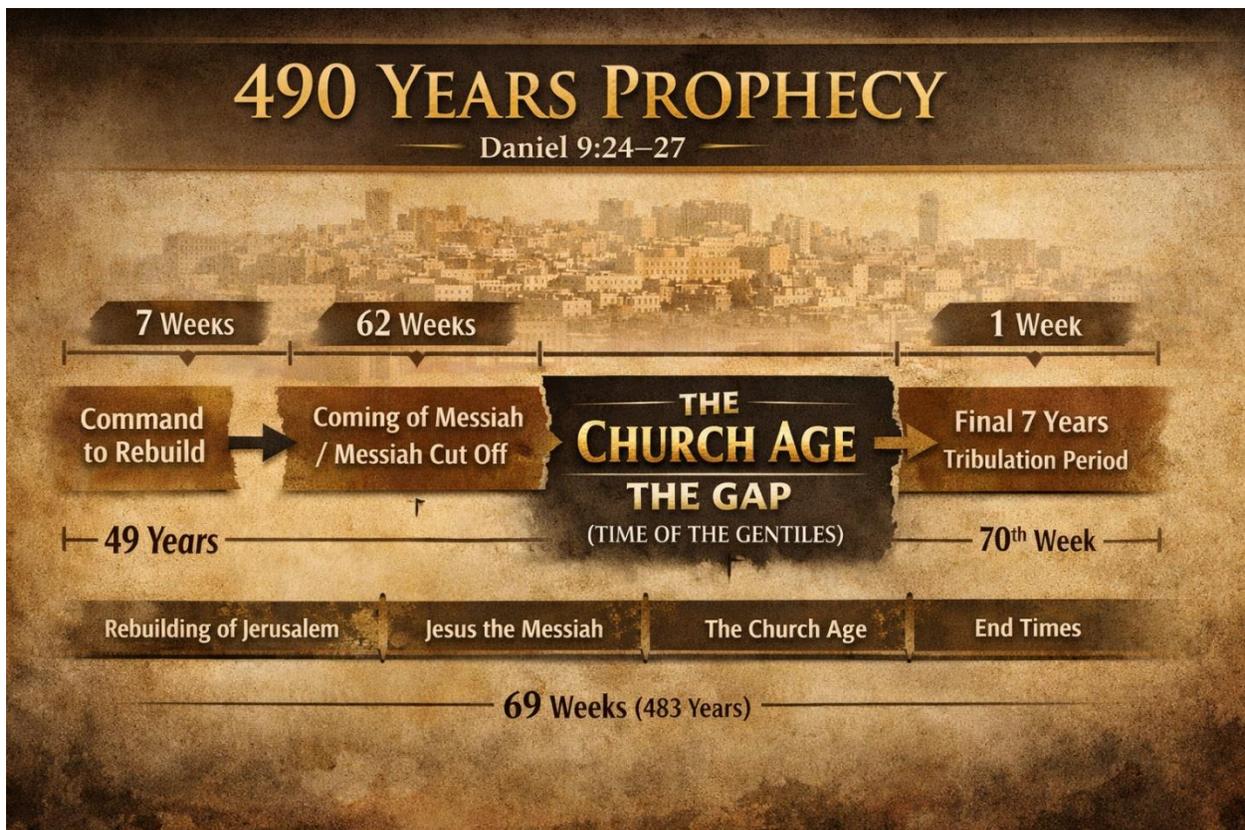
#### The 70th Week: The final 7 **years**

- A future period of intense **conflict**
- A ruler who breaks **covenant**
- **Sacrifices** stopped
- **Abomination** introduced

*And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. (Daniel 9:27, KJV)*

The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him. (Daniel 9:27, NLT)

- **A Gap:** There's a significant time gap between the 69th and 70th week, during which the first 69 weeks' goals were partially met, but the final ones remain.
- **The Covenant:** A future world leader, the Antichrist, will make a covenant with many (the nation of Israel) promising peace and security at the start of the **Tribulation**.
- **Middle of the Week:** After 3.5 years (half a week), this leader breaks the **covenant**, stops sacrifices and offerings, desecrating the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem (a third temple) and establishing himself as divine, leading to intense conflict and persecution.
- **Fulfillment:** This final half-week is associated with intense **tribulation**, leading to the destruction of the desolator and Christ's return.



### B. The Six Purposes of the Seventy Sevens (Daniel 9:24)

1. To finish **transgression**
2. To make an end of **sin**
3. To make **reconciliation** for iniquity

4. To bring in everlasting **righteousness**
5. To **seal** up vision and prophecy
6. To **anoint** the Most Holy

These goals are ultimately fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

#### **IV. Connections to the New Testament**

##### **Daniel 9 and Jesus**

- “Messiah cut off” → Crucifixion (Isaiah 53)
- Reconciliation for sin → The Cross
- Everlasting righteousness → Justification in Christ

##### **Daniel 9 and Revelation**

- Covenant-breaking ruler → Beast imagery
- Abomination → Revelation 13
- Final judgment → Revelation 19–20

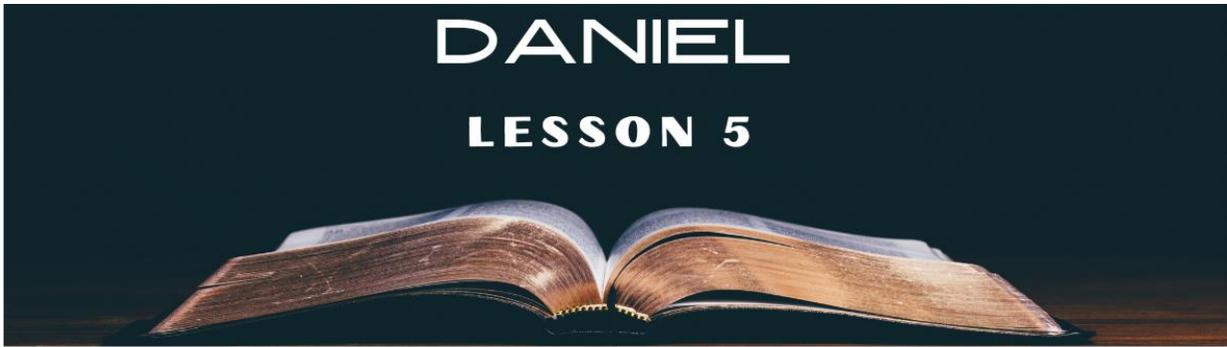
Revelation expands Daniel; it does not contradict it.

##### **Life application**

1. Take sin seriously but trust God’s mercy.
2. Study Scripture to understand the times.
3. Let prophecy deepen worship, not fear.
4. Live with urgency and faithfulness.
5. Anchor hope in Christ, not timelines.

##### **Introspective Questions**

1. How does Daniel’s prayer shape our understanding of repentance?
2. What does “Messiah cut off, but not for Himself” mean for your faith?
3. How should prophecy affect the way we live today?



## II. VISIONS OF REVELATION AND GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY (Daniel 10-12)

### Context

- **Author:** Daniel, prophet and statesman in Babylon/Persia.
- **Setting:** Late in Daniel's life, during the reign of Cyrus and Darius (Persian Empire).
- **Purpose:** To reveal God's control over nations, the spiritual realities behind earthly events, and the ultimate triumph of God's people.

### 1. THE VISION OF THE HEAVENLY MESSENGER (Daniel 10)

- Daniel mourns and **fasts** for three weeks, seeking understanding of future events (Dan. 10:2–3).
- An **angelic** being appears to him, describing spiritual conflict and giving insight into future **kingdoms**.
- Daniel experiences physical and emotional awe. Daniel fell into a deep state of fear, illustrating the intensity of divine **revelation**.
- The angel explains that **spiritual** warfare is real: he was delayed by the “prince of Persia,” a demonic force, and Michael the archangel intervened (Dan. 10:12–13, 21).

### Main Takeaways

1. Prayer unlocks **revelation**: Daniel's fasting and prayer prepared him to receive God's truth.
2. Spiritual **battles** precede earthly events: Even nations are influenced by unseen spiritual powers.
3. God's servants are **strengthened** for the message: Daniel is encouraged by the angel to be courageous.
4. Faith requires **perseverance**: Three weeks of mourning and fasting shows that seeking God is often a patient, persistent endeavor.

### Life application

1. Spiritual preparation (fasting, prayer, worship) is necessary to understand God's plans.

2. God hears long-term, persistent prayers even if answers are delayed.
3. Spiritual warfare is real; we should pray for discernment and protection.

## 2. PROPHECY OF CONFLICTS BETWEEN KINGDOMS (Daniel 11)

- Daniel 11 details the succession of Persian and Greek kings, culminating in conflicts between the “king of the North” and the “king of the South.”
- Prophecies include the rise of Antiochus IV Epiphanes (type of the Antichrist) and persecution of God’s people.
- Despite turmoil, God assures that His people will be protected and the righteous will eventually stand firm.

### Main Takeaways

1. God **controls** history: Even complex political events unfold under divine oversight (Dan. 11:2–4, 36–45).
2. Persecution is **foretold** but not **final**: Believers may suffer, but God’s plan prevails.
3. Wisdom is needed to understand **end**-times events: The angel repeatedly emphasizes comprehension and encouragement for those who seek clarity.

### Life Applications

1. Trust God even when worldly events seem chaotic or unjust.
2. History and prophecy show that God is sovereign over nations and kings.
3. Stay faithful amid trials. God’s protection and ultimate victory are guaranteed.

## 4. THE CONCLUSION: RESURRECTION AND DELIVERANCE (Daniel 12)

- Daniel 12 gives **end**-times clarity: resurrection, judgment, and ultimate deliverance.
- Michael the archangel protects Israel; “many who sleep in the dust will awake” (Dan. 12:2).
- Two groups are highlighted: the righteous who receive **everlasting** life and the **wicked** who face shame.
- A time of unprecedented trouble is described, but God reassures that the wise will endure (Dan. 12:1–3).
- The prophecy concludes with a sealed vision: Daniel is told to preserve the message until the **appointed** time (Dan. 12:4, 9–13).

### Main Takeaways

1. Resurrection is a biblical reality: Life continues beyond death, with accountability for choices.
2. God’s people are strengthened for the last days: Michael’s protection illustrates divine **intervention**.
3. Wisdom and endurance are crucial: Those who understand prophecy and remain faithful are **blessed**.
4. God’s timing is perfect: The revelation is sealed until the appointed time, showing divine **sovereignty** over history.

### **Life Applications**

1. Live with eternal perspective. Your choices today affect eternity.
2. Stay spiritually vigilant and faithful during trials.
3. Wisdom, discernment, and obedience are keys to thriving in times of difficulty.
4. Seek understanding of God's Word but trust Him for timing.

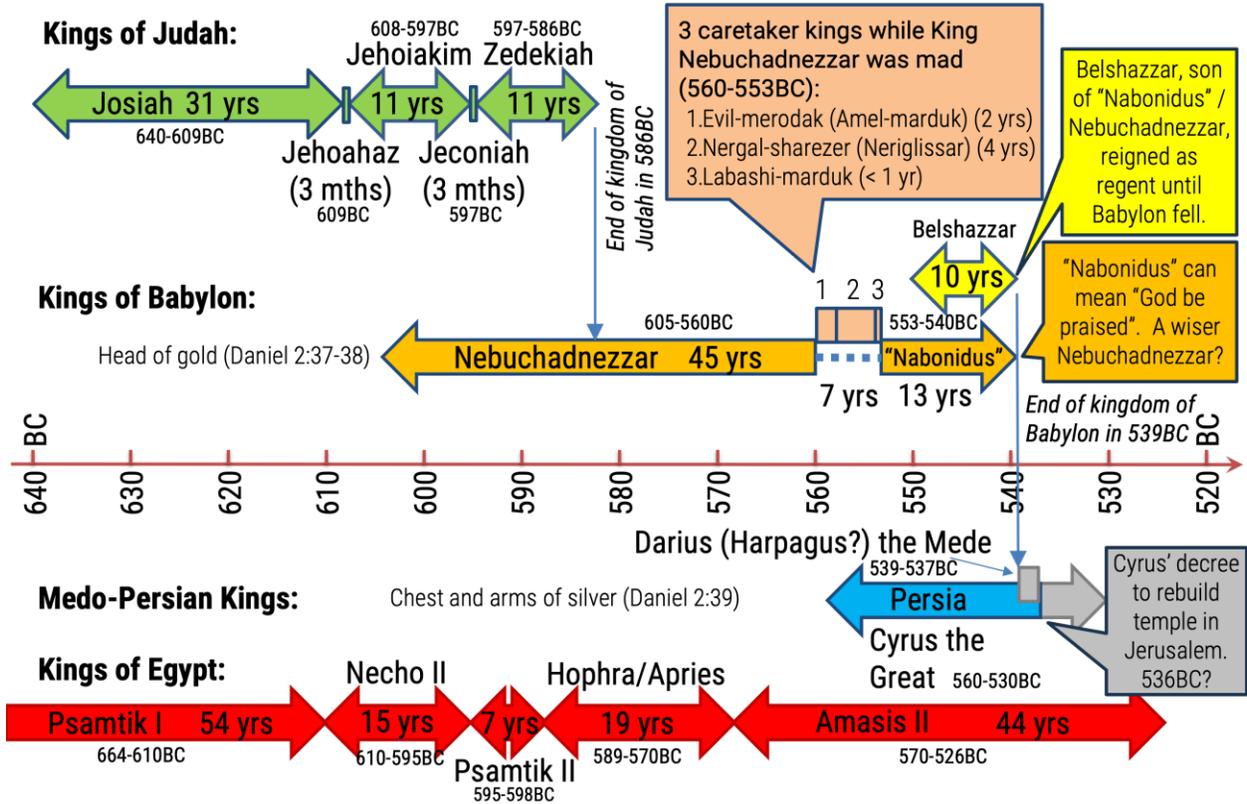
### **Summary of Daniel's Core Message**

1. God is sovereign.
2. Faithfulness matters.
3. History is moving toward God's kingdom.
4. And those who stand firm will shine forever. (Daniel 12:3)

### **Introspective Questions**

1. How does Daniel's example of persistent prayer inspire your personal spiritual discipline?
2. What does Daniel 10 teach us about the reality of spiritual warfare today?
3. How can the prophecies of Daniel 11 encourage believers living under political or social turmoil?
4. What hope does Daniel 12 offer regarding life after death and God's final judgment?
5. How can we remain faithful and wise in a world that often seems chaotic?

# Kings in the time of Daniel



## CONNECTIONS OF DANIEL TO REVELATION AND THE GOSPELS

### Chart 4: Daniel and Revelation: Parallel Imagery

Daniel	Revelation	Meaning
Four Beasts (Dan 7)	Beast from the Sea (Rev 13)	World empires opposing God
Little Horn	Beast / Antichrist	Persecution of saints
Ancient of Days	Throne Room (Rev 4–5)	God's sovereignty
Son of Man	Lamb on the Throne	Christ's eternal rule
Judgment Books Opened	Final Judgment	Divine justice

**Key Insight:** Revelation does not replace Daniel, it completes it.

