

# DANIEL

*Unlocks Revelation*



## Chapter 1

Theme, God is in Charge.

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### *Interesting facts about the Book of Daniel*

- Written 2,548 years ago during the Babylonian and Persian Empires
- Written by Daniel, a Jewish man taken in exile by the Babylonian army
- Full-time statesman and part-time prophet
- Jesus spoke about the Book of Daniel in Matthew 24:15
- Prophet Ezekiel mentions him twice - Ezekiel 14:14,20: 28:3

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The study principle that will be used in this seminar is :-  
LET the BIBLE EXPLAIN the BIBLE



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GOD WAS IN CONTROL?

Though God has demonstrated his love for His creation, His love was not unconditional. He set boundaries and if the boundaries were ignored, there were reminders for the transgression. For Israel that occurred in Daniel chapter 1. God had consistently through His prophets reminded His people of their boundaries, highlighting the fact that they had persistently ignored them. The judgment He would bring upon them, would last for 70 years, a Biblical lifetime.

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*For the Children of Israel it was inconceivable that God would send them into captivity. A thousand years earlier they had made a agreement with God when He brought them out of slavery in Egypt, and they rested in that agreement.*

*The continual disregard for the law on which the agreement was based, meant by the time of Daniel the relationship was fractured. God had forewarned Israel, then Judah, He would take action if they ignored His Law spoken from the midst of the fire and the cloud on the mountain; now the time had come.*

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*Nine hundred years after the mountain of God, and a hundred years before Daniel, Isaiah was told "to bind up the Testimony," [Isa 8;16,] ie. the scroll on which the Law was written, [Psa 119;1-2]. Binding the Testimony suspended the covenant until the binding was removed.*

*Was God turning His back, was He rejecting His people Israel.*

**no!**

*God would bind the Law; He would suspend the covenant but in the same breath, in the same sentence, He told Isaiah to "seal the Law among His disciples." For the obedient, He would continue to be Immanuel [God with us].*

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*\*Therefore Who is in control, of the events unfolding for Israel?*

*Jer 25:8-9 "...thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the Lord, "... and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations..."*

*"Babylon was the most terrible of armies,"  
...Ezek 32:12*



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*Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon was called the King of the North.*

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*Between Jerusalem and Babylon is, the Arabian Desert.*



*It is the world's fourth largest desert and an extension of the Sahara desert, ...It's temperatures range from above 50 c to near freezing at night.*

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As Babylon was east of Jerusalem, why was Nebuchadnezzar and his people labelled as from the north, the north country, or the farthest parts of the north?

*Question ...What did God asked of Abram?*

Now the Lord had said to Abram: *Gen 12:1* "Get out of your country, From your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy five years old when he departed from Haran.

For Abraham and his descendants, God defined his ancestral land, as the land between the rivers, the Euphrates and Tigris, including Haran, plus Babylon it's capitol, and Ur in the land of the Chaldean's.

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*The King of the North, the King of Babylon.*



*Dan 1:1 ...In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, (605bc) Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.*

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*Jer 25:11-12 ...And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, iniquity,' says the Lord;... 'I will make it a perpetual desolation.'*

*The difference between Israel's desolation and Babylon's was Israel's would last seventy years whereas Babylon's would be perpetual*

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In 605 bc, Nebuchadnezzar captures Jerusalem.  
...the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand. Dan 1:2

In captivity God returned the children of Israel, to the ancestral land of Abraham. A land He had deemed unclean, a land He had asked Abram to leave.

*Question ...Why do you think that God returned the children of Israel, to the land He had deemed unclean?*

*Question ...Do you think that God would ask of the children of Israel, the same test He had asked of Abram?*

*Also ...Jacob, when he fled his father's tent because of his deceit, retraced Abram's journey, to the land between the rivers, and for about the same length of time, 70 years.*

*Dan 1:3-4 ...Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, young men in whom there was no blemish, but good looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.*

*It was a practice of those times to take the most gifted of the captives and train them for service as slaves or vassals.*

*God told the children of Israel their captivity amid the paganism of Babylon, was for seventy years, (the length of one lifetime) then they would return to their land. They were to live in peace not forsaking Him, their culture or their heritage.*

God instructed Israel to;

Jeremiah 29:4-6 ...Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.

**LANGUAGE** The Ancient Hebrew tongue was semitic in origin, as was Akkadian and Aramaic the languages of Babylon.

**LITERATURE** The literature and learning of Babylon were the sciences of the Chaldeans, the elite from whom came the priests, magicians, astrologers, enchanters, interpreters of dreams omens and divination. The science of Babylon was contrary to God's word and wisdom.



Dan 1:5 ...the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.

A common belief of the time was, ...eating at or from the food provided for the King and drinking his wine, was an acceptance that the King and his God, Marduk [Bel] was the ruler and provider of the one who had eaten or drunk.

*The Religion of Babylon* was "polydemonic," a mixture of magic demons, and multiple gods.

*In Babylon there were:* more than 50 Temples, the most important was the 'Esagila' dedicated to Marduk or Bel, the patron god of Babylon. In addition within the city there were more than 40 cult centres, and 900 chapels.

Babylon's most important religious festival at the time of the spring equinox, was the New years day festival of Akitu. It occurred in the month, of Nisanu, and was the time from which a King's reign was counted.

### *The Gods of Babylon*

The more important god's in the Babylonian Pantheon were

Marduk...the patron god of Babylon

his son, Nabu...scribe and herald of the god's

Ea...god of wisdom, spells & incantations

Anu...the god of the heavens

Enlil...god of air between heaven & earth

Sin...the moon god

his son, Shamash...the sun god and of justice

and daughter, Ishtar...the goddess of war and love

Adad...god of wind, storms & floods

and so on and on.....

*Dan 1:8... Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

*Daniel and his friends, understood the laws regarding food and worship and they made a decision to remain true to their God given heritage, a decision they did not change throughout their lives.*

*In Babylon an animal to be eaten whether clean or unclean, was offered to the gods as a sacrifice, in that sacrifice it's blood was not drained. For the Hebrew youth the sacrifice and the blood would have been a problem.*

*Blood*

*Lev 7:27 'Whoever eats any blood, that person shall be cut off from his people.' ...for the life is in blood.*

*Clean and Unclean*

*Lev 11:2 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying, 'These are the animals which you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth:'"*

*Wine*

*Isa 28:7 "priest and the prophet have erred through intoxicating drink, they are swallowed up by wine, they are out of the way through intoxicating drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment."*

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*Dan 1:9 ...Now God had brought Daniel into the favour and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.*

*But the chief of the eunuchs was fearful of how the King would react to Daniel's request.*

*Dan 1:11 ...So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.*

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*Dan 1:15-16...at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.*

*Dan 1:17...As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.*

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Dan 1:1...And the Lord **gave** Jehoiakim king of Judah into his [Nebuchadnezzar's] hand,

Dan 1:17...God **gave** them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Prov 16:7 ...When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

# God **GAVE**

Dan 1:18 ...Now **at the end of the days**, when the king said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them before Nebuchadnezzar.

Nebuchadnezzar allocated "...three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king."

Dan 1:19 ...Then the king interviewed them and among them all **none was found** like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king.

Most would consider the defeat of Judah as a victory for the Babylonian Gods: Not so, each unfolding event was controlled by the God of Israel. It was He who had prophesied. He who chose Nebuchadnezzar. He who sent Judah into captivity. He who supported Daniel and friends when they decided to be true to their heritage, and it was He who highlighted their superiority by the magnitude of their success over all others, at the end of their training.

Dan 1:20 ...in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, **he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.**

*The magnitude of Daniel and his friends success in assimilating the literature and sciences of Babylon was 10 times better than the best of all who were in the kingdom of Babylon. A level far beyond normal. This chapter began with the defeat of Judah and the apparent success of Babylon. It concluded with the God given, the God ordained triumph of four young men who had chosen to remain loyal to their God and who had rejected the influences of Babylon.*

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*Dan 1:21 ..Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.*

*This would have been written or added after Daniel had outlived the Babylonian Empire. There is debate on whether the whole book was written then or that this statement was added then. Whichever it was; it was testimony to the power of Daniel's God that Daniel should outlive the first of the four worldly kingdoms that would control God's people until the return of Jesus, [a Stone cut out without hands].*

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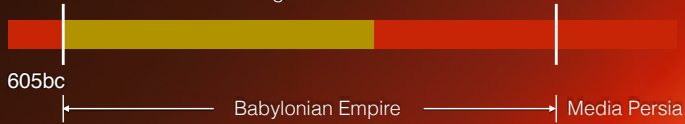
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Daniel 1

Nebuchadnezzar reigns



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*Next Week*  
Daniel Chapter 2  
*Daniel reveals the King's Dream*

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