

DANIEL 2020

I. Background:

The book of Daniel can be divided into two sections. A narrative section (Chapters 1-6) and a prophetic section (Chapters 7-12). It shows us the faithfulness of God in preserving His exiled people. It shows us faith in action while under pressure and it shows us God's faithfulness expressed in His prophetic plans for Israel. Before starting a study of the text it is important to understand the setting.

- a. Judah had been resisting the Assyrian Empire for decades. So had Babylon. Both nations saw Assyria as an arch enemy. Judah had fought them and been miraculously delivered by God from an Assyrian invasion (See Isaiah 36-38). Babylon tried unsuccessfully to revolt and establish their independence.
 - Judah and Babylon even sought to support each other (Is 38-39). It didn't end well (King Hezekiah tried to impress and draw into a special relationship (alliance?).

- b. Babylon, led by King Nabopolassar formed an alliance with the Medes and attacked Assyria.
 - Egypt, a vassal of Assyria hurried to assist their overlords and were confronted with the army of Judah, led by King Josiah at Megiddo. Judah wanted no one to help their Assyrian enemies. Judah lost, the king was killed. At the battle of Carchemish (605 BC) Egypt was defeated. On their retreat back to Egypt they deposed Josiah's son Jehoahaz (who only ruled for 3 months) and placed his brother Jehoakim on the throne.
 - Babylon, after defeating Egypt and Assyria invaded Judah and established their rule there.
 - * Judah became a dependency of Babylon.
 - * The gold and silver items used in temple worship were seized and taken to Babylon.
 - * Judah seemed to receive favorable treatment as well. (The young men of the nobility were taken to Babylon to be trained and to enter government service).

II. Daniel chapter 1

- a. Daniel and other teachable young men from the royal family and nobility were taken from Judah to Babylon to be trained in the language and learning of the Babylonians (also called "Chaldeans") for 3 years and then to enter the service of the king

- b. They were to be fed from the king's provisions (nothing but the best!).
 - Think about what these young men were going through:
 - * Whatever life plans they had were scrapped (career, marriage etc).
 - * They had to learn a new language.
 - * They had to study a whole new course of learning.
 - * They had their names changed.
 - * They had to adapt to a whole new diet (Ever live in another country? Did you find the food weird? Now think teenagers with strange-to-them food).
 - Daniel and his three friends were God-fearing young men and had a problem. Eating the king's provisions would entail a violation of the dietary laws God had given to the Jews.

- c. Daniel had found favor with the chief official and asked him for a different diet.
 - The official declined, fearing the wrath of the king.
 - Daniel appealed to the guard assigned to supervise he and his three friends.
 - * Please test us for 10 days and see how it turns out.
 - * God blessed their desire to honor him - He gave them better competence in their training than their peers and He gave Daniel the ability to understand dreams and visions.

We don't always have the freedom to choose. How do we respond when that happens?

In 1 Cor 7:17-24 God commands not once but three times that we should seek and serve Him where we are. Will we "bloom" where He has planted us?

Looking at Daniel 1, the young men sought God in adverse circumstances. In 1 Thess 5:18 We are exhorted to give thanks in all things. Will we? Only if we trust His will for us. He causes all things to "work together for good" for His people. It doesn't say that all things are good.

Don't wait to do this last minute - there is a lot here!

For next week: Read Daniel chapter 2 through at least a couple times and answer the following questions:

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II. Daniel Chapter 2

1. When did the king have his dream? In His second year on the throne. Had Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah finished their three years of training?

2. What was the cause of his anger at the astrologers (magi) and other advisors?

a. What did the king demand? *He demanded that his “spiritual advisors” relate to him what he had dreamed. It seems that he figured that if these men were truly in touch with the gods, then they ought to have no problem complying. And if not, then he could rid himself of them.*

b. What admission did the astrologers make that infuriated him?

- How much control had these people had in the past? (E.g., see 1 King 20:23-25, Ez 21:18-23 - the monarchs of the east didn't do much apart from consulting their “spiritual advisors”). *The “spiritual advisors” of eastern kings exercised a good deal of influence/ control. Nebuchadnezzar was likely not alone in suspecting them of meddling and manipulation.*
- So by their statement, the astrologers admitted what? *They admitted that the god's alone could reveal to the king what he had dreamed. And they “didn't live among men.” They thus admitted that they were not in communication with the divine. They admitted that they were frauds! They confirmed to the king what he already suspected. They may as well have signed their own death warrants.*

3. Upon learning about the king's order, what did Daniel and his friends do? *They sought the Lord's help and guidance.*

4. Describe:

a. The king's dream.

- *He saw a large statue made in four segments: Head of gold, shoulders and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze and legs of iron with the feet mixed iron and baked clay.*
 - * *A rock cut out of a mountain but not by human hands, came and struck the statue, crushing it.*
 - * *The rock grew into a mountain until it filled the whole earth.*

b. The interpretation:

- *This will take place in the future.*
- *The four segments of the statue represented four kingdoms. They seem to be “stand ins” for all human pretensions to power, rule etc. Since Babel, humanity has defied God and set itself against Him.*
- *Nebuchadnezzar was himself the “head of gold.” And it came to him from God.*
- *The other kingdoms that followed him were inferior (Note the progression from gold to silver, to bronze and then to iron).*
- *The Great God will set up a kingdom (rock/mountain) that will be indestructible, eternal, will not be taken from its subjects and will crush human dominion/pretensions (the statue) and end them.*
- *The God of Heaven, the Great God has communicated with the king.*
 - * *He exists.*
 - * *He established the king.*
 - * *He communicates with humanity (specifically the king).*
 - * *He reveals the future.*

5. How did Daniel tell the king that the dream was known and interpreted?

- a. *Daniel claimed no credit but gave all the credit to God.*
- b. *Daniel “agreed” with the king’s magi/astrologers that “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner” could do as the king demanded BUT, “there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries,” that God had communicated with the king and shown him the future.*
- c. *Who received the credit? God alone.*
- d. *How did the king respond?*
 - *What is he beginning to learn? That God **is**, that He speaks to people, knows the future and had placed Nebuchadnezzar in his high position (vs 36-38). The implication is clear that the king didn’t gain it by his own wisdom, courage and power.*
 - *Awestruck, the king honored “Daniel’s God” and promoted Daniel by placing him in charge of the king’s spiritual advisors. Who had been shown to be clueless and dishonest.*

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III. Daniel Chapter 3: The Image of Gold

1. The king, apparently wanting some way to have his officials make a binding declaration of loyalty, set up a golden image (after all, he was the “head of gold”) on a level area.

- a. His magi (also, “astrologers,” or “Chaldeans”) had been discredited.
- b. The royal administrators/officials were called to an assembly.
- c. At the dedication of the image, all were commanded to fall prostrate and worship the image. Failure to do so would result in their execution.

2. The Judean captives refused to comply.

- a. As God-fearing Jews, they were sworn to worship only God.
- b. They had been promoted by the king over native Caldean/Babylonians and Daniel had been placed in charge of the magi. (Dan 2:48-49)
 - These officials seemed to nurse a strong sense of grievance and when they noticed that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Hereafter referred to as S, M, A) refused to stand, they saw an opportunity.
 - * The approached the king and denounced the three men.
 - * Unspoken but clearly implied, they were rebuking the king for his promotion of them.
 - * What they did was to call the king out in front of all his subordinates.
- c. The king, embarrassed and angry, called the three men up:
 - He gave them an out (He must have valued them and was likely very frustrated that they didn’t go along with his order). From his perspective, “What would bowing to the statue hurt?”
 - He restated the command and reiterated the threat of death for non-compliance.
 - S, M, A stood firm and told the king that they would not obey. They asserted that God could deliver them if He so chose but even if he didn’t, they would not disobey Him.

3. The king, embarrassed and angry, ordered them men killed.

- a. The king ordered the furnace super-heated.
- b. Those who threw them into the furnace died.
- c. The king stood amazed when he saw the three men walking around unhurt accompanied by a radiant fourth person.

4. The men came out and were examined by the king and his officials

- a. They were unharmed, did not even have the smell of smoke, their clothes were clean.
- b. The king came away with a wider understanding of God.
- c. He commended their faith and courage.
- d. He decreed their protection (Dan 3:29)
- e. He promoted S, M, A.

Between chapters 2-3, Nebuchadnezzar has learned:

- a. There is a God
- b. He communicates with people (He had shown the king the future).
- c. He is involved with people and acts in their behalf.

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IV Daniel Chapter 4: The King's Testimony

1. The Greeting:

vs 1-3

- a. To all people everywhere
- b. It was his pleasure to relate the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High had performed for *him*. In this letter we see his concept of God change from theoretical to personal. *Is God a concept to us or a reality? Do we know Him or just about Him?*
 - God's signs and wonders are great and mighty.
 - His kingdom is eternal.
 - His dominion is enduring.

In this greeting/introduction it is obvious that he is writing this after the events that he describes. He writes this as his personal testimony of God's reality and of his belief.

2. His testimony:

vs 4-34a

- a. He was at home, prosperous and (self) contented.
- b. He had a dream that made him afraid (He must have had some idea that it concerned himself.)
 - He summoned the wise men (Chaldeans, Magi, Astrologers) to interpret it but they could not (Or dared not - they had admitted their inability to reveal the king's previous dream in chapter 2, yet not only had God revealed it through Daniel, but he had also given the interpretation. And, Daniel was their boss (See 2:48).
 - Daniel came and listened to the king relate the dream.
 - * He saw a great, sheltering, world-know tree that towered over all others (Think "head of gold").
 - * A heavenly messenger ("watcher," angel), calling out the order to cut it down, limb it, scatter its fruit and leave the stump bound. "Let him" be drenched with the dew, live with the animals and on plants, and be given the mind of an animal until 7 times (years) passed by.
 - * The decision was announced and the verdict declared (By God).
 - . So that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over men.
 - . So that the living may know that the Most High gives rule to anyone He wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.
- c. Daniel gave the interpretation.
 - Nebuchadnezzar was the great tree. He had become strong and ruled an extensive dominion.
 - He would be driven away from people and would live like an animal until 7 times passed and he acknowledged that the Most High was sovereign over human kingdoms and gives them to anyone He wishes.
 - The stump bound and left in the ground meant that the king still had a future and that his position would be restored to him when he acknowledged God.
 - Daniel followed the interpretation with advice: Repent!

d. The fulfillment:

- All of this happened to him (vs 28).
- 12 months passed and the king probably by then had all but forgotten it.
- He was full of pride and claimed credit for what God had done for him. (vs 28-30)
- He heard from heaven his judgment and the sentence was immediately carried out.
During the time of his insanity who ruled Babylon, Daniel? It is clear that the kingdom was held for him during this time.
- At the end of the 7 years, he raised his eyes to heaven and was healed, his sanity restored.
- He praised the Most High, honored and glorified Him who is eternal.
 - * Whose dominion is eternal.
 - * Whose kingdom endures.
 - * Who is above humanity.
 - * Who is sovereign (rules) over angelic and human powers.
- He was restored to his throne and prospered.
- He acknowledged the King of Heaven.
 - * Everything He does is just and right.
 - * Those who walk in pride He is able to humble.

Starting in chapter 2 and up to this point, the king has learned some things: There is a God. This God communicate with people (Unlike the “gods” of his Magi (See 2:11). This God acts on behalf of His servants. And finally, this God rules over all (is sovereign) and is Lord.

Daniel and his three friends also learned some things. God works through all things, even what to them had been a calamity. Seeking Hm in and through all things is our calling and as we seek Him He will use us for glory. Think of what 1 Thess 5:16-18 covers when it says “Give thanks in all things.” We need to acknowledge His lordship and wisdom. He does all things well. If you have any questions you can contact me at <pastor@standishbiblechurch.org>.

In Jesus, Tony

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V Daniel Chapter 5: God will be seen as holy.

1. Years had passed since the events described in chapter 4. Kings had come and gone.

- a. A list of Babylonian monarchs who ruled during Daniel's life:
- Nabopolassar (626 - 605 BC). He revolted against Assyria and with the help of his allies conquered his former overlords.
 - Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 BC). He served under his father as crown prince and cavalry commander. When he assumed the throne, Babylon had already conquered Judah.
 - Amel - Marduk (562-560 BC) Nebuchadnezzar's son. He had a brief reign and was murdered and his throne usurped by his son-in-law Nerglissar.
 - Neriglissar (560-556).
 - Labashi - Marduk (556) A grandson of Nebuchadnezzar. He lost his throne in a coup d'etat. He ruled only 9 months.
 - Nabonidus (556-539 BC). He was a devotee of the moon god, Sin. He neglected the main Babylonian deity Marduk, which angered Marduk's priests and the local population. The Medes / Persian king Cyrus offered to restore the worship of that god to its former prominence. Nabonidus deserted Babylon to pursue the worship of Sin and left his son, Belshazzar to rule in his absence.

2. So, as we read the narrative in chapter 5, there is a war going on. Medio-Persia and their allies have made an attack on Babylon and besieged the city. The Babylonian ruler, Belshazzar, in an apparent effort to boost the morale of his nobles and officials has held a banquet. He decides to use the gold and silver temple goblets for the banquet. Perhaps to remind himself and his nobles of past Babylonian conquests and victories.

- a. He and his guests praised false gods for the beauty of articles that had been dedicated to the one true God. Things went downhill from there.
- b. The fingers of a hand appeared and wrote on the plastered wall near the lamp stand (God endured that everyone would be able to see it!).
- The king became frightened as he watched the fingers writing.
 - He summoned his wise men/spiritual advisors but they could neither read nor interpret it.
 - The queen (likely the queen-mother) proposed a solution - Call Daniel. It is hard to know if he still had a position in government or was living in retirement. She "reminded" the king of Daniel's role in Nebuchadnezzar's government and of the way God had used him to reveal mysteries.
 - Daniel was summoned and both read and interpreted the writing.
 - * He wasn't impressed with the king's offer of reward.
 - * He rebuked the king for his opposition to the Lord of heaven.
 - * He pronounced God's judgment.
- c. Several things then ensued:
- That night Daniel was proclaimed third ruler in the kingdom.
 - That night the city was breached and it fell to the besieging army.
 - That night king was slain.
 - That night the Medes and the Persians took over.

One treats God with contempt at their peril. He is holy.

Also, mere knowledge does not save. The king knew all about the God of heaven (as Daniel made quite plain in 5:22).

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VI. Chapter 6, God is revealed as supreme to a ruler. And Daniel's faith and commitment are used by God to reach another ruler.

1. The New king (Darius) appointed 120 Satraps to rule over his new kingdom. And over those, he placed three administrators to look out for the government's interests. Daniel was one of them. (vs 1-3)

- a. Daniel distinguished himself so well that the king planned to place him over the whole kingdom.
- b. Remember that the Medio-Persian kingdom had just taken over the Babylonian kingdom and its empire. They likely hoped to enrich themselves while they served in their new positions. But there was a block to their ambitions: A Judean captive who had been a very capable administrator in the Babylonian (Chaldean) Empire: Daniel.

2. Daniel's fellow administrators and the satraps tried to dig up "dirt" against Daniel. They wanted him gone. (vs 4-5)

- a. They could find no corruption in him. Why? Because he was:
 - Trustworthy
 - He was not corrupt
 - He was not negligent.
- b. The conclusion that they came to was that the only way to get at Daniel was by using his faith against him. What a great testimony! Would that the same could be said of all of us.

3. In a manner similar to what we read about in Daniel 3, the king was likely open to a binding declaration of loyalty to his new regime. (vs 6-12)

- a. They approached the king and got him to agree to the establishment of a decree that demanded the death of everyone who prayed to any other God but him for 30 days.
- b. Then they went to spy on Daniel to see if he still prayed to the LORD.
 - Note that Daniel did nothing out of the ordinary but prayed as he always did.
 - He didn't even lock them out of his home.
 - They observed him praying and went to rat on him to the king.

4. The king cornered: (vs 13-20)

- a. His satraps/administrators sprang their trap.
- b. They rebuked the king (vs 13) for his backing of Daniel.
- c. They demanded that he carry out the required penalty.
- d. A few things to note about Daniel's testimony to the king:
 - The attack on Daniel greatly distressed him.
 - The king made a determined effort to rescue Daniel.
 - How can any of us so live that those we serve will value us?
- e. The sentence was carried out:
 - Daniel was placed into the lion's den.
 - The den was sealed shut (By the king and his noble's signet).
- f. The king did something akin to fasting and prayer: He took no amusements, no food and no sleep. He had enacted a law that had condemned an innocent man and he knew it. How might he have been feeling toward his administrators and satraps? What in the text reveals his attitude toward Daniel?
 - Verse 18:
 - Verse 19:
- g. What seems to have been the king's attitude regarding Daniel's faith (verse 20)? What might Daniel have been telling him by his life example and words?

5. Daniel was vindicated and the power and character of God revealed (vs 21-28)

- a. Daniel professed his innocence of any wrongdoing and testified that God had protected him (vs 21-22).
- b. How did the king respond to this news (vs 23-24)?
 - Regarding Daniel?
 - Regarding those who had attempted to have him killed?
 - Regarding the God in Whom Daniel believed and trusted?
- c. What might this reveal about the king's opinion re: the LORD?

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Chapter 7

Read through Daniel 2, Rev 13 and Daniel 7 make the following observations:

1. What is similar in these passages?

Dan 2

Dan 7

Rev 13

2. What is different in these passages?

Dan 2.

Dan 7.

Rev 13

3. Read verse 7:2-3, 17. See also Rev 13:1, 15. When used metaphorically, what does the “sea” and “many waters” mean?

4. So, the narrative of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (Chpt 2) and Daniel’s vision here are similar. Describe it.

5. At the end, the time of judgment, who is the Judge? See Matt 16:27, 26:64, Mk 14:61b-63, Lk 21:25-28, 22:66-70, Jn 5:22-23, Act 10:42, Act 17:31
6. Describe the kingdom and authority of the Son of Man (2:44-45, 7:14)
7. Now, about this “horn” thing: A horn in scripture very often represents strength or a strong person. See 1 Sam 2:1, Ps 75:10, 89:17, 24; 92:10; Ez 29:21 for some examples of this. It can refer to a ruler as well.
- a. Who has seven heads and 10 horns? See Rev 12:3, 9.
 - b. What does it say about a kingdom and leader if it has seven heads/12 horns? See Rev 13:1-4, 17:12-14.
 - c. In Dan 7, the Son of Man comes in glory to judge and rule. What will happen to the Kingdoms of this world, Satan and his “tools” when Jesus arrives?
 - Is 11:4
 - Dan 2:34-35
 - Dan 2:45-45
 - Dan 7:13-14
 - Dan 7:26-27
 - Matt 25:41
 - 2 Thess 1:5-10
 - 2 Thess 2:8
 - 2 Tim 4:1
 - Heb 2:14-18
 - 1 Jn 3:8
 - Rev 19:15

OK folks, this should prove interesting for you and help illustrate the Lord Jesus' position as the Judge of all.

For a further understanding of the Lord's role as our substitute and high priest, consider the following passages:

Rom 5:12-21 - compare and contrast Adam and Christ, who both acted for humanity

Phil 2:5-10 - Describe what Jesus did in becoming human.

Heb 2:5-18 (esp vs 14-18)

Heb 4:14-16

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Chapter 8

Read chapter 8 through a couple times and answer the following question (As best you can. Don't stress on this, just look for the obvious).

1. Regarding this vision:

vs 1-2

- a. **When did it take place?** In the 3rd year of king Belshazzar (Before chapter 5!)
- b. **In the vision where was Daniel?** (The citadel of Susa).

2. What did Daniel see?

vs 3-14

a. Describe the 1st animal.

- **What did it look like?** A ram with two horns (one longer than the other).

- **What did it do?** It charged toward the west, north and south. He was so powerful that no animal could stand against him and none could rescue from his power.

b. Describe the 2nd animal.

- **What did it look like?** A goat, having a prominent horn between his eyes. He was swift, Starting in the west and crossing the whole earth w/o touching the ground.

- **What did it do?** He attacked the ram and shattered his horns. He knocked the ram down and trampled him. None could rescue the ram from his power. But, at the height of his power the large horn was broken off and in its place four others grew toward the four winds of heaven.

- **Describe the little horn.** He started small and grew in power to the south, east and toward the beautiful land (Israel). He grew until he reached an amazing prominence. He set himself up to be as great as the Prince of the host and stopped the daily sacrifice and brought low the place of His sanctuary (Temple). He would (for a while) be over the host [of the saints] and assail the truth.

- **Who are the "holy ones" referred to in verse 13-14.** The context does not say but my opinion is, that they are angels.

- **What is going to take 2300 evenings and mornings?** Rebellion that causes desolation and the ceasing of the daily sacrifice and on to “giving of the saints” over to the Little Horn until the reconsecration of the sanctuary (6.3 years).

3. Who explained the vision to Daniel? One who looked like a man. **vs 15-27**

- What was (is!) his name?** Gabriel (“Warrior of God”)
- How did his presence effect Daniel?** It placed Daniel in a deep sleep with his face to the ground. (See also 10:7-11)
- Describe the interpretation of the vision.**
 - **Who is the Ram?** Media-Persia (Of which Persia was the more dominant partner. (remember that in his vision, one horn of the ram was longer).
 - **Who is the goat?** Greece. The large horn would signify Alexander the Great. Since a portion of NE Greece had suffered Persian occupation and Greece had been at war with Persia, Alexander was ambitious to settle a score. His light, highly organized and mobile forces defeated vastly larger Persian forces in battle after battle and completely subjugated Persia and assumed control over their empire. Then Alexander died and in his place the empire was ruled by four main generals and their descendants. The four regions they ruled were Egypt, Syria (which included Israel, Lebanon, part of southern Anatolia, Mesopotamia etc.), Greece, and central and western Anatolia.

4. Look up the Maccabean Revolt and see what you can discover about it.

- Who was it against?** Antiochus the IV (Epiphanes) (ruled 175BC -164BC).
- What triggered it?** Antiochus wanted to force the Jews he ruled to adopt Greek culture. Judea had been a political “football” and was at times controlled by Egypt And at times by Syria. Antiochus outlawed the Jewish religion and demanded that The Jews worship the Greek god Zeus. He defiled the altar at the temple.
- Why do you think God wanted to show this to Daniel (and through him, to Israel)?**
My thoughts are that when these things happened it would greatly strengthen the faith of those who lived through those events. God had a plan (He always does).

Questions: contact me at <loubetole@gmail.com>

DANIEL
Chapter 9
Pt 1

Chapter 9 is set in the first year of Darius son or Xerxes (See Chapter 5:30-31).

1. What did Daniel understand from the scriptures? Look up the following:

a. Jer 25:1-11

b. Lev 25:1-7

c. Lev 26:27-35 (For the “full length” version, look top Deut 28).

d. 2 Chr 36:2—23

2. So Daniel prayed, pleading with prayer, petition, fasting and in sackcloth and ashes.

a. So, regarding prayer - what is it?

b. Turn to Matt 6:5-14. What direction is given here?

- Don't be like who?

- Pray even (especially) if no one is watching? For whom do we do this?

- Don't babble, be thoughtful. Think quality not quantity (1 Cor 14:15).

- What is the significance of sackcloth, ashes, fasting?

3. From verses 9:4-19, how did Daniel pray?

- a. Regarding God? He recited God's character and promise (vs 4). He acknowledged God's righteousness, power ("You have scattered us." vs 7). He acknowledged God's mercy and forgiveness and justice. He had fulfilled His word to them and brought disaster on them and scattered them. He asked God to turn away His anger and wrath, and for His own sake, to favor and restore them.
- b. Regarding Israel? They had sinned and done wrong, rebelled and turned away from His commands and laws, ignored His prophets.
- c. To what did Daniel attribute Israel's condition? Rebellion! Refusal to listen and obey.
 - What had God done? (e.g., Jer 11). Sent warnings, prophets, judgments etc.
 - How had they responded? (9:13-14) (See Is 30:1-17 for a good example) Rejection of God's counsel. They had not sought His favor or paid attention to His truth.
 - What does Daniel admit on behalf of his people? (9:15-16).
 - What does he ask God to do? See vs 17-19 - "Hear, open Your eyes," see the desolation of the city that bears His name. "Listen, forgive!, hear and act!" And this, for Your sake.

OK, for next week re-read Dan 9 again and we will examine God's answer.

DANIEL
Chapter 9
Pt 2

Chapter 9 is set in the first year of Darius son or Xerxes (See Chapter 5:30-31).

Read Daniel 9 again and answer the following:

- 1. When did God send Daniel an answer to his prayer? (See vs 21-23).**
- 2. Who came to him with God's answer? Where else in scripture can you find him?**
 - a. At what time?**
 - b. How did he arrive?**
- 3. Why did he say he came?**
- 4. When was the answer to Daniel's prayer given?**
- 5. 70 "7s*" are decreed - for what? Make a list!**
 - a.**
 - b.**
 - c.**
 - d.**
 - e.**
 - f.**
- 6. When was the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem given? Look at 2 Chr 36:23, Ezra 1:2-4, New 2:4-9**
 - a. Until what? (See vs 23b)**
 - b. What would happen during and by the end of 69 "7s" from that decree? (vs 25-26)**
 - To the city (Read Nehemiah).
 - To the Anointed One (Read Is 53).
 - What would be happening during the rebuilding of the city (Look at Nehemiah again).
 - To the city after the Anointed One is cut off? (See Lk 19:41-44)
 - c. What will continue until the end? See also Mtt 24:6**
 - d. How will the end come?**
 - e. Who is the "he" mentioned in verse 27? Give it your best guess.**

* From the context it seems the most logical understanding of the "7s" are that they represent "weeks" of years. 62 "7s" = 434 years.

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A REVIEW

1. **Who was Daniel? (This is from chapter 1)**
 - a. **Where was he from?**
 - b. **How did he come to Babylon?**
 - c. **Who came with him?**
 - d. **What was the relationship between his country and Babylon?**
 - e. **How might Daniel and his friends viewed God?**

2. **Who was Nebuchadnezzar? (Chapters 2-4)**
 - a. **What opinion did he have of the Babylonian religion and its gods? (2:1-13)**
 - b. **What did his own religious leaders admit in 2:10-11?**
 - c. **What did he learn about the one true God in chapter 2?**
 - 2:27-28
 - 2:29
 - 2:34-35
 - 2:44-45
 - d. **What did Nebuchadnezzar declare (2:46-49)?**
 - e. **In chapter 3 the king learned about the seriousness of faith/obedience to/in God.**
 - **The Babylonian religious leaders had already admitted their uselessness, so he sought to bind his administrator's loyalty a different way.**
 - **What did the king learn about God in 3:28-29?**
 - f. **Finally (regarding Nebuchadnezzar), what did the king learn in chapter 4? (34-37)**

3. **Who was Belshazzar? (Chapter 5)**
 - a. **What was his error/sin? (See 5:1-4, 18-24)**
 - b. **How did God confront him?**

4. Now Daniel is used by God to minister to yet another ruler. (Chapt 6)

- a. Who was Darius the Mede? (See 5:30-31)**
- b. How did God use Daniel to testify to the king? (6:25-28).**

5. What did each of these kings have to learn regarding God?

- a. Do you think any of them became believers? Explain.**
- b. Do you think any of them refused to believe? Explain.**

Look up and read Rom 8:38. What does this verse say?

Look up 1 Thess 5:16-17. When/where does this apply?

Finally, look up Isaiah 6

From verses 8-13 describe Isaiah's ministry.

From 1 Cor 4:2 - what is God looking for in us?

How does God define success/victory? (Think Elijah, Elisha etc.).

6. Daniel 7 (and 2) are a brief glimpse and synopsis of Revelation. What is the basic message of these two chapters?

7. Daniel 8 has to do with what two nations?

- a. When did Daniel have this vision? (Vs 1) What strikes you about the timing?**
- b. What did this vision predict?**

8. Daniel 9.

- a. What did Daniel understand from reading the prophet Jeremiah?
- b. Reading Daniel's prayer, to what did he attribute Judah's captivity and judgment?
- c. When did God answer Daniel's prayer? (See vs 20-23)
- d. Whom did this prophesy concern?

For next week read Daniel 10-11. From chapter 10 answer the following questions:

1. How long did Daniel mourn? (And for what? See chapter 9).

- a. What did the revelation concern?
- b. What does verses 2-3 describe?
- c. What did Daniel see (vs 4-6)?
- d. How did it affect those who were with him? (vs 7-8)
- e. How did it affect Daniel? (7-11)

2. Why were Daniel's words heard (vs 12-14)?

- a. How should we pray?
- b. *Who* is the "prince of Persia?"
- c. How did God view Daniel? (See vs 15)
- d. What does the text tell you about the things going on behind the scenes in our world?

DANIEL 2020
Chapter 10-11
Part 1 (10:1-11:1)

- 1. How long did Daniel mourn? (And for what? See chapter 9).** He mourned for three weeks. Apparently after receiving the message and before he received the vision and interpretation he mourned/sought God. The message was true. The message is said to be true/reliable and the calamity/warefare/ appointed time was long.
 - a. What did the revelation concern?** The NIV states that it concerned a great war. The word translated “great war” in places elsewhere in scripture is used to describe an organized host/army, an appointed time, a time of hardship, conflict and trial.
 - b. What does verses 2-3 describe?** Daniel was practicing self denial as he sought from God the meaning of the revelation.
 - c. What did Daniel see (vs 4-6)?** As he was standing with some others on the bank of the Tigris River (Hiddekel - in Assyrian. An earlier name for the Tigris), he looked up and saw:
 - a man dressed in linen, girded with a belt of gold.
 - The body of the man was like chrysolite (Think of Topaz, also called Beryl. It could be fairly clear, amber to gold or even translucent green like an emerald).
 - His face was like lightning.
 - His eyes were like torches.
 - His arms and legs gleamed (sparkled) like burnished (polished) brass/bronze/copper.
 - And when Daniel heard his voice, it was like the sound of a multitude.
 - Was this angel alone? (See vs 16-17).
 - d. How did it affect those who were with him? (vs 7-8).** For one, they could not see the vision. It doesn't say if they heard anything. But they were overwhelmed with terror (they were seized with trembling/quaking) and they ran away and hid (See Act 9:7).
 - e. How did it affect Daniel? (7-11).**
 - He was deserted by his companions.
 - He was gazing at the vision.
 - He had no strength or “comeliness” left (i.e., He couldn't hold things together. He was completely overwhelmed and weak).
 - He heard him (the heavenly messenger) speaking and he listened.
 - While he heard the message, his body was in a deep sleep while he lay on the ground.
 - A hand touched him and set him trembling on to his hands and knees.
 - The messenger spoke to Daniel. He called him “highly esteemed” (or, “greatly beloved”). He told Daniel to listen carefully to his message.
 - He told Daniel to stand up (See Dan 8:18) for he had been sent to Daniel.
- 2. Why were Daniel's words heard (vs 12-14)?** He had set his heart to understand and he humbled (“bowed down”) himself before God.
 - a. How should we pray?** In such a way that honors God. In humility, in faith (Matt 6:8), seeking God's will (1 Jn 5:13-15). Persistently (Lk 18:1).

- b. Who is the “prince of Persia?”** He seems to be an being who was the leading fallen angel trying to influence the kingdom of Persia. Is 24:21 indicates that God holds them accountable. He opposed the angel who had been sent (from the moment Daniel began to pray) and detained him 21 days until Michael, one of the “chief rulers.” This seems to mean that Michael is the angelic authority appointed by God to watch over the Jewish people. He is called “archangel” in Jude 1:9, he leads God’s angels against Satan and his demons (Rev 12:7). He stands watch over Israel (Dan 12:1).
- c. How did God view Daniel? (See vs 15)** Highly esteemed.
- d. What does the text tell you about the things going on behind the scenes in our world?** There is so much that goes on all around us that we cannot see now.
- e. The vision is for what time?** “A time yet to come,” (vs 14, 8:17).
- f. When the messenger left Daniel, he would return to fight against the prince of Persia which would result in the prince of Greece coming. (Think of the events described in Chapter 8).**
- g. Any idea regarding the “book of truth?”**