

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Studies

Daniel

Carried Away



Bible Studies
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"Carried Away"
A Verse-by-Verse Study of the Book of Daniel

Carried Away

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Introduction

You can probably guess, from the title of this Daniel series that the book of Daniel is about someone who was "carried away". Daniel as a young man was, indeed, carried away to Babylon. He was captured in Israel by cruel Babylonian soldiers; no doubt he saw many of his family and friends killed; and then was made to march all the way back to Babylon, a long, long journey, and lived the rest of his life there, powerless to do the things he had probably dreamed and planned and wanted to do with his life.

I hope, though, as we talk through this book together, you will see that Daniel was never a captive of the Babylonians. Because he had first, long before the Babylonian army arrived in Israel, been "carried away" by SomeOne else. And I am praying that you and I both will come away from the book of Daniel with a deep longing to be more and more "carried away" with that same SomeOne.

- Kathleen

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How to Be a Witness
Daniel Chapter 1 - Questions

1. :1 Who is Jehoiakim, who is Nebuchadnezzar, and where is Babylon?
2. :2-3 What did the Babylonians take back to Babylon when they ransacked Jerusalem?
3. :3-5 What did King Nebuchadnezzar want to do with some of the Jewish captives? Why would he want to do this?
4. :6 Who are 4 of these young men?
5. :7 What new names were given to them? Why did these young men get new names?
6. :8 What did Daniel not want to do? What did he do about it?
7. :9-13 What did Daniel suggest in order to convince the commander to allow him to do what he wanted?
8. :14-16 What happened at the end of 10 days? Why did this happen?
9. :17-19 Why were Daniel and his 3 friends chosen by the King?
10. :20-21 What did Daniel and his 3 friends have which other young men and wise men did not have?

APPLICATION:

11. In what way was Daniel a witness for God?
12. Do you think this is what Daniel would have chosen for himself, had he been given the option?
13. In what way have you been a witness for God, perhaps a way not of your own choosing?
14. When you meet Daniel in heaven some day, do you think he'll tell you he wishes life had gone differently for him? Why...or why not?

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How to Be a Witness

Daniel Chapter 1 - Discussion Notes

You can probably guess, from the title of this Daniel series that the book of Daniel is about someone who was "carried away". Daniel as a young man was, indeed, carried away to Babylon. He was captured in Israel by cruel Babylonian soldiers, no doubt he saw many of his family and friends killed, and then was made to march all the way back to Babylon, a long, long journey, and lived the rest of his life there, powerless to do the things he had probably planned and wanted to do with his life.

I hope, though, as we talk through this book together, you will see that Daniel was never a captive of the Babylonians. Because he had first, long before the Babylonian army arrived in Israel, been "carried away" by SomeOne else. And I am praying that you and I both will come away from the book of Daniel with a deep longing to be more and more "carried away" with that same SomeOne.

Begin at the beginning...chapter 1, verse 1:

1. :1 Who is Jehoiakim, who is Nebuchadnezzar, and where is Babylon?

This is the perfect place to get our bearings. When & where did this happen, and who are the people involved?

First of all - this is a true story. It actually happened - about 2,600 years ago (600 BC), to actual people (Daniel was one of them), in an actual place (beginning in Israel, but mostly taking place in Babylon). Daniel himself recorded the events in the story towards the end of his life.

Some have thought that Daniel did not actually write the book, but there is solid evidence that he did. In two places (9:2 and 10:2) Daniel clearly indicates he is writing it. And Jesus mentions Daniel's authorship, too, in Matthew 24:15.

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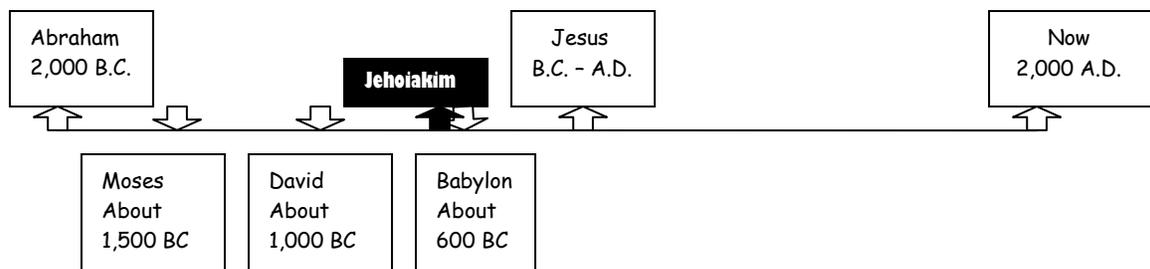
Why would that matter? Because if Daniel did not write it, then the date of the writing is unknown...and there are those who claim that the book was not prophecy at all, but just a collection of stories to explain things which had already happened...those people would say the book was written in the 2nd century, AD., after the kingdoms mentioned in the book had already come to power.

But if Daniel did write the book, then it is a book of prophecy, pointing to kingdoms and events which were future to its writing. And if it is a book of prophecy, then we can trust that other events it predicts...events which have not yet come to pass in our time...will, indeed, happen, just as Daniel said they would.

Those who dispute the authorship of Daniel do not accept the word of Jesus as being true in Matthew 24:15. For me, the word of Jesus, in the Bible, is enough. The events described in this book did happen. And the events which have not yet happened, will.

So - who is Jehoiakim?

He was one of the last kings of Judah before she was destroyed by the Babylonians over a 20-year period. Here's how it looks on a timeline:

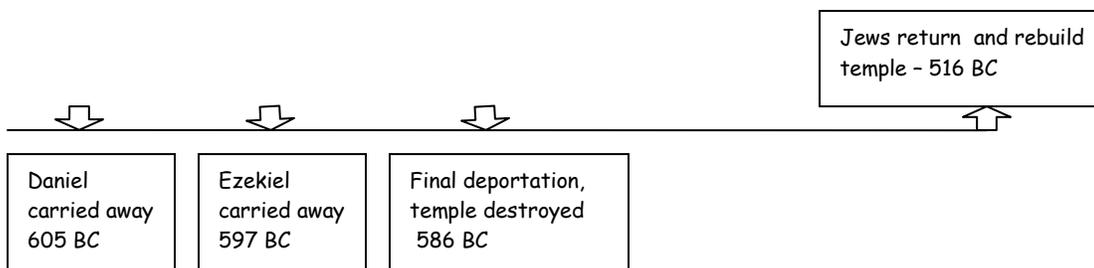


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The Babylonians tried three times to dismantle the Jewish empire. In 605 BC they took King Jehoiakim captive (along with Daniel and others). In 597 BC they attacked again, taking more captives (Ezekiel was carried away this time), and then in 586 BC they finished the job...Jerusalem and the temple were razed to the ground.

Below is a picture of the Babylonian Kingdom. Nebuchadnezzar was their King. He was the one who ordered the destruction of the Jewish temple and the Jewish nation. But he could not destroy them....he was only allowed to be the hand of God in judgment on them for 70 years.



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2. :2-3 What did the Babylonians take back to Babylon when they ransacked Jerusalem?

They took many of the temple treasures used in worship ceremonies. The candleabra, table of showbread, the golden altar, and other things. They kept these things in storage in their temple to their God, trying to tell the Jewish people that worship of their own God would be pointless now, since the God of the Babylonians was obviously stronger than the God of the Jews.

3. :3-5 What did King Nebuchadnezzar want to do with some of the Jewish captives? Why would he want to do this?

He wanted to turn them into loyal servants to him. He selected only the strongest and smartest, and was prepared to train them for 3 years to do his bidding.

4. :6 Who are 4 of these young men?

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (otherwise known as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)

5. :7 What new names were given to them? Why did these young men get new names?

Daniel became Belteshazzar
Hananiah became Shadrack
Mishael became Meshach
Azariah became Abednego

I'm sure Babylonian names were meant to begin to instruct the young men about being and feeling like Babylonians, not Jews. But also, their names had significant meanings:

Daniel (means "God is my judge") became **Belteshazzar** (means "Bel protect his life!"...Bel was another name for the Babylonian God, Marduk)

Hananiah (means "The LORD shows grace") became **Shadrach** ("command of Aku"...Aku was a moon God)

Mishael (means "Who is what God is?") became **Meshach** (means "who is what Aku is?")

Azariah (means "The LORD helps") became **Abednego** (means "servant of Nego")

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The names were meant to move the young men from a life of service to the Jewish God to a life of service to one of the Babylonian Gods.

6. :8 What did Daniel not want to do? What did he do about it?
Daniel did not want to eat Babylonian food, some of which was forbidden in a Jewish diet. Daniel was resolved to remain a Jew. He asked for permission to change his diet.

7. :9-13 What did Daniel suggest in order to convince the commander to allow him to do what he wanted?
Look at the first phrase in verse 9: "Now God..." . All through this book we will see that no matter who seeks to control Daniel's life, or what monumental circumstances seem to overwhelm him, it is always God who is in charge. Always.

Daniel suggests to the chief guard that he and his friends will look better at the end of 10 days. The guard, who would be afraid of them getting thin or unhealthy during his watch, would also be interested in seeing them get better and stronger - this would enhance his standing with the King.

8. :14-16 What happened at the end of 10 days? Why did this happen?
They did, indeed, get healthier and stronger. God was blessing their obedience. His rules for eating were good rules. They produced health. A quiet testimony, perhaps, to the chief guard, that though the nation of Israel was gone, the God of Israel was not.

9. :17-19 Why were Daniel and his 3 friends chosen by the King?
They were exceptional young men.

10. :20-21 What did Daniel and his 3 friends have which other young men and wise men did not have?
Wisdom. They could recognize and act on the truth.

APPLICATION:

11. In what way was Daniel a witness for God?
12. Do you think this is what Daniel would have chosen for himself, had he been given the option?

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13. In what way have you been a witness for *God*, perhaps a way not of your own choosing?
14. When you meet Daniel in heaven some day, do you think he'll tell you he wishes life had gone differently for him? Why...or why not?

How to be a witness? Be "carried away" with *God*. Allow His ways to become your ways. Be radically different from the culture where *God* has placed you. Don't be a half-hearted follower of Jesus - be carried away.

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From Death Row to Royal Throne

Daniel Chapter 2 - Questions

1. :1 What kind of dreams was King Nebuchadnezzar having?
2. :2-9 Would you say those dreams were making him grouchy?
3. :10-11 What basic thing did the magicians and astrologers get right?
4. :12-13 Things look pretty bleak right now for Daniel and friends. This isn't fair, is it?
5. :14-18 What wise steps did Daniel take?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
6. :19-23 Daniel praised God when the King's dream was made known to him....what other reaction could Daniel have had to this special knowledge given to him?
7. :24-27 Daniel was literally taking his own life in his hands when he appeared before the King. Do you think he was afraid?
8. :29 What was the King thinking about when this dream was given to him?
9. :30-33 What did the King see in his dream?
10. :34-35 What happened to that statue?
11. :36-45 What was the interpretation of the dream?
12. :46-47 Did King Nebuchadnezzar honor Daniel...or Daniel's God?
13. :48-49 How do you think Daniel felt about all of his new power in Babylon?

APPLICATION:

14. What have you learned about God in this chapter?
15. What have you learned about Jesus in this chapter?
16. What do you think of Daniel?
17. In what way would you want to be more like Daniel?
18. When something "unfair" happens in our lives...how can this chapter help us deal with it?

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From Death Row to Royal Throne

Daniel Chapter 2 - Discussion Notes

Do you remember any dreams you had when you were a child? The one I remember the most was a nightmare - of me and my sisters sleeping in a room with a door to the outside, and a wolf trying to get in our room. Interesting, isn't it, that a dream could be so vivid we would still remember it in our adulthood? I'll bet there is someone, somewhere, who could tell me what that dream meant...what little things were going on in my 5-year-old mind that would cause such a dream.

Dreams aren't new. They've been around as long as man has been around. Lots of people put a lot of stock in dreams - almost with the idea that dreams carry more authority than God's own Words. Today's passage starts with a Godless man having a dream, and ends with another good illustration of how God is always in charge of life - every part of life - from dreams to death threats to amazing turns of events.

1. :1 What kind of dreams was King Nebuchadnezzar having?
Very troubling dreams. The kind that stay with you in great detail long after they are over.

2. :2-9 Would you say those dreams were making him grouchy?
Uh. Yes. He basically was asking them to not only tell what the dream meant...but also to tell him first what the dream was. He wasn't going to tell them the dream, they were going to tell him!

3. :10-11 What basic thing did the magicians and astrologers get right?
They did know that only the "gods" could know what a person had dreamed. They didn't know, of course, that there was only One God.

4. :12-13 Things look pretty bleak right now for Daniel and friends. This isn't fair, is it?
Certainly isn't. They hadn't done anything wrong. In fact, they had done everything right. They had stood the test when they first came to Babylon - they had trusted God to protect them, and decided to remain true to the

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laws He had given them...and the King had honored them for it. They had been shown to be wise and able to give good advice. All in all, they were worthy of praise and honor - certainly not death.

Can you think of a time when you have had a similar experience? Something totally "unfair" happened in your life? How did you react?

Let's see what Daniel does:

5. :14-18 What wise steps did Daniel take?
 - a. :14&15 First, Daniel speaks with wisdom and tact to the guard who has been ordered to kill him. What do you suppose "wisdom and tact" means? From verse 15, it looks like Daniel is treating this guard with respect, and is simply asking to know all the facts. He's not ranting and raving or demanding his rights. He's simply asking respectful questions.
 - b. :16 Then, because Daniel had the ability to, he went right to the highest authority, the King, and asked for more time. He doesn't ask the King to rescind his order...He doesn't expect the King to treat him differently than all the rest of the wise men in the kingdom - he just asks for time.
 - c. :16 He asks the King for the right to try to tell and interpret the dream himself. He asks this before the LORD has shown him anything. He acts in faith.
 - d. :17&18 He goes to the friends he trusts - because he knows they believe in and obey the One, True God - and he asks them to pray. To seek God's help.

6. :19-23 Daniel praised God when the King's dream was made known to him....what other reaction could Daniel have had to this special knowledge given to him?

He could have said "Whew! I've still got wisdom! I'm still smart! I've still got the ear of God!" He could have called in his friends and celebrated. He could have gotten in the face of the guard who was going to take his life and let him know who was the top guy.

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But what did he do? He bubbles over with praise to God. He loudly proclaims for all to hear - any person listening...or any angel listening...or any evil angel listening... that any wisdom and power he might have is actually God's wisdom and power.

God is worthy of all his praise.

Think of any praise you ever give to anything or anyone. Do you praise your children when they do something right or good? Do you praise your husband when he works hard to take care of you? Do you praise your football team when they win a game? Do you praise your co-workers when they succeed?

Even if you heap your praise on everyone else, and never on yourself...don't forget that the only One truly worthy of all your praise is Jesus. How often do you give Him praise?

7. :24-27 Daniel was literally taking his own life in his hands when he appeared before the King. Do you think he was afraid?

I would have been. The passage doesn't tell us whether or not Daniel was, so I don't want to put words in his mouth. But he sure would have had reason to be afraid. He was only one command away from instant death.

8. :29 What was the King thinking about when this dream was given to him?

Apparently the King was wondering about the future. And then he received this dream. Not all dreams are from God, but this one definitely was, since it was a clear picture of God's plans for the future - plans only He could know. Why reveal them to a pagan King?

9. :30-33 What did the King see in his dream?

A huge statue with a head of gold, arms and chest of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet of iron mixed with clay.

It must have been pretty amazing, because it scared the King quite a bit. The value of the precious metals would have shown the King that the statue represented great power. And the feet of clay mixed with iron would have shown the King the statue could easily topple. The great value at the head and chest and even thighs was resting on an unstable foundation.

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10. :34-35 What happened to that statue?

A rock struck the statue and the whole thing came down - just like Humpty Dumpty - and not only did it break into many pieces, but also those pieces were just simply blown away with the wind - it all disappeared right before his eyes.

11. :36-45 What was the interpretation of the dream?

Nebuchadnezzar, as King of Babylon, was the head of gold. After him, another kingdom would arise, valuable, but not as valuable as Babylon. Then a third kingdom would arise, again, a little less strong and valuable. Finally, there would be a fourth kingdom - very strong - for nothing is as strong as iron. That 4th kingdom would rule absolutely over the world. Eventually, that 4th kingdom would be a mixture of iron and clay - strength and weakness - divided, not united.

But no matter how valuable or strong any of those 4 kingdoms would be, there was one, much stronger, much more valuable kingdom coming which would totally destroy the whole statue. That final kingdom would come from God Himself - a huge rock cut out of a huge mountain - cut not by human hands - but by the hands of God.

12. :46-47 Did King Nebuchadnezzar honor Daniel...or Daniel's God?

Yes. He bowed down before Daniel and honored the God of Daniel.

13. :48-49 How do you think Daniel felt about all of his new power in Babylon?

By this time, I imagine Daniel knew that the honor of men could disappear pretty fast. Perhaps he accepted his new position, hoping to serve God there, but knowing the honor which would someday come from God was the honor he could count on.

APPLICATION:

14. What have you learned about God in this chapter?

15. What have you learned about Jesus in this chapter?

16. What do you think of Daniel?

17. In what way would you want to be more like Daniel?

18. When something "unfair" happens in our lives...how can this chapter help us deal with it?

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The Fourth Man
Daniel Chapter 3 - Questions

1. :1 How big was the statue? What would be of similar size which we could compare it to?
2. :2-6 Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar has made this image?
3. :7 Did the people of Babylon do as Nebuchadnezzar commanded? Why?
4. :8-12 Who would not worship the image? Why not?
5. :13-15 Has Nebuchadnezzar forgotten how much he honored and respected these men in the last chapter? Look at 2:47 and try to figure out how Nebuchadnezzar could do this now.
6. :16-18 Were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego respectful to Nebuchadnezzar? Who did they respect more?
7. :19-23 Why do you think we are told such details about their clothes and the ones who tied them up?
8. :24-25 How many men were thrown into the fiery furnace? How many men were seen walking around in the furnace...and how in the world were any of them walking?
9. Who was the 4th man?
10. :26-27 Were Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego harmed at all by the fire? Why not?
11. :28-30 What was Nebuchadnezzar's response to this incident?
12. Do you see evidence that Nebuchadnezzar had come to faith in the One, True God?

APPLICATION:

13. What should we learn from this event in history?
14. Does God always rescue his people from frightening or deadly problems?
15. What things are evidence of a life submitted to God?
16. In what way is it practical to you that a 4th man was in the flames?

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The Fourth Man

Daniel Chapter 3 - Discussion Notes

1. :1 How big was the statue? What would be of similar size which we could compare it to?

Let's see. Ninety feet high - that would be comparable to a nine-story building, wouldn't it? So...think of a nine-story building, nine feet wide. That's the size of this statue.

2. :2-6 Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar has made this image?

I think Nebuchadnezzar got the wrong message from the dream in chapter 2. The dream was meant to show him the almighty power of God. Instead, Nebuchadnezzar saw the almighty power of Nebuchadnezzar. It's going to take more than a dream to get through to this arrogant ruler...stay tuned....next week chapter 4 is going to address the problem again.

3. :7 Did the people of Babylon do as Nebuchadnezzar commanded? Why?

Probably because all of them decided this was not worth dying for. Or....maybe he was a good King, providing them with the lives they desired, so they willingly did what he asked.

4. :8-12 Who would not worship the image? Why not?

Jews. Shadrach, Mesach, & Abednego. They would not fall down and worship the golden statue because their law forbade such a thing. This is Judaism 101 - pretty simple and straightforward - they would have been breaking the 1st and 2nd commandments... (Exodus 20:3&4)

1. Thou shalt have no other Gods
2. Thou shalt not make an idol

Why is Daniel not also singled out here? Surely he, too, was ignoring the order of the King. The passage doesn't answer this, so we will probably have to guess - I would think the "astrologers" who were attacking Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were using them as an example, knowing better than to attack Daniel, who was a favorite of the King.

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These evil men were probably elated when the King followed through on his threats, throwing the 3 men into the flames. After the death of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, it would have been a piece of cake to also get rid of Daniel. That's my guess.

There's an interesting point to be made here. People who follow the One, True God are quite often hated by those who do not. When a person obeys God and his/her life begins to change, sometimes that changed life becomes an example to those looking on of how God wants life to be lived. And there are many, many people who do not want any reminders at all of how God wants life to be lived. It makes them feel guilty, and they don't want to feel guilty. Often they attack and hate the ones who are living the truth.

They did it to Jesus. They have always done it to His followers - in the Old Testament times, right up to the present.

There's no reason for us to expect it to be any different for us. *"For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for him."* *Philippians 1:29*

How should we react when this happens? How should we plan for it?

5. :13-15 Has Nebuchadnezzar forgotten how much he honored and respected these men in the last chapter? Look at 2:47 and try to figure out how Nebuchadnezzar could do this now.

Nebuchadnezzar was respectful of the power of the God of Daniel. But, I think, like Simon, the sorcerer, in Acts 8:2-24, Nebuchadnezzar desired the power of God for himself. He was mesmerized by it, because he saw what it would do for him. But he had not yet bowed his knee before the One, True God, submitting himself to this higher power, willing to do His will.

Nebuchadnezzar had not changed. He was still evil and self-centered. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were simply objects to be used to get what he wanted. He did not yet see the world through God's eyes - but only through his own.

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6. :16-18 Were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego respectful to Nebuchadnezzar? Who did they respect more?

The respected the One, True God more than they respected Nebuchadnezzar....even though they knew Nebuchadnezzar could make them suffer. They knew God could save them from Nebuchadnezzar. And they knew God might not save them...it was up to Him...and they wanted to trust God, not Nebuchadnezzar.

So perhaps that is the first way we can prepare for the suffering we, inevitably will experience as followers of Jesus. **We can set firmly in our minds that our protector is God.** We can begin to trust Him for our protection in the small things of every-day life, so that we will be in the habit of trusting Him when the large things pop up unexpectedly. Isaiah 43:2.

7. :19-23 Why do you think we are told such details about their clothes and the ones who tied them up?

So that there would be no doubt this was a real fire...which should, by all normal expectations, have killed them instantly.

8. :24-25 How many men were thrown into the fiery furnace? How many men were seen walking around in the furnace....and how in the world were any of them walking?

Three were thrown in. But they didn't die. They walked around! That's a miracle. But the bigger miracle was that there were 4 in there, not 3.

9. Who was the 4th man?

According to the guards, he looked like a son of the Gods. In other words, he looked physically fit and powerful. Who was this? It was either an angel, protecting and speaking to these three faithful Jewish servants, or it was Jesus Himself.

Psalm 91 tells of the protection God will give to His servant. It speaks prophetically of this protection for Jesus... *"For He will command His angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."* (Psalm 91:11&12)

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So whether this 4th man was an angel protecting the servants of God, or the LORD Jesus Himself protecting them, we know that the One, True God was the One who made sure these 3 servants were unharmed.

Are you wondering something? Are you questioning why bad things happen to the servants of God...ever? If God is speaking the truth in Psalm 91 (read the whole Psalm), then why does any true believer ever suffer?

Believers in Jesus Christ suffer persecution or harm only when it is the only way to further the Kingdom of God. Jesus, who had all the protection of God at His fingertips, was allowed by God to suffer hatred, stripes, physical torture, and death on a cross...so that the prince of this world (satan) could be defeated - and the prisoners of that prince set free. *"Now is the time for judgment on this world. Now the prince of this world will be driven out."* *John 12:31*. That's the only reason God would ever have stepped back and allowed such a thing.

And that is also the only reason God would ever step back and allow us to suffer.

This, then is the second way we can prepare for suffering. **We can set firmly in our minds that if we suffer, it is allowed by God for the purpose of setting prisoners free from the clutches of Satan.**

10.:26-27 Were Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego harmed at all by the fire? Why not?

They weren't harmed at all - because God protected them.

Does that mean I will see trouble coming but never suffer damage when I go through it, too? No. And yes.

History is full of examples of people who suffered real damage when standing up for Jesus. Read Hebrews chapter 11 and be convinced. They did, indeed, feel the pain of their trials.

But scripture also promises us that, like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, when we walk through a fiery trial Jesus is right there with us. Sometimes that fiery trial may burn us to death. Sometimes it may not even singe us.

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But always we will be protected through it by God. Always He will keep us close to Himself. And He will lead us safely home when the fiery trial is unto death.

So here's our third way to prepare for suffering. **We can submit ourselves to His care through the midst of hardship.** *"When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."* Isaiah 43:2

11. :28-30 What was Nebuchadnezzar's response to this incident? He praised the God of Shadrach, Meshach Abednego...and promoted them to position of great honor and responsibility.

12. Do you see evidence that Nebuchadnezzar had come to faith in the One, True God?

Think again of his reaction to the interpretation of his dream in chapter 2. Now compare that to his reaction to this fiery furnace event. Do you see belief and faith yet? What are we looking for?

APPLICATION:

13. What should we learn from this event in history?

14. Does God always rescue his people from frightening or deadly problems?

15. What things are evidence of a life submitted to God?

16. In what way is it practical to you that a 4th man was in the flames?

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For God So Loved the World

Daniel Chapter 4 - Questions

1. :1-3 This whole chapter is a copy of a declaration made by King Nebuchadnezzar to his whole kingdom. What seems to be his major reason for writing this?
2. :4-9 Summarize the events as this story begins.
3. :10-16 Summarize the dream
4. :17 Why is Nebuchadnezzar given this dream?
5. :18-19 Why does Daniel hesitate to tell the King the interpretation?
6. :20-26 What is the interpretation of the dream?
7. :27 What does Daniel advise the King, hoping that this will mean the dream will not have to come true?
8. :28-30 How long does it take before the dream is fulfilled?
9. Why did God wait so long?
10. :29-33 What did King Nebuchadnezzar do which started the fulfillment of the dream?
11. :34-35 What did King Nebuchadnezzar do when his sanity was restored?
12. Did God accomplish what He set out to accomplish?
13. :36-37 What two huge miracles took place once King Nebuchadnezzar was back to normal?
 - b.
 - c.

14. What did King Nebuchadnezzar learn from this?

APPLICATION:

15. What did you learn from this?
16. Did Nebuchadnezzar become a believer in the One, True God?
17. If he did, what would this have taught Daniel and the Jews of Babylon?
18. In the Old Testament times, was the LORD concerned only with the protection and salvation of the Jews? What other Old Testament verses would tell you that?
19. How does that truth affect you?

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For God So Loved the World

Daniel Chapter 4 - Discussion Notes

In the Old Testament times, was the LORD concerned only with the protection and salvation of the Jews? This small story in the middle of a book filled with huge predictions of the future brings us back to the basics: prophecy is about Jesus....and Jesus loves the whole world.

The whole first 4 chapters have to do with Daniel & friends as they settle into life in Bayblon (where at least Daniel is known to have finished his life)...and with Nebuchadnezzar, the person who was ordained by God to be an intimate part of Daniel's life. You could say, one main reason Daniel was taken captive to Babylon as a young man was because Babylon was the only place Daniel could be consistently a part of Nebuchadnezzar's life.

God didn't just love the Jews. He loved the whole world. From Genesis 12:3, and then throughout the Old Testament, to John 3:16, and then throughout the New Testament, that message couldn't be any clearer.

So...as we begin this lesson, use the following blank space to make a list: a list of the people God has consistently placed in your life. Those people who can't help but be influenced by you, because you are an intimate part of their life, and they of yours:

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Now...keep that list in mind as we study this chapter.

1. :1-3 This whole chapter is a copy of a declaration made by King Nebuchadnezzar to his whole kingdom. What seems to be his major reason for writing this?

He seems to be writing a praise to the One, True God.

2. :4-9 Summarize the events as this story begins. Nebuchadnezzar is very contented and prosperous, but he has another troubling dream. The King believes that only Daniel, of all the wise men, can interpret the dream.

3. :10-16 Summarize the dream
In the dream there is a huge, strong, healthy tree which makes life work for all the animals which live around it. Then a messenger from heaven descends and decrees that the tree will be cut down, but not killed. The stump which remains is bound with iron and bronze - very strong bindings. The stump is a man, and the man will lose his normal mind and have the mind of an animal for 7 periods of time

4. :17 Why is Nebuchadnezzar given this dream? .
It is announced that the events will happen to teach all people that the LORD is sovereign even over Kings.

5. :18-19 Why does Daniel hesitate to tell the King the interpretation? He is afraid. To me it looks like he does not want his friend, the King, to be hurt by this decree from God. He wants to protect him from the worst. But it could be that he was afraid for himself, too.

6. :20-26 What is the interpretation of the dream?
The tree is King Nebuchadnezzar. He will lose his mind and run away to live as a wild animal for 7 periods of time.

7. :27 What does Daniel advise the King, hoping that this will mean the dream will not have to come true?

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Repent. We see this again and again in scripture. The decrees of God are just and right...but repentance can often turn them away. Look at Revelation 2:4-5.

8. :28-30 How long does it take before the dream is fulfilled?
One year.

9. Why did God wait so long?
His timing is always perfect. It could be He was giving Nebuchadnezzar a chance to repent. Or, perhaps, he was just making sure everyone in the kingdom knew the judgment on the King was from Almighty God.

10. :29-33 What did King Nebuchadnezzar do which started the fulfillment of the dream?
He lifted up his head and roared. "I Am The Greatest!"

11. :34-35 What did King Nebuchadnezzar do when his sanity was restored?
He lifted up his head and calmly admitted. "The One True God is the Greatest."

12. Did God accomplish what He set out to accomplish?
Look back at verse 17. This is what The LORD wanted to do. And He did it.

13. :36-37 What two huge miracles took place once King Nebuchadnezzar was back to normal?

- d. Nebuchadnezzar's own people wanted him back. No power had changed hands.
- e. Nebuchadnezzar knew the One, True God was the greatest power on earth.

14. What did King Nebuchadnezzar learn from this?
My question is: Did King Nebuchadnezzar simply admire and respect the One, True God...or did He bow his knee before Him, repenting of his sin and submitting his life to Him?

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I think he repented and trusted in the One, True God. He admits that God was just and had the right to judge his own sin of pride. He praises the name of God over and above every other name.

Since we don't see King Nebuchadnezzar again in scripture, we don't know if there was a life-change....evidence of belief...so we may never know for sure until we reach heaven and look for him.

What do you think?

APPLICATION:

15. What did you learn from this?
16. Did Nebuchadnezzar become a believer in the One, True God?
17. If he did, what would this have taught Daniel and the Jews of Babylon?
18. In the Old Testament times, was the LORD concerned only with the protection and salvation of the Jews? What other Old Testament verses would tell you that?
19. How does that truth affect you?
20. Has anyone in your life ever come to faith in Christ because they have seen Him in you?
21. Look at your list again....how do you respond to the fact that someone on that list might be the reason you are where you are in life?

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Quickly

Daniel Chapter 5 - Questions

1. :1-4 In these four verses we learn several things:
 - a. Who is King Belshazzar?
 - b. Did King Belshazzar have the same respect for the One, True God that King Nebuchadnezzar had?
 - c. Was King Belshazzar's kingdom big, like Nebuchadnezzar's was?
 - d. What was King Belshazzar doing as this story opens?
 - e. Do you think God was pleased with what they were doing?
2. :5-9 What happened and how did King Belshazzar react?
3. In what way was King Belshazzar the same as King Nebuchadnezzar?
4. :10-12 Who came up with a solution to the King's fears?
5. :13-17 By this time in his life, what had Daniel learned about gifts and promotions?
6. :18-22 Did King Belshazzar know the story of King Nebuchadnezzar becoming like an animal for a short time?
7. :23-24 Why was this writing on the wall sent to Belshazzar?
8. :15-28 What was the meaning of the writing?
9. :29-30 How long did Daniel's new position of authority last?

APPLICATION:

10. What lessons can you draw from this chapter?
11. If you were going to teach this chapter to children, what would you emphasize?
12. What did you learn about God in this chapter?
13. How has Daniel changed since we first saw him in this book?
14. Would you want to have the gift Daniel had? Why? Or Why not?
15. What gifts do you have? Do you enjoy using them?
16. What famous phrase/colloquialism comes from this story?
17. How quickly did King Belshazzar's fortunes change?
18. If King Belshazzar had known about this farther in advance, what might he have done?
19. What else will "come quickly"? (Revelation 1:3)

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Quickly

Daniel Chapter 5 - Discussion Notes

1. :1-4 In these four verses we learn several things:
 - a. Who is King Belshazzar?

"Son" of King Nebuchadnezzar. The word "son" is a translation of a Hebrew word which can also mean "descendant". From other places in scripture we see that Belshazzar was actually the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar. He was the one who ruled in the capital city, but his father was still alive and ruling the whole kingdom from another location.
 - b. Did King Belshazzar have the same respect for the One, True God that King Nebuchadnezzar had?

Doesn't look like it. He is partying with the sacred articles from the Jewish temple. And he is defying the One, True God by praising his many gods of silver, gold, etc.
 - c. Was King Belshazzar's kingdom big, like Nebuchadnezzar's was?

With thousands in attendance at this party, it looks like the kingdom was still large.

History tells us that the capital of Babylon was built like a fortress, straddling the Euphrates river. It was seemingly unpenetrable, but, the end of this chapter tells us it must not have been totally safe.

- d. What was King Belshazzar doing as this story opens?

Giving a huge party. A display of his splendor.
- e. Do you think God was pleased with what they were doing?

No. I don't think so. This little worm of a man was shaking his fist in God's face. I can imagine God raising his eyebrows and

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then reaching down with His own hand and leaving a very frightening message for this proud little King.

2. :5-9 What happened and how did King Belshazzar react?
A hand out of nowhere wrote an unintelligible message on a wall in the banqueting hall. The King was...ummm...more than a little afraid.
3. In what way was King Belshazzar the same as King Nebuchadnezzar?
Proud. Arrogant. Using wise men to help him make decisions. Unaware of where the true wisdom in his kingdom really was.
4. :10-12 Who came up with a solution to the King's fears?
The Queen. Who could very well have been his mother. She knew of Daniel.
5. :13-17 By this time in his life, what had Daniel learned about gifts and promotions?
They don't last long.
6. :18-22 Did King Belshazzar know the story of King Nebuchadnezzar becoming like an animal for a short time?
Interesting...he did know about it. He just hadn't learned anything from it.

Why do our children sometimes miss the benefit of the things the Lord is teaching us?

Maybe because we don't tell them.
7. :23-24 Why was this writing on the wall sent to Belshazzar?
To let Belshazzar know Who was in charge.
8. :15-28 What was the meaning of the writing?
The gig is up.
9. :29-30 How long did Daniel's new position of authority last?
It seems the Medes and the Persians figured out how to get into the city built like a fortress. They simply stopped up the flow of the Euphrates River, somewhere upstream from Babylon, and the lowered level of the river allowed them to enter the city by surprise and capture it almost without opposition.
That very night the kingdom of Babylon became the kingdom of Persia.

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APPLICATION:

10. What lessons can you draw from this chapter?
11. If you were going to teach this chapter to children, what would you emphasize?
12. What did you learn about God in this chapter?
13. How has Daniel changed since we first saw him in this book?
14. Would you want to have the gift Daniel had? Why? Or Why not?
15. What gifts do you have? Do you enjoy using them?
16. What famous phrase/colloquialism comes from this story?
17. How quickly did King Belshazzar's fortunes change?
18. If King Belshazzar had known about this farther in advance, what might he have done?
19. What else will "come quickly"? (Revelation 1:3)

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Open the Windows and Pray!

Daniel Chapter 6 - Questions

1. :1-4 Darius, the new King of Babylon...er...Persia...appears to have decided to keep Daniel in a position of power after the Babylonians were gone. How popular was Daniel with the lesser rulers of the new kingdom?
2. :5-9 What flaw did King Darius have in common with all the other kings we have seen in the book of Daniel?
3. :10 What was Daniel's response to the ridiculous new law?
4. What is your prayer life like?
 - a. How often do you pray?
 - b. What do you pray for?
 - c. What position do you prefer for prayer?
 - d. Do your prayers get answered?
 - e. Have you ever tried to change or improve your prayer life?
 - f. Is there someone you wish you could be like in prayer?
 - g. Who has made the most impact on you when it comes to prayer?
 - h. Have you ever had a huge disappointment in prayer?
 - i. How many people in your life know you pray?
 - j. Would anyone ever try to attack you by attacking your prayer habits?
 - k. Can you think of any passages in scripture which teach about prayer?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
5. :11-16 How did King Darius feel about Daniel?
6. :17-24 What was the end result of this time in Daniel's life?
7. What seems to have happened over and over again to Daniel?

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8. What do you learn from that?
9. :25-28 Again, Daniel prospers under a foreign government. What changes do you think have been made in Daniel over the years?

APPLICATION:

10. Compare Daniel's life to yours. Have your trials prepared you for anything specific?
11. Do they seem to have a common theme?
12. How would you like to improve your prayer life?
13. Who is on your "prayer list"?
 - a. Family?
 - b. Friends?
 - c. Neighbors?
 - d. Co-workers?
 - e. Missionaries?
 - f. Church?
 - g. Pastors?
 - h. Other countries?
 - i. Rulers and dignitaries?
 - j. Casual acquaintances through your daily schedule?
 - k. Your small group?
14. Do you honestly think prayer makes that big of a difference?

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Open the Windows and Pray!

Daniel Chapter 6 - Discussion Notes

1. :1-4 Darius, the new King of Babylon...er...Persia....appears to have decided to keep Daniel in a position of power after the Babylonians were gone. How popular was Daniel with the lesser rulers of the new kingdom?

They were probably jealous of this foreigner. Foreign to them, because they were from far away, and foreign to them because Daniel was also from far away.

The world is not always nice, is it? Sometimes people are just plain mean. God doesn't always protect us from those people. Sometimes we come face-to-face with them, our belief in Jesus clashing with their belief in nothing.

2. :5-9 What flaw did King Darius have in common with all the other kings we have seen in the book of Daniel?

So proud he was easily misled by greedy advisors.

3. :10 What was Daniel's response to the ridiculous new law?

He kept doing what he had always done. He prayed. And not in secret. He threw the windows wide open and prayed in front of the whole world. Why? Why not keep praying but keep it private?

Because it was God Who was His fortress. Not prayer. If Daniel had wanted to keep his right to pray, he might have done it secretly, so that no one could take it away from him.

But he didn't just want his rights. Or his needs. He wanted to honor His God. He wanted the world to see that his God was worthy of praise and honor no matter what he had to face.

By opening the windows and praying he was loudly and boldly telling all listeners that the God of Israel was more to be feared than any neighborhood bully.

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4. What is your prayer life like?
 - a. How often do you pray?
 - b. What do you pray for?
 - c. What position do you prefer for prayer?
 - d. Do your prayers get answered?
 - e. Have you ever tried to change or improve your prayer life?
 - f. Is there someone you wish you could be like in prayer?
 - g. Who has made the most impact on you when it comes to prayer?
 - h. Have you ever had a huge disappointment in prayer?
 - i. How many people in your life know you pray?
 - j. Would anyone ever try to attack you by attacking your prayer habits?
 - k. Can you think of any passages in scripture which teach about prayer?
 1. The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6
 2. The Lord's Prayer - John 17
 3. Ephesians 1:15-23
 4. Ephesians 3:14-21
 5. Ephesians 6:18-20
 6. etc.

Discuss or think through all of these questions. In a group, try to have each person answer each question, so that a conversation begins about prayer and how we each go about it.

The challenge of this lesson, I think, will be in getting each of us to consider how much improvement we could make in the prayer part of our life. Talk through some of the prayer scripture passages which are mentioned.

5. :11-16 How did King Darius feel about Daniel?
He loved and admired him.

6. :17-24 What was the end result of this time in Daniel's life?
Again, he prospers even though evil men want to destroy him.

7. What seems to have happened over and over again to Daniel?

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Great success. Great hatred from others. Great faith. Great plunges to the bottom of fear and hopelessness. Great rebounds. Dizzying.

8. What do you learn from that?

I think God was using all those evil and powerful people to grow Daniel on the inside....so that he could receive the prophecies we are about to see in the next few chapters.

The roller-coaster of Daniel's life had to press him closer and closer to the LORD, and that was where he needed to be comfortable - so that he could trust the LORD once he got a glimpse of a frightening future.

9. :25-28 Again, Daniel prospers under a foreign government. What changes do you think have been made in Daniel over the years?

Firm in his resolve to live for God. (Chapter 1)

Unimpressed with his own abilities. (Chapter 2)

Unimpressed with powerful people. (Chapter 3)

Highly valuing friends who love God. (Chapter 4)

Accepting the roller-coaster of life. Taking it one day at a time. (Chapter 5)

Intentionally trusting God in front of the world. (Chapter 6)

APPLICATION:

10. Compare Daniel's life to yours. Have your trials prepared you for anything specific?

11. Do they seem to have a common theme?

12. How would you like to improve your prayer life?

13. Who is on your "prayer list"?

l. Family?

m. Friends?

n. Neighbors?

o. Co-workers?

p. Missionaries?

q. Church?

r. Pastors?

s. Other countries?

t. Rulers and dignitaries?

u. Casual acquaintances through your daily schedule?

v. Your small group?

14. Do you honestly think prayer makes that big of a difference?

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Daniel's First Dream
Daniel Chapter 7 - Questions

1. (:1) Look back through chapters 1-6 of Daniel, and make a list of the different Kings Daniel has served under. Now...where does this chapter fit in that timeline?
2. (:1) We have seen dreams before in this book, what is different about this one?
3. (:2) What are the two different "fours" seen in this dream?
4. (:2-7) Describe each of the four beasts:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
5. (:8) Describe what happens with the "little horn".
6. (:9&10) What happens in the heavens as the "little horn" comes to power?
7. (:11) What happens to the 4th beast and the "little horn" on the beast?
8. (:12) Before this, what had happened to the other 3 beasts?
9. (:13-14) What happens after the 4th beast is destroyed?
10. (:15) How does Daniel react to this dream?
11. (:16) Who explains the dream to Daniel?
12. (:17-18) What is the overall interpretation of the dream?
13. (:19-21) What specifically did Daniel ask to be explained? Why?
14. (:22-27) What explanation did he receive?
15. (:28) Why do you think Daniel is troubled by this dream?

APPLICATION:

16. How does this dream compare to Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the large statue in Chapter 2?
17. How does this dream compare to the description of End Times in the book of Revelation?
18. How do you respond to this dream? How does it make you feel? What does it make you want to do?

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Daniel's First Dream

Daniel Chapter 7 - Discussion Notes

1. (:1) Look back through chapters 1-6 of Daniel, and make a list of the different Kings Daniel has served under. Now...where does this chapter fit in that timeline?

Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon).....Belshazzar (Babylon).....Darius (Persia)

Verse one says this dream of Daniel's took place in the first year Belshazzar was king. So make a note that Daniel is backing up in his storytelling here. In Chapter 6 he told of something that happened during Darius's reign...now he is going back to Belshazzar's reign. I think he does this because now he is not just telling things that happened to him...he is building the picture - the vision of the future the LORD gave him during his lifetime.

2. (:1) We have seen dreams before in this book, what is different about this one?

Daniel himself has this dream. Before, we have seen him interpreting dreams for Nebuchadnezzar. But this one is Daniel's dream. It will be interesting to see, though, that Daniel's dream is simply following up on Nebuchadnezzar's dream. In other words, the LORD first shows Nebuchadnezzar, a pagan King, a glimpse of the future He has planned... then He continues to fill in the blanks for that future by giving Daniel dreams.

3. (:2) What are the two different "fours" seen in this dream?
 - There are 4 winds churning up a great sea.
 - And there are 4 beasts which come up out of the sea.

There is some pretty dependable symbolism here. Quite often the "sea" is a symbol of all the gentile nations of the world. And winds are a symbol of the restless changes which take place in that world. So the 4 beasts which come

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up out of the sea would be 4 great gentile world powers. The number 4 often is a clue that the passage is referring to the earth - the world.

4. (:2-7) Describe each of the four beasts:

1. Lion with the wings of an eagle. This lion becomes a man.
(Babylon. This is perhaps a picture of Nebuchadnezzar's humiliating experience of mental illness..chapter 4)
2. Bear laying on its side. It has been munching on 3 ribs. It is told to eat some more
(The Medo-Persian nation, with Persia as the superior power, and three major conquests: Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt)
3. Leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads and was very strong at ruling.
(Greece. The swift leopard being Alexander the Great, and the 4 heads being the 4 divisions of his kingdom at his death)
4. A very frightening beast with iron teeth, it was cruel and destroyed many other nations. It had 10 horns.
(The first appearance of this beast was Rome at the time of Jesus. Rome then faded away, but will re-appear in some form, with 10 nations supporting it - this is the kingdom of anti-christ in the Last 7 Years.)

5. (:8) Describe what happens with the "little horn".

There are 10 horns on the head of the 4th beast. Then, in the midst of those 10 horns, Daniel sees another on, a "little" one, pop up, and when it does, it destroys three of the 10 horns which were already there. That means that after the "little horn" arises, there are only 8 horns left on the beast. (10-3=7 +1 = 8)

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The "little horn" is extremely proud and speaks very boastfully. (if you look ahead to verse 20 you will see the horn which starts out the smallest becomes the biggest.)

6. (:9&10) What happens in the heavens as the "little horn" comes to power?

After the "little horn" comes to power, then we see the LORD God take His seat on a throne that seems to be especially made for judgment.

I like this order of events. The "little horn" is extremely powerful and seems to be unstoppable, but just when the little horn comes to power, the LORD puts things in place to destroy it. This is all about God. His timing. His power. His plan. Definitely not the "little horn" 's power or timing or plan.

7. (:11) What happens to the 4th beast...including the "little horn" on the beast?

Destroyed and thrown into a blazing fire.

8. (:12) Before this, what had happened to the other 3 beasts?

They were powerless, but had been allowed to continue to exist. Which is true in history. Babylon, Persia and Greece all stayed around, but never were world powers again.

9. (:13-14) What happens after the 4th beast is destroyed?

Jesus Christ approaches God the Father and receives the Kingdom the Father had prepared for Him from the foundation of the world.

10. (:15) How does Daniel react to this dream?

Very troubled. This was more like a nightmare than a dream.

11. (:16) Who explains the dream to Daniel?

Now here's something we hadn't been told before. Apparently there are beings (angels, probably) standing around also watching this dream. This reminds me of the visions Zechariah saw some years after Daniel's time. (Zechariah chapters 1-6) Zechariah's dreams, and Daniel's, too, seemed to be almost like videos viewed on a huge screen, with angels standing nearby explaining them.

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12. (:17-18) What is the overall interpretation of the dream? First the angel answers Daniel by summarizing the whole dream. The four beasts are four gentile nations which arise and control the earth...each for a specific period of time, one after the other. But Daniel, who is very troubled, is told some good news, too - the saints (the "set-apart" ones...in other words...the people who do really trust in the One, True God) will inherit the Kingdom God had prepared for them...no matter what those 4 gentile ruling powers try to do to stop it. Daniel would have understood those "true-God worshippers" to be Jews who truly believed from the heart...not just religious Jews.

To put it simply, in the end, the good guys win.

13. (:19-21) What specifically did Daniel ask to be explained? Why? Now Daniel wants a more detailed explanation of the 4th beast, because this one is very terrifying. It kills many people and conquers many countries. It has horns - symbols of great areas of power within the beast - and it has a leader - one particular horn - who seems to have no fear of God at all - who speaks unbelievably horrible and proud things. And this leader persecutes God's people - Jews - ...and He is actually able to conquer, kill, and destroy them. In fact, it seems he is able to totally wipe out the Jewish nation, something God had never allowed in the past.

I'm sure Daniel feels fear at this point...what if there is finally a world ruler who is so evil and powerful he can destroy God's plan?

14. (:22-27) What explanation did he receive? But, of course, that can't be. There is no such thing as a man, no matter how much he is powered by satan, who can destroy God's plan. The 4th beast is a 4th world kingdom, very strong. It is also a 5th world kingdom - a future kingdom which will control the whole world. The 10 horns are 10 kingdoms within this 5th beast kingdom. It starts out a strong, powerful kingdom with 10 kings adding their power to it. A coalition. And then suddenly a man comes to power within this kingdom. He gets rid of 3 of those 10 "inner kingdoms", and rules with absolute power and authority...he rules the whole world.

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This "little horn", now in charge of the entire 4th/5th beast kingdom, will speak against the One, True God, will persecute believers in the One, True God, and will persecute Jews, too - whether or not they believe in the One, True God. He will have power for a specified period of time. It's described here as "times, time, and half a time". In other words:

Time = 1 year
Times = +2 years
+ $\frac{1}{2}$ year
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years

But, remember that throne of judgment Daniel saw in verses 9 & 10? The One sitting on that throne will allow all of this to happen, and will bring an end to it at the end of that 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. And when He does, the Kingdom He sets up will last forever. There will be no more unbelieving nations to attempt to rule the world God created for His Son.

15. (:28) Why do you think Daniel is troubled by this dream? Because he sees the people of God suffering greatly. He sees his own people, the Jews, being persecuted by this evil world power. Being tortured and killed by this evil world ruler. And it seems nothing is done to stop him - at least for 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

APPLICATION:

16. How does this dream compare to Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the large statue in Chapter 2?
In chapter 2 Nebuchadnezzar saw a statue which represented the changing of power in the world, beginning with Nebuchadnezzar's time.

1. Head of Gold = Babylon
2. Arms & chest of silver = Medo-Persia
3. Belly & thighs of bronze = Greece
4. Legs of iron = Rome
5. Feet of iron+clay = Rome +10
6. The rock out of the mountain = the Kingdom of God

The first four kingdoms we have seen in history. The fifth and sixth are yet to come.

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The fifth kingdom is satan's last hurrah. It is his last chance to totally rule this world he jealously stole from God. A ruthless, evil man will agree to do things satan's way - that evil man is anti-christ - and these two together (satan and anti-christ) will attempt to control the world and wipe out every last person who might ever believe in the One, True God.

The sixth kingdom is God's answer to all the unGodly kingdoms which have tried to rule this world. The sixth kingdom is what God had in mind all along when He created this world. He knew Adam and Eve would sin. He knew how long the corridor of history would be as the world spun out of control with sinful men in charge. And mostly, He knew He had a kingdom coming which would belong to His Son.

How does Nebuchadnezzar's dream, then, compare to Daniel's dream?

Nebuchadnezzar's statue dream (Daniel 2)	Daniel's 1 st dream (Daniel 7)	Interpretation in history
Head of Gold	Lion with wings who becomes a man	<i>Babylon (history)</i>
Arms & Chest of Silver	Bear on side eating 3 ribs	<i>Medo-Persia (history)</i>
Belly & Thighs of Bronze	Leopard with 4 wings & 4 heads	<i>Greece (history)</i>
Legs of iron	Terrifying beast	<i>Rome (History)</i>
Feet of iron & clay	Terrifying beast with 10 horns	<i>Yet to come - Old Roman Kingdom revived..with 10 nations adding their power together</i>

17. How do both of these dreams compare to the description of End Times in the book of Revelation?

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The book of Revelation begins with the entrance into the world of the revived 4th beast which has 10 horns. The Last 7 Years of the world as we know it begins with the revived Roman empire being strengthened by 10 other nations as they give their power to it. Revelation chapter 6 starts the sequence of events with a great peace treaty being negotiated in the world, bringing calm to the Middle East, and thereby to the whole globe.

There is a person, supposedly a good person, who fools everyone as he negotiates this treaty, only to, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years later, break that peace treaty and demand to be worshipped by the whole world. That person is the "little horn" of Daniel 7, who will rise to power, destroy 3 nations, and control the entire world from the head of world power which is the "feet of iron and clay"...the "terrifying beast with 10 horns".

Half-way through the Last 7 Years he will heavily persecute believers in Jesus Christ, and will also persecute any Jew alive in the world - whether or not they are believers in Jesus Christ. His goal will be to destroy all Jews and Christians - so that no believing person or person with Jewish blood will be alive on earth to welcome Jesus back...

But, of course, this cruel deceitful ruler, whom we sometimes call "anti-christ", will not succeed. The church (all those who have ever believed in Jesus Christ up to that point in history) will be raptured out of that terrible time of persecution. And by God's grace, the Jews, though slaughtered in great numbers, will survive as a small remnant and come to a time when they collectively fall on their knees in belief as they realize Jesus was....is....indeed, the Messiah of Israel. They will welcome Him back to earth...they very thing satan had been trying to prevent.

18. How do you respond to this dream? How does it make you feel?
What does it make you want to do?

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Daniel's Second Dream
Daniel Chapter 8 - Questions

1. (:1) Where does this dream fit into the timeline we pictured in chapter 7?

Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon).....Belshazzar (Babylon).....Darius (Persia)

2. (:2) Where is Daniel in his dream? How does this compare to his first dream?
3. (:3-4) What is the first thing Daniel saw?
4. (:5) What did Daniel see next?
5. (:6-8) What did the goat do?
6. Why was the goat able to defeat the ram?
7. (:9) What happened eventually to one of those 4 horns?
8. (:9-12) Make a list of all the things which describe this small horn which comes out of one of the main 4 horns on the goat:
 - a. (:9)
 - b. (:10)
 - c. (:11)
 - d. (:11)
 - e. (:11)
 - f. (:12)
 - g. (:12)
 - h. (:12)
9. (:13&14) How long will it take for this awful person to accomplish the things Daniel was shown...rebellion, desecration of the sanctuary, people of God trampled underfoot?
10. (:14) After that 2,300 days & nights, what will happen?
11. (:15&16) Who did Daniel see next?
12. (:17-19) What timeframe does this vision refer to?
13. (:20-23) What do the ram, goat, 4 horns, and small horn represent?

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14. (:23-25) Make a list of some more things which describe this small horn:
- a. (:23)
 - b. (:23)
 - c. (:23)
 - d. (:24)
 - e. (:24)
 - f. (:24)
 - g. (:24)
 - h. (:25)
 - i. (:25)
 - j. (:25)
 - k. (:25)
 - l. (:25)
15. (:26) What does *Gabriel* tell Daniel to do with this dream?
16. (:27) What is Daniel's reaction to the dream?
17. Read Revelation 13:1-8 and compare that person with the one described in Daniel 7:20-22 and Daniel 8:23-25.

APPLICATION

18. In this chapter, what things about end times have you seen before in the book of Daniel?
19. What new things have you learned about the man who will someday be called anti-christ?
20. Why did Daniel react in that way to this dream? How do you react?

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Daniel's Second Dream

Daniel Chapter 8 - Discussion Notes

1. (:1) Where does this dream fit into the timeline we pictured in chapter 7?

Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon).....Belshazzar (Babylon).....Darius (Persia)

This dream takes place in the 3rd year of Belshazzar's reign, so...2 years after the dream in chapter 7.

2. (:2) Where is Daniel in his dream? How does this compare to his first dream?

In the chapter 7 dream Daniel sees things happening out in the "sea" - a picture of the whole world. In this dream of chapter 8 he sees things happening in the place where he lives - in Babylon - by the Ulai Canal - right in the capital city.

Does that tell us anything about this dream? It tells us that Daniel's first dream was concerning things which affected the whole world, but Daniel's second dream was more focused on things which at least begin to take place or affect Babylon.

Both dreams tell us something about end times. They just look at things from different "geographic" angles.

3. (:3-4) What is the first thing Daniel saw?

A very powerful ram with two long horns. One horn becomes longer than the other at some point. The ram had great power over lands west, north, and south of Babylon.

4. (:5) What did Daniel see next?

A goat coming from the west of Babylon, moving very swiftly towards Babylon.

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5. (:6-8) What did the goat do?

Attacked the ram, overpowered the ram, and conquered Babylon. Just as the goat comes to power, the main person who led this world power is "broken off" (dies), and 4 other men are put in charge of the goat kingdom.

6. Why was the goat able to defeat the ram?

Generally I wouldn't think of goats as being able to win in a battle with rams. Rams are thicker and stronger and seem more powerful. But the goat is swift...able to move fast. So the goat has the element of surprise ...and, it seems, in this case...also is smarter...and thus wins in the battle.

7. (:9) What happened eventually to one of the goat's 4 horns?

Another, smaller horn comes out of one of the 4 horns, and extends his power to the south and east of Babylon, and stretches also towards the "beautiful land"which is Israel.

8. (:9-12) Make a list of all the things which describe this small horn which comes out of one of the main 4 horns on the goat:

- a. (:9) He starts out small but grows and stretches his kingdom to the south, the east, and towards Israel.
- b. (:10) He is so powerful he is able to destroy some of God's people
- c. (:11) He sets himself up as being as powerful as the Messiah of the Jews
- d. (:11) He takes away the daily sacrifice in the temple (now this is interesting to Daniel because at the time he sees this dream there is no daily sacrifice in the temple. There is no temple)
- e. (:11) He destroys the temple
- f. (:12) The Jews and the temple are given into his control
- g. (:12) He prospers in what he does
- h. (:12) He has not respect for truth, but tramples it into the ground. He is a liar.

9. (:13&14) How long will it take for this awful person to accomplish the things Daniel was shown...rebellion, desecration of the sanctuary, people of God trampled underfoot?

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It will take 2,300 nights and days. How long is that?
Does this mean 2300 days?
Or 1150 days? (1150 days + 1150 nights = 2300 nights and days)

If it means 2300 days, then that's about 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ years
If it means 1150 days, then that's a little over 3 years.

Either way, my understanding of this is that it will take either 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ years or 3 years for this awful person to accomplish destruction of the temple, the sacrifices, and the people of God.

10. (:14) After that 2,300 days & nights, what will happen?
Sometime after the 2,300 days and nights the temple and its sanctuary will be rebuilt and reconsecrated. Everything will be OK again.

11. (:15&16) Who did Daniel see next?
He sees Gabriel. A voice from the Ulai canal asks Gabriel to explain the dream to Daniel.

Who is Gabriel? He's one of two angels of God (Michael is the other) who have their names recorded in scripture. He's the one whom God sent to Mary to announce the coming birth of Jesus. Luke 1:26

12. (:17-19) What timeframe does this vision refer to?
Gabriel makes it very clear to Daniel that this dream is pointing to a time in the future. The end time. He calls it the time of wrath.

So our question needs to be: Is this coming "end time", or "time of wrath" the time we see described in the book of Revelation? Or is it simply a time yet future to Daniel?

13. (:20-23) What do the ram, goat, 4 horns, and small horn represent?
The ram is Medo-Persia. (remember, this dream happens in the time when the nation of Babylon is still ruling in this land. Medo-Persian will not conquer Babylon for another few years)

The goat is Greece (the nation which conquered Medo-Persia).

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The battle between the ram and the goat is an accurate picture of what happened when Greece conquered Medo-Persia.

Medo-Persia was a nation with 2 horns (Medes and Persians), and one of those horns became stronger (Persia). Then Greece, led by Alexander the Great, swiftly conquered Medo-Persia, and soon after, when Alexander died, the Grecian Kingdom was split up between 4 of Alexander's military leaders.

Now here is the interesting part. History tells us that out of one of the 4 "kingdoms" created by Alexander's death, a very powerful and repugnant ruler emerged, who horribly persecuted and nearly destroyed the Jewish people. His name was Antiochus Epiphanes. He is the one who is very accurately described by this prophecy/dream. He despicably tore down the sacrifices which were being offered in the Jewish temple at that time, forced Jewish priests to eat pork or die, and set himself up to be worshipped in the desecrated Jewish temple. The story of his defeat is famous in Jewish history. It is still celebrated today in the holiday called "Hanukkah".

So - is that what this prophecy was about then? Antiochus Epiphanes? Is that the time of wrath Gabriel is talking about? If we didn't have the rest of the book of Daniel we might think so.

But later, in Daniel chapter 11, it becomes obvious that this horrible man, Antiochus Ephiphanes, is a "foreshadowing" of an even more evil man yet to come after Antiochus. The man described in Daniel chapter 8 is, indeed, Antiochus Ephiphanes, but this look at him is meant to help us see even more clearly the terrifying man, anti-christ, who is described in Revelation.

In other words, Daniel 8 is a "layered" prophecy. It describes people and events in two different times. It describes Antiochus Ephiphanes, a Greek ruler who persecuted the Jews about 175 years before the time of Jesus. It also describes anti-christ, a ruler coming out of the revived Roman empire, who will rule the world and persecute the Jews sometime in our future.

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Here's a site where you can learn more about this time in history:
<http://www.bibledudes.com/apocrypha/maccabees.php>

14. (:23-25) Make a list of some more things which describe this small horn:
- a. (:23) A man
 - b. (:23) A King
 - c. (:23) A master of intrigue
 - d. (:24) Others will make him strong
 - e. (:24) He will cause devastation
 - f. (:24) He will succeed
 - g. (:24) He will destroy mighty men and holy people
 - h. (:25) He will love deceit
 - i. (:25) He will consider himself superior
 - j. (:25) He will destroy when people feel secure
 - k. (:25) He will stand against Jesus
 - l. (:25) He will be destroyed by supernatural power

15. (:26) What does *Gabriel* tell Daniel to do with this dream?
Seal it up. It was not to be taught or talked about in Daniel's day. It was for a future time.

16. (:27) What is Daniel's reaction to the dream?
It made him sick. Why? He saw his own people being horribly persecuted. He saw the temple rebuilt (probably a deep longing of his), and then destroyed.

APPLICATION

- 17. Read Revelation 13:1-8 and compare that person with the one described in Daniel 7:20-22 and Daniel 8:23-25.
- 18. In this chapter, what things about end times have you seen before in the book of Daniel?
- 19. What new things have you learned about the man who will someday be called anti-christ?
- 20. Why did Daniel react in that way to this dream? How do you react?

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When You Don't Understand, Fall To Your Knees

Daniel Chapter 9 - Questions

1. (:1) When does this chapter take place?
2. (:2) What was Daniel reading when he understood this?
(see Jeremiah 29:1-14)
3. (:3) What was Daniel's response to understanding that the captivity of Israel was soon to be over?
4. Why was Daniel fasting...in sackcloth...and ashes? (see James 4:7-10)
5. (:4-19) What are the different parts of Daniel's prayer?
 - a. (:4)
 - b. (:5-11)
 - c. (:11-14)
 - d. (:15)
 - e. (:16)
 - f. (:17-19)
6. What did Daniel appeal to when he asked this of God? (see vs. 18&19)
7. (:20-23) What was God's response to Daniel's prayer? (see James 5:17&18)
8. (:24) What things are going to happen after 70 "7's"?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
9. (:25) How long will it be from the time the Jews are told they can go back to rebuild the temple until the time the Messiah comes?
10. (:26) What will happen after that?
11. (:26) Who will destroy Jerusalem after the Messiah is cut off?

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12. (:26) What will the end be like?
13. (:27) What will the final "7" start with?
14. (:27) What will happen in the middle of that "7"?

APPLICATION:

15. How is your prayer life? Are you challenged to be more dedicated to prayer?
16. If so, what can you do to step up the level of your prayer life?

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When You Don't Understand, Fall To Your Knees

Daniel Chapter 9 - Discussion Notes

1. (:1) When does this chapter take place?

On the timeline we have used in the last few chapters, this takes place during the reign of Darius.

Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon).....Belshazzar (Babylon).....Darius (Persia)

2. (:2) What was Daniel reading when he understood this?
(see Jeremiah 29:1-14)

He was reading one of the prophecies of the prophet, Jeremiah. Jeremiah had been a mighty prophet of God during the days when the last of the Jewish people were carted off to Babylon. He had been a tremendously unpopular prophet, and had suffered greatly for his bravery to pronounce the Word of God to a people who didn't want to hear it.

Check out Jeremiah 29:1-14. This was a letter sent to the captives in Babylon, letting them know that God intended for them to stay in Babylon, not to try to escape. Stay, make a life, raise children, be safe, even though prisoners. He told them that God wanted them to stay there for 70 years. And after that time, He would arrange for them to return to Jerusalem.

When Daniel read this, he figured out that the 70 years Jeremiah had spoken of so many years before was almost finished. It was almost time for the Lord to keep His promise and let the Jews return to their land.

3. (:3) What was Daniel's response to understanding that the captivity of Israel was soon to be over?

He prayed. He fell to his knees before God.

4. Why was Daniel fasting...in sackcloth...and ashes? (see James 4:7-10)

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He was full of grief. Why? Because the people of God were so full of sin and so complacent and so dirtied by years of disobedience to God. He knew that they didn't deserve God's mercy - but he pleaded for it, for they would not survive without it. Look at James 4:7-10. In that passage James is letting his readers know they have been lovers of the world, and he is challenging them to repent - to grieve - to mourn - to quit laughing and start crying. Those are appropriate responses to knowing how sinful and undeserving we are of the mercy of God.

5. (:4-19) What are the different parts of Daniel's prayer?
 - a. (:4) A proclamation of the greatness of God
 - b. (:5-11) An admission of sin - not just individual sin - but group sin
 - c. (:11-14) An admission of the right of God to punish sin
 - d. (:15) A remembrance of the mighty acts of God in the past
 - e. (:16) A pleading for God's wrath to be turned away
 - f. (:17-19) A request - save us! -
6. What did Daniel appeal to when he asked this of God? (see vs. 18&19)

He appealed to God's own honor. He asked God to do this for Himself.

7. (:20-23) What was God's response to Daniel's prayer? (see James 5:17&18)

He sent Gabriel to give a picture of the future. A bigger picture than Daniel had in mind. Not a picture of just a return to the land, but a picture of a Messiah coming and a Messiah being "cut off" and the reign of evil.

"The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much". In James 5:17&18 James reminds his readers of the prophet Elijah, who had such power in prayer that when he prayed it wouldn't rain, it didn't - for 3 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years!

The Bible is full of stories of men and women who prayed and God responded.

8. (:24) What things are going to happen after 70 "7's"?
 - a. finish transgression
 - b. put an end to sin
 - c. atone for wickedness

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- d. bring in everlasting righteousness
- e. seal up vision and prophecy
- f. anoint the Most Holy

This is a description of the state of affairs when the LORD returns to earth again. It was future for Daniel. It is yet future for us. These things haven't happened yet.

When this prophecy says 70 "7's", it is talking about 70 groups of 7 years each, therefore, 70 "7's" = 490 years. The prophecy is saying the Messiah will be anointed as King of the earth after 490 years.

9. (:25) How long will it be from the time the Jews are told they can go back to rebuild the temple until the time the Messiah comes?

This takes a little addition.

$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \text{ "7's"} = 49 \text{ years} \\ 62 \text{ "7's"} = \underline{434 \text{ years}} \\ \text{TOTAL} \quad \quad 483 \text{ years} \end{array}$$

So, Daniel is told that the Jews will be told they can return to Jerusalem from Babylon, and then 483 years later the Messiah will appear.

And so He did. The Jews returned to Jerusalem and 483 years later Jesus Christ entered the city of Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, to the shouts and cries of Jewish people saying "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." (John 12:12-15)

10. (:26) What will happen after that?

After that 483 years, the Messiah comes, and the Messiah is also "cut off".

And indeed, He was. He entered Jerusalem to the praise of the Jews, and less than a week later He died on a Roman cross just outside the city.

11. (:26) Who will destroy Jerusalem after the Messiah is cut off?

Now...sometime after the Messiah is "cut off", the city of Jerusalem will be destroyed once again. And it will be destroyed by a group of people - the Romans. They are described as the people of the "ruler who will come" - meaning the Romans who destroyed the city of Jerusalem in 70 AD are also

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somehow connected to the people who will someday give allegiance to the anti-christ.

12. (:26) What will the end be like?

It will be swift, there will be wars, and many things will be completely desolated..destroyed.

13. (:27) What will the final "7" start with?

What final "7"? Remember, Daniel was told it would take 490 years for the Messiah to be anointed as King of the earth? And that same Messiah is "cut off" after 483 years? So, after that 483 years, there are still 7 more years yet to come before the Messiah returns and is anointed as King of the earth. That's the final "7" .

"He" is the anti-christ, the ruler who will come. And at the beginning of that final 7 years, he will make a covenant - a 7 year covenant.

14. (:27) What will happen in the middle of that "7"?

But in the middle of that 7 year covenant, he will put an end to all the peace he had promised, he will take away the right of the Jewish people to worship in their temple, and will set up an abomination in that temple.

APPLICATION:

15. How is your prayer life? Are you challenged to be more dedicated to prayer?

16. If so, what can you do to step up the level of your prayer life?

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Looking at the World Through Heavenly Eyes
Daniel Chapter 10 - Questions

1. (:1) When does this chapter take place?
2. (:2&3) What had Daniel been doing for 3 weeks? Why might he have been doing this? (look ahead to verse 12 for a clue)
3. (:4) Where was Daniel when this took place? What might he have been doing there? How often do you seek out a place of alone-ness in order to talk to God?
4. (:5&6) Describe this man which Daniel saw:
 - a. How he was dressed:
 - b. What color he was:
 - c. His face:
 - d. His eyes:
 - e. His arms & feet:
 - f. The sound of his voice:
5. Now read Revelation 1:13-16 and note any similarities to Daniel's vision:
6. (:7) What is another time in Bible history when a man saw and heard something heavenly, but the others with him did not see or hear the same thing? (Acts 9:3-7)
7. (:8&9) What is Daniel's reaction to seeing this heavenly person?
8. (:10&11) What does the heavenly person tell Daniel to do?
9. (:12-14) Why had it taken 3 weeks for Daniel's prayer to be answered?
10. (:14) What is the heavenly person's mission?
11. (:15) How does Daniel react again?
12. (:16&17) How does Daniel explain his problem?
13. (:18&19) How does the heavenly person give Daniel the strength to keep going?
14. (:20) What is this heavenly being going to do as soon as he is through talking to Daniel?
15. (:21) Who else is helping this heavenly being fight against the forces of evil who are set on destroying the Jews?

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APPLICATION:

16. What have you learned about angels in this chapter?
17. What have you learned about the way *God* looks at the events in our world?
18. Here's another example of looking at the world through heavenly eyes: II Kings 6:15-17

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Looking at the World Through Heavenly Eyes

Daniel Chapter 10 - Discussion Notes

1. (:1) When does this chapter take place?

During the reign of Cyrus. Who's he? Let's see....so far in the book of Daniel we've seen Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, both rulers of Babylon. Then we've seen that the Medo-Persians conquered Babylon, and King Darius of the Medes reigned in the new kingdom. So who is Cyrus? Darius the Mede was the overall king of the Medo-Persians (the total kingdom of both the Medes and the Persians) and Cyrus (a Persian) was the king of Persia - the one who ruled specifically over the city of Babylon, where Daniel resided.

So when this passage indicates this is the 3rd year of Cyrus, that means it is the third year also of Darius. This chapter is taking place about 3 years after Chapter 9.

2. (:2&3) What had Daniel been doing for 3 weeks? Why might he have been doing this? (look ahead to verse 12 for a clue)

For three years Daniel has known it was time for the Jews to be freed to go home to Israel...but it has not happened yet. Perhaps this is why Daniel is fasting and praying. Verse 12 of this chapter gives us a clue what Daniel was praying about. There was something he was trying to understand. He was humbling himself before God in order to get an answer about the return of his people to Jerusalem. Later on, in verse 21, the heavenly messenger tells him he is going to explain to Daniel some things already inscribed in the "writing of truth" - thought to be a reference to the "divine record of the destinies of all human beings" (a quote from my NASB study Bible at Daniel 10:21)

Daniel was probably praying for wisdom to understand when, exactly, the Jews would be freed...and probably also for wisdom to understand the glimpse of the far-off future he had seen in Chapter 9. In order to answer that prayer, God sends a powerful angel, who will explain in detail things which will be happening in the near future, and in the far-off future.

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3. (:4) Where was Daniel when this took place? What might he have been doing there? How often do you seek out a place of alone-ness in order to talk to God?

He was by the river Tigris, in the city of Babylon. I'm assuming he was there in order to be alone - to all by Himself seek the face of God. It's interesting to note that Ezekiel, also a prophet of God taken to Babylon as a prisoner, was also by a river when God showed him great visions of what is really happening in the world. (Ezekiel 1)

4. (:5&6) Describe this man which Daniel saw:
- a. How he was dressed: linen (pure and white), and belt of gold
 - b. What color he was: The color of beryl (yellow)
 - c. His face: like lightning
 - d. His eyes: like flaming torches
 - e. His arms & feet: like bronze
 - f. The sound of his voice: very loud and like it was coming from many different directions.

5. Now read Revelation 1:13-16 and note any similarities to Daniel's vision:

This angel seen by Daniel has a few similarities to the "son of man" (Jesus) seen by John in Revelation 1. Although not exactly the same, the similarities probably indicate this angel is a direct representative of Jesus Himself.

6. (:7) What is another time in Bible history when a man saw and heard something heavenly, but the others with him did not see or hear the same thing? (Acts 9:3-7)

Paul, on the road to Damascus. What does that teach us? Probably simply that sometimes God works in that way. Some people see what is happening, some don't.

7. (:8&9) What is Daniel's reaction to seeing this heavenly person? No strength left in him. Total fear and inability to function.

8. (:10&11) What does the heavenly person tell Daniel to do? He tells him to get up. Something impossible for Daniel to do....but in obedience, Daniel does it.

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9. (:12-14) Why had it taken 3 weeks for Daniel's prayer to be answered?

There was a battle in the heavenlies. We see a glimpse here of the place of angels in our world. They are fighting for us. This heavenly person visiting Daniel was given a job to do - go answer Daniel's prayer. But it was taking time. There were evil forces resisting him - and another mighty angel - Michael - had stepped in to help in the battle so that the prayer could be answered in God's time.

10. (:14) What is the heavenly person's mission?

Give Daniel understanding of what was going to happen in the future.

11. (:15) How does Daniel react again?

He bowed his head and could not speak.

12. (:16&17) How does Daniel explain his problem?

Somehow the angel helps Daniel to speak, and Daniel says he couldn't speak because he had no strength left.

13. (:18&19) How does the heavenly person give Daniel the strength to keep going?

He touches him, and then speaks words of God's truth to him.

14. (:20) What is this heavenly being going to do as soon as he is through talking to Daniel?

He is going to go back to fighting the evil rulers (heavenly evil rulers - demons) of Persia. He is going to go back to make sure King Cyrus becomes king over all the Medes and the Persians, and then gives the decree to release the Jews to go home.

15. (:21) Who else is helping this heavenly being fight against the forces of evil who are set on destroying the Jews?

Michael, the "prince" of the Jews. The word "prince" here, I think, is simply describing the angel who fights for the Jews. The one who protects them by the order of God.

APPLICATION:

16. What have you learned about angels in this chapter?

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17. What have you learned about the way *God* looks at the events in our world?
18. Here's another example of looking at the world through heavenly eyes: II Kings 6:15-17.

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Mirror, Mirror On The Wall....
Daniel Chapter 11 - Questions

1. (:1) Verse 1 is a continuation of what was happening in Chapter 10. Put together your own summary of chapter 10, and how 11:1 fits in to it.
2. From verse 2 begins the angel's communication with Daniel about what will be coming to pass in the future of Israel. It is a complicated and detailed account of future kings and wars, intrigue and earthly power. Read through the whole chapter (warning: it will get tedious) Why do you think the Lord would want Daniel to know and record such intricate details about the future?

Let's attempt to make an outline of this chapter:

3. (:2-3) The Kingdom of _____ is conquered by the Kingdom of _____.
4. (:5-20) The Kingdom of _____ (called the King of the North) fights against the Kingdom of _____ (called the King of the South).
5. (:21-45) This is a "layered prophecy". In other words, the prophecy is still about Syria and Egypt, but now it is also about a future time - the time of _____.
6. (:21-45) Start, then, with verse 21, and see what new things we learn about the future anti-christ:
 - a. :21
 - b. :22
 - c. :23
 - d. :24
 - e. :25
 - f. :26
 - g. :27
 - h. :28
 - i. :29-31
 - j. :32-35
 - k. :36
 - l. :37

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m. :38

n. :39

o. :40-43

p. :44

q. :45

7. "Mirror, Mirror, on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?"
Why does this line from a childhood fairy tale well-describe
chapter 11?

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Mirror, Mirror On The Wall....

Daniel Chapter 11 - Discussion Notes

Daniel 11 is a chapter which takes an interesting twist. It starts out describing a series of events in history - events which took place leading up to the reign of a despicable ruler in the Middle East - Antiochus Epiphanes.

The whole story in Chapter 11 is a foreshadowing of the despicable one who will someday be called the anti-christ.

The interesting twist happens at verse 21. Right at verse 21 the events described are both history and future. Antiochus Epiphanes and the future anti-christ are both there - Antiochus's actions become a picture - a prophecy of the future actions of anti-christ.

1. (:1) Verse 1 is a continuation of what was happening in Chapter 10. Put together your own summary of chapter 10, and how 11:1 fits in to it.

As a result of Daniel fasting and praying for 3 weeks, an angel appeared to Daniel to help answer his questions. That angel had trouble getting to Daniel because the angel was fighting against forces of evil. Another mighty angel, Michael, had to help the angel get through with his answers for Daniel. These two angels stand and support one another in their mission to protect the people of God.

2. From verse 2 begins the angel's communication with Daniel about what will be coming to pass in the future of Israel. It is a complicated and detailed account of future kings and wars, intrigue and earthly power. Read through the whole chapter (warning: it will get tedious) Why do you think the Lord would want Daniel to know and record such intricate details about the future?

I think there are several reasons:

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First - the detailed prophecy made it impossible to say this was not from God. It was proof that the Lord of All definitely cares about and intervenes in the affairs of men.

Second - The Jewish people are being warned here about disastrous events in their immediate future - perhaps some of them could read these prophecies and know how to protect themselves when these things began to happen.

Third - The Lord wants people in our future to recognize the anti-christ when he comes.

Let's attempt to make an outline of this chapter:

3. (:2-3) The Kingdom of Persia is conquered by the Kingdom of Greece.

This is exactly what we have seen again and again in Daniel's prophecies. From the statue of gold (chapter 2), through the dream of 4 beasts (chapter 7), through the vision of the goat and the ram (chapter 8), it has been shown to Daniel again and again the order of world powers which would rule over Israel from the time of Daniel: Babylon - Persia - Greece - Rome - Rome+10.

4. (:5-20) The Kingdom of Syria (called the King of the North) fights against the Kingdom of Egypt, (called the King of the South).

Now, within that period of time when Greece rules the world...and up until the time when Rome begins to be in power, there were two, smaller kingdoms, who fought with each other and greatly affected the people of God. In the Bible, all of history is looked at with one simple vantage point: how things are affecting God's people. So the angel now describes a series of battles and victories between two enemies: Syria (to the north of Israel) and Egypt (to the south of Israel). The detail of the fulfillment of this prophecy is backed up by history. If you are looking for a great presentation of how all this was fulfilled in every point, go to: www.blueletterbible.com and look up Daniel 11. There you will be able to access many different good commentaries on this passage.

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5. (:21-45) This is a "layered prophecy". In other words, the prophecy is still about Syria and Egypt, but it is also about a future time - the time of anti-christ

There are many "layered prophecies" in scripture. They are prophecies about things to come - in two different time frames. For an example of this, look at Malachi 3:1. There Malachi prophecies that a messenger will come to prepare people for the arrival of the Messiah. The prophecy is "layered" because it refers to John the Baptist, who came to prepare the world for the first coming of Christ, and it also refers to Elijah, who will come someday to prepare the world for the second coming of Christ.

6. (:21-45) Start, then, with verse 21, and see what new things we learn about the future anti-christ:
- a. :21 Despicable. Not an accepted ruler. Will, behind people's backs, seize a kingdom
 - b. :22 Some major army will back down from him, including one who signed the 7-year treaty with him
 - c. :23 He will lie, and gain power with only a small backing of people
 - d. :24 He will come into control through a time of peace
 - e. :25 He will go against the "King of the South" (a neighbor south of Israel) The King of the South will not win.
 - f. :26 The King of the South will be rebelled against by his own people
 - g. :27 Both the anti-christ and the King of the South will lie to each other
 - h. :28 anti-christ will try to destroy God's own covenants
 - i. :29-31 He will gain the support of some Jews, and will set up a desolation in the sanctuary of God.
 - j. :32-35 Those who follow anti-christ will become more and more Godless, but those who do not will show great strength, will resist, and will teach others what is going on.
 - k. :36 He will speak great blasphemies against God, and will prosper
 - l. :37 He will turn from ordinary religion and ordinary sexuality, and will consider himself above all.
 - m. :38 He has a god he worships - a god of power

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- n. :39 He will give rewards for people who follow him
- o. :40-43 The King of the South will fight back at the end, but the anti-chirst will do even more damage when that happens
- p. :44 He hears of those who oppose him, and goes on the rampage
- q. :45 He will make his capital in Israel, between Jerusalem and the sea. - but he will come to an end....no one can help him then.

Here's a way to summarize this sequence of events:

Daniel 11: 26-28 **Stage 1** Anti-Christ will attack Israel, then resolve the crisis with an alliance-supported peace treaty. This treaty will be for 7 years. A Jewish temple will be rebuilt. The Last 7 Years begins.

Daniel 11:29-32a **Stage 2** After 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years Anti-Christ will break the treaty in great anger and desecrate the Temple Mount and the temple, demanding to be worshipped himself as God in the temple.

Daniel 11:32b-**35** *"But the people who know their God will display strength and take action. Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days. Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time."*

This will be going on for the whole Last 7 Years.

Daniel 11:36-45 **Stage 3** During the final 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years Anti-Christ will run rampant over the world, and over believers in Jesus. He will gain control over the world, but be resisted first by the believers who somehow remain alive, and finally by the Jewish remnant who finally comes home to Jesus. In the end, Anti-Christ Is destroyed. No one can help him.

7. "Mirror, Mirror, on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?" Why does this line from a childhood fairy tale well-describe chapter 11?

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Wicked rulers throughout time have poured themselves into one goal: be the strongest, the best, the most beautiful, the most powerful person in the world. It has never worked. It never will. There is only one "fair" and "beautiful" and "powerful" being - Jesus Christ. He is the One every person will fall down and worship some day.

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The Time of the End
Daniel Chapter 12 - Questions

1. (:1) Which angel "protects" the Jews?
2. (:1) What 2 things will happen when Michael "arises"?
3. (:2) What will happen to the dead at the time of the end?
4. (:3) Will there be people actively trusting in God at the time of the end?
5. (:4) What was Daniel supposed to do with his prophecies?
6. (:4) When would the world be ready to understand Daniel's prophecies?
7. (:5) Up to this point, Daniel has been alone with the angel dressed in linen (see Daniel 10:4-8). Who joins them now?
8. (:6) What does one of those 2 newcomers ask the angel?
9. (:7) How long will this time of intense suffering for the Jew last?
10. (:7) What must be accomplished before the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years is over?
11. (:8) What doesn't Daniel understand?
12. (:9&10) What will happen as a result of this horrible time?
13. (:11) From the "abomination of desolation" until the end of suffering is how long?
14. (:12) After the end of suffering, how much more time must pass until the beginning of the Millennium? What happens during this time?
15. (:13) What is Daniel told will happen to him now?

APPLICATION:

16. Why do you think God chose a faithful Jewish teenager to be carried away to a foreign country for his whole lifetime... to learn to love the Gentiles who imprisoned him...and to see their future?
17. Is it possible you are a "Daniel"? A person who loves God and would like nothing better than to be continually serving Him, but who has been placed frustratingly right in the middle of the "world"?
18. What have you learned from Daniel's life which can help you look at your own life differently?
19. Do you think we are near the "Time of the End"?
20. If so, what would Daniel have us do with this book of his?

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The Time of the End

Daniel Chapter 12 - Discussion Notes

*"There is a time for everything,
And a season for every activity under heaven:
A time to be born and a time to die,
A time to plant and a time to uproot,
A time to kill and a time to heal,
A time to tear down and a time to build,
A time to weep and a time to laugh,
A time to mourn and a time to dance,
A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
A time to embrace and a time to refrain,
A time to search and a time to give up,
A time to keep and a time to throw away,
A time to tear and a time to mend,
A time to be silent and a time to speak,
A time to love and a time to hate,
A time for war and a time for peace."
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

1. (:1) Which angel "protects" the Jews?

The Archangel, Michael. Here are the places Michael is mentioned in scripture:

- a. His message to Daniel Daniel 10:13,21; 12:1
- b. Confrontation with Satan Jude 1:9
- c. Battle with Satan/the Dragon Revelation 12:7

Other than these places, Michael is not pointed out to us by name in scripture. He may have many jobs, but for sure we know from Daniel 12:1, that Michael has a special overseeing ministry with the chosen people of God

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- the Jews. And my, oh my, they certainly have needed him throughout the years, haven't they? Michael does not keep them from going through difficult situations. He doesn't keep them from sinning against God, or from suffering the results of those sins. What does he do as he protects them?

- i. I think he kept the seed of Christ safe within them in the Old Testament.
- ii. And I think he has kept them alive - they have not faded out of existence as so many other people groups have. Are you wondering why they need to stay alive even after Christ was born? The answer is in scripture - Jeremiah 31:33&34. The LORD Almighty always keeps His promises, and He still has a promise to keep to the Jews....even though they have failed Him. God never changes - so His promise is still good after all these years. Michael has kept the Jewish people alive so that they can be around to receive the blessing of God when they come to faith in Him - Jesus at the end of time.

2. (:1) What 2 things will happen when Michael "arises"?

First, let's think about what "arise" means. The Hebrew word used here is "amad", which means "stand still"....or "stand aside". The picture is not of someone sitting or laying down who then gets up, or "arises". Instead, the picture is of someone standing in place, and then stepping aside.

I think we can understand this, then, to be teaching us that Michael, the protector of the Jewish people, has been "standing in place" - standing in the way of fatal harm to the Jews. Protecting them from the worst that Satan would have thrown at them. But at some point in the future - in the time of the end - Michael will "stand aside". He will no longer keep Satan's worst from being thrown at the Jews.

So the first thing which will happen when Michael "arises" is **an unparalleled time of suffering for the Jewish people.**

And the second thing which happens at that time is deliverance for all the Jews alive. Many will die during the time of Satan's wicked attack on the Jews, but those who live (those whose names are in the book of life) will be

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once and for all delivered from death. But more than physical death, they are once and for all delivered also from spiritual death. **The nation of Israel comes to collective faith in Jesus Christ at the time of the end.**

3. (:2) What will happen to the dead at the time of the end?

Anyone who has died in all of history will have one of two parts to play in the time of the end:

- i. Those who, during their lifetime on earth, placed their faith in the One, True God - Jesus Christ - will arise from the dust of the earth at the rapture, be given new, resurrected bodies which will last forever, and be joined together with all other believers from all other times.
- ii. And those who, during their lifetime on earth, refused to place their faith in the One, True God - Jesus Christ - will be resurrected at the end of the Millennium to face Him at the Great White Throne. They will end up in resurrected bodies which will be consigned to eternal suffering.

4. (:3) Will there be people actively trusting in God at the time of the end?

No doubt about it. There will be those who are living by faith and leading others to righteousness. In Revelation, reference is made to those who are doing this before the rapture (Rev. 12:17, Rev. 13: 9, 10, 18) and even after the rapture. (Revelation 14:13).

5. (:4) What was Daniel supposed to do with his prophecies?

Close it up and seal it. In other words, quit preaching and teaching it. Save it. It was for a future time.

6. (:4) When would the world be ready to understand Daniel's prophecies?

In the time of the end it would be very clear what the Lord was trying to tell Daniel.

7. (:5) Up to this point, Daniel has been alone with the angel dressed in linen (see Daniel 10:4-8). Who joins them now?

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Two "others" - angels? Men? One on each bank of the river where Daniel is standing talking to the angel in linen.

8. (:6) What does one of those 2 newcomers ask the angel?
I have to smile as I try to visualize this. Daniel, we know, is pretty much overwhelmed with all he has seen and heard. I imagine the question the "other" asks is a question which needed to be asked, but maybe Daniel had too many thoughts going through his head to be able to get out the important question...so perhaps God gave him a little help in the form of another person (or angel) to ask it.

What does he ask? How long will it take for all of this to happen once it starts?

9. (:7) How long will this time of intense suffering for the Jew last?
Time = 1 year
Times = 2 years
 $\frac{1}{2}$ times = $\frac{1}{2}$ year

Add those all together and you get $3 \frac{1}{2}$ years.

10. (:7) What must be accomplished before the $3 \frac{1}{2}$ years is over?
The angel raises both of his hands toward heaven - as if to call the authority of Almighty God into this answer - and declares that it will take $3 \frac{1}{2}$ years for anti-christ to completely break the power of the Jews....but more importantly - it will take those same $3 \frac{1}{2}$ years for the Lord God - Jesus - to completely break through the pride and blindness and love of sin of the Jews and draw them to Himself in life-saving repentance.

What $3 \frac{1}{2}$ years? Half-way through the Last Seven Years (which we commonly call the "Tribulation"), the anti-christ will ascend the steps of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem and demand to be worshipped as God. He will set up a place there for the world to worship him, (called the "abomination of desolation" in Daniel 11:31 and Matthew 24:15, and also described in II Thessalonians 2:4 and Rev. 13:4-8)

At that time, Michael, the powerful angel who has always protected the Jewish people, will "stand aside" - and a time of indescribable suffering will

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ensue for not only those people who believe in Jesus Christ, but for every Jew anywhere on the earth. The intensity of it will shock everyone. The hatred of it will be terrifying. The Holocaust of the 1940's will be small compared to it. Satan's purpose will be to destroy every living Jew - man, woman, child. And he will very nearly succeed. In Zechariah we are told (Zechariah 13:8&9) that two-thirds of the Jews in Israel alone will be killed.

11. (:8) What doesn't Daniel understand?
He's got to be screaming inside of himself...".Why is this necessary?"!!!

12. (:9&10) What will happen as a result of this horrible time?
The Lord, through his angel, calms Daniel down by telling him to wait. This will all come to pass at the time of the end. And when it does, Daniel, it will be worth it. Many sinful Jewish people will be purified as they reach out in faith to the Messiah of the world. Zechariah (13:9) echoes that truth as he goes on to tell us: "I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say; 'The Lord is our God.'" | the beginning of the Millennium? What happens during this time?

It will be the dividing between the men and the boys. Some will go on to faith. Some will stay firmly in their unbelief. There will be no doubt in anyone's mind about what decision is being made.

13. (:11) From the "abomination of desolation" until the end of suffering is how long?
1,290 days. Now, we've already been told that the suffering of the Jews will last 3 ½ years, which is 1,260 days. So...the obvious question...what is the extra 30 days all about?

Look back up at verse 7. It will take 3 ½ years (1,260 days) to bring the Jewish people to a place of faith in Jesus Christ. 3 ½ years (1,260 days) to "break" them, so to speak.

I think we see that time of faith described in Revelation 11. The Two Witnesses of Revelation 11 begin their ministry at the beginning of that last 3 ½ years (Rev. 11:3) , and then are killed and are miraculously raised to life at the end of the 3 ½ years (1,260 days) . At that point, when they are

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raised to life again in the view of the whole world, what happens? Look at Revelation 11:13:

*"At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and **GAVE GLORY TO THE GOD OF HEAVEN.**"
!!!!!! (emphasis mine)*

Since the rapture the world has been foolishly grasping their pride and their sin to their bosoms - stubbornly choosing to continue to worship their idols of gold and silver (Rev. 9:20&21). But now, in the city where our Lord was crucified, 2 men have been raised to life after being dead 3 ½ days...and those who watched...the Jews and others....finally are broken - and the flood of God's grace begins to pour through - as, beginning in Jerusalem, the survivors of the Last 7 Years admit that it is the God of Heaven - Jesus Christ - who deserves glory - and Him alone.

From the time Michael steps aside to Rev. 11:13 is exactly 1,260 days.

Look what happens next. Rev. 11:15: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." Jesus Christ begins to reign.

What happens for the next 30 days? The LORD dumps the 7 bowls of His wrath upon the unbelieving world. Revelation 15 and 16 describe that 30-day event, ending with Jesus Christ on a white horse descending from the heavens, with us in his train, and, by the word of His mouth, obliterating all unbelievers in the whole earth. (Rev. 19:11-21)

14. (:12) After the end of suffering, how much more time must pass until the Millennium - the 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth - is underway? After the 1,290 days, then a time of waiting (and preparation, I think) until the end of 1,335 days - in other words - 45 more days.

Preparation? Clean-up? Everyone get to the right place?

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Prewrathministries.org <http://prewrathministries.org/45days.html> has a great page which details things which might be happening during that 45 days: (the following is an excerpt from that website)

The Restoration of Mt. Zion

Zechariah 14:10 (NIV) The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah. But Jerusalem will be raised up and remain in its place, from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses.

We are told that the "whole land" will be like the Arabah. The Arabah is a desert. This seems to refer to the devastation described by the seventh bowl. But then we are told that Jerusalem will remain in its place and in fact, be raised up.

Isaiah 2:2 (NIV) In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

This verse is repeated again in Micah 4:1. Mt. Zion will be raised as "chief:" of the mountains. This seems to be the opposite of what had happened in the seventh bowl. As all mountains disappear, Mt. Zion becomes the greatest of all mountains - and all nations stream to it.

Ezekiel 20:40 (NIV) For on my holy mountain, the high mountain of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD, there in the land the entire house of Israel will serve me, and there I will accept them...

The Restoration of Israel

Jeremiah 31:10-12 (NIV) Hear the word of the LORD, O nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.' {11} For the LORD will ransom Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. {12} They will come and shout for joy on the *heights of Zion*; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD-- the grain, the new wine and the oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. (emphasis added)

In Daniel we read that a major reason for the 70th Week was the judgment of Israel. But Isaiah records how Israel will come to truly rely on Jesus -

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"the Holy One of Israel" as their Messiah. Where they relied on the Antichrist and his covenant, they will now truly rely on the Lord.

Isaiah 10:20-22 (NIV) In that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of the house of Jacob, will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. {21} A remnant will return, a remnant of Jacob will return to the Mighty God. {22} Though your people, O Israel, be like the sand by the sea, only a remnant will return. Destruction has been decreed, overwhelming and righteous.

We also see that Israel will be restored from all nations. But, this will be a restoration of everyone "who is called by my name."

Isaiah 43:5-7 (NIV) Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. {6} I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth-- {7} everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Micah 7:7-9 (NIV) But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me. {8} Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light. {9} Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the Lord's wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.

Isaiah makes it plain that the "new" Israel will also include foreigners or gentiles.

Isaiah 56:6-8 (NIV) And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant-- {7} these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." {8} The Sovereign LORD declares-- he who gathers the exiles of Israel: "I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered."

The Restoration of the Temple

Ezekiel 43:6-7 (NIV) While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me from inside the temple. {7} He said: "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever. The house of Israel will

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never again defile my holy name--neither they nor their kings--by their prostitution and the lifeless idols of their kings at their high places.

Whereas other temples were built by man, we are told here that Jesus, Himself, will build this temple, and that he will finally bring true harmony between the roles of priest and king.

Zechariah 6:12-13 (NIV) Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. {13} It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.'

Christ to Rule Over the Earth

Daniel 7:11,13-14 (NIV) "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire... {13} In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven... He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. {14} He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

15. (:13) What is Daniel told will happen to him now?

Keep living your life, Daniel. You will die before all this happens - but don't worry - you'll see it!

APPLICATION:

16. Why do you think God chose a faithful Jewish teenager to be carried away to a foreign country for his whole lifetime.... to learn to love the Gentiles who imprisoned him...and to see their future?

17. Is it possible you are a "Daniel"? A person who loves God and would like nothing better than to be continually serving Him, but who has been placed frustratingly right in the middle of the "world"?

18. What have you learned from Daniel's life which can help you look at your own life differently?

19. Do you think we are near the "Time of the End"?

20.If so, what would Daniel have us do with this book of his?

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