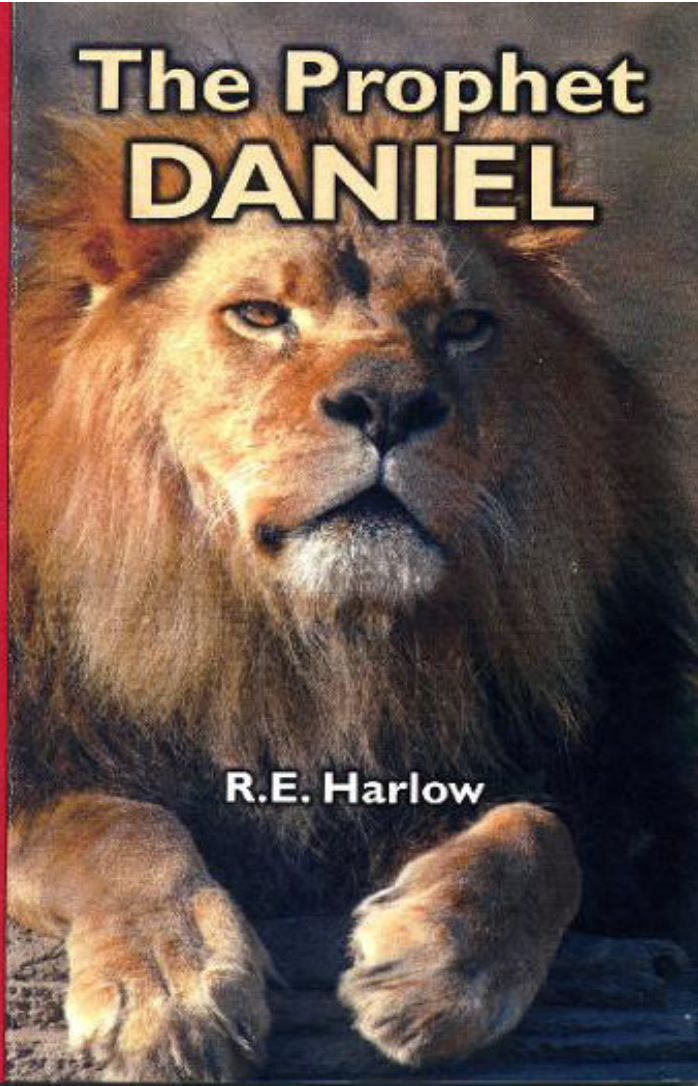


# The Prophet **DANIEL**

R.E. Harlow



When you have read through each lesson carefully,  
write down your answers to the questions then go  
to the website menu and click on

**'EXAM FORM B'**.

Complete this Form, including your answers and  
click **'SUBMIT'**.

Do this for each lesson.

Your exams will be marked and returned to you.

[www.emmausuk.com](http://www.emmausuk.com)

# Daniel

The prophet Daniel was born in the royal family in Judea about the year 620 Before Christ. His name means God is my Judge. The word judge in the Old Testament often means the one who will prove that a man is right when others say he is wrong. In this way, God was Daniel's Friend.

Daniel was a captive in Babylon and still a young man when he became famous for his wisdom and his good life. Ezekiel was another prophet of God living in Babylon about the same time and by the Holy Spirit, he spoke of Daniel as being very wise. He also named Daniel along with Noah and Job as a righteous man, Ezekiel 14.14,20; 28.3.

Daniel also was a servant of God, and the LORD, the God of heaven, gave him great revelations of things future. Daniel learned many details about kings who were not yet born and empires to be built in the future. Many men today do not believe that anyone could know the future, so they say that someone wrote the book of Daniel after these things happened. But the Lord Jesus Christ called Daniel the prophet, Matthew 24.15; Mark 13.14. This proves that Daniel was real and that God really showed him all these things in advance. After all, God knows all things, past, present and future, Isaiah 46.10.

The Holy Spirit led men of God to write the New Testament in the Greek language and the Old Testament in the Hebrew language. However, Daniel wrote part of his book in the Aramaic language, which is very much like Hebrew. In fact, the Jews spoke Aramaic in the time of our Lord Jesus Christ, and, no doubt, the Lord

6

Himself used this language when He spoke to the people. Daniel used Aramaic for most of chapters two to seven..

The first half of the book of Daniel contains the record of six great events in the city of Babylon. The second half tells us about the revelations which God gave to His faithful servant.

# 1

## Daniel in Babylon

This chapter starts with the great king Nebuchadnezzar and tells how Daniel came to be near him.

1. Nebuchadnezzar's purpose, vs. 1-7
2. Daniel's purpose, vs. 8-21

### 1. Nebuchadnezzar's purpose, 1.1-7

The Holy Spirit teaches us one great lesson in this book: that God has a great purpose and He will surely fulfill it. Here, Nebuchadnezzar was doing God's will while he thought that he was working out his own purposes.

1 Nebuchadnezzar came up to Jerusalem and surrounded it with his great armies. Jehoiakim was a son of the last good king of Judah, Josiah, but he was like his two brothers and his son who ruled after Josiah – they were all wicked men.

2 Nebuchadnezzar was able to defeat Jehoiakim and conquer the city which God long before chose as the place for His Temple. Nebuchadnezzar took some of the holy objects, silver and gold, from the Temple. This was an insult to the God of Israel, and still more so when Nebuchadnezzar gave these things as a gift to his own god in Babylon.

Why did the God of heaven allow him to do this? The LORD promised to watch over Jerusalem, to honor the Temple with His name and His presence and to keep David's descendants on the throne forever, 2 Samuel 7.16; 2 Chronicles 6.6; Psalm 87.2. But He warned the people hundreds of times that He would punish them if they did not obey His laws and His prophets.

It is remarkable that three of God's greatest prophets all lived about this time:

Jeremiah lived in Jerusalem and gave God's last messages to the sinful people and kings;

Ezekiel was a captive of Nebuchadnezzar, living in Babylon, who also sent messages to those Jews still in Jerusalem and received God's warnings of great trouble ahead and His promises for Israel's wonderful future;

Daniel, who gives us many more details of Israel's trouble and the glory yet to come.

From this chart, you will see that Daniel went to Babylon with the first captivity, Ezekiel with the second. Jeremiah was living in Jerusalem even at the time of the third and final captivity, but Nebuchadnezzar allowed him to stay there, Jeremiah 39.11,12; 40.4.

3 Prophets	3 Captivities	5 Kings of Judah	4 Kings in Babylon
Jeremiah, 626-587		Josiah, 640-609 Jehoahaz, 609	
Daniel, 605-539	first	Jehoiakim, 609-597	Nebuchadnezzar, 605-562
Ezekiel, 592-570	second	Jehoiachin, 597	
	third	Zedekiah, 597-587	Belshazzar, 562-539 Darius the Mede Cyrus the Persian, 539-530

We shall see that Daniel continued to live to the third year of King Cyrus and continued to prosper, v.21; 6.28; 10.1.

3 Nebuchadnezzar had another plan: he wanted to get the benefit of the smart, young men among his captives. So he ordered one of his officers to bring some of the Israelite young men who were members of the king's family. These were not children, although Jeremiah called himself a child when the LORD called him, Jeremiah 1.6. The word child may mean young man.

4 Ashpenaz was to choose those who were handsome and able

to learn quickly. They would come right into the palace of the king and learn the language and the science of the Babylonians. Moses long ago learned the wisdom of Egypt, Acts 7.22. He was also an Israelite who came to be very important in a foreign land. Like Moses, Daniel did not accept the religion of the land in which he lived; he continued to follow the Lord GOD of Israel.

5 Nebuchadnezzar wanted these young men to spend their time serving him, so he provided their food and drink. He gave them three years to learn the language and science of Babylon.

6,7 Four of the young men were Jewish. The officers gave them Babylonian names:

Hebrew name	Meaning	New name	Babylonian meaning
Daniel	God is my Judge.	Beltshazzar	May the goddess protect the king.
Hananiah	Jehovah is gracious.	Shadrach	?
Mishael	Who is what God is?	Meshach	I have become weak.
Azariah	Jehovah is strong.	Abed-Nego	Servant of the shining one

Nebuchadnezzar gave Daniel his new name containing the name of his god, Bel, 4.8, or his wife. He wanted the other names also to show that these young men should no longer trust in Jehovah. Shining one is a name of Satan, Isaiah 14.12. These new names are used:

for Daniel, 2.26; 4.8,9,18,19 (3 times), 5.12; 10.1;  
for the other three, 2.49, and 13 times in chapter 3.

## 2. Daniel's purpose, 1.8-21

- a) Daniel's request, vs. 8-10
- b) Melzar agreed, vs. 11-16
- c) The wisdom of the four young men from Judah, vs. 17-21

### a) Daniel's request, 1.8-10

8 We do not know the names of Daniel's parents, but they taught him to obey the Law of Jehovah while he was still young, before he became a captive in Babylon. Many people in Jerusalem gave their sacrifices to false gods, and all four kings after Josiah allowed them

to keep on in their sins. Daniel knew that the wicked priests in Babylon offered sacrifices to Bel and other false gods and that the king's cooks then prepared this meat for all who lived in his palace. This included the young captives, most of whom were happy to eat the same kind of food as Nebuchadnezzar did.

Not Daniel. He was not happy with his name containing the name of a heathen god. He would not make himself unclean before the LORD by eating meat which was offered to idols. God's prophets taught that murder and all kinds of sin would make a person unclean, Isaiah 59.3; Zephaniah 3.1.

So Daniel made a great decision. He asked Ashpenaz, the chief officer, v.3, to allow him to not eat the food or drink the wine which the king provided. This decision took real courage, but Daniel was never sorry he took this step.

Others also made a right decision:

Joseph, that he would not sin against the LORD, Genesis 39.9;

Moses, that Christ was better than all the money in Egypt,  
Hebrews 11.25,26;

Joshua, that he and his family would serve the LORD, Joshua 24.15;

Ruth, that God would be her God, Ruth 1.16;

Josiah, that he would follow the God of David, 2 Chronicles 34.3;

Isaiah, that he would go and obey the LORD, Isaiah 6.8;

the younger son, that he would rise and go to his father, Luke 15.18.

We all must make decisions every day. Some of these decisions are very important. It is good to know God's Word and make every decision according to His will.

9,10 Daniel showed the love of God to Ashpenaz, and the LORD gave the Babylonian official real love for the young captive from Judah. However, the official was afraid to do as Daniel request-



ed. He thought that Nebuchadnezzar would accuse his servant of eating or selling the food which he appointed for Daniel and his three friends. This man Nebuchadnezzar did kill people whenever he wanted to do so, 2.5; 3.19. Other ancient kings did the same, for example:

Darius, 6.7-9;

Herod, king of Judea, Matthew 2.16;

Herod, ruler of Galilee, Mark 6.27;

Herod Agrippa, Acts 12.1,2.

b) Melzar agreed, 1.11-16

11-13 Daniel did not give up in his decision to not make himself unclean by eating and drinking what was offered to idols. He asked Melzar, the guard, to test Daniel and his friends for ten days. He would give these four young men vegetables to eat and water to drink, not meat and wine. After ten days, Melzar the guard would look at their faces and decide if they looked better or worse than the other young men in training.

14-16 Melzar agreed to this test and gave them nothing but vegetables and water. At the end of the ten days, the four young men from Judah looked better and healthier than all the rest. So Melzar the guard kept them on this simple diet. He could be sure that the king would not accuse him of doing any wrong.

The LORD honored these young men because they chose to obey Him, but it is still true that simple food is often better for any person's health than rich and fancy food and drink which many people use today.

c) The wisdom of the four young men from Judah, 1.17-21

God gave these young men favor with Ashpenaz and Melzar, but also with King Nebuchadnezzar. This was through the wisdom which God gave them.

17 God gave Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah:  
 knowledge,  
 ability to learn from books,  
 wisdom.

In addition, He gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams. Daniel needed this ability in chapters two and four.

18 Nebuchadnezzar gave Ashpenaz three years to educate the young captives, v.5, but they may have made such good progress that he brought them to the king after two years. Old books of history tell us that Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem before he became king of Babylon, so it was his second year when he saw his dream, 2.1. God prepared Daniel so that he was ready for that important event.

19 Nebuchadnezzar talked with all these young men and found that the four from Judah were far better than any of the others. So he chose them to stand before him in a special way.

20 Then the king found that the four young men from Judah were wiser than any of the priests whom he usually asked for advice of what to do and when to do it. These men are called magicians, fortunetellers, astrologers or enchanters. The magicians in Egypt could not tell Pharaoh what his dream meant, Genesis 41.24, although at first they could do some miracles as Moses did, Exodus 7.11,12; 8.7,18; 9.11. Today we have astrologers who say they can tell from the stars and planets what will happen next in this world. Sometimes they are right, but we should not listen to these false prophets. Others today can move their hands very quickly and speak as though their voices came from some other person or thing. They are able to deceive some people. Most of them consult with evil spirits and never give glory to the Lord Jesus Christ. We should not pay these people any money or believe what they say.

21 We read again about Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego in chapters two and three only, but Daniel continued for nearly 70 years, until the third year of Cyrus, 10.1.

God says that He will honor those who honor Him,  
1 Samuel 2.30. He did this with Daniel and his three  
friends. He does the same today.

**The Prophet Daniel**  
**Chapter 1 - Daniel in Babylon**  
**Exam 1**

**Enter the correct answer**

1. Daniel
  - a. wrote all of his book in Hebrew
  - b. was an old man when he became famous for his wisdom and his good life
  - c. was called Daniel 'the prophet' by the Lord Jesus Christ
  
2. In the book of Daniel the Holy Spirit teaches us
  - a. that man determines the future
  - b. that God has a great purpose and He will surely fulfil it
  - c. that Nebuchadnezzar knew he was doing God's will
  
3. The three great prophets of God who lived about this time were
  - a. Ezekiel, Daniel and Isaiah
  - b. Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel
  - c. Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel
  
4. Daniel
  - a. means 'God is my judge'
  - b. was given the name Belshazzar
  - c. was happy with his new name
  
5. Daniel and his three friends
  - a. were educated for four years
  - b. were all able to understand visions and dreams
  - c. were honoured by God because they honoured Him

**Enter TRUE or FALSE for each statement.**

6. Daniel was born in the royal family in Judea about the year 620BC.
7. Jehoiakim was a good king like his father Josiah.
8. Jeremiah was a captive living in Babylon.
9. Daniel and his friends suffered because of their simple diet.
10. The four young men were wiser than all the wise men of Babylon.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

Is there any harm in consulting horoscopes and astrologers today?

# 2

## Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The king of Babylon had another dream in chapter four, so we can call this chapter his first dream. He no doubt often had dreams, but these are the only two in this book. Daniel was able to tell the king the meaning of both dreams.

In some ways, Daniel reminds us of Joseph, who lived over 1100 years before this. Joseph was able to explain Pharaoh's two dreams, Genesis 41.25. That was before Israel became slaves in Egypt; now the people are captives in Babylon. Again, God had a man to whom He could reveal the meaning of the king's dreams.

Both Daniel and Joseph showed that they were ready to obey the LORD at any cost. It is important to know that God gives His secrets to those who love Him and keep His commands, Proverbs 3.32.

1. The wise men could not explain the dream, vs. 1-13
2. God showed Daniel the meaning of the dream. vs. 14-23
3. Daniel explained the dream to Nebuchadnezzar, vs. 24-49.

### 1. The wise men could not explain the dream, 2.1-13

Here, Nebuchadnezzar:

- a) demanded an answer, vs. 1-3
- b) promised rewards, vs. 4-7
- c) accused the wise men, vs. 8-11
- d) commanded his soldiers to kill them, vs. 12,13.

#### a) Demanded an answer, 2.1-3

- 1 This was the second year after Nebuchadnezzar became king; see notes on 1.18. He had dreams, or perhaps the same dream

more than once. He thought that the gods were trying to tell him something, but he did not understand the message.

2 So he commanded His “wise men” to come in. These men were also called magicians, fortunetellers, astrologers, enchanters . . . and some Bibles use other names also. The people of Nebuchadnezzar were Chaldeans, but here especially it means those who were “wise”. They were something like the heathen priests; they made sacrifices to the evil spirits who sometimes told them what would come in the future, but never taught them to worship Jehovah.

3 Nebuchadnezzar knew that Daniel and his three friends were much wiser than all the others, 1.19,20, but he did not call them. He told the others that he was troubled because of his dream.

b) Promised rewards, 2.4-7

4 The “wise men” answered the king politely, saying they hoped that he would live a long life. They asked him to tell them what he saw in his dream, and they promised to tell him what it meant. The king spoke in the Aramaic language, and these men answered him in the same way. But Daniel wrote in Hebrew up to this point. Then he used Aramaic from the word king on to the end of chapter seven. Parts of Ezra are also in this language, as are a few words in other parts of the Old Testament some and the New. See notes on page five. Our Bibles translate both languages quite well, so we can understand most of what the Holy Spirit is telling us.

5 It is possible that the king forgot details of his dream, or maybe he refused to tell the wise men. In either case, he required them to tell him the dream and what it meant. He would believe that they had more wisdom than other men if they could tell him what he had dreamed. Then he could be sure that they would know its true meaning. He warned them that he would kill them, cut their bodies into pieces and break down their houses unless they did what he wanted.

6 But Nebuchadnezzar would give them gifts, rewards and great honor if they succeeded. This warning and this promise should make them try very hard to find out what he dreamed and what it meant.

7 The wise men knew that this was impossible, so they just asked him again to tell them the dream.

c) Accused the wise men, 2.8-11

8,9 The king knew that he asked them to do a hard thing, but he could not change what he said. So he started to get angry and said they were trying to avoid his threat to kill them. But he had stated that they would all die, and his words must stand firm. He said they were planning together to tell him lies, hoping that he would change his mind. Astrologers believe that the stars and planets have an influence on men, and so they claim that some days are better than others.

10,11 Now the wise men said that no man could know what Nebuchadnezzar dreamed and that no king or ruler ever asked such a thing. They admitted that only the gods could tell his dream, and the gods do not live with men.

d) Commanded his soldiers to kill them, 2.12,13

12,13 Nebuchadnezzar became very angry and gave orders to his soldiers to kill all the wise men in Babylon, not only those who were before the king at that time. So they looked for Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego also. These young Hebrews were wise men, 1.20, but did not come with the others when Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to tell him his dream.

2. God showed Daniel the meaning of the dream, 2.14-23

We have Daniel's promise, vs. 14-16, his prayer, vs. 17,18, and his praise to God, vs. 19-23.

14,15 Daniel showed God's love to Ashpenaz, 1.9, and now he was respectful and wise when he spoke to Arioch whom Nebuchadnezzar had sent to kill them all. He asked why the king issued this cruel command so suddenly. Arioch answered Daniel's question.

16 Then Daniel boldly went in to the presence of the king and asked for more time. The wise men wanted more time, v.8, which made Nebuchadnezzar very angry. But Daniel promised to get the answer, and the king granted his request.

17,18 Daniel went home and called his three friends together to tell them what was happening. They should all pray to the God of heaven and ask Him for mercy so they would not have to die with the wise men of Babylon. They believed that the LORD could reveal the dream and its meaning to Daniel.

The Lord Jesus said, If two of you agree...it shall be done, Matthew 18.19.

The Holy Spirit called God the God of heaven four times in this chapter, vs. 18,19,37,44, and said He is in heaven, v.28. The Spirit also used this name for God in the book of Ezra. In Daniel, He also called Him the King of heaven and the Lord of heaven, 4.37; 5.23. The name Jehovah means the Covenant God, and so refers specially to Israel. The Gentiles should know that God the Creator of all is the God of heaven. Both Daniel and Ezra were close to the Gentiles, and this is why they used this name for God.

19 So the God of Israel, the God of heaven and earth, showed Daniel the king's secret in a night vision. Daniel had more visions in chapter seven. Here, he gave praise to God for saving their lives by revealing this matter in answer to prayer.

20 God is worthy that all men should bless and praise Him forever. He has all wisdom and all power. He has wisdom to know and plan the future and the power needed to control the future and complete His plan.

21 God has the power to change world movements, to change good times to bad times, then to good again. God can take away bad kings and bad governments and empires, and He can set up new ones. He can give wisdom and knowledge. In this chapter, He showed Daniel what He was going to do in changing world empires.

Some Christians think that they should work hard to change the government, but God is responsible for this. He tells us to show respect and obey those who are over us, Romans 13.1-7.

22 God can know the thoughts of all men, Psalm 139.1-6, and He has the power to reveal His word to His faithful servants. God is Light, 1 John 1.5; John 8.12. No one can hide from Him, Matthew 10.26.

23 So Daniel called Him the God of his ancestors and thanked Him for answering prayer. Daniel knew that wisdom and power belong to God, v.20, and praised Him for giving the wisdom and power which were necessary to explain the king's dream and save their own lives.

It is important to learn how to pray, but also to give thanks to God for answering our prayer, Philippians 4.6; Colossians 3.15.

### 3. Daniel explained the dream to Nebuchadnezzar, 2.24-49

- a) Daniel's witness to the king, vs. 24-30
- b) The king's vision, vs. 31-35
- c) The meaning of the vision, vs. 36-45
- d) Daniel's reward, vs. 46-49

#### a) Daniel's witness to the king, 2.24-30

Daniel gave glory to the God of heaven, and he wanted the king to know that the false god, Bel, was not able to reveal his dream; only the true God could do so.

24 First, Daniel went to Arioch, the officer who did not kill the four Hebrew friends at once, v.15. Daniel asked him not to kill anyone because he could tell Nebuchadnezzar what he wanted to know.

25 Arioch quickly brought Daniel to the king and told him that he had found one of the Jewish captives who could reveal the meaning of the dream. He no doubt hoped to get some reward for this service.

26 The king may have remembered Daniel's names, 1.19. Nebuchadnezzar demanded from Daniel the same as from the magicians and astrologers: Tell me the dream, and I will believe you can show its meaning.

27,28 Daniel reminded him that all the wise men of Babylon were not able to get this secret from Bel or any of their gods. But he worshiped the God of heaven who can reveal secrets and inform the king what will happen in the future.



29,30 The dream was a revelation of what God would do in the world. He can control men and empires and tell in advance what He plans to do. Daniel could not control kings or tell the future in his own strength or wisdom. He did not let the king think that he, Daniel, was wiser than anyone else except as God helped him.

b) The king's vision, 2.31-35

31-33 In his dream, the king saw a great image like a man, so bright that it would make anyone feel afraid. It was made mostly of metal:

the head	–	gold;
the breast and arms	–	silver;
the middle part and sides	–	bronze;
the legs	–	iron;
the feet	–	iron and clay.

34 In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a great stone fall on the feet of the image and break them to pieces. This stone was not cut out of the earth by man. We will see that the Stone comes from God.

35 The image was standing on its feet, but now the whole thing is broken to pieces:

feet, of iron and clay,  
middle body of bronze,  
breast and arms of silver,  
head of gold.

The whole image became like dust or little pieces of straw which the wind blows away. The entire image disappeared, but the stone grew into a great mountain that covered the whole earth!

c) The meaning of the vision, 2.36-45

So Daniel knew what the king dreamed, and Nebuchadnezzar accepted this as correct. But what did it mean?

36 Daniel brought in Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego when he said we will tell what it means. These three joined with Daniel in prayer, vs. 17,18, and Daniel now shared with them in telling the king how God answered. (Paul often brought in Timothy or Silas

when he wrote to the churches, for example, Philippians 1.1; 2 Thessalonians 1.1.)

37 Daniel called Nebuchadnezzar king of kings because he was ruler over many kings in the countries of his empire. The Spirit used this title of Nebuchadnezzar, Ezekiel 26.7, and another emperor used it of himself, Artaxerxes, who ruled over Persia a hundred years after Nebuchadnezzar, Ezra 7.12. But it is in the end a grand title of our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Timothy 6.15; Revelation 17.14; 19.16. The God of heaven gave to Nebuchadnezzar:

his kingdom,  
power,  
strength,  
glory.

Nebuchadnezzar should not become proud, but we shall see that he did in chapter four.

38 God gave this man authority over men, animals and birds wherever they were. There were other nations outside the empire of Babylon, but they did not dare to fight against Nebuchadnezzar. The gold head was a picture of the great king.

39 But he would not live forever, and his empire would come to an end. After the head of gold, there will be other empires, silver and bronze, each with less glory than the one before it.

40 The fourth empire will be like iron, very strong, but not beautiful. Iron made strong chariots, Joshua 17.16; Judges 4.3, and came into common use by the time of King Saul.

41,42 Yet later, the iron will be mixed with clay, which is very weak; even clay pots baked in the fire are easily broken. The legs of the image were iron, but, in the feet and toes, there was strength mixed with weakness. So the fourth empire will become mixed and weak in the end.

43 Mixing strong and weak must make the whole weaker. The rulers try to remain strong by marrying the daughters of other rulers. But they also learn that they cannot rule unless the people are happy, so they give power and authority to others. This finally makes the empire weaker.

44 So world empires start with a head of glory but end with weak toes. God has something better for man, a kingdom which will last forever. It will be necessary to destroy all human governments in order to set up God's kingdom.

45 The Stone was not prepared with man's hands or power. It will break in pieces the iron-clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold empires. The Stone is a picture of our Lord Jesus Christ, Genesis 49.24; Psalm 118.22; Isaiah 8.14; 28.16. This Stone will become a great mountain, v.35, and Christ will rule over the whole earth. Daniel knew that the Son of God and the Son of David will rule over all nations, Psalm 2.8,9; 72.8,17.

In this dream, God, the great God, showed King Nebuchadnezzar what would happen after he died. Daniel was sure that he told the king exactly what he dreamed; Nebuchadnezzar could know that this was the true meaning of the dream.

d) Daniel's reward, 2.46-49

46 Nebuchadnezzar was sure that this was the correct meaning of his dream. He was happy to know that he was the head of gold, and he did not begin to worry about what would happen later on. He should have worshiped the God of heaven, but Daniel could not stop him from falling down before him and ordering his servants to bring offerings and incense.

47 But then the king agreed that Daniel's God was greater than other gods. These false gods were not able to tell the wise men of Babylon the dream or its meaning. Nebuchadnezzar also could see that the God of Daniel was Ruler over all human kings. He alone could reveal the secret of Nebuchadnezzar's dream; He alone can set up kings and empires.

48 So Nebuchadnezzar rewarded Daniel:

he gave him honor and great gifts;  
he put him in charge of the province of Babylon;  
he set him over all the other rulers and wise men.

49 Daniel remembered his three friends who prayed with him, v.36, and Nebuchadnezzar gave Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-

Nego important positions in the province of Babylon, under Daniel. But Daniel himself remained near the king in the royal palace. The gate is where the king or his advisers would listen to the problems of the people and judge their cases.

So, at the end of chapter one, Nebuchadnezzar knew that Daniel and the three Hebrew young men were far better than the other wise men. Now he has given them important positions in his kingdom. Satan tried to spoil their service for the LORD by getting them to share in idol worship in chapter one. Then he tried to kill them with the other wise men in chapter two. We will see his other attempts as we read more in this book.

# The Prophet Daniel

## Chapter 2 - Nebuchadnezzar's dream

### Exam 2

**Enter the correct answer**

1. When Nebuchadnezzar had his dream
  - a. he immediately sent for Daniel
  - b. he commanded his 'wise men' to come in
  - c. he told the dream to his wise men
  
2. Daniel
  - a. was afraid to go into the presence of the king
  - b. spoke roughly to Arioch
  - c. asked his friends to pray
  
3. Daniel
  - a. was given the revelation in a vision during the day
  - b. took the credit for interpreting the dream
  - c. gave God the glory
  
4. The dream
  - a. was a revelation of what God would do in the world
  - b. was of a golden image
  - c. showed the image filling the whole earth
  
5. The meaning of the vision was
  - a. Nebuchadnezzar would rule forever
  - b. three other empires would follow the empire of Babylon
  - c. greater empires would follow the empire of Babylon

**Enter TRUE or FALSE for each statement.**

6. Nebuchadnezzar commanded the soldiers to kill all the wise men because they could not tell him his dream.
  
7. God showed Daniel the meaning of the dream.
  
8. The stone is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ Who will rule the whole earth.
  
9. The king did not agree that Daniel's God was any greater than other gods.
  
10. Daniel was rewarded, but not his three friends.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

What effect does it have on you, knowing that what God revealed to Daniel about the dream, came to pass?

# 3

## The Image and the Furnace

In this chapter, we see the power and defeat of false religion. The name of God is in verses 15,17,25,26,28,28,29, seven times; false gods are mentioned in verses 12,14,18,28,29. Nebuchadnezzar is important here and also Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. We do not read about Daniel again until 4.8. We may think of this chapter in four parts:

1. Pride and hatred, vs. 1-12
2. The Hebrews refuse to worship, vs. 13-18
3. The furnace of fire, vs. 19-25
4. Rewards, vs. 26-30.

### 1. Pride and hatred, 3.1-12

Nebuchadnezzar showed how proud he was, vs. 1-7, and some of the Babylonians showed that they hated the Jews, vs. 8-12.

#### a) The pride of Nebuchadnezzar, 3.1-7

1 The king remembered his dream but forgot the God of heaven. He was the gold head, ruler of the world, 2.37,38. God gave Nebuchadnezzar power to rule, but he used it to glorify himself, to deny the true God and to force men to worship his false gods. So he made this great image, covered with gold, 60 cubits high, six cubits wide, and set it up in flat country near Babylon. (Two cubits are about one meter). God commanded Israel not to worship any image, Deuteronomy 5.8,9, but they made idols of gold, Exodus 32.31; 2 Chronicles 13.8; Isaiah 40.19; Jeremiah 10.4.

2,3 Then Nebuchadnezzar called together all the officers, rulers, governors and judges from all the provinces of his empire. He wanted them all to celebrate and to know that he was very rich and powerful. They all came and stood in front of the great image.

4,5 The king's servant announced with a loud voice what Nebuchadnezzar commanded. All the people must fall down together and worship the gold image when they heard the sound of music. There were six different musical instruments: some to blow on, like horns, some with strings to pick with fingers, like harps. The Levites used musical instruments while singing songs of praise to Jehovah in the Temple, 2 Chronicles 7.6. We should sing psalms and hymns of praise to the Lord Jesus Christ, Ephesians 5.19; Colossians 3.16. But Satan can use music also to lead men into sin. Here, the music was a signal to start worshiping the gold image.

6,7 Nebuchadnezzar could not force men to worship his image, but he could kill them if they refused to do so. He said he would throw them immediately into the furnace of fire, and they would die there. So everybody bowed down when they heard the sound of the musical instruments. That is, all bowed except three young men, officers in the province of Babylon.

In the Great Tribulation, a world leader will require that all men shall worship his image or be killed. Millions of true believers will not obey, Revelation 13.15; 20.4; 7.9,14. Those who do obey will suffer God's judgment, Revelation 14.9-11.

b) Babylonians hated the Jews, 3.8-12

8 Their own king gave these prisoners from Judah important positions in the province, 2.49. These Babylonians were not able to tell Nebuchadnezzar his dream, 2.10, and would have been killed if Daniel and these three had not prayed to the God of heaven. These Babylonians wanted their positions, and they did not even have to tell lies about Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. They told Nebuchadnezzar the truth about them.

9-11 They spoke with respect to the king, wishing him a long life.

They reminded him of his order that everyone must fall down and worship his gold image when they heard the musical instruments. Those who refused must be burned to death in the furnace of fire. The king could not deny this.

12 Then they gave him the names of the three Jews to whom he

gave important positions in the province: Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. They said that these three did not pay attention to the king; they refused to serve his gods or worship the gold image.

We have seen that Christians should obey the government of the land, 2.21 notes, but there are times when we must refuse, Acts 5.29. We will not agree to break the laws of God.

## 2. The Hebrews refuse to worship, 3.13-18

13 Nebuchadnezzar was in a difficult position. He set up the image for his glory, and he was angry that anyone should disobey his command, especially those to whom he showed favor for Daniel's sake. Was the accusation really true? He would give them one last opportunity to obey.

14,15 He asked them if they had really decided not to serve his gods or worship the image. If not, they could still save their lives by bowing and worshiping. He knew that they worshiped the God of heaven, the God of gods, 2.28,47. Their God was able to show Daniel the king's secret dream, but Nebuchadnezzar did not believe that their God could save them from death in the furnace of fire.

16,17 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego said they did not feel it was necessary to answer him. He knew that they had refused. They believed that God was able to deliver them and that He would do just that. They served God and Nebuchadnezzar, but their service to God was far more important.

18 They would not worship the gods or the king's image even if their God chose to not deliver them from death. These words show the courage and faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. They learned before with Daniel not to eat meat which had been offered to idols. They also learned that the God of their ancestors could save them from death by answering prayer: He revealed to them the king's dream. They were ready for this great test of their faith. Daniel was with them before, but now they were alone. Daniel had a higher position, and it may be that he was away on the king's business at this time. We can be sure that he would not bow down to the gods or the image.



We all may have great tests, and we want to stand for the Lord and not fail Him. We can prepare for these tests by learning to obey Him in everything, no matter how small, day by day. Then, when the big test comes, we will be ready to obey the Lord, no matter what it costs.

### 3. The furnace of fire, 3.19-25

19 These quiet words made Nebuchadnezzar so angry that his face showed his rage and fury against Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. The fire in any furnace would burn a man to death, but the king ordered his servants to blow up the fire much hotter than usual. This large furnace was probably used for burning bricks which were needed for the king's building plans.

20,21 Nebuchadnezzar was a little afraid that these three young men might avoid death in some way, so he made the furnace specially hot. Then he ordered some of his strongest soldiers to tie them up with rope so they could not escape. These men would usually claim the clothing of any criminal who was put to death, Matthew 27.35, but they did not even take time to do this.

22,23 But the fire was so hot that the soldiers themselves were burned to death when they threw God's servants into the furnace. So Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego, tied with ropes, fell into the middle of the great fire in the hot furnace.

24 But their God was with them and was well able to deliver them, v.17. By faith, they got victory over the flames, Hebrews 11.34. Nebuchadnezzar was right there and could see the men in the furnace. Now he was not angry, but totally surprised. He got up from his throne and asked his officials if they had really thrown three men tied up with ropes into the fire. Yes, they had.

25 But the king said he could see four men in the furnace. They were not bound with ropes; they were walking around in the furnace, not dead, not even hurt. Most wonderful of all, the fourth looked like a son of the gods! Nebuchadnezzar did not know the God of Israel nor the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He saw Some One who was much more than a man; we can be sure it was the

Son of God, who sometimes appeared in Old Testament days as a Man, sometimes as the Angel of Jehovah.

#### 4. Rewards, 3.26-30

26 Nebuchadnezzar commanded Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego to come out of the furnace. He did not call them rebels, but servants of the Most High God. They obeyed and came out.

27 There were many witnesses of this great miracle. Officers, rulers and governors came to Babylon from all over the empire to see the great image, and they had all bowed down and worshiped the god of Nebuchadnezzar. The king's officials were there also. They examined the three young men and found:

the fire had not hurt their bodies in any way;  
not even a hair was burned;  
their clothes were also protected from the flame;  
there was not even the smell of fire on them.

They could all see the gold image, but it could not move or act. The God of heaven could not be seen, but He could save His faithful servants from the anger of Nebuchadnezzar. By this miracle, the name of God became known through the entire Babylonian empire.

28 The king of Babylon was willing to agree that God is great. He gave praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego because He sent His Angel (His Son) to deliver those who trusted in Him, even though they refused to obey the king's command or worship his gods.

29 Nebuchadnezzar also made a law that no one should say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. He commanded the governors to put to death anyone who broke this law, to cut up his body into pieces and to destroy his house. The king agreed that there is no god who could do anything like this miracle.

30 Then he gave Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego still more important positions in the province. This probably made their enemies more angry, v.8, but there was nothing they could do about it.

So these three young men obeyed God rather than the king of Babylon. They still believed in God when they were thrown into the furnace of fire. There, they had the wonderful experience of walking with the Son of God. By this, they became witnesses through the whole empire, and people everywhere came to know and respect the name of their God. They also were given better positions, but this was not very important. They were willing to disobey the king again if necessary.

Sometimes our God allows us to have great trials and difficulties. If we try to avoid these, we will miss the opportunity to know the Lord's presence and to witness for Him to others.

We will learn more in this book about the Great Tribulation; here, we have a picture of what will come at that time:  
a great world leader will demand worship for himself;  
Jews will be hated and persecuted;  
many believing in God will die for their faith;  
God will bring the nation through the fire;  
this will be known through the whole world.

**The Prophet Daniel**  
**Chapter 3 - The Image and the Furnace**  
**Exam 3**

**Enter the correct answer**

1. Nebuchadnezzar
  - a. built a great image, covered with gold
  - b. built an image like the one in his dream
  - c. used his power to glorify God
  
2. The people were commanded to worship the golden image
  - a. when the trumpet sounded
  - b. or be killed by the sword
  - c. and three young men refused
  
3. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
  - a. recanted and bowed down to the image
  - b. believed that God was able to deliver them
  - c. persuaded Nebuchadnezzar to spare them
  
4. The king
  - a. was impressed by the quiet words of the three men
  - b. ordered that the men be stripped
  - c. saw four men in the furnace
  
5. This miracle of deliverance
  - a. was seen by very few people
  - b. caused the name of God to be known throughout the Babylonian empire
  - c. did not convince Nebuchadnezzar

**Enter TRUE or FALSE for each statement.**

6. Nebuchadnezzar's image was 50 cubits high.
  
7. Six different musical instruments were played to instigate the worship of the image.
  
8. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego obeyed God rather than the king.
  
9. Nebuchadnezzar called the three men servants of the Most High God.
  
10. We should try to avoid trials and difficulties.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

Has God allowed any trials or difficulties in your life that have resulted in you getting to know Him better or given you opportunities to witness for Him?

## Nebuchadnezzar Turned to God

It is wonderful to learn that the greatest head of the first world empire learned about the true God and turned to Him. In this important chapter, we have Nebuchadnezzar's second dream and the effect it had on the king:

1. The letter to all nations, vs. 1-3
2. The king told about his dream, vs. 4-18
3. Daniel showed him the meaning of the dream, vs. 19-27
4. God fulfilled the warning of the dream, vs. 28-37.

### 1. The letter to all nations, 4.1-3

1 This chapter is in the form of a letter which Nebuchadnezzar sent to all the people in his great empire and to all others also. Earlier, he sent his orders to all the governors, leaders and judges to come and worship his gold image. Later, Ahasuerus, king of Persia, sent letters to the whole empire, Esther 1.22; 3.12; 8.9. This time, Nebuchadnezzar sent a message of peace and told what God had done to him.

2,3 God did miracles in the life of Nebuchadnezzar, and he wanted everyone to know about them. He knew God as:  
     the Most High God,  
     the God of great power,  
     the eternal King.

The king learned before this that God is the Most High God, 3.26. In this chapter, Nebuchadnezzar used this name three times, vs. 2,17,34, and Daniel twice, vs. 24,25. Daniel told him that the God of heaven gave him power and that He would finally set up His own kingdom which will be eternal, 2.37,44.

We are not surprised that Nebuchadnezzar had to learn these truths more than once; we, too, are often slow in learning God's lessons.

## 2. The king told about his dream, 4.4-18

- a) To the wise men of Babylon, vs. 4-7
- b) To the wisest man, Daniel, vs. 8-18

### a) To the wise men of Babylon, 4.4-7

4 Nebuchadnezzar was a great soldier, but he loved especially staying at home and building the city. He tells us here that he was resting at peace in his own house and that in the palace things were going well. The Christian should know when everything seems peaceful that is the very time when our enemy Satan will try to bring in trouble.

5,6 Then the king had another dream beside the earlier one in

2.1. This dream troubled him as the first one did and made him afraid. Again he called in the wise men, magicians, astrologers and the Chaldeans, and this time he told them his dream. These all failed before to tell him what he dreamed or the meaning; remember also that the Chaldeans tried to have him kill Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego, 3.8.

7 They all again failed to explain Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

### b) To the wisest man, Daniel, 4.8-18

8 At the end, Daniel came in before the king. The astrologers and Chaldeans did not love Daniel because the king gave him a higher position in the kingdom, so they came at first without him. Or Daniel may have been busy with the king's business up until now.

Nebuchadnezzar gave him his Babylonian name, which includes the name Bel or Belti. Bel was the great god of Babylon; Belti may mean his wife. But the king learned that the spirit of the gods (or God) was in Daniel. His own wise men told him that only the gods could reveal to him his dream, and Daniel's God did just that, 2.11,47.

9 Nebuchadnezzar called Daniel chief of the wise men, 1.20. In the Old Testament languages, the word God is really the same as the word gods. God is the one and only Creator, Lord of the whole world, heaven and earth. But sinful men worship many wicked spirits as their gods, 1 Corinthians 8.5,6; 10.20. At this time, Nebuchadnezzar believed in his own god and many others, so he said that the spirit of the gods was in Daniel, vs. 8,9,18; the wife of Belshazzar told her husband the same, 5.11,14. We know that the Holy Spirit of the true God was in His faithful servant. Nebuchadnezzar was sure that Daniel could help him understand the meaning of this dream also.

10-12 So he told him what he dreamed:

- a great, tall tree in the earth;
- it grew still higher, to the sky, until all men could see it;
- its leaves were beautiful, and it bore plenty of fruit;
- wild animals lived under its shade, birds in its branches;
- all creatures got food from the tree.

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar saw a holy angel called here a watcher, come down from heaven. We know that the holy angels are God's messengers and servants. The cherubim guard His holiness, as in Genesis 3.24, and the seraphim call Him Holy, Holy, Holy, Isaiah 6.2,3. The angels watch what we are doing also, 1 Corinthians 4.9; 11.10; Ephesians 3.10; 1 Timothy 5.21.

They also take care of us, Hebrews 1.14, but we should always look to the Lord for help, not to any of His servants, not even holy angels.

14 This angel-watcher was not happy with what he saw in Nebuchadnezzar. In the dream, the angel gave command that someone should:

- cut down the great tree,
- break off the branches,
- take away its leaves,
- throw away its fruit,
- drive away the wild animals,
- chase away the birds.

15 The tree would be cut down, but not completely destroyed.

The roots would remain in the earth, but there would be a band of iron and bronze around the part of the tree above the ground. This stump would have grass growing around it and dew falling on it at night. No man would come near, only animals. A tree may be cut down yet grow again, Job 14.7.

16 Now we begin to see that this tree is a picture of a man, because the angel said that he had the heart or mind of a man, but this would be changed to that of an animal. Even so, there was a time limit. His punishment would last only for seven periods of time or years.

17 Why this judgment? The watchers and holy angels decided this was necessary. Men should know and understand that the Most High God rules over men and gives authority to the man of His choice, sometimes to those whom men may think are not very important.

18 Nebuchadnezzar should have known from his first dream that the God of heaven controls the empires of earth and the kings of nations, 2.37,44. All the wise men of Babylon could not (or were afraid to) tell the king what this dream meant. But he was sure that Daniel could do so; the spirit of the gods was in him, vs. 8,9.

### 3. Daniel showed him the meaning of the dream, 4.19-27

19 The prophet of God understood at once the meaning, but he hesitated to tell the king. In the first dream, Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold, but the empires which followed him had each less glory than the earlier one. Now Nebuchadnezzar is the tree, and he is going to lose his glory and become like an animal. He wanted to know all the truth, even if it was not for his glory. He told Daniel to speak up, and the prophet said he could wish that the punishment would be on the king's enemies, not on himself.

20,21 First, he described the tree in its glory, using almost the same words as in verses 10-12. This shows that Daniel paid close attention to what the king said and remembered it very well.

22,23 This tree was a picture of Nebuchadnezzar who had become strong and great and who ruled over many countries



and influenced all others. But the rest of the dream must also mean Nebuchadnezzar. Here, Daniel did not repeat all the details of the judgment. He said the command was to cut down the tree but to leave the stump and the roots in the field. It would be with the animals for seven periods of time.

24,25 Daniel knew that the angels were just doing the will of God and that the command really came from the most High. Men would drive the king away; he would live with animals, eat grass like an ox, and be exposed to the weather for seven periods of time. Nebuchadnezzar would have to learn that God rules over men and that He is supreme.

26 Still, the king would live through all this trouble, and he would come back as ruler of his empire when he learned the great lesson that God is over all.

27 Daniel respectfully asked the king to listen to good advice. He should repent of his sins, do what is righteous, show mercy to poor people by helping them in their trouble. Perhaps the king would have peace and quietness, as in verse four for a while longer.

#### 4. God fulfilled the warning of the dream, 4.28-37

Here we see Nebuchadnezzar's sin, vs. 28-30, how God judged him, vs. 31-33, how God restored him, vs. 34-36, and his testimony, v.37.

28 In this chapter, Nebuchadnezzar has been speaking about himself and used the word I. He lost his mind, and, in verses 28 to 33, we read about what happened as if it were somebody else: he did these things.

29 Perhaps he tried to follow Daniel's advice for a few months. His peace and quietness lasted for a full year. His dream came to him as he was living in his house, v.4; now, also, he was walking in his palace.

30 Nebuchadnezzar thought of the great city of Babylon which he had built up to its size at that time. This was true, but why and how did he do it? For himself, for his glory and by his strength. What was sinful about this? Nebuchadnezzar's sin was pride, and God

opposes proud people, v.37; 1 Peter 5.5.

We may not think pride is a great sin, but God does, Proverbs 6.16,17. It robs God of His glory.

31,32 Nebuchadnezzar heard another voice while he was praising himself. This voice came from heaven, the voice of the angel-watcher. God's message to the king was that he was losing his kingdom. The angel repeated the words of Daniel from verse 25. It came just as God's prophet said it would.

33 Nebuchadnezzar at once lost his mind, and his family and counsellors understood that he was no longer able to rule his empire. They treated him as they would any others who lost their minds or went insane. There were no hospitals for such people; they could only go away and live in the open country with animals. Nebuchadnezzar had fed and helped many people, v.12, but now no one would give him food. The great king must eat grass like the oxen. He could not take care of himself, and there was no one to cut his hair or take care of his finger nails or toe nails. His hair grew so long it looked like an eagle's feathers, his nails like a bird's claws.

34 But, finally, Nebuchadnezzar repented and looked up to the God of heaven. His mind returned, and he gave honor and praise to  
                   the Most High,  
                   the eternal God,  
                   who rules the universe through all ages.

35 God is far greater than all the people of the world. He does and will do what pleases Him in heaven and on earth. No one can stop Him or make Him explain His reasons.

                  These things are true, but the Holy Spirit showed God's servants that He cares about men, especially those who repent and leave their sins, Psalm 113.4-6; Isaiah 57.15.

36 Nebuchadnezzar's mind returned, and his counsellors came to help him again. They gave him honor and majesty as before, and even more.

37 So Nebuchadnezzar sent out this letter to all nations and tribes in his great kingdom, v.1. He told them about losing his

mind and living like an animal for seven years or periods of time and how God brought him back again. The king knew that he deserved this punishment and gave praise and glory to the King of heaven. All God's ways and all His works are righteous. He knows quite well how to teach those who are proud and is able to make them humble. He does this so they will love Him more and receive still greater blessing from Him.

God must punish His own children sometimes, and this never seems pleasant. But, afterwards, it brings peace, holiness and righteousness, Hebrews 12.10,11.

We believe that Nebuchadnezzar truly repented and became a child of God at this time. Notice how he slowly came to know God:

Chapter 1 The four young Hebrews were wiser than all his heathen wise men, 1.20;

Chapter 2 Daniel's God was greater than all the gods of Babylon and the king offered a sacrifice and incense to Daniel, 2.46,47;

Chapter 3 He saw Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego come alive out of the fire, and he commanded all people not to say anything against their God, 3.28,29.

Chapter 4 He heard the warning, suffered for seven years and finally gave glory to God and continued to do so.

So we see that the first and greatest king of the four world empires came to know and believe in the Most High God. The other leaders should have learned from Nebuchadnezzar.

**The Prophet Daniel**  
**Chapter 4 - Nebuchadnezzar Turned to God**  
**Exam 4**

**Enter the correct answer**

1. Chapter 4 is in the form of a letter sent by Nebuchadnezzar
  - a. to the people of Babylon
  - b. to the Jews
  - c. to people of every language
2. In his letter Nebuchadnezzar
  - a. glorified himself
  - b. told what God had done for him
  - c. blamed God for what happened to him
3. When the king had a second dream
  - a. he was troubled
  - b. he could not remember the dream
  - c. his wise men interpreted it for him
4. In his dream the king saw
  - a. a fruitful tree which lasted forever
  - b. a fruitful tree that was completely destroyed
  - c. a fruitful tree that was cut down but the stump was left
5. Daniel
  - a. did not understand the meaning of the dream
  - b. was keen to tell the king the meaning of the dream
  - c. told the king that he (the king) was the tree

**Enter TRUE or FALSE for each statement.**

6. Pride is not a great sin.
7. Nebuchadnezzar lost his mind but was cared for by all the people he had helped.
8. Nebuchadnezzar repented and gave honour and praise to God.
9. Nebuchadnezzar was ashamed of what had happened to him and did not want anyone to know.
10. God rules the universe and does and will do what pleases Him in heaven and earth.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

What lessons can we learn from the life of Nebuchadnezzar?

# 5

## Belshazzar's Feast

Belshazzar is the second of the four kings of whom we read in the book of Daniel. This chapter again tells us of God's message to a wicked Gentile king and Daniel's explanation. It also brings us to the end of the great Babylonian empire, as God showed Daniel in 2.39.

1. Belshazzar dishonored God, vs. 1-4
2. Belshazzar saw writing on the wall, vs. 5-9
3. Belshazzar called Daniel to explain the writing, vs. 10-16
4. Belshazzar heard Daniel's warning, vs. 17-29
5. Belshazzar was killed by the Medes, vs. 30,31

### 1. Belshazzar dishonored God, 5.1-4

1 Belshazzar was the king of Babylon, but his father Nabonidus was still living. Old books of history tell us that Nabonidus was away from home for several years that and he appointed his son Belshazzar to rule as king while he was out of Babylon. Belshazzar made this great feast for a thousand of his rulers and governors. Solomon made a great feast for his people, and later Ahasuerus did the same, 1 Kings 3.15; Esther 1.3. Here, Belshazzar drank wine in front of all these people as if this would prove that he was a real brave man. At that very time, the armies of the Medes were attacking the city of Babylon, and Belshazzar should have been fighting with his soldiers, not drinking himself drunk with his lords and ladies.

2 Worse still, he decided to insult the God of Israel by bringing in the gold and silver cups and bowls which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the Temple of Jehovah when he had captured Jerusalem. He cut to pieces all the holy, gold things which Solomon made, but others he took away, 2 Kings 24.13. Belshazzar was the grandson of

Nebuchadnezzar, but the Bible often calls grandsons sons, for example, Genesis 48.5, and the descendants of Israel are usually called the sons of Israel.

3,4 Belshazzar had many wives and sons; they were at this feast also, and they drank their wine from these gold cups. Every one was having what they called a good time. They kept drinking wine and began to give praise to their gods and idols which were made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood or stone. No matter what material, the images could not do anything to save those who worshiped them.

## 2. Belshazzar saw writing on the wall, 5.5-9

5 The angels and watchers could not allow Nebuchadnezzar to go on in his proud way, so they took away his mind for seven years. Here, perhaps they saw these men and women dishonoring God by drinking wine from His gold cups and bowls and praising their gods and idols. God sent this message to warn the king of what was going to happen that very night. Belshazzar saw only part of the hand, like a man's, writing words on the wall of the palace. (God created the stars of heaven with His fingers, and the stars tell us how small man is, Psalm 8.3,4. The Lord Jesus Christ also wrote on the ground with His finger, John 8.6,8.)

6 Belshazzar was very frightened when he saw this miracle, and his legs began to shake with fear, Nahum 2.10. He could not read what the writing said, which made him still more afraid. All this time, he knew that the armies of the enemy were just outside the walls of the city.

7 His grandfather Nebuchadnezzar had problems and called in the wise men of Babylon, the magicians and the astrologers. Belshazzar did the same. He, too, promised great rewards to any one who could read these three words (one of them written twice, v.25) and explain what they meant. He would give him a chain of gold, a purple robe and make him the third ruler in the kingdom. The chain of gold was a sign of authority, and the kings wore purple clothes, Genesis 41.42; Judges 8.26; Esther 8.15. Belshazzar himself was the second ruler in the kingdom, so he could make someone else the third.

8,9 Of course the wise men could not explain the meaning of the three words. These words were in the Aramaic language, the common language of those days (see notes on 2.4), but the wise men had no idea what the message was for the king. This made Belshazzar more frightened than ever. His guests could tell this by looking at his face and they, too, became very confused.

### 3. Belshazzar called Daniel to explain the writing, 5.10-16

10 The queen heard all this noise and came in to the large room where the guests were. The queen may have been the king's mother, or perhaps she chose not to go to the drinking party with the other wives of Belshazzar. She showed respect for the king and told him not to be afraid.

11 She remembered how Daniel had helped Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar's grandfather. She told the king about this man:  
     the spirit of the holy gods was in him;  
     Nebuchadnezzar found in him light,  
         understanding,  
         wisdom,  
         like the wisdom of the gods;  
     Nebuchadnezzar set him over all the wise men of  
 Babylon.

12 Nebuchadnezzar found also in this man:  
     a good spirit,  
     knowledge,  
     understanding, as in verse 11,  
     ability to explain dreams  
     and other mysteries.

Then she told Belshazzar the names of this person, Daniel, or Belteshazzar. The queen was sure that Daniel could explain this writing.

13 Belshazzar was glad to hear about Daniel and called him at once. He knew that Daniel was a prisoner from Judah whom Nebuchadnezzar brought to Babylon 66 years earlier. Daniel had important positions under Nebuchadnezzar, but Belshazzar did not seem to know much about him.

14,15 He just learned about Daniel that the spirit of the gods was in him, as was also light, understanding and wisdom, v.11. Belshazzar admitted that the wise men and astrologers were not able to read or explain the writing.

16 He was told that Daniel could explain mysteries. Belshazzar repeated the same promises to Daniel:  
 purple clothes, like a king,  
 a chain of gold on his neck to show his authority,  
 great honor as the third ruler in the kingdom of Babylon.

#### 4. Belshazzar heard Daniel's warning, 5.17-29

- a) Daniel refused the king's rewards, v.17
- b) Daniel told him about Nebuchadnezzar, vs. 18-24
- c) Daniel explained the words on the wall, vs. 25-29

a) Daniel refused the king's rewards, 5.17

17 The prophet accepted honors from Nebuchadnezzar, 2.48, but not from his grandson, Belshazzar. He said the king could keep his gifts or give them to someone else, perhaps to one of the astrologers who would say something to please even if it was not true. Daniel agreed to explain the writing, but it was a message of doom for Belshazzar, all his guests and the Babylonian empire. Daniel knew from the writing on the wall that the enemies would capture the city. Who wants to be third ruler in a kingdom which will soon come to its end?

Daniel is a good example for any Christian who is seeking for honor in this world. It may be the honor of doing better than others in school studies or athletics. Many want more money so they can own better things than what others have. Some want power in government so they can control people. We all should remember that all the honors of this world will at best only last for a short time. The Lord Jesus Christ will give honor and rewards which will last forever in heaven.

b) Daniel told him about Nebuchadnezzar, 5.18-24

18 He told Belshazzar about God, the Most High, who gave



Nebuchadnezzar:

his kingdom,  
his majesty,  
his glory,  
his honor, 2.37.

19 People of all nations feared Nebuchadnezzar who had the power to kill anyone who opposed him, or to let him live, to give anyone a higher position, or to give a lower one.

20,21 This glory and power made Nebuchadnezzar proud, and he lost his mind and his throne and all his glory. He could not live with other people, his heart was like the heart of an animal and he lived with wild donkeys. He ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet every night with the dew because he had no protection. This lasted for seven years, until he knew that God Most High rules over men and kingdoms. God is supreme; He gives authority to the person He chooses.

22 Now Daniel spoke directly to Belshazzar. The grandson of Nebuchadnezzar knew what had happened, but he did not take the lesson to heart. He was proud even though he had not done nearly as many great things as Nebuchadnezzar. Belshazzar got riches and power from his father and his grandfather.

23 Worse still, he did not give glory to the Lord of heaven; instead, he insulted God by drinking wine from the holy cups and bowls taken from the Temple in Jerusalem, he along with his lords and his wives. Then they gave praise to their idols, v.4, which Daniel told him can neither see nor hear nor know anything. These idols do not have life and certainly cannot give life to anyone. The God of heaven gave breath to the king and could control all that he did; He could also decide whether he should live or not. Belshazzar and his guests paid no attention to the true God.

24 So God sent this message to the wicked king. He listened to Daniel's brave words, but still he wanted to hear what was on the wall.

c) Daniel explained the words on the wall, 5.25-29

25 There were three words, the first one so important that it was written twice:

- mene is from a word which means to count or appoint, as in 2.24,49; 3.12; this form of the word means a weight of 50 shekels, a mina;
- tekell is from a word which means to weigh; here, it is the same as shekel;
- upharsin comes from the word meaning to divide or break in two; here, it means a half mina, that is, 25 shekels.

So the three Aramaic words meant different sums of money. The wise men of Babylon could not at all understand what the meaning was for Belshazzar. Daniel knew the prophecies of God and saw the sin and pride of the kingdom.

Isaiah lived over a hundred years before this. God told him:

- that He would bring the Medes against Babylon, Isaiah 13.1,17,19;
- that the Medes would conquer the desert of the sea, meaning Babylon, Isaiah 21.1,2,9 (verse 5 says the princes of Babylon were eating and drinking when they should have been getting their shields ready for battle);
- that Cyrus, king of Persia (Daniel 6.28) would do God's will, Isaiah 44.28; 45.1;
- that the throne of Babylon would cease, Isaiah 47.1.

Jeremiah lived about the same time as Daniel, but he was in Jerusalem. We shall see that Daniel knew what God told Jeremiah, 9.2. God showed Jeremiah:

- that Babylon would be captured and her gods destroyed, Jeremiah 50.2.

And God showed Daniel earlier that the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar would be taken over by another power, 2.39. Here, He gave Daniel to understand, by His Spirit and His Word, that the end had come.

26 So he boldly told Belshazzar what the words really meant:

Mene: God has numbered the kingdom of Babylon, and its days were at an end.

27 Tekel: God weighed Belshazzar in the balances of justice and found that he was not good enough. All his gold and silver could not save him from the Medes, Isaiah 13.17. A shekel was a coin which weighed only 10 grams, like two sheets of paper. God rejected Belshazzar.

28 Peres: God divided, or broke, his kingdom into pieces and gave it to the Medes and the Persians. In verse 25, the word upharsin is in the plural, meaning all the kingdoms of the Babylonian empire would be broken or divided; and it includes the word and. The word peres is also much like the word for Persians.

29 Some kings would kill anyone who brought such a message, but Belshazzar kept his promises: the purple clothing, the chain of gold and the announcement that Daniel was the third ruler in the kingdom. Belshazzar did not believe that he would lose his kingdom at once. True, the armies of the Medes and the Persians were just outside the city, but the walls of Babylon were very high, thick and strong. Ancient history books say that there was enough food in the city for twenty years. The river Euphrates flowed under the wall and through the city, so they would have plenty of water. Belshazzar was not worrying.

#### **5. Belshazzar was killed by the Medes, 5.30,31**

30 But that very night the enemy armies got in and killed Belshazzar. The Medes and the Persians dug a great canal to lead the water of the river in a different direction. Then the soldiers got under the wall where the river had been. The Babylonian soldiers were not ready to fight, and they soon surrendered.

31 The Medes and the Persians were allies, together fighting against Babylon. At first, Darius the Mede was king; later it was Cyrus the Persian, 10.1. Darius was 62 years old at this time. Daniel prophesied that the kingdoms and world empires would change, and this first change came while he was still alive. The others followed later.

The Prophet Daniel  
Chapter 5 - Belshazzar's Feast  
Exam 5

**Enter the correct answer**

1. Belshazzar
  - a. learned from Nebuchadnezzar's experience
  - b. was the last king of Babylon
  - c. was killed by the Persians
  
2. Belshazzar dishonoured God
  - a. by having a pagan feast on a Jewish feast day
  - b. by blaspheming God's Name
  - c. by using the holy vessels from the temple in Jerusalem
  
3. God warned Belshazzar
  - a. in a dream
  - b. reminding him of what had happened to his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar
  - c. by taking away his mind
  
4. Four words were written on the wall
  - a. Mene was repeated because it was so important
  - b. Tekel means to divide
  - c. Upharsin means to count
  - d. all the above
  
5. Daniel
  - a. was afraid to tell the king what the words meant because he knew he could be killed
  - b. told the king what the words meant
  - c. told the king not to worry, he would not lose his kingdom at once

**Enter TRUE or FALSE for each statement.**

6. The wise men could read but not interpret the words written on the wall.
7. The wise men told the king about Daniel, and how he had helped Nebuchadnezzar.
8. Isaiah had prophesied that Medes would conquer Babylon.
9. Ancient books say that there was enough food in the city for ten years.
10. The enemy soldiers diverted the river Euphrates and got under the wall into the city.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

How is Daniel a good example for Christians today?

# 6

## Daniel and the Lions

This is the last chapter of the first part of the book of Daniel which tells us mostly of Daniel's experiences. The second part brings to us mostly his prophecies. This chapter is the record of Daniel's greatest danger and God's great miracle in delivering him from the lions.

1. Daniel, the first of the presidents, vs. 1-3
2. Daniel's enemies make their plot, vs. 4-9
3. The presidents accuse Daniel, vs. 10-15
4. God delivered Daniel, vs. 16-23
5. Daniel's success in the kingdom, vs. 24-28

### 1. Daniel, the first of the presidents, 6.1-3

1 Darius was a Mede, 5.31; 9.1; 11.1, a descendent of Japheth, son of Noah, Genesis 10.1,2. Old books of history tell us nothing about Darius, or they give him a different name. There was a later king with the same name, Ezra 4.5; Haggai 1.1; Zechariah 1.1; 7.1; and another, Nehemiah 12.22. At this time, the Medes and Persians united against Babylon, 6.8,15; 8.20; Esther 1.19, and Darius was the king over the city and the country. Cyrus was the king of the Persians, 1.21; 6.28; 10.1; Ezra 1.1. Here, Darius organized the kingdom under 120 officials or princes.

2 Darius may have learned about Daniel's high position in the days of Nebuchadnezzar. The king set three men as presidents over the 120 officials, and Daniel was the chief over the other two. The officials were to collect the taxes from each country, or nation, and the presidents made sure that the king received the full amount from each.

Another chief tax collector was Zacchaeus in Jericho. He came to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, Luke 19.1,2.

3 Darius could see that Daniel was honest and had a very good mind. He planned to set Daniel over the whole kingdom. Of course this made the others jealous, and they wanted to get rid of him. By this time, Daniel had been in Babylon for 66 years and was about 80 years old or more.

#### 2. Daniel's enemies make their plot, 6.4-9

4 The 120 princes and the two presidents joined to find some way to remove Daniel. They tried to find some wrong thing that he had done so they could accuse him to the king, but Daniel was both honest and careful in his work. He did not take money for himself nor allow anyone to cheat on paying taxes to the king.

Daniel is a picture of our Lord Jesus Christ who really was perfect. Yet His enemies also tried to find something wrong in Him so they could accuse Him to the governor and kill Him, Luke 20.20.

5 The princes and presidents finally decided that they could accuse Daniel only about his worship to God. Many ancient kings allowed people to worship their own gods and idols, but people hated the Jews because they worshiped only God the Creator and would not make an idol or image of Him.

6,7 So they came to see King Darius and make their request. They said that all the leaders and officials of the kingdom agreed to make a law which would bring glory to the king. He would be like God for thirty days, and no one could pray to any other person, god, goddess, idol, image, man or woman. Anyone who did would be thrown to the lions.

The kings of Egypt were worshiped as gods, and, later, the emperors of Rome were given honors as gods. Herod accepted the praise of the people who said he was like a god, but God punished him at once, Acts 12.22,23. In the beginning, the serpent told Eve that she and Adam would be like God if they disobeyed Him.

8 Only the king could make a law, and their plan was not

binding until Darius signed it. Then it would be a very firm law which could not be changed. This was the custom of the Medes and Persians.

9 The king was proud to think that they would want him to make such a law which put him in the place of a god for a short time. He did not stop and consider that Daniel, the first president, was not there with all the others, or that this law was aimed at the very man whom Darius himself was planning to put over the entire kingdom. He signed the new law. In this, Darius is a picture of the man of sin who will set himself up as God in the Great Tribulation, 2 Thessalonians 2.3,4; Revelation 13.8.

Nebuchadnezzar, too, was proud to know that he was the gold head, and, in his pride, he threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego into the fire. God saved them, and the king learned an important lesson.

### 3. The presidents accuse Daniel, 6.10-15

10 Daniel knew what the presidents were plotting, but the king did not ask him for advice. The man of God might have thought that it was important for the kingdom and for the Jews in Babylon that he should live. He might say to himself that he should pray to God in private, where no one could see him, for the thirty days only.

He could have:	He did:
gone on a journey	go to his own house
kept the windows covered	open the windows
prayed while sitting in a chair	kneel down
prayed at night.	pray three times a day.

We should pray in private so that people will not think we are very holy, better than others, but not if we are afraid they will laugh at us or persecute us. Also remember that the Lord Jesus told His judges that He was the Christ, even though He knew that they would put Him on the cross for saying so, Matthew 6.5,6; 26.64-66.

11,12 His enemies soon found him. Their plot was successful; Daniel fell into their trap. They were all witnesses that he

broke the law of the king, the law of the Medes and the Persians. So the presidents and the princes went to the king and asked him to say again that he signed the law. He agreed that it was true.

13 Then they named the guilty man, Daniel. They called him the Jewish captive, 2.25; 5.13, not the chief president or the highly honored official who had been there for 66 years. They said he did not respect the king or obey his law. He prayed three times a day, and certainly not to Darius. (They were so determined to catch Daniel that they watched his house all day long and saw him in prayer three times.)

14 Darius, at once, saw that he had made a great mistake. He wanted to set Daniel over the whole kingdom, v.3; now he must put him to death! Darius tried to find some way around this difficult situation. He worked hard to do this all the rest of that day.

It is better to have firm laws and a strong government than a ruler like Nebuchadnezzar who could kill anyone he did not like, 2.5; 3.6; 5.19. But still, laws should not be so firm that even bad ones cannot be changed. Even so, it is not our duty to change the laws or the government, but to change men's hearts by showing them how to get eternal life.

15 But Daniel's enemies were not giving in easily. They insisted that the king must act according to the firm custom of the Medes and Persians. There was no way he could make an exception for the man whom he favored.

#### 4. God delivered Daniel, 6.16-23

16 Darius could not stand against these men. He commanded his soldiers to bring Daniel and throw him into a hole in the ground where the lions were kept and from which they could not escape. Darius could only hope that God would indeed save His servant. The king probably knew how God delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego; also, he could see that Daniel had perfect faith.

Herod the king chose to kill a righteous man, John the Baptist, rather than break his word to a dancing girl, Matthew



14.6-10. Pontius Pilate also knew that the Lord Jesus Christ was innocent, but he could not stand against the Jewish priests, John 19.12,16.

17 Men put a stone on the entrance to the den of lions, and the king and his lords put a seal on the stone. The king had a ring with marks cut into it. He could put this on a piece of soft clay which would soon become hard. No one could open the seal without breaking the clay, and then everyone would know that someone opened the door without permission. These seals were used for letters and laws to prove they were genuine, Esther 3.10; 8.8. Here, the presidents could not accuse Darius of saving Daniel from the lions. The law was a bad one, but even the king must obey.

The gospel does not say only that God loves men, but it also says that Christ died for us. God's Law requires death. Christ obeyed the Law by dying for our sins. God does not set aside His own Law; He came Himself and fulfilled it on the cross. Now we are free.

18 Darius was very unhappy because of what he had done. All night, he could not sleep. He refused to eat any food or listen to any music.

19,20 First thing the next morning, he hurried to the lions' den. His voice showed that he was worried, but he called out to Daniel to ask if he were still alive. The king partly believed that Daniel's God could save him. He called God the living God and called Daniel His servant who served Him faithfully.

21 Daniel was alive and well. He spoke to the king with the usual words of respect, May you live forever.

22 Daniel called the living God my God.

God sent His angel. The Son of God was with Shadrach, Meschach and Abed-Nego in the furnace of fire, and the words the Angel of the Lord often mean the Son of God who revealed God even before He became Man. For example, the Angel of the LORD is Jehovah, Genesis 22.15,16.

The Angel shut the lions' mouths so they could not hurt Daniel. God found in His servant no sin worthy of death

at this time. Daniel had not done anything wrong to the king either.

23 This was a great relief to King Darius. The law did not say that the guilty person must die, but that he should be thrown into the den of lions, vs. 7,12. This law was fulfilled, and the king commanded his soldiers to take Daniel out of the den. There was not even a scratch or bite on God's faithful servant, just as no hair of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego was burned and there was not even the smell of smoke on them, 3.27.

The Lord Jesus Christ was forty days with the wild animals in the desert, but they never hurt the Son of God. The Lord will have marks on His body forever in heaven, but they are the wounds which He received from men who hated Him. Of all God's creatures on earth, only men sin against Him.

#### 5. Daniel's success in the kingdom, 6.24-28

24 Daniel's enemies had tricked King Darius, and now he ordered that they must die in the lions' den. This probably means the two presidents, not all the 120 princes, and their families. This would prevent the sons of the presidents trying to get revenge. It shows that the lions were really hungry and that only the Angel of Jehovah kept them from killing Daniel. God often punished men by the same means that they wanted to use to attack His people, Esther 7.10, Psalm 9.15,16.

25-27 Then King Darius sent out a royal letter and a command to all the nations on earth to tell them what happened, as Nebuchadnezzar did in 4.1. Both hoped that there would be much peace.

Darius, chapter 6	Nebuchadnezzar, chapter 4
command – men should fear God;	report – what God did to him, v.2
great signs for Daniel;	great signs for himself, vs. 2,3;
God is the living God;	King of heaven, v.37;
His kingdom is forever.	His kingdom is forever, v.3.

The living God: The Spirit used these words 14 times in the Old Testament, 16 times in the New; for example, Deuteronomy 5.26; Revelation 7.2.

The living God gives: life to all men, Genesis 2.7; Acts 17.25-28;  
life after death to all men, John 5.28,29;  
eternal life to all who believe, John 3.16.

28 We do not read that Darius made Daniel the head over the whole empire, but Daniel enjoyed success during his reign and that of Cyrus as well. So did Joseph in his days, and Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego under Nebuchadnezzar, 3.30; Genesis 39.23.

**The Prophet Daniel**  
**Chapter 6 - Daniel and the Lions**  
**Exam 6**

**Enter the correct answer**

1. The first part of the book of Daniel
  - a. is mostly prophecy
  - b. tells the history of all the Jews in Babylon
  - c. tells us mostly of Daniel's experiences
2. Darius
  - a. was a Persian
  - b. organised the kingdom under 100 princes
  - c. made Daniel the chief of three presidents
3. The princes and other presidents
  - a. were jealous of Daniel
  - b. valued Daniel's good qualities
  - c. found plenty to accuse Daniel of
4. When Daniel knew that what the presidents were plotting
  - a. he prayed to God in private where no one could see him
  - b. thought it was important for him to live
  - c. continued to pray three times a day in front of an open window
5. Darius
  - a. knew that he had made a mistake
  - b. was able to save Daniel from the lion's den
  - c. did not have to obey his own law

**Enter TRUE or FALSE for each statement.**

6. Daniel's enemies knew they could only accuse him about his worship to God.
7. Darius was happy to keep his own law and had a good night's sleep.
8. Darius called God the living God
9. Daniel's enemies had tricked king Darius but he forgave them.
10. Daniel enjoyed success during the reigns of Darius and Cyrus.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

"Those who honour Me I will honour" 1 Samuel 2:30

Can you share an instance in your life when this promise has been fulfilled?

# 7

## The Four Wild Animals

We have now read the first half of the book of Daniel, which tells us mostly about the experiences of Daniel and Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. The second half contains mostly prophecies of Daniel, chapters 7-12. But the first part includes a simple start on prophecy, chapter 2, and the second part tells us a little more about Daniel's experiences.

Chapter 7	The Four Wild Animals	Daniel's first vision
8	The Ram and the Goat	Daniel's second vision
9	The Seventy Weeks	Daniel's prayer and confession of sin
10,11	The Great Struggle	Daniel's third vision
12	The Time of the End	Daniel's last message

Here in chapter 7, we have his first vision, a vision of four wild beasts.

1. Daniel saw a vision, vs. 1-14
2. God explained the vision, vs. 15-28

### 1. Daniel saw a vision, 7.1-14

- a) Date, v.1
- b) The winds, v.2
- c) Four beasts, vs. 3-8
- d) The Ancient of Days, vs. 9-12
- e) The Son of Man, vs. 13,14

#### a) Date, 7.1

- 1 God gave Daniel this his first dream before chapter five, which tells us of the end of Belshazzar. This dream was in the first year of his reign, which was 553 B.C. The Spirit led Daniel to write his

dream in a book, and God has preserved it through all these years, nearly 2,500, for us today.

It is important that we should study these words and try to understand what they mean, both with the help of other Scriptures and of the Holy Spirit Himself.

b) The winds, 7.2

2 Daniel told someone about his vision, but we do not know to whom he was speaking. He saw the great sea, which is the Mediterranean Sea, hundreds of kilometers west of Babylon. Here in his dream, the sea means the world of wicked nations, as we learn from Isaiah 57.20. One same word is used for wind, air and spirit, the same is true in both the Hebrew and Greek languages. So here, we think of wicked spirits stirring up trouble in the world of men. Satan is the prince of the power of the air, Ephesians 2.2.

c) Four beasts, 7.3-8

3 Daniel saw four wild beasts come up out of the sea, each different from the others, and each one more cruel than the one before it.

4 A lion with wings like an eagle's – Daniel saw the wings being torn off the lion. Then it was lifted up and stood on two feet like a man and received a new heart, like a man's.

5 A bear standing higher on one side – In its teeth, it held three ribs of some animal which it was eating, but it could eat still more.

6 A leopard with four wings like a bird – It also had four heads, and it received authority.

7 The fourth beast was not like anything Daniel ever saw before – It was very strong and terrible, with great iron teeth. It would kill an animal, eat it or break, its bones to pieces, then tread down the rest with its feet. This animal was quite different from the first three; the leopard had four heads but this one had ten horns.

8 Then Daniel saw another horn come up from the beast's head. Though it was smaller than the others, it pushed up three of the

ten horns. This little horn had eyes like a man and a mouth which spoke proud words.

d) The Ancient of Days, 7.9-12

9 In his vision, Daniel saw thrones taken away and the throne of God standing. The Spirit here called the eternal God the Ancient of Days, also in verses 13 and 22, but nowhere else in the Bible. His hair and clothing were perfectly white; His throne was like flaming fire. The throne had wheels, so it was like a chariot; the wheels also were like fire. See Ezekiel 1.13,16,27.

10 Fire destroys almost everything, and, here, it comes like a river from God's throne. The fire is a picture of the righteous judgment of God, removing all who oppose Him.

There will be a river of the water of life flowing from God's throne for all who believe, Revelation 22.1.

Many people were serving God, more still standing before Him. A thousand thousands is a million, and 10,000 x 10,000 is 100 million. God will judge wicked men at the Great White Throne, Revelation 20.11,12, and the books will be opened.

Believers will not be judged for their sins because the Lord Jesus Christ took our punishment at the cross, John 5.24; Romans 8.1. We will all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. We will receive rewards if we serve Him as His servants while here on earth. If not, we will suffer loss, 2 Corinthians 5.10; 1 Corinthians 3.15.

11,12 God is on His throne; but still the enemy is active, and Daniel saw what happened at this point. The little horn boasted great things, v.8, until the fourth beast was killed and put in the lake of fire, Revelation 19.20. The first three beasts were not completely destroyed, and their influence continued for a while.

e) The Son of Man, 7.13,14

13 Then John saw One like the Son of Man. He came with clouds

and stood before the eternal God on His throne. Who is this Son of Man? The Lord GOD called Ezekiel son of man 93 times, but this is the only other verse in the Old Testament where these words are found. The Lord Jesus Christ called Himself Son of Man 32 times in Matthew alone. We know that the Son of God became Man without ceasing to be God.

The Son of God came to Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego in the fire to protect and comfort them, 3.25, but, in the glory, He is still the Son of Man.

14 Christ will come with clouds when He returns to earth, and here He receives authority and glory from God, Matthew 24.30; 28.18. He will rule as King over all nations and people of all languages, forever, Psalm 2.8. The four great empires come and go; His kingdom will never come to its end.

## 2. God explained the vision, 7.15-28

God sent an angel to help Daniel understand the vision.

- a) Daniel asked for help, vs. 15-18
- b) The fourth beast, vs. 19-28

### a) Daniel asked for help, 7.15-18

15,16 The prophet knew that he had some great message from God. He felt sorry for what would happen and was disturbed because he did not understand all of it. Someone stood near ready to tell him the meaning of the vision, but Daniel had to ask him for help. This was Gabriel, a messenger of God, 9.21; Luke 1.19,26. Earlier, Daniel prayed about the first dream of Nebuchadnezzar, but he seemed to understand the second quite quickly, 2.18; 4.19.

Daniel wanted help in understanding these revelations, but he did not ask for special guidance about obeying the king's command to pray to him; he knew what God wanted him to do, 6.10. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego were the same.

17,18 Gabriel said that the four beasts were four kings or empires



which come not from heaven but from the earth, from men. But, in the end, the people of God will rule with the King, the Lord Jesus Christ, forever.

Daniel knew about these four empires from the first dream of Nebuchadnezzar.

chapter 2	chapter 7	chapter 7
vs.	vision	interpretation
32,33 four metals	3 four beasts	17 four kings will arise
37,38 gold, Nebuchadnezzar lost his mind, restored	4 lion, eagle's wings pulled out, made to stand, got a man's heart	
32 silver breast and arms	5 bear, raised up on one side, three ribs, told to eat more	
32 bronze middle of body	6 leopard, four wings, four heads, dominion	
33 iron and clay	7 terrible, iron teeth devoured, broke in pieces ten horns	19 nails of bronze, (23 devours), breaks all, stamps down
40 strong as iron, breaks all		24 ten kings, different from others
41,42 divided, toes broken, mixed with men	8 little horn, pulled up three others, eyes like a man, speaks great things	20,25 against God defeats saints for 3½ times
	9,10 thrones destroyed, God on His throne	
34 Stone struck feet, all broken to pieces	11 4th beast destroyed	26 judgment will sit, beast destroyed
35 Stone filled earth	12 first 3 beasts live	22 Eternal God comes
44 God will set up kingdom forever	13 Son of Man comes	18 saints victorious
	14 rules all nations forever	27 rules earth forever

b) The fourth beast, 7.19-28

19 Daniel could understand the three beasts as three empires,

one following another, but the fourth was quite different. Before, he said it was terrible, v.7; now it was very terrible. It had great iron teeth, now also claws of bronze. A wild animal has only one mouth, but four legs; it can really cut its enemy with its claws. This beast would tread on its enemy, though already dead, to show its complete victory.

20 But another little horn appeared, which wanted greater power. We saw in the image of Nebuchadnezzar that the iron feet were weaker because they were mixed with clay. This new, little horn was able to take three kingdoms. This horn had eyes and a mouth which could boast more loudly than any of the others.

21 Then Daniel saw this little horn turn against Israel and fight against them. This king will gain victory over God's people, – at first.

22 But the eternal God will come and set up His throne on earth. He will judge the enemy and give the kingdom to His people. Before, Daniel saw the Son of Man coming and the eternal God giving Him authority to rule. Now, it is God Himself coming. This means that the Son of Man is the Son of God, and this is exactly what the New Testament teaches.

23 Now the angel Gabriel explained and added to the revelation. The fourth beast is the fourth kingdom, different from the earlier ones and victorious over them. It will control the whole world with great cruelty.

24 In this empire, there will be ten kings, then another will rise to power. He will be different from the first ten and defeat three of them.

25 This will make him proud of his power, and, in his pride, he will begin to speak against the Most High God. Of course he cannot touch God, but he can and will attack God's people, oppress them and wear them down until they are almost ready to give up. This little horn will also try to change religious customs and all laws. He will succeed in these things for a limited time, called here time, times, and a half a time.

We know that the first kingdom was Babylon, followed by Medo-Persia, 5.30,31. Two years after this vision, Daniel learned that the third empire would be Greece, 8.21. What empire followed Greece? Ancient books of history tell us about the Roman Empire, and the caesars who ruled the world in the time of our Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles, Luke 2.1; 3.1; John 11.48.

Rome conquered the empire of Greece and many other countries, but not the whole world. We believe that parts of Daniel's prophecy refer to the end times, before the Lord Jesus Christ comes back to reign. Other verses tell us about a great and cruel leader, like this little horn, called the man of sin, 2 Thessalonians 2.3, who will rise to power in the Great Tribulation.

In chapter nine, we will learn about a period of time seven years long, divided into two halves, three and a half years each. We may put together different passages of the Bible and see that a time, times and a half a time must mean a year, two years and a half a year, that is, 3½ years. So the Roman Empire will become ten strong nations in the last days, one leader will gain control over three of them and he will succeed in persecuting the Jews for three years. (My book *What Next? A Primer on Prophecy* will help you to understand these things better.)

26 So Gabriel said again that the great Judge will sit on His throne and take away all authority from this beast who attacks His people.

27 He will give the kingdom to His people, the saints of the Most High God. They will reign with the Lord Jesus Christ, whose kingdom over the whole world will last for a thousand years.

28 That is the end of this revelation; more will follow later.

Daniel felt sorry for the great trouble which will come on his people, the Jews, in the last days. But he did not tell others about it at that time.

(This is the end of the chapters where Daniel used the Aramaic language, beginning in 2.4. For the rest of his book, the prophet wrote in the Hebrew language, as the Spirit used in most of the Old Testament.)

The Prophet Daniel  
Chapter 7 - The Four Wild Animals  
Exam 7

**Enter the correct answer**

1. The second half of Daniel
  - a. is all prophecy
  - b. tells us a little more about Daniel's experiences
  - c. tells us more about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
  
2. Daniel's first vision
  - a. was of four wild animals
  - b. was in the time of king Nebuchadnezzar
  - c. was not written down
  
3. The four wild beasts
  - a. appeared on the earth
  - b. were all recognisable
  - c. were each different from the others, and each one was more cruel than the one before it
  
4. Daniel
  - a. did not realise that he had a great message from God
  - b. was disturbed because he did not understand the vision
  - c. received a direct revelation from God
  
5. Which of the following statements is true?
  - a. the four beasts were empires from heaven
  - b. The third empire was Rome
  - c. The eternal God will come and set up His throne on earth.

**Enter TRUE or FALSE for each statement.**

6. The eternal God is called the Ancient of Days throughout the Bible.
7. The fire is a picture of the righteous judgement of God
8. Daniel did not need any help in understanding this vision.
9. The Son of Man is the Son of God.
10. Aramaic was used in Daniel chapters 2 - 7.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

Why is it important for us to study these prophecies and try to understand what they mean?

# 8

## The Ram and the Goat

We have learned from chapter two that there would be four great empires going on to the coming of Christ. Chapter seven is about four wild animals, and it gives more details than chapter two. Now chapter eight gives still more about the second and the third of these three empires. We learned that the little horn will attack the people of the Most High God, 7.21, and this chapter tells more about Israel. The prophet used Hebrew, the language of Israel, here and in the rest of his book. The dream is about two male farm animals, but they act like wild beasts in this chapter.

1. The vision, vs. 1-14
2. The meaning, vs. 15-27

### 1. The vision, 8.1-14

This part of the chapter tells us about:

- a) The date and the place, vs. 1,2
- b) The ram, vs. 3,4
- c) The goat, vs. 5-8
- d) The little horn, vs. 9-12
- e) How long it will last, vs. 13,14

#### a) The date and the place, 8.1,2

1 This vision was two years after the first one, while Belshazzar was still reigning as king of Babylon with his father Nabonidus. These two visions would help Daniel to know that the kingdom of Babylon would come to an end, and so, with God's help, he could understand the writing on the wall, 5.26.

2 Daniel saw himself in Susa, or Shushan, the palace, which was

located in the province of Elam, near the river Ulai. In his dream, Daniel saw himself on the banks of the river. (Later, the Persian kings made Susa into a great city, and this is where Esther and Nehemiah lived, Nehemiah 1.1; Esther 1.2.)

b) The ram, 8.3,4

3 This animal was standing by the river Ulai. It had two high horns – one came up later and was higher than the other. This fits in with the second wild animal, the bear, which raised itself on one side, 7.5. The Persians soon became stronger than the Medes.

4 The bear was commanded to eat, and, here, Daniel saw the ram pushing in three directions, but not eastward. The second empire grew as the kings conquered more countries; no one could stand against them, and the empire became great. These kings were dictators; they could do anything they wanted, although they had to keep their own laws, 6.15.

c) The goat, 8.5-8

5 The ram was pushing towards the west, but Daniel saw this male goat running from the west. The goat ran so quickly that in the dream his feet did not even touch the ground. The third animal was a leopard, which can run very fast, but also it had wings. The ram had at first only one horn, plain to see, between its eyes.

6,7 The goat came rushing at the ram with great anger. At once, it broke both the shorter and the longer horns of the ram. The horn is a sign of strength, and the ram could do nothing to protect itself. The angry goat threw the ram to the ground and stamped on it, as the fourth beast did, 7.7,23. At first, the ram was so strong that no nation could save another from its power, v.4. Now no one can help the ram in the day of its defeat.

8 This goat then became very strong, but soon its great horn was broken. In its place, four other horns grew, pointing in four different directions. From history books, we know that Alexander the Great was the first king of the Greek empire. He rose to power very quickly and conquered the Persians. He liked to drink wine, drank too

much and died at the age of 33. Four of his generals divided up the empire, each one controlling certain countries. This fits in with the prophecy of Daniel which the Lord gave him 200 years before these things took place.

d) The little horn, 8.9-12

9 Then Daniel saw a little horn grow from one of the four horns.

It soon became very great, and his kingdom kept growing, especially towards the south and the east, but also towards the glorious land, that is, the land of Israel, Ezekiel 20.6,15.

10 Victory brings pride, as seen in the little horn of Rome, 7.25, and this little horn of Greece soon attacks the armies of heaven. These stars are pictures of the leaders of God's people, Israel, whom the little horn threw down and stamped on.

11 The little horn became so proud that he dared to defy the Head of the armies of Israel, the Lord GOD, and to set himself up as Lord of Israel. He took away the daily sacrifices and threw down the Temple.

12 Many in Israel were afraid and went along with this. Because of this sin, the little horn got control of the army of Israel so he could take away the regular offerings to Jehovah. This Greek leader did not care about the truth which God gave to His people. He was at first successful in everything which he did.

e) How long it will last, 8.13,14

13 No doubt Daniel wondered how long Israel's trouble would last. He heard one angel asking another how long this enemy would be able to take away the daily sacrifice, to defile the Temple and to control the army of Israel. (Angels are called saints or holy ones in 4.17.)

14 The other one said it would be 2,300 days before the Temple would be used again for the worship of Jehovah.

There was a great Greek leader who did these very things. His name was Antiochus Epiphanes. The word Epiphanes means the glorious one and was usually used of the gods. He conquered Egypt and Israel and he tried to stamp out the worship of Jehovah with great cruelty. He caused the priests of Israel to stop offering sacrifices to the LORD, and he set up a Greek altar for sacrifices to a heathen god on top of a true altar. After about three years, the Jews were able to remove this, set up their own altar and cleanse the Temple. Antiochus died the same year.

We will consider this time period of 2,300 evenings and mornings in verses 23-26.

It is important to remember that God always sets a time limit to the trouble which His people have. The church of Smyrna faced deep trouble, but only for ten days, Revelation 2.10. God is always on the throne.

## 2. The meaning, 8.15-27

Daniel recorded what he saw in his vision, and the Lord sent His messenger to explain it to him.

- a) Gabriel and Daniel, vs. 15-19
- b) The near future, vs. 20-22
- c) Later still, vs. 23-27

### a) Gabriel and Daniel, 8.15-19

15 Daniel was a prophet of God, but he did not at once understand the meaning of the vision, as in 7.16. He was still in his dream, and he saw someone who looked like a man.

16 Then he heard a man's voice from the direction of the river Ulai, telling Gabriel to make Daniel understand the vision.

17 Daniel was greatly afraid when the mighty angel Gabriel came near him, but the angel called him son of man and told him to understand that the vision was for the end time. (God called Ezekiel son of man 93 times, and the Lord Jesus Christ called Himself Son of Man 32 times in Matthew alone. Otherwise, this title is used only of Daniel and only in this verse.)



18,19 But Daniel fell to the ground, unconscious until Gabriel touched him and brought him to his feet. The angel said that he would inform him what will happen at the end of the time of God's anger against His people. There will surely be an end. God knows how long it will all last.

b) The near future, 8.20-22

20 One horn on the ram was higher and came up later. This was like the Persian king, Cyrus. Darius the Mede was king of Babylon at first, 5.31, and he agreed to the law of the Medes and the Persians, 6.8,12,15. But Cyrus became more important, v.3; 6.28; 10.1; Ezra 1.1.

21 Daniel knew the first two kingdoms, and now the Lord revealed to him the name of the third: Greece. This is Javan in the Hebrew language, the name of a descendant of Japheth, Genesis 10.2. The Greeks are mentioned also in Ezekiel 27.13, Joel 3.6, and Zechariah 9.13 and often in the New Testament, for example, John 12.20; Acts 14.1. Alexander the Great was the first great king who made Greece into an empire.

22 Alexander died as a young man, and four generals divided up the empire; but none of them was as strong as Alexander, v.8.

c) Later still, 8.23-27

23 Some people say Daniel could not have known that 200 years later the Greeks would defeat the Persians. But Daniel was the prophet of God, and we are sure that God knows the future better than we can know what is past. So the angel continued here to tell Daniel (and us) what took place later still.

The Greek rulers became more proud and sinful, and Israel, too, kept on breaking God's laws. God allowed this little horn, v.9, to become strong. This king would make people afraid when they see him, like Nebuchadnezzar, 3.19. He would be able to understand hard sayings, like Solomon, 1 Kings 10.1,3; Proverbs 1.6, but God gave Solomon his wisdom, 1 Kings 3.12.

24 He would have great power, not his own, but given to him by

Satan. God showed His prophets that there is the power of evil spirits behind the kings who rule wickedly, even the power of Satan himself, Isaiah 14.4 (king of Babylon) and vs. 12-15 (Lucifer or Satan); Ezekiel 28.2 (prince of Tyre) and vs. 12-14 (king of Tyre, the cherub who had been in Eden, that is, Satan). The man of sin will have the power of Satan in him to help him gain control of the world, Revelation 13.4. We believe that this little horn is a picture of the coming man of sin. For one thing, the Greek little horn and the man of sin both attack God's people, Israel.

25 This Greek king would teach his people how to deceive others. He will become very proud; he will call himself Epiphanes, the glorious one. See notes on verse 14. He would tell people they are quite safe, then destroy them without warning. He will set himself against the Lord Jesus, the Prince of princes, v.11. Christ is the Prince, 9.25; see Isaiah 9.6; Ezekiel 37.25; Revelation 19.16. Of course, the little horn cannot succeed. He will be destroyed by the power of God, not by man. The man of sin will not die; he will be destroyed when God's angels throw him alive into the lake of fire, Revelation 19.20.

26 Then Gabriel told Daniel that the time of 2,300 evenings and mornings was correct. He should not tell everyone about his vision, which would be fulfilled over 200 years later. This prophecy refers to the daily sacrifices, evening and morning, Exodus 29.39, which Antiochus stopped, v.11. The 2,300 sacrifices would mean 1,150 days, or about three years. This is what happened. See note on verse 14. We will learn more about the man of sin from the revelations given to Daniel in the rest of this book.

27 Daniel became sick about what he had seen and heard, but he soon got better and went about the business of Belshazzar. He was surprised at his vision and could not understand it all. Soon the Lord gave him more to think about and more details of what will happen in the end.

The Prophet Daniel  
Chapter 8 - The Ram and the Goat  
Exam 8

**Enter the correct answer**

1. The Ram and the Goat represented
  - a. the first and second empires
  - b. the second and third empires
  - c. the third and fourth empires
  
2. Daniel had this vision
  - a. one year after the first one
  - b. after Babylon had been defeated
  - c. whilst Belshazzar was still reigning as king of Babylon
  
3. The Ram
  - a. had two equal horns
  - b. fits in with the leopard (ch 7)
  - c. represented the Medo-Persian empire
  
4. The Goat
  - a. represented the Grecian empire
  - b. had one horn which broke and was replaced by two other horns
  - c. fits in with the lion (ch 7)
  
5. Antiochus Epiphanes
  - a. was a Greek king
  - b. was a good king
  - c. allowed the Jews to offer daily sacrifices to God

**Enter TRUE or FALSE for each statement.**

6. Epiphanes means the glorious one.
7. Like Ezekiel, Daniel was called son of man many times.
8. Alexander died as a young man and four generals divided up the empire.
9. The daily sacrifices stopped for about three years.
10. Daniel understood all his vision.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

Daniel's precise predictions have invited much criticism from unbelieving scholarship. What is your reaction to them?

# 9

## The Seventy Weeks

We have studied the two dreams or visions which God gave to Daniel in the reign of Belshazzar. He also received two revelations, chapter 9 and chapters 10-12. Gabriel came to give him instruction, 9.22, and the Lord revealed much more later, 10.1. Here, we have:

1. Daniel read the Scripture, vs. 1,2
2. Daniel prayed and confessed the sins of Israel, vs. 3-19
3. Daniel received a new revelation, vs. 20-27.

### 1. Daniel read the Scripture, 9.1,2

1 Darius began to rule over Babylon in the year 539 B. C. He soon had trouble with his presidents and governors who forced him to throw Daniel into the lions' den. It was in the first year of his reign that Daniel was searching the Scriptures. We do not know if this was before or after his experience of God's power in delivering him from certain death. Either way, he turned to the written word of God.

In time of trouble or uncertainty, we do well to seek help from the holy Scriptures. Daniel was both righteous and wise, Ezekiel 14.14; 28.3. He was an inspired prophet of God. Yet he turned to the written Word at such a time.

2 Isaiah wrote his book long before this, as did also nine of the twelve "minor" prophets. Jeremiah often warned Israel that God would send Babylon to judge them for their sins, but also that He would then punish Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem in the third year of King Jehoiakim, 1.1,2, and took Daniel and many others to Babylon. In the next year, the LORD showed Jeremiah that Israel would return to their land seventy years later, Jeremiah 25.1,11,12. Baruch wrote down the words of the prophet in a scroll, Jeremiah 36.1,2,4. Daniel received a copy of this book and knew it was the word of God.

## 2. Daniel prayed and confessed the sins of Israel, 9.3-19

He fasted and prayed to the LORD his God, vs. 3,4; he confessed the sins of Israel as his also, vs. 5-15; then he prayed that God would forgive their sins and deliver them, vs. 16-19.

a) Daniel fasted and prayed, 9.3,4

3 Daniel read that God would deliver Israel and bring them back to their land. This led him to seek the Lord and pray that God would fulfill His promise. The name of God in this book is the God of heaven or the Most High God, found in the parts of the book using the Aramaic language, for example, 2.18; 5.18. The name Jehovah, or the LORD, is found only seven times, all in this chapter: vs. 2,4,10,13,14 (twice), 20. Daniel also used another word for Lord, meaning Master, twelve times, all in this chapter except 1.2. Jehovah means the One who exists by Himself – no one created Him.

In the Bible, God's people often went without food while they prayed to Him, 2 Samuel 12.21; Luke 2.37. Daniel wore sack-cloth instead of his usual clothing, and he sat in ashes, like Job, Job 2.8; 42.6.

Today, many people eat no food while they are praying for something very important, but we know that the Father will answer prayer in the name of His Son if we ask according to His will.

4 First, Daniel confessed his sins. This is most important because we cannot expect God to hear us if we disobey His Word, Psalm 66.18. Daniel was righteous more than most people, but here he took his place with others in Israel; he knew that they were still going on in sin. Ezekiel also lived in Babylon at the time of Daniel, and he warned the people many times about idolatry, adultery and other sins, Ezekiel 6.4; 18.11-13; 23.37.

Daniel called Jehovah the great God of whom people are rightly afraid. He keeps His promises and covenants, showing mercy to those who love Him and obey His commands, Deuteronomy 7.9.

b) Daniel confessed the sins of Israel as his own, 9.5-15

5 Daniel was one of the most righteous men, Ezekiel 14.14,20, yet he belonged to Israel and felt that he also was responsible for their sins. Moses, too, put himself with the sinning people of Israel, Exodus 32.32.

The Lord Jesus Christ never confessed His sins, for He had none. But He took on Himself the guilt of our sins and died for us on the cross.

Daniel used the word we or us in every verse from five to sixteen. Here, he confessed that they

sinned,  
did wrong,  
rebelled,  
turned away from God's commands,

6 refused to listen to His prophets, who spoke to kings, leaders, fathers and all the people.

7 God is righteous; they deserved to be confused and ashamed. This included all the people of Judah, both those in Jerusalem and those who were captives in distant lands – Babylon and other countries still further away. They all trespassed against the Lord.

8 Israel deserved to be ashamed – kings, leaders and fathers – because they sinned against the Lord.

9 Still, God had the right to show mercy and forgive even though Israel  
rebelled against Him and

10 disobeyed His laws and His prophets.

11 This was true of the whole nation, which  
trespassed against God's Law and  
departed and disobeyed.

Some in Jerusalem felt sorry for the sins of the people, Ezekiel 9.4, but the prophet included them with himself and all others. Moses warned Israel that they would bring the curse of God on themselves if they did not keep His Law, Deuteronomy 28.45-50; 29.19-21.

12 The LORD God had to keep His word and punish these sinners, as well as their judges who should have judged them righteously, Jeremiah 5.28. God allowed Babylon to do worse things in Jerusalem than in any other city.

13 The people should have known from the books of Moses that this trouble came from Jehovah, but they did not pray or repent or turn from their sins or try to understand the truth. Now Daniel was speaking to God for the nation and asking for His mercy.

14-15 Up to this time, Israel was still in captivity in Babylon. Neither Ezekiel nor Daniel saw any signs of their repentance. The LORD their God was righteous; they were still disobedient.

d) Daniel prayed God to forgive and deliver them, 9.16-19

16 So Daniel started to pray that God would turn from His great anger against Jerusalem and His people. Daniel knew from the book of Jeremiah that this prayer was according to the will of God because the Lord promised to restore the nation about this time, v.2.

We should pray for what we know is God's will, and for His glory, John 14.13; 1 John 5.14. It is certainly God's will that His Son shall rule over all nations, yet God told Him to ask for His inheritance, Psalm 2.8.

The people of Jerusalem and all Judah were ashamed before other nations, but it was because of their fathers' sins.

17 Daniel only was praying in this way, but he asked God to hear and to show favor again to His Holy Temple. The LORD's face was against Israel, Ezekiel 7.22; 14.7,8; now Daniel asked Him to shine again. Aaron and the priests asked the LORD to bless Israel by shining on them, Numbers 6.25.

18 Daniel spoke to God as if He has ears and eyes like a man.

These things are pictures that show God is able to hear, see and know all things. (Now God, God the Son, has a human body; He is a Man on the throne of heaven.) Daniel asked the Lord to remember the city on which He put His name, Jeremiah 7.10. He did not pray this because Israel was righteous, as Hezekiah said about himself, Isaiah 38.3, but only because he knew that God is merciful. The words you

and your occur 12 times in these four verses; before, it was we and us. See verse five.

Daniel spoke to:

Jehovah, v.4;  
 the Lord, vs. 4,7,8,16,19 (3 times);  
 the great God, v.4;  
 the Lord our God, v. 15;  
 our God, v.17;  
 my God, vs. 18,19.

19 In his final appeal, he asked God to hear, forgive and act, and not to delay any longer...all for His own sake, because His name was on the city and the people, Isaiah 43.7.

### 3. Daniel received a new revelation, 9.20-27

Daniel prayed that God would fulfill His promise to restore Jerusalem. God did this in the first year of Cyrus, Ezra 1.1-3. Daniel prayed in the first year of Darius, who was made ruler of Babylon only, while Cyrus was king of the entire Medo-Persian empire. God heard and answered Daniel's prayer at once, then He gave him another gift, details of what would happen still later.

The Lord often gives more than what we ask for. For example, the people of Israel asked God to take away the snakes which were killing them: God also offered to heal those who were already sick, Numbers 21.6-9. Also, the lame man asked for a gift of money, but he received strength to walk and jump, Acts 3.3-8.

20,21 Daniel was still speaking and praying and confessing his sin and the sin of Israel and asking God to restore the holy city of Jerusalem. Suddenly, Gabriel appeared to him in the form of a man. Daniel knew who he was from 8.16. As an angel, Gabriel could fly quickly; but he looked like a man, and Daniel was not afraid as he was before, 8.17. It was already evening, the time for the sacrifice, Numbers 28.4. This was the time when Elijah offered the sacrifice and fire came down from heaven, 1 Kings 18.36,38.

22,23 Gabriel told Daniel that he came to help him understand



the revelation of God's plans. Gabriel came when Daniel started to pray, v.4, but did not stop him before he finished. The angel called him greatly beloved, 10.11. We know that God loves all men, especially those who love His Son. But Daniel proved his love to the Lord by deciding not to eat meat which was an offering to idols, by rebuking King Belshazzar and by refusing to stop praying to Jehovah when Darius signed the law. In this chapter, he put himself with sinful Israel and prayed on the basis of God's promises. God could trust Daniel with this great revelation of what He is going to do.

The Lord Jesus Christ said we would be His friends if we keep His commands, and He reveals to His friends what His Father is planning to do, John 15.14,15.

24 Now for this great revelation. We have seen that there would be four empires, that Daniel is now in the second and that God revealed to Jeremiah that Israel would be in captivity for seventy years. Now the Lord speaks about seventy sevens, or weeks, of years, that is,  $70 \times 7 = 490$  years. What will happen to Israel and Jerusalem then? God determined:

1. to finish the transgression of Israel;
2. to bring an end to sin;
3. to cleanse or cover iniquity;
4. to bring in the righteousness of the ages;
5. to fulfill visions and prophecy;
6. to anoint the Most Holy Place.

1-3. The first three use three different words for sin, as in Psalm 32.1,2. In 490 years, the sins of Israel will be finished. The Lord Jesus Christ died for sins on the cross; but Israel rejected Him, and, as a nation, they continue in sin to this day.

4. By dying, the Lord brings righteousness to all who believe, but the prophets spoke of the Millennium as the age of righteousness on the earth, Isaiah 9.7; 60.21.

5. Christ fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies, but many others remain to be fulfilled in the future.

6. When He comes, He will set up the Temple of God and anoint it for true worship.

So we see that the 490 years were not all fulfilled at the first coming of the Lord. They will be in the future.

25 Then Gabriel said that there would be seven weeks (= 49 years) and 62 weeks (= 434 years) till Messiah should come. This verse divides the 490 years into two parts, 7 and 62 weeks, which still leaves one more. The 69 weeks would start when the LORD commanded that the Jews could build Jerusalem. Cyrus, king of Persia, gave permission for the Jews to return and build again, Ezra 1.1, in the year 538 B.C. Later, in 457 B.C., Artaxerxes gave permission to Jews still in Babylon to go and offer animal sacrifices in the Temple in Jerusalem, Ezra 7.13-17. Then this same king in 444 B.C. gave command that the Jews could build the wall of the city, Nehemiah 2.1-8. This is the starting point of the 490 years.

26 Now more details. After the 62 weeks, the anointed Messiah would be cut off and have nothing. Just 483 years after 444 B.C., the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, and the nation of Israel turned completely against Him ... He had nothing, not even His own life.

(The Lord Jesus Christ died in the year 33 A.D., and  $444+33=477$ , not 483. However, we must remember that the ancient Jews thought of a year as 12 months of 30 days each, that is, 360 days. Bible teachers have studied this and it comes out just right. See Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament, Victor Books, page 1363.)

Gabriel called Messiah the Prince in verse 25, but this verse tells us of another prince who will come and destroy the city and the Temple. But there will be an end, a sudden end, like a flood. There will be wars and destruction as God has planned. We know that God will punish Israel for their sins, until they repent when the Lord Jesus Christ comes. The little horn will try to kill them all, but he cannot succeed, 7.21,22. The king with the power of Satan will destroy the holy people, 8.24. The Spirit spoke about the same man in these two earlier visions of Daniel. Now he is called the coming prince.

27 This prince will make a covenant with Israel for one week, or seven years; this is like the king who will destroy many by promising peace, 8.25. It will be the same person, called in the New

Testament the man of sin, or the first beast, 2 Thessalonians 2.3; Revelation 13.1-7.

The prince will suddenly turn against the Jews. After half a week, or 3½ years, he will make them stop offering sacrifices to God. He will set up an abomination which will make the Temple unclean. The Lord Jesus Christ warned His disciples that they should get out of Jerusalem as quickly as possible when they see this, Matthew 24.15-18. This future prince will come to a sudden end as God has planned.

This prince has different names in Scripture.

Little horn	King	Coming prince	Man of sin	1st beast
Daniel 7	Daniel 8	Daniel 9	2 Thes.2	Revelation
Attacks Jews v.25	v.24	vs.26,27		13.7
Opposes God v.25	v.25	vs.26,27	v.4	13.6
Power of Satan	v.24		v.9	13.2,4
Time:				
3 times v.25				
3 years	v.27			
42 months				13.5
Sudden end v.26	v.25	v.27	v.8	19.19,20

The first beast of Revelation will combine all the evil and cruelty of the four great empires.

	Daniel 7	Revelation 13
Babylon	lion, v.4	mouth of a lion, v.2
Medo-Persia	bear, v.5	feet of a bear, v.2
Greece	leopard, v.6	leopard, v.2
Rome	10 horns, v.7	7 heads,10 horns, v.1

You can see that terrible times will soon come in this world. Happy is the man who is trusting in the Lord GOD of heaven, the Most High, the Eternal One; everyone will be safe believing in God the Son, the Lord Christ, the Coming One.

**The Prophet Daniel**  
**Chapter 9 - The Seventy Weeks**  
**Exam 9**

**Enter the correct answer**

1. Daniel knew that the exile would end after 70 years
  - a. by reading the book of Isaiah
  - b. by reading the book of Jeremiah
  - c. by reading the scroll of Baruch
  
2. Daniel
  - a. confessed the sins of Israel as his own
  - b. did not confess his own sins
  - c. was righteous and had no sins to confess
  
3. The name Jehovah
  - a. means the One who exists by Himself, no one created Him
  - b. is found throughout the book of Daniel
  - c. is usually translated as 'Lord'
  
4. The people of Israel
  - a. obeyed God's commands
  - b. were warned (Deut 28) what would happen if they did not keep the law
  - c. did not deserve God's judgement
  
5. The seventy weeks (490 years)
  - a. were all fulfilled at the first coming of the Lord
  - b. started in 538BC when Cyrus gave permission for the Jews to return and build Jerusalem
  - c. started in 444BC when Cyrus gave command that the Jews could build the wall of the city

**Enter TRUE or FALSE for each statement.**

6. In time of trouble or uncertainty, we do well to seek help from the holy Scriptures.
7. Daniel knew that the book of Jeremiah was the word of God.
8. God allowed Babylon to do worse things in Jerusalem than any other city.
9. Christ has fulfilled all Old Testament prophecies concerning Him.
10. The future prince (the man of sin) will come to a sudden end as God has planned.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

In what or whom is your trust for the future?

# 10

## The Great Struggle

Daniel's third vision includes chapters 10 and 11; indeed goes right on to the end of chapter 12. In it, we see:

the conflict between angels, good and evil, chapter 10

the conflict between men and the people of God, chapter 11

In chapter ten, we have:

### THE VISION

1. The situation, when and where, vs. 1-4

2. The vision, what Daniel saw, vs. 5-9

3. The message, what Daniel heard, vs. 10-11.1.

#### 1. The situation, when and where, 10.1-4

1 Daniel prayed that God would show mercy on Israel, chapter 9, and Cyrus issued an order in his first year which allowed Israel to return to their land, 2 Chronicles 36.22,23. Daniel was about 80 years old and still had great responsibility in Persia, 6.28. He was still known by his Babylonian name which Nebuchadnezzar's servant gave him, 1.7; 2.26; 4.8; 5.12. Daniel knew that the vision was true and that it would be a long time before God would finally deliver His people.

2,3 Perhaps verse one tells us in short form what happened to

Daniel in these two chapters. In that case, he was feeling very sorry for his people because of the vision of chapter nine. Perhaps he went without his usual food for three weeks in his deep desire to understand better the revelation God gave him, v.12; 8.3. Some teachers think that verse one tells us of a new vision, one which Daniel could understand but that made him sad.

4 Either way, he was with some men by the river Hiddekel, or

Tigris. The land of Mesopotamia lies between two great rivers, Euphrates and Tigris, Genesis 2.14; 24.10; in fact, the word Mesopotamia means between the rivers. Daniel started fasting on the third day of the first month and continued to eat nothing for three weeks, until God answered his prayer, on the 24th day.

## 2. The vision, what Daniel saw, 10.5-9

5,6 He saw a “man”

with white linen clothes;  
wearing a belt of fine gold from Uphaz, Jeremiah 10.9;  
whose body was yellow like a precious stone, Ezekiel 1.16;  
whose face was like lightning, Ezekiel 1.13;  
whose eyes were like lamps, like fire, Ezekiel 1.13;  
whose arms and feet were like shining bronze;  
whose voice was like the sound of many voices.

This makes us think of the Man Christ Jesus, whom John saw, who is caring for His people, the churches, Revelation 1.

He was like the Son of man, v.13;  
He was wearing a belt of gold, v.13;  
His eyes were like a flame of fire, v.14;  
His feet were like burning bronze, v.15;  
His voice was like the sound of many waters, v.15.

However, many Bible students think that the angel Gabriel came again to Daniel at this time, as in 8.16. In either case, Daniel saw God's Messenger.

7,8 The men with Daniel did not see the Messenger, but they felt something which made them so afraid that they ran away. So Daniel was alone. He felt very weak; his face changed color.

9 Still, he heard the great voice of the Messenger. Daniel was so moved and disturbed that he fell into a deep sleep with his face to the ground, as in 8.18.

## 3. The message, what Daniel heard, 10.10-11.1

10,11 The Messenger touched Daniel and raised him so he was on his hands and knees. He called Daniel greatly beloved and told him to understand, as Gabriel did in 9.23. Then Daniel was able

to stand up, but he was still shaking.

The apostle John was the disciple whom Jesus loved, John 13.23; 19.26; 21.7,20. The Lord gave him the privilege of understanding many things about the future, which we have today in the book of Revelation. The Lord Jesus loves us today and has given us the whole Bible, and also the help we need to understand it, John 15.15. But we have to study it and ask for wisdom.

12 The Messenger encouraged Daniel by saying that God heard his prayer the first day. The man of God wanted to understand what he had seen in vision and what would happen to his beloved people, Israel. Now the Messenger has come.

13 Why the delay? There was an enemy who tried to keep the Messenger back, called the prince of Persia. We have seen that kings and rulers have evil spirits, or fallen angels, behind them, 8.24, so the prince of Persia is a wicked angel. Michael the archangel came to help the Messenger, but this struggle continued for three weeks.

From this, we learn the important lesson that there is a great struggle in the spiritual world, Ephesians 6.11,12. God threw Satan out of heaven because of his sin, and He will finally throw him into the pit and then into the lake of fire forever, Revelation 20.3,10. Until then, God's great enemy does everything he can to oppose the Lord and His people.

Some teachers say that this Messenger could not be the Son of God because a wicked angel opposed Him and because the archangel came to help Him. But later we see Satan trying to trap the Lord Jesus Christ and angels helping Him, Mark 1.13; Luke 4.10. In Old Testament times, the Son of God sometimes appeared as an angel, Genesis 16.7-13; Exodus 3.2,4; Judges 2.1; 13.15-22.

14,15 Daniel would understand the later history of Israel; he saw a vision which was for the distant future. These words made Daniel look down to the ground, and he was not able to speak.

16,17 But another angel, who looked like a man, came and touched Daniel's lips so he could speak again. The prophet told him

that he was full of sorrow because of the vision and that he was very weak. He had had no food for three weeks. He felt he could not talk to the Messenger, in fact, he could hardly breathe.

18,19 So the angel touched him again and made him stronger.

Then perhaps the Messenger told him once more that he was greatly beloved, he should be strong and he should not be afraid. Then Daniel felt better and told him that he could now listen to Him.

20 The Lord came to Daniel in answer to his prayer, vs. 12,14, to tell him more about the last days. Still, the enemies were strong: the prince of Persia and, after him, the prince of Greece. We saw pictures of these countries, the ram and the goat, in chapter eight. There, they were fighting with each other; here, they both fight against the God of heaven; in chapter 11, they again fight against each other.

21 The Lord promised to show Daniel what was written in the book of truth. Isaiah and Jeremiah wrote about the future of Israel, as did most of the prophets. God has His plan for the world; we may think of His book in heaven which contains all these things, Psalm 119.89. Michael was the angel with special care for Israel, called here your prince.

11.1 Then the Messenger revealed that He helped Michael in the first year of Darius, when Daniel experienced God's protection in the den of lions. (This verse really goes with chapter 10. Chapters 11 and 12 give a long account of what would happen later.)



The Prophet Daniel  
Chapter 10 - The Great Struggle  
Exam 10

**Enter the correct answer**

1. Daniel had
  - a. two visions
  - b. three visions
  - c. four visions
  
2. Daniel was now
  - a. 60 years old and still had great responsibilities in Persia
  - b. 80 years old and still had great responsibilities in Persia
  - c. 60 years old and no longer had any responsibilities in Persia
  
3. The Messenger
  - a. was seen by Daniel and all the men with him
  - b. was an angel with wings
  - c. encouraged Daniel by saying that God heard his prayer the first day
  
4. The prince of Persia
  - a. is a wicked angel
  - b. was not able to delay the Messenger
  - c. delayed the Messenger for two weeks
  
5. The vision
  - a. made Daniel very sorrowful and weak
  - b. told Daniel what would happen soon
  - c. concerned other nations, not Israel

**Enter TRUE or FALSE for each statement.**

6. Mesopotamia means “between the rivers”.
7. Daniel was told three times that he was greatly beloved.
8. The Messenger spoke with ‘a still, small voice’.
9. Isaiah and Jeremiah wrote about the future of Israel.
10. The Lord Jesus has given us the whole Bible and also the help we need to understand it, so we do not need to study it.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

How can we overcome in the great spiritual battle that is going on?  
(Ephesians 6:10-18)

# 11

## More About the Great Struggle

Daniel's third vision includes chapters 10 to 12, but chapter 11 is the longest. It contains many details about the near future and the distant future. (The first verse goes with chapter 10.)

1. The second and third empires, vs. 2-4
2. The king of the south and the king of the north, vs. 5-20
3. The covenant-breaker, vs. 21-45

### 1. The second and third empires, 11.2-4

History books tell us that Daniel's prophecies were fulfilled, and we can know the names of some of these kings.

2 Daniel knew that the third kingdom would defeat the second; the goat was stronger than the ram, 8.7. Now he learned that there would be four kings in Persia after Cyrus; the last one would be very rich. This ruler became unhappy with the growing power of Greece and raised up armies to go against them. His name was Xerxes, and he reigned as king from 486 to 465, starting 49 years after Daniel died. This king is called Ahasuerus in the book of Esther, where we see that he was very rich.

3 But a very powerful Greek king arose whose name was Alexander the Great. He spread his power over the entire Persian empire, but he died in 323 B.C., still a young man. See notes on 8.8.

4 He did not have long to enjoy his victories. He had no sons who could take his throne, so four of his generals divided up the empire, north, south, east and west. No one person ruled over all these countries, as in the Babylonian and the Medo-Persian empires. But the language of Greece spread and was well known in the time of the early church, and the whole New Testament is written in Greek.

## 2. The king of the south and the king of the north, 11.5-20

South means south of the land of Israel, and north means north of their country: in other words, Egypt and Syria. Daniel had the most concern about his own people, so nothing is said about the other two generals; but see verse 14.

- a) The king of the south would be stronger, vs. 5-12
- b) The king of the north would be stronger, vs. 13-20

a) The king of the south would be stronger, 11.5-12

5 Alexander's general became strong in Egypt, but one of his officers was stronger still. This man got control over Syria and other parts of the former Greek empire. Soon, the kings of Egypt and Syria were fighting each other.

6 After many years, they made a peaceful agreement, and the king of Syria married the daughter of the king of Egypt. But this did not last long. She was killed, as was her husband, her child and her servants.

7 But Daniel prophesied that one of the same family would rise up and defeat the king of the north.

8,9 The king of Egypt would capture some of the idols and some of the leaders and take home much silver and gold treasure. This leader would be satisfied for a few years, but then the Syrian king would attack him, without success.

10 Later, his sons would gather a great Syrian army which would come in like a flood of soldiers and reach the strong city of Egypt where the king was.

11 The king of Egypt would become very angry and come out against him with a great army. The Egyptians would win.

12 This great victory would make the king of Egypt very proud. He would kill thousands of the Syrian soldiers, but this would not make Syria give up.

b) The king of the north would be stronger, 11.13-20

13 The king of Syria would come with a still larger army of men and a great deal of money.

14 At that time, another division of Alexander's kingdom would rise up against the king of Egypt; this was the king of Macedonia. The Messenger told Daniel that this would affect Israel, his people, because some of them would join Syria in fighting against Egypt. This would be following some vision from a false prophet, and it would not succeed.

15 But the king of Syria would attack Egypt, and even the strongest part of the Egyptian army would not keep him from capturing a strong city.

16 The king of Syria would be able to do as he pleased. In this, he makes us think of the little horn of 7.8,20,25, and the king of 8.25. This king of the north would set up his authority in the land of Israel and would have power to destroy parts of it.

17 He would then gather his whole army together and offer Egypt a covenant of peace. He would be willing to give his daughter to the king of Egypt, but this plan also would fail.

18 So Syria will turn to other smaller countries and take control of them. But a general from another country (Rome) would defeat him and destroy his great pride and self-confidence.

19 Then he would try to make himself more powerful in his own land, Syria, but he would not live long.

20 The next king of Syria would try to raise more money by making the people pay more taxes, but he, too, would die soon, not in a battle.

These prophecies were fulfilled in the struggles and wars between Syria and Egypt. Ancient books of history tell us who these kings were and what they did to each other. For more information, the student should read about this chapter in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* by Walvoord and Zuck.

## 3. The covenant-breaker, 11.21-45

Now we read about one great king of Syria who made and then broke a covenant with Israel. He is a picture of the coming man of sin.

- a) Near fulfillment of prophecy: Antiochus Epiphanes, vs. 21-35
- b) Future fulfillment of prophecy: man of sin, vs. 36-45

## a) Near fulfillment of prophecy: Antiochus Epiphanes, 11.21-35

The first part of this prophecy was fulfilled after Daniel died. This king Antiochus Epiphanes reigned from 175 to 164 B.C. The Messenger told God's prophet what Antiochus Epiphanes would do to Israel. This is recorded in a history book called 2 Maccabees. It is not part of the Word of God, but some Bible translations include it.

21 The Spirit called him a despised person. The people did not give him the honor of king, but he gained control by lying to people to make them feel good.

22 Then his armies were able to sweep aside all opponents. His people were willing to accept him after gaining a great victory. He also took away the high priest of Israel, called here the prince of the covenant. See verse 28.

23 Antiochus Epiphanes made covenants, but he lied and broke his own promises. He had a small number of close followers and friends and was able to get control over the kingdom with their help.

24 He entered a rich part of the country and took their money. The earlier kings never did anything like this. Then Antiochus Epiphanes tried to win over others by giving them gifts of money. After this, he planned to enter and conquer the strong cities, but this was only for a short time.

25 By then, he felt strong enough to attack Egypt. The king of Egypt gathered a very strong army to protect himself, but he could not succeed.

26 Perhaps some of his own officers plotted against him. His army was defeated and many were killed.

27 Antiochus Epiphanes sat down with the king of Egypt at a feast to arrange peace, but neither king was sincere. It was not God's time.

28 Then Antiochus Epiphanes returned to Syria with great riches, but he was not satisfied. He attacked Israel, the people of the holy covenant, and made the Temple unclean. Then he went back home.

29 God was in control, and, at the right time, Antiochus Epiphanes again came down to attack Egypt; but he failed this time even more than he did before.

30 An officer of Rome came in a ship from Kittim, or Cyprus, and ordered him to stop attacking Egypt. See verse 18. This made the proud king of Syria afraid and angry, so again he attacked little Israel, the nation of the holy covenant. Some of the Jews were willing to give up the worship of Jehovah and to help Antiochus Epiphanes.

31 So he sent his soldiers to enter the Temple and make it unclean; then the Jews could not worship there. The Syrian army made the priests stop offering the daily sacrifice, 9.21.

Far worse, the king of Syria built an altar to Zeus, the chief god of the Greeks, on top of the altar of Jehovah, then offered on this altar a pig, an unclean animal, Leviticus 11.7; Isaiah 66.3. The faithful Jews hated this act, and the Spirit called it the abomination of desolation, or the awful horror.

32 Antiochus Epiphanes was able to deceive the unbelieving Jews by making them feel proud. But the believers knew their God, and He gave them the strength to do great things.

This is still true today: like Paul we can “do all things through Him who gives strength,” Philippians 4.13.

33 Some of the Jews were able to teach others the way of the LORD, but they suffered terribly: the enemy killed some of them, burned others to death, put some in prison for a long time and robbed them of all they owned.

34 Many were killed, but God helped those who were left alive.

At this time, a priest, Mattathias, and his five sons escaped from Jerusalem to the mountains and rebelled against the Syrians. Others joined them, but some were not sincere; they did not really believe in the LORD.

35 The enemies were able to kill some of the teachers also. This tested the faith of the people, and the unbelievers left and went back to Jerusalem. This meant that the rest were stronger because the sinners were gone. The others were clean and white to the end of this time of trouble. God, in control, always puts a limit on the time when His children must suffer.

b) Future fulfillment of prophecy: man of sin, 11.36-45

History books tell us that the details of this chapter, verses 1-35, were fulfilled during the third empire, Greece, and before Rome became a world power. The last ten verses will be fulfilled before the Lord Jesus Christ comes to set up His righteous kingdom. We have read about the little horn in chapter 7, the fierce king in chapter 8 and the coming prince in 9.26. These all point forward to the world leader, the man of sin of the last days.

So Daniel prophesied about the king of the north, and his prophecy is fulfilled in two men, the second more than 2,100 years after the first, still future today. It is like two high mountains which look to be quite close, but the traveller approaches and finds they are many kilometers apart. The Old Testament prophets spoke about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, both in suffering and ruling. They did not understand how one Man could do both, 1 Peter 1.10,11. Now we know that the Lord is coming a second time, in power and great glory. His two comings are like two mountains or two high trees, far apart; but, from a great distance, they appear to be quite close together.

This great leader will insult God, vs. 36-39, succeed in war, vs. 40-45a, yet come to his end, v.45b.

36 This king will act according to his own will, get glory for himself more than any of the gods and speak terrible things against the God of all gods, 7.8,20. At first, he will seem to succeed, until the time of God's great anger is finished, 8.19. The Lord on the throne will keep control of all. In the Great Tribulation, God will pour out His fierce anger on His people and on all nations, Jeremiah 8.19; 10.10.

37 There will be two great men in the end days: the first beast and the second, Revelation 13 and 19.

First Beast	Second Beast
A Gentile, comes from sea, 13.1	A Jew, comes from the land 13.11
A king with ten crowns, 13.1	Looks like a lamb, 13.11
Accepts worship of men, 13.4	Makes men worship first beast, 13.12
Opposes saints, 13.7	Kills those who refuse, 13.15
Called man of sin, 2 Thes. 2.3	Called false prophet, 19.20

Here in Daniel, we may have a prophecy of the second beast, the false prophet, the antichrist. He will not respect the God of his fathers, as Daniel did, 2.23, nor the desire of women. This might mean the desire of Hebrew women that they might be the mother of the Messiah, or perhaps the normal desire of a man to have a wife. This fits in with people in the last days who listen to evil spirits, who say that they should not get married, 1 Timothy 4.3. Again, some Bibles say the Desire of all nations will come, Haggai 2.7, meaning that Christ alone will bring peace into this world, as all men want to see. Some teachers take these words the desire of women to mean one of the heathen goddesses. In any case, this person is against Christ – he will be the antichrist. He will not accept God or any god or goddess, but he will be like the first beast, full of pride, setting himself above all others.

38 He will honor only one power, the power of force. He will have a way to kill people who refuse to worship the first beast.



Military power will be his “god”, more than any god of his ancestors. This man will give silver, gold and riches to build up his power so he can kill millions of people.

39 With his “god of power”, he will attack those who oppose his will. He will give rewards and authority to those who help him.

40 Now the Messenger spoke of the kings of the north and south again. The king of the north is a picture of the first beast, who will gain control over many nations in the world. He will move his armies and their equipment with great speed.

41 He will enter the land of Israel and kill many thousands. However, their neighbors, Edom and Moab, will escape, also most of the Ammonites. These nations have always been enemies of Israel, so the beast may spare them; but God will punish them in other ways, Ezekiel 25.3,4,11,13.

42,43 He will quickly gain control over the land of Egypt, also other countries of Africa or the Middle East.

44 However, he will hear bad news from the east and the north, so he will destroy many people in anger before he leaves.

45a He will set up his headquarters in Israel, between the Mediterranean and the Dead Seas, in the glorious mountain, that is, Mount Zion. He will claim to be ruler of the whole world, instead of our Lord Jesus Christ who will indeed rule from Jerusalem, Psalm 2.6; Jeremiah 3.17.

45b This man will be very proud and powerful, will set himself up to rule the world and will demand and require all men to worship him. God does not stop him, until His time comes. Then the Lord says in very few words that he will come to his end – no one will help him.

It will be the same with all who oppose and reject God and His Christ. This is our only time to warn people.

The Prophet Daniel  
Chapter 11 - More About The Great Struggle  
Exam 11

**Enter the correct answer**

1. Which of the following statements is correct?
  - a. Persia had three kings after Cyrus
  - b. Persia was defeated by a Greek king called Ahasuerus
  - c. Persia's last king was Xerxes
  
2. After Alexander's death
  - a. his empire was ruled by his sons
  - b. his empire was divided into four
  - c. we learn much about the east and west of his empire
  
3. The kingdom of the south
  - a. was Syria
  - b. fought many battles against the kingdom of the north
  - c. was the final victor
  
4. Antiochus Epiphanes
  - a. desecrated the temple by sacrificing a pig
  - b. was a good king
  - c. was honoured by the people
  
5. Daniel's prophecy
  - a. has all been fulfilled
  - b. tells of a great leader who will insult God; succeed in war; yet come to his end
  - c. has no teaching for us today

**Enter TRUE or FALSE for each statement.**

6. Daniel's third vision contains many details about the near future and the distant future.
7. History books tell us that Daniel's prophecies were not fulfilled.
8. The language of Greece spread and was well known in the time of the early church.
9. God in control always puts a limit on the time when His children must suffer.
10. The glorious mountain spoken of is Mount Sinai.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

The Lord Jesus Christ is coming again. Are you ready for His coming?  
How are you seeking to help others to be ready for His coming?

# 12

## The Time of the End

This final chapter also is part of Daniel's third and last vision, which includes chapters 10 and 11. Here, we read about the end of the tribulation and the end of Daniel's life.

1. The great tribulation and the resurrection, vs. 1-4
2. Questions about the end, vs. 5-13

### 1. The great tribulation and the resurrection, 12.1-4

1 Chapter 11 ends with the great world leader attacking Israel and the Jews. Even before Christ comes, Michael the archangel will help Daniel's people, Israel. God made Michael responsible for His earthly people in a special way, 10.13,21. Michael opposed Satan in Jude verse 9 and in Revelation 12.7. Michael is the only one called archangel in Scripture, and he will give a shout when the Lord comes for His people, 1 Thessalonians 4.16.

There have often been times of great trouble for Israel and for all other nations, but this verse speaks of the worst time of trouble in the history of men. We may call it the Great Tribulation, Matthew 24.21; Revelation 7.14. God here promises that He will deliver His people at that very time, that is, those whose names are in His great book of life, Exodus 32.32; Luke 10.20; Revelation 20.12. Many Jews will lose their lives in the Great Tribulation, but some will survive. God knows who they are. God will put His seal on 144,000 who will witness for Christ during the Great Tribulation and who will welcome Christ on His return, Revelation 7.3,4; 14.1.

2 Men die and return to dust from which God formed Adam, Genesis 2.7,19; Job 34.15. Sleep often means death, Job 3.13; Psalm 13.3, and waking up means rising from death, Matthew 27.52; 1 Corinthians 15.51; 1 Thessalonians 4.14. All men will rise; some

will have eternal life, others eternal death, John 5.28,29. The first resurrection will be when the Lord comes; the second will be after the Millennium, Revelation 20.4-6,12-15.

3 The Lord Jesus Christ will catch up His people, the Church and the saints of the Old Testament, at the Rapture. After that, He will give crowns and rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ, Romans 14.10; 1 Corinthians 3.13-15; 2 Corinthians 5.10, to those who have served Him well in this world, Matthew 25.21,23.

Here, we have a promise of great glory to:  
 those who are wise and teach others, 11.33,  
 they will shine as brightly as the sky;  
 those who turn others to the righteous God,  
 they will shine like the stars forever.

Each one of us can work for these rewards. Some can teach others what they have learned from God's Word; others can tell people how to be saved and turn them to Christ. The Lord gives these gifts to certain ones, in a special way, Ephesians 4.11, but we can all share in these things.

4 The Messenger told Daniel that people would not understand these things until the time of the end; his book would be closed and also protected. In the end days, people will go about trying to understand what is happening. Daniel and his readers could not understand these prophecies as well as we can by looking back on the history. This book will bring hope to God's people during the Great Tribulation.

## 2. Questions about the end, 12.5-13

- a) The angel's question, vs. 5-7
- b) Daniel's question, vs. 8-13

a) The angel's question, 12.5-7

5 Daniel was still on the side of the Hiddekel, on the 24th day of the first month of the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia, 10.1-4. He was still hungry for food, but his great desire was to know what will happen to his beloved people in the end days. First, he saw two

angels, one on each side of the river.

6 He also saw a man wearing linen clothing standing on the river.  
This makes us think of the Lord Jesus Christ, like the man in 10.5. One of the two angels asked the Son of God how long it would be until the end of these things.

7 We believe the angel in Revelation 10.5 is also the Son of God:

Daniel 12.6,7	Revelation 10
Clothed in linen, 10.5	Clothed in a cloud, v.1
Stands on water of river	Stands on sea and earth, v.2
Lifts right and left hand	Lifts His hand to heaven, v.5
Swears by God eternal	Swears by God eternal, the Creator, v.6
Three and a half times to end of Great Tribulation	No more delay, v.6
A few words to Daniel, v.9	End of Great tTribulation v.7
	Also a few words to John, v.8.

We have heard before of the three and a half times, 7.25, when the little horn will insult the Most High God, attack His people and try to change natural customs, 7.25. This is the three and a half years of 9.27, half of the 70th week of seven years. Here, the Son of God declared that the man of sin will break the power of Israel, but then the end of all things will come.

b) Daniel's question, 12.8-13

8 Daniel heard the angel's question and the answer of the Son of God, but he did not understand. So he asked what the end of these things will be. This was like the apostles who asked the Lord Jesus when He would come again and set up His kingdom, Matthew 24.3; Acts 1.6.

9 The Lord never tells us just when He will come again, for He wants us to be ready at all times, Matthew 24.46; 25.13. Daniel was very old and soon must die. The words of his prophecy were sealed until the last days, v.4; 8.26.

10 Still, the Lord added some details. The troubles and trials of the end days will make the people pure because only true believers will stand, 11.35. Wicked men will continue to do evil and will not try to understand God's ways. But wise people will understand that the end is near.

11 Then the Lord gave Daniel an exact time: 1,290 days. Antiochus Epiphanes sacrificed a pig on the altar of the Lord, but the man of sin will defile the Temple by setting up a statue of himself which all men must worship, Revelation 13.14,15. This will be the abomination of desolation, 9.27; 11.31. This will be about the middle of the seven years.

The Jews counted a month as 30 days, so a year was 360 days. In this way, three and a half years would be 1,260 days, Revelation 11.3, so there will be another 30 days after the Lord comes until He sets everything in order. Perhaps this will be the time for the judgment of the nations, Matthew 25.31-46.

12 Then there will be another 45 days to make up the total of 1,335 days, when great blessing will come. Perhaps this will be the time when He gives authority to the faithful servants to rule over certain cities, Luke 19.17,19.

13 Daniel must go his way until his death. He will stand again on the earth and will receive the Lord's reward for his faithful service.

Like Daniel, there are many things about his book which we do not understand, and good teachers of the Word do not always agree on the meaning of some verses. Like Daniel, we can be sure that God is on the throne and that He will fulfill all His plans for our blessing and the blessing of men. Like Daniel, if we die, we will rise again and will receive a reward, if we serve Him now.

I trust that this little study of Daniel's prophecy will help you to understand better what God has revealed and to live according to His will, 1 John 3.2.

R. E. Harlow



## CHART ON BIBLE PROPHECY

This chart is from the book WHAT NEXT? A PRIMER ON PROPHECY.

The line shows the time from Daniel to eternity in the future. THE TIME OF THE GENTILES extends from the time Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem until the Lord Jesus Christ comes to reign, Luke 21.24.

- 1- The four empires which we have studied in the book of Daniel.
- 2- The first coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He came down from heaven, died on the cross, went back to heaven and sent down the Holy Spirit, John 16.7,28.
- 3- The Church Age, in seven steps, like the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3.
- 4- The Lord Jesus comes first for His Church, at the time of the Rapture, 1 Corinthians 15.51,52; 1 Thessalonians 4.14-17. See notes on Daniel 12.1,2.
- 5- The Church will be with Him in heaven:  
1st, the Judgment Seat of Christ, 2 Corinthians 5.10. See notes on Daniel 12.3;  
2nd, the Wedding Feast, Revelation 19.7,8.
- 6- At the same time, on earth there will be Great Tribulation. The first beast will rule, with the help of the second beast. See notes on Daniel 11.37.
- 7- Then Christ will come in power and great glory, Daniel 7.13,14. Satan will be bound with a chain, and the Lord will reign on earth for a thousand years, the Millennium, Revelation 20.1-4.
- 8- Satan will become free for a short time, then the holy angels will throw him into the Lake of Fire, Revelation 20.3,7,10.
- 9- Wicked men will rise from death (the second resurrection) and



stand before the Great White Throne. They will have to go to the place prepared for Satan and his angels, Revelation 20.5.12-15.

- 10- Finally, God will destroy this earth and create a New Heaven and a new earth, 2 Peter 3.13. Then God will be all in all, 1 Corinthians 15.27,28.

**The Prophet Daniel**  
**Chapter 12 - The Time of the End**  
**Exam 12**

**Enter the correct answer**

1. Michael
  - a. is responsible for God's earthly people in a special way
  - b. opposed Satan (in Jude verse 9)
  - c. is the only one called archangel in Scripture
  - d. all the above
  
2. The Book of Daniel
  - a. could be understood by Daniel as well as we understand it
  - b. will bring hope to God's people during the great tribulation
  - c. is easy to understand
  - d. all the above
  
3. The word sleep in the Bible
  - a. often means death
  - b. always means death
  - c. never means death
  
4. Daniel saw a man
  - a. clothed in a cloud
  - b. standing on sea and earth
  - c. lift his right and left hand to heaven
  
5. Regarding the end times
  - a. The troubles and trials will make people pure
  - b. Wicked men will continue to do evil
  - c. Wise people will understand that the end is near
  - d. All the above

**Enter TRUE or FALSE for each statement.**

6. The great tribulation is the worst time of trouble in the history of men.
7. The man of sin will defile the temple by setting up a statue of himself which all men must worship.
8. There will only be one resurrection.
9. All men will rise, some to eternal life, others to eternal death.
10. We can be sure that God is on the throne and that He will fulfil all His plans.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

Daniel could say, as Paul did "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

(2 Tim 4:7) How can we ensure that we do the same?

## Reference Index

The notes in this book about Daniel may help you to understand other verses, both in Daniel and in other books of the Bible. For example, you may be studying in Genesis. This list will show you some verses in Daniel which teach about the same thing.

GEN	2.7,19	DAN	12.2	NEH	2.1-8	DAN	9.25
	.14		10.4		12.22		6.1
	3.24		4.13	EST	1.2		8.2
	10.1,2		6.1; 8.21		.3		5.1
	22.15,16		6.22		.19		6.1
	24.10		10.4		.22		4.1
	39.9		1.8		3.10		6.17
	.23		6.28		.12		4.1
	41.24		1.20		7.10		6.24
	41.25		2Int		8.8		6.17
	.42		5.7		.9		4.1
	49.24		2.45	JOB	2.8		9.3
EXO	32.31		3.1		3.13		12.2
	.32		9.5; 12.1		14.7		4.15
NUM	6.25		9.17		34.15		12.2
	21.6-9		9.20,21		42.6		9.3
DEU	5.8,9		3.1	PSA	2.6		11.45
	.26		6.25-27		.8		7.14;9.16
	7.9		9.4		.8,9		2.45
	28.45-50		9.11		9.15,16		6.24
	29.19-21		9.11		13.3		12.2
JOS	24.15		1.8		32.1,2		9.24
RUT	1.16		1.8		66.18		9.4
1SA	2.30		1.21		72.8,17		2.45
2SA	7.16		1.2		87.2		1.2
	12.21		9.3		118.22		2.45
1KI	3.15		5.1		139.1-6		2.22
	10.1		8.23	PR	6.16,17		4.30
	18.36,38		9.20	ISA	6.2,3		4.13
2CH	6.6		1.2		.8		1.8
	13.8		3.1		8.14		2.45
	34.3		1.8		9.6		8.25
EZR	4.5		6.1		.7		9.24
	7.12		2.37		13.17,19		5.25
NEH	1.1		8.2		.17		5.27

ISA	14.4	DAN 8.24	DAN	3.19	DAN	8.23
	.12	1.7; 8.24		.25		7.13
	21.1,2,9	5.26		.26		4.2
	28.16	2.45		.27		6.23
	40.19	3.1		.30		6.28
	43.7	9.19		4.17		8.13
	44.28	5.25		.37		2.17
	45.1	5.25		5.11		4.9
	46.10	Int		.13		6.13
	47.1	5.25		.23		2.17
	57.20	7.2		6.7-9		1.9
	59.3	1.8		.28		10.1
	60.21	9.24		7.5		8.3
JER	1.6	1.3		.8,20		11.16,36
	3.17	11.45		.13,14		CHART
	5.28	9.12		.21		9.26
	10.4	3.1		.25		8.10;11.16;
	25.1,11,12	9.2				12.7
	36.1,2,4	9.2		8.8		11.3
	39.11,12	1.2		.16		9.20
	40.4	1.2		.18		10.9
	50.2	5.25		.19		11.36
EZE	1.13,16,27	7.9		.24		10.13
	7.22	9.17		.25		9.27
	14.8	9.17		.26		12.9
	.14, 20	Int;9.1,5		9.21		11.31
	25.3,4,11,13	11.41		.23		10.10
	26.7	2.37		.25		8.25
	27.13	8.21		.26		11.36 Int
	28.2	8.24		.27		12.7,11
	.3	Int; 9.1		10.1		1.21
	.12-14	8.24		.1-4		12.5
	37.25	8.25		.13,21		12.1
DAN	1.1,2	9.2		11.31		12.11
	2.21	3.12		11.33		12.3
	.23	11.37		.35		12.10
	.25	6.13		.37		CHART
	.28	3.14,15		12.3		CHART
	.39	5.25				
	.37,38	3.1; 4.2	JOE	3.6		8.21
	.47	3.14,15	NAH	2.10		5.6
			ZEP	3.1		1.8

HAG	1.1	DAN	6.1	ROM	13.1-7	DAN	2.21
	2.7		11.37		14.10		12.3
ZEC	9.13		8.21	1CO	3.13-15		12.3
	.....				4.9		4.13
MAT	2.16		1.9		8.5,6		4.9
	6.5,6		6.10		10.20		4.9
	14.6-10		6.16		11.10		4.13
	24.3		12.8		15.27,28		CHART
	.15		Int		.51		12.2
	.15-18		9.27		.51,52		CHART
	.21		12.1	2CO	5.10		12.3
	.30		7.14	EPH	3.10		4.13
	25.21,23		12.3		4.11		12.3
	.31-46		12.11		6.11,12		10.13
	26.64-66		6.10	PHI	4.6		2.23
	27.52		12.2		.13		11.32
	28.18		7.14	COL	3.15		2.23
MAR	6.27		1.9	1TH	4.14-16		12.1,2;
	13.14		Int				CHART
LUK	2.37		9.3	2TH	2.3		7.25;9.27;
	10.20		12.1				11.37
	15.18		1.8		.3,4		6.9
	19.1,2		6.2	1TI	4.3		11.37
	20.20		6.4		5.21		4.13
	21.24		CHART		6.15		2.37
JOH	5.28,29		12.2	HEB	11.25,26		1.8
	8.6,8		5.5		.34		3.24
	.12		2.22		12.10,11		4.37
	12.20		8.21	1PE	1.10,11		11.36 Int
	13.23		10.10		5.5		4.30
	15.14,15		9.23;10.10	1JO	1.5		2.22
	16.7,28		CHART	JUD	v.9		12.1
	19.12,16		6.16	REV	1.13-15		10.6
	.26		10.10		2 and 3		CHART
	21.7,20		10.10		2.10		8.14
ACT	1.6		12.8		7.2		6.27
	3.3-8		9.19		.9,14		3.6
	5.29		3.12		.14		12.1
	12.1,2		1.9		10.1-8		12.7
	.22,23		6.7		11.3		12.11
	14.1		8.21		12.6,7		12.7

REV	13.1-7	DAN 9.27; 11.37	REV	20.1-4	DAN	CHART
	.4	8.24		.4		3.6
	.8	6.9		.5		CHART
	.11-15	11.37		.11,12		7.10
	13.15	3.6		.12		12.1
	14.9-11	3.6		.12-15		12.2; CHART
	17.14	2.37		22.1		7.10
	19.7,8	CHART				
	.16	2.37; 8.25				
	.19,20	11.37				
	19.20	8.2				

