

Talks For Growing Christians

Study Guide for
Daniel

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Lesson 1

The Record of Nebuchadnezzar's First Invasion of Judah in 605 B.C. & The First Deportation of Captives to Babylon Daniel 1

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. It is not wrong for believers to adjust and accommodate in this world.
2. It is wrong for believers to compromise and conform to this world.

practical application

Dare to be a Daniel!

questions

1. How is the book of Daniel categorized in the Old Testament?
2. What historic events occurred in 605 B.C.?
3. What was taken from Jerusalem as a result of this siege?
4. In what ways did Daniel adjust and accommodate to his new world?
5. In what ways did Daniel refuse to compromise and conform to his new world?

answers

1. Daniel is one of the four Major Prophets, beside Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.
2. The Babylonian army under Nebuchadnezzar defeated the allied forces of Assyria and Egypt at the Battle of Carchemish. Later that year Nebuchadnezzar made his first of three invasions of Judah, and he besieged Jerusalem.
3. Nebuchadnezzar took the temple treasures away to Babylon along with a number of royal and noble young men as captives.
4. Daniel accepted the new Babylonian name that was given to him and he learned the language of Babylon. He studied hard and excelled in his training from the king.
5. Daniel did not compromise in matters of the faith. Babylon's goals did not become Daniel's goals. Babylon's glories did not become Daniel's glories. Babylon's gods did not become Daniel's gods. Daniel did not disobey the Word of God. He did not compromise in his faith. He did not conform to this world

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss the balance for believers to be "in the world, but not of it" (John 17:14-18). Give some practical examples. If we do not have the proper balance, two dangers could occur:
 - 1) By being in the world we can get too involved in this world system and develop worldly values and attitudes.
 - 2) By being extremely not of this world in our lifestyle we can fail to meet our responsibilities in this world.
2. Daniel did not conform to the goals and glories of Babylon. Discuss what this means for you in your culture. What worldview do you find the hardest to resist?

challenge

Will you dare to be a Daniel? You can read more about this in the Devotion for Growing Christians entitled "Dare to be a Daniel" on our website at www.growingchristians.org/dfgc

memorize

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself." Daniel 1:8

"Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs." Daniel 1:9

Lesson 2

Daniel's Interpretation of the Dream that God gave Nebuchadnezzar concerning World History Daniel 2

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represents the times of the Gentiles.
2. The stone in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represents the return of the Lord.

practical application

Decide to be a Daniel.

questions

1. What time span is covered in this dream of Daniel 2?
2. What are the "times of the Gentiles" referred to in Luke 21:24?
3. How did the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represent the empires in the times of the Gentiles?
4. Review how vestiges of these empires remain even to this day.
5. List three reasons the stone and mountain in verses 44-45 represent the Second Coming of Christ and His worldwide millennial kingdom.

answers

1. It takes us from Daniel's time in the Babylonian Empire to the return of Christ and the establishment of His worldwide earthly kingdom.
2. The times of the Gentiles began with the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem and will continue until the Lord returns and delivers Jerusalem from Gentile domination at the end of the future Tribulation Period.
3.
 - The head of gold represents Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire
 - The chest and arms of silver represent the Medo-Persian Empire
 - The stomach and thighs of bronze represent the Greek Empire
 - The legs of iron represent the Roman Empire – the two legs probably represent its east and west divisions
 - The feet and toes of iron and clay represent a final stage of the Roman Empire
4.
 - Babylon is represented in modern day Iraq
 - Persia is represented in present day Iran
 - Syria is a vestige of the Greek Empire after Alexander the Great
 - Rome is represented in Europe and the West
5.
 1. At the first coming of Christ there were not ten subkingdoms of the Roman Empire.
 2. In the dream the stone comes in and crushes the statue suddenly. This is not the way the Lord came at His first coming.
 3. The Church has not taken over the world.

discuss\ consider

1. Review the empires represented by the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Draw a diagram and label it! Which of these empires have already occurred in history; which will be established in the future?
2. The book of Daniel contains much significant biblical prophecy, and you may benefit from some extra study and discussion of these passages. Discuss which verses are the most difficult for you to understand and be prepared to discuss them further next time.

challenge

Daniel is a great model of a faithful believer. He gave all the credit to the Lord when he interpreted the king's dream. He remembered his friends when he was being promoted. You can decide to be a Daniel by following his example of good and godly decisions.

memorize

"But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days." Daniel 2:28

"Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon." Daniel 2:48

Lesson 3

The True Story of the Fiery Furnace & The Three Faithful Hebrews Daniel 3

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Faithful believers trust God even when they are not delivered from the fiery furnace.
2. Faithful believers come to know God in the midst of the fiery furnace.

practical application

Have you experienced the benefits of the fiery furnace?

questions

1. What may have prompted Nebuchadnezzar to build this statue of gold?
2. How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego respond to Nebuchadnezzar's threat of the fiery furnace?
3. What does the fiery furnace represent for us, as believers?
4. Who was the fourth figure seen in the fiery furnace?
5. Does God always deliver believers from the fiery furnace?
6. What New Testament verse reminds us that we can come to know God in a more intimate way in the midst of the fiery furnace?

answers

1. The statue was probably inspired by the dream Nebuchadnezzar had in Daniel 2. However, in the dream, Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon were only the head of gold, but in this image the whole statue is gold – the implication is that proud Nebuchadnezzar did not want to admit that there were empires that would follow his great Babylon.
2. They responded with confidence that God would deliver them – but if not, they still would not bow down.
3. It represents the trials you face in reference to your faith.
4. It was probably the Angel of the Lord Himself, the preincarnate Son of God.
5. No, sometimes He delivers us through the fiery furnace, and we come to know Him in a more intimate way.
6. Hebrews 13:5, *“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

discuss\ consider

1. How is your faith? Is it strong enough to say, “Even if God does not deliver us from the fiery furnace, we will not compromise in our Christian faith”? Discuss trials to your faith that you have experienced. Did God deliver you from those trials? Or did He bring you through them and strengthen your faith through the experience?
2. Discuss the faithful remnant of Jews who will go through the future Tribulation Period. Discuss whether they will be delivered from or through that fiery trial.

challenge

The fire had no negative effects on the Hebrew men, but the ropes that bound them were burned! When God allows us to pass through the fiery furnace, the entangling ropes of this world are removed. Through the fiery furnace you can come to know what true freedom is all about.

memorize

“And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.” Daniel 3:6

“Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” Daniel 3:17-18

Lesson 4

The Humbling and Restoration of Proud Nebuchadnezzar Daniel 4

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God can and will humble the proud.
2. God can and will restore the humble.

practical application

Have you moved from acknowledgment to acceptance?

questions

1. Describe what Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream.
2. Review the good news, bad news, and further good news from Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
3. What advice did Daniel give Nebuchadnezzar? Did he follow this advice?
4. Is there a medical condition that describes Nebuchadnezzar's actions (verse 33)?
5. Did Nebuchadnezzar live as an animal to the end of his life?

answers

1. A great tree grew strong over all the earth. Then the tree was cut down to a stump and bound.
2. Nebuchadnezzar was a great king, like a beautiful and fruitful tree giving food and shade to all. But Nebuchadnezzar would be humbled and cut down as the great tree was cut down. As the stump of the tree remained with a protective band of iron and bronze, so Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom would be restored.
3. Daniel advised the king to humble himself, turn away from his sins, and show mercy to the poor. But Nebuchadnezzar did not listen, and instead he boasted in his pride (verse 30).
4. Yes, it is called “boanthropy” when a person imagines himself to be an animal and therefore acts like an animal.
5. No, after seven years Nebuchadnezzar’s sanity was restored and he continued as king of the Babylonian Empire. Verse 37 implies that Nebuchadnezzar was brought to a saving knowledge of God, because he praised and worshipped the Lord.

discuss\ consider

1. Read 1 Peter 5:5-6. Are you walking about in pride like Nebuchadnezzar because of some accomplishment in your life? How can you humble yourself before you are humbled by God?
2. Discuss the seeming contradiction that if we humble ourselves, God will exalt us. Can you give a personal example of this principle?

challenge

Nebuchadnezzar moved from acknowledging the most high God of the Hebrews, to accepting him as his own God. What about you? You may acknowledge God, but have you accepted Him by personally receiving Jesus Christ as your only Savior from the penalty of sins?

memorize

“The tree that you saw, which grew and became strong...it is you, O king.” Daniel 4:20,22

“The king spoke, saying, ‘Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?’” Daniel 4:30

“King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!” Daniel 4:31

Lesson 5

Daniel Interprets the Handwriting on the Wall & The Babylonian Empire Falls to the Medes and Persians Daniel 5

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Unbelievers cannot understand God's handwriting on the wall.
2. Believers can understand God's handwriting on the wall.

practical application

Don't put your hopes in the rewards of this world.

questions

1. Who was Belshazzar?
2. What fatal mistake did Belshazzar make at his feast?
3. Who was the queen (verse 10)?
4. What was Daniel's interpretation of the message on the wall?
5. How was this message fulfilled?

answers

1. Belshazzar was the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar. He was the final king of the Babylonian Empire.
2. Belshazzar brought the captured vessels of the Temple of the Lord to be used for drinking at his great feast, where they praised the foreign pagan gods – this was blasphemy and desecration of the holy vessels.
3. She is probably the queen mother, the mother of Belshazzar and daughter of Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel was in his 80s at this time, but she remembered how he had interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dreams.
4. The hand was God's hand, and the message was interpreted in verses 26-28: *"MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians."*
5. That very night Belshazzar was killed and the Medes and Persians took over Babylon. Darius the Mede was probably an official under Cyrus, the Persian Emperor, and ruled over the area of Babylon for a short time.

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss how the Bible is God's handwriting on the wall. Unbelievers can read about future events and God's plans for the future, but they don't understand it. Discuss why this may be.
2. Believers have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them to guide them in the proper interpretation of Scripture. Can you think of some New Testament passages that address this principle? Have you been aware of the Holy Spirit's activity during your time of Bible study?

challenge

Daniel was "honored" by Belshazzar by being made the third ruler of the kingdom – for a few hours! He did not value the short-lived honors and rewards of this world. This world is passing away and its rewards with it. Are you earning rewards where it matters?

memorize

"But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven." Daniel 5:22-23

"MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." Daniel 5:26-28

Lesson 6

Daniel Delivered from the Lion's Den Daniel 6

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Daniel in the lion's den has practical lessons for the present.
2. Daniel in the lion's den has prophetic implications for the future.

practical application

Be a den of Daniels!

questions

1. When did the Babylonian Empire fall to the Medes and Persians?
2. Who was Darius the Mede?
3. Why were the governors and satraps jealous of Daniel?
4. Who do the lions represent for us, as believers?
5. Which chapters in the book of Daniel are prophetic?

answers

1. 539 B.C.
2. Darius the Mede has not yet been documented from extra-biblical sources, but most likely he was a high ranking official under Cyrus, the Persian Emperor. He ruled over the newly acquired Babylonian territory for a short time.
3. Daniel had been made one of the top three officials in the Persian Empire. This kingdom consisted of 120 different provinces from India to Ethiopia and was the largest empire up to this point in the history of the world. Daniel was about to be put in charge of the whole empire, and this led to jealousy on the part of the other officials.
4. The lions picture Satan (1 Peter 5:8). But God can shut the lion's mouth and deliver us unscathed from any lion's den we've been thrown into by the opposition.
5. All of them! Even in the chapters that are not prophetic visions, there are prophetic implications.

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss the three practical lessons mentioned from Daniel's experience in the lion's den. There certainly could be many more!
2. Discuss the prophetic implications of Daniel's experience in the lion's den. Here we have a prophetic glimpse of the coming Tribulation Period. And we see Daniel as a spiritual picture of Christ.

challenge

When we go out into the world, it is like going into the lion's den. But when an unbeliever visits our church or Bible Study group it should be for them like walking into a den of Daniels!

memorize

"We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God." Daniel 6:5

"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you." Daniel 6:22

Lesson 7

The Times of the Gentiles Represented by Four Beasts in Daniel's Vision & Daniel's Vision about the Lord's Future Earthly Kingdom Daniel 7

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The first four kingdoms of Daniel 7 correspond to the metals of the statue in Daniel 2.
2. The fifth kingdom of Daniel 7 corresponds to the mountain that replaced the statue in Daniel 2.

practical application

Let's have God's view of the kingdoms of this world.

questions

1. How is the book of Daniel divided?
2. Describe the vision of the four beasts which Daniel saw.
3. What do these four beasts coming out of the sea represent?
4. List the beasts, their kingdoms, and their correspondence to the metals in Daniel 2.
5. Who are the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man?

answers

1. The first six chapters dealt with Daniel's life of faith as a Jewish captive. In the next six chapters, Daniel records four prophetic visions from the Lord, and their interpretations.
2. Daniel saw four beasts: a lion with the wings of an eagle, a bear with three ribs in its mouth, a leopard with four heads and four wings, and a fourth ferocious beast. This fourth beast had large iron teeth and ten horns, with an eleventh horn growing up. Three of the original ten horns were pulled out by the roots. Daniel saw this fourth beast judged, destroyed, and burned. And then a glorious and everlasting kingdom was given to the Son of Man by the Ancient of Days.
3. They represent four kings who would arise on earth and their four kingdoms.
4.
 - Lion & Head of Gold – Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylon Empire
 - Bear & Chest and Arms of Silver – the Medo-Persian Empire
 - Leopard & Stomach and Thighs of Bronze – the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great
 - Fourth Beast & Legs of Iron – the Roman Empire
5. The Ancient of Days is a description of God the Father. The Son of Man is the eternal Son of God, emphasizing both His humanity and deity.

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss the ten horns of the fourth beast, which correspond to the ten iron and clay toes of the statue's feet. Read Daniel 7:7-8, 11, 19-27 and walk through this prophecy concerning the Revived Roman Empire of the future.
2. Discuss how Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue was man's view of the kingdoms of this world. How is Daniel's dream of the four beasts more the divine perspective? How can we have God's view of the kingdoms of this world?

challenge

Do you know the Lord Jesus as the Son of Man? The next time you read our Lord's favorite name for Himself in the Gospels, think back to this passage in Daniel 7.

memorize

"And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other." Daniel 7:3

"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:13-14

Lesson 8

The Medo-Persian Empire & The Greek Empire Daniel 8:1-22

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The ram of Daniel 8 represents the Medo-Persian Empire.
2. The goat of Daniel 8 represents the Greek Empire.
3. The little horn of Daniel 8 represents Antiochus IV of the Seleucid Kingdom.

practical application

Seek and you will find.

questions

1. When and where did this vision of Daniel occur?
2. What animals did Daniel see in this vision, and what did they represent?
3. Where else do we see the angel Gabriel serving as a messenger for God?
4. Why were the horns of the ram unequal in size (verse 3)?
5. How were the horns of the goat prophetic of the Greek Empire?

answers

1. Daniel received this vision from the Lord in the third year of King Belshazzar, about twelve years before the Babylonian Empire fell to the Medes and the Persians. Daniel had the vision while he was in Babylon, but the setting of the vision was Susa, which would later become the capital of the Persian Empire.
2. Daniel saw a ram with two horns and a male goat with a large horn. They represented the Medo-Persian Empire and the Greek Empire, respectively.
3. He brought messages to Zacharias and Mary in Luke 1.
4. In the Medo-Persian Empire, the Persians became dominant over the Medes.
5. The large horn represented Alexander the Great, who completely overwhelmed the Persian Empire. Alexander magnified himself, but was broken by God. The Greek Empire was divided into four separate kingdoms, represented by the four horns.

discuss\ consider

1. Review the prophecy of the little horn in Daniel 8:9-14. Discuss how Antiochus IV of the Seleucid Empire was a fulfillment of this prophecy.
2. What should you do when you want to understand the meaning of some Scripture? Refer to Matthew 7:7-8 and Daniel 8:15.

challenge

Alexander the Great is never called great in the Bible. Do you have a good reputation among men, that is not a good reputation before God?

memorize

“And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land.” Daniel 8:9

“The ram which you saw, having the two horns – they are the kings of Media and Persia. And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king.” Daniel 8:20-21

Lesson 9

A Prediction of an End-Time Anti-Semitic Ruler, who was Foreshadowed by Antiochus Epiphanes of History Daniel 8:23-27

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The little horn of Daniel 8 is not the same as the little horn of Daniel 7.
2. The little horn of Daniel 8 typifies the future king of the North.

practical application

Don't quit work when you study Bible prophecy.

questions

1. Review Daniel's vision earlier in chapter 8.
2. Who was this "little horn"?
3. What were the nicknames of Antiochus IV?
4. Who was the little horn of Daniel 7?
5. What did Gabriel mean by his statement that this vision would not be completely fulfilled until the time of the end (verses 17 and 19)?

answers

1. Daniel had a vision of two beasts, which represented two of the world's ancient empires. The butting ram represented the Medo-Persian Empire and the swift goat represented the Greek Empire. The large horn of the goat represented Alexander the Great; after his death the Greek Empire was divided into four kingdoms. Out of one of these four horns or divisions arose a little horn, a king who persecuted the Jewish people.
2. It was Antiochus IV of the Seleucid kingdom. He killed thousands of Jews, destroyed Scripture, and desecrated the Temple.
3. His friends called him Antiochus Epiphanes, "the Illustrious One," but the Jews called him Antiochus Epimanes, "the Madman."
4. The little horn that grew out of one of the ten horns of the fourth beast represented the powerful end-time world leader known as the Roman beast. He will head up the Revived Roman Empire, and is the 666 character of Revelation 13.
5. We believe the prophecy of the little horn here, while fulfilled historically in Antiochus IV, foreshadows an end-time world leader as well.

discuss\ consider

1. When reading the prophecies of Daniel it is easy to get confused about all the beasts and horns. How have you enjoyed your study of prophecy thus far? Do you think studying biblical prophecy is profitable? Why or why not?
2. Discuss the end-time leader typified by the little horn of Daniel 8. Some say he is the Roman Beast of 666 notoriety (the little horn of Daniel 7). Explain the arguments for him being a distinct character, the King of the North.

challenge

When we read of the world-wide catastrophes and plagues to come in the future, it can actually be physically exhausting and emotionally disturbing. But don't give up and stay in bed. Be like Daniel and continue to fulfill your responsibilities.

memorize

"And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise." Daniel 8:23

"Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means." Daniel 8:25

Lesson 10

Daniel's Preparation for Receiving the Prophetic Vision of the Seventy Weeks Daniel 9:1-23

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Daniel believed in a literal interpretation of Scripture.
2. Daniel prayed on the authoritative foundation of Scripture.
3. Daniel received an insightful understanding of Scripture.

practical application

Don't be surprised if praying tires you out!

questions

1. Why is Daniel's vision in chapter 9 called "the backbone of Bible prophecy"?
2. When did Daniel receive this vision?
3. How did Daniel interpret the 70 year captivity prophesied by Jeremiah?
4. Why did Gabriel appear to Daniel during the time of the evening offering?
5. Why doesn't the Lord send the angel Gabriel to answer our prayers today?

answers

1. It gives a prophetic schedule or timetable of events that would take place in reference to the nation of Israel all the way from soon after Daniel's time to the Second Coming of Christ.
2. In the first year of Darius the Mede, 538 B.C., soon after the Babylonian Empire fell to the Medes and the Persians.
3. As a literal 70 years, because that's what the words mean.
4. All the morning and evening sacrifices had come to an end after the Babylonians destroyed the Temple, but the pious Jews still prayed at these times. Even before Daniel finished his prayer, the answer was on the way.
5. He doesn't have to! As believers as have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us to give insight and understanding of Scripture.

discuss\ consider

1. Daniel believed in a literal interpretation of Scripture. Do you interpret Scripture in this way? Think of some examples where people do not interpret passages literally, because it does not fit their preconceived notions.
2. Review Daniel's prayer in verses 3-15. Discuss how it can be a model for us in three ways. Our prayers should reflect that:
 - 1) God is holy and must judge sin.
 - 2) The bottom line is God's glory and not our glory.
 - 3) God is gracious and forgives the repentant sinner.

challenge

Daniel was worn out from his fervent praying and fasting. Do you labor in prayer?

memorize

"I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." Daniel 9:2

"For the LORD our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice." Daniel 9:14

"While I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel...reached me about the time of the evening offering." Daniel 9:21

Lesson 11

Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks, which Covers the Times of the Gentiles from Persian Times until the Second Coming of the Lord Daniel 9:24-27

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The first 69 prophetic weeks of Daniel 9 are past.
2. The final 70th prophetic week of Daniel 9 is future.

practical application

Don't confuse the covenant of Daniel 9 with the New Covenant.

questions

1. What was the context in which Daniel received this vision?
2. What would be a better translation of the word "weeks" in this passage?
3. List the six matters Daniel was told would be accomplished by the time this prophecy is completely fulfilled.
4. Outline the four verses in this passage.
5. When was the decree given to "*to restore and build Jerusalem*" (verse 25)?
6. How long is 69 heptads? How does this fit into history?
7. Who is he who makes and breaks the covenant of verse 27?

answers

1. Daniel knew Jeremiah's prophecy that the Babylonian captivity would be for seventy years (Jeremiah 25). He realized this period was coming to an end soon and he was praying about the restoration of Judah and Jerusalem.
2. The Hebrew word means a unit or set of seven. It could be translated "heptad" or just "sevens."
3.
 - 1) Transgression would be finished – Israel would be spiritually restored
 - 2) Sin would be judged
 - 3) Atonement would be made for iniquity – accomplished in Christ's death at Calvary
 - 4) Everlasting righteousness would be brought in – in the coming earthly reign of our Lord
 - 5) The vision and prophecy would be sealed – that is, fulfilled
 - 6) The most holy place would be anointed – in the future millennial Temple
4.
 - Verse 24 gives the overview of the 70 week prophecy
 - Verse 25 gives details of the first 69 prophetic weeks
 - Verse 26 gives details of a period of time between the 69th and 70th weeks
 - Verse 27 gives details of the 70th prophetic week
5. There were several decrees during the Persian rule that authorized the Jews to return to Jerusalem, but only one specifically gave permission to rebuild. That decree was given to Nehemiah by Artaxerxes in 444 B.C. (Nehemiah 2:1-8).
6. If the time units are seven years each, then 69 heptads is 483 years. It can be calculated from 445 B.C. that 483 prophetic years would terminate on the very day of the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
7. This is the prince of verse 26, the future Roman beast of Revelation 13 with the number 666. He is the little horn of Daniel 7 and he will come out of the territory of the old Roman Empire, which will then be the Revived Roman Empire.

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss the time gap between the 69th and 70th heptads (verse 26). What was prophesied to occur during this time? What event will mark the beginning of the final 7 prophetic years? Briefly discuss this upcoming time period.

challenge

This Lord has made a New Covenant with us. It will not be broken as the covenant in Daniel 9. Our New Covenant is certain!

memorize

"Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate." Daniel 9:24-27

Lesson 12

**The Fourth and Final Vision of Daniel &
Truth Concerning the Activity of Angels – both Holy and Fallen
Daniel 10**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Holy angels help God by serving His people.
2. Fallen angels oppose God by resisting His purpose.

practical application

Let's understand our role in spiritual warfare.

questions

1. Why was Daniel fasting and mourning for three weeks (verse 3)?
2. Where did Daniel receive this fourth and final vision?
3. Was the man that appeared to Daniel an angel or the Lord Himself?
4. Who are the "prince of the kingdom of Persia" and the "prince of Greece"?
5. Right now there is angelic warfare going on behind the national and international scenes. What passages address Satan himself as the power source behind pagan kings?

answers

1. Most likely because Daniel had received word from the Jewish captives who had returned to Jerusalem under the edict of Cyrus. We know from the book of Ezra that the Jewish people who returned home faced opposition and their work of rebuilding the Temple was delayed.
2. During these three weeks the Jewish feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread took place. Apparently Daniel and other godly Jews went to a location on the Tigris River to observe these feasts.
3. In favor of this man being the Lord, His description is very similar to the description of the Lord in the Apostle John's vision in Revelation 1. In favor of him being an angel is the fact that he was sent by God to Daniel, but was hindered for 21 days until Michael the archangel came to help him. So we believe this man was one of the holy angels.
4. They are fallen angels operating behind the scenes to oppose God and resist His plans and purposes in this world. They do so by seeking to influence the affairs of the nations.
5. Isaiah 14, the king of Babylon, and Ezekiel 28, the king of Tyre

discuss\ consider

1. Holy angels help God by serving His people. Read Hebrews 1:14. Many people today are fascinated by angels. What is a healthy attitude to have about these ministering spirits? Remember, Daniel did not go seeking angelic help. He prayed to God, and God sent the angel.
2. Discuss our role in spiritual warfare according to Ephesians 6. We should pray to the Lord and leave the angelic side of spiritual warfare to the angels.

challenge

Do you need help? Pray to God and He will send it! It may be in the form of an angel, or through the Holy Spirit who indwells you!

memorize

"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me." Daniel 10:13

"Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come." Daniel 10:14

Lesson 13

**Some Very Detailed Prophecies,
Especially Concerning the Intertestamental Period
All Have Been Fulfilled Quite Literally
Daniel 11:1-35**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Daniel's final vision revealed the coming Persian and Greek kings.
2. Daniel's final vision revealed the coming Seleucid and Ptolemaic kings.

practical application

Remember, God knows and cares about all the future details of your life.

questions

1. How do critics handle the book of Daniel?
2. How can we respond to these claims?
3. Outline this section of Persian and Greek history as prophesied in verses 2-4.
4. Who were the kings of the South and the kings of the North in history?
5. If God knew all the intricate and involved details of the intertestamental period, does He know all the intricate details of your future? Does God care about all the future details of your life?

answers

1. Critics of the Bible don't like fulfilled prophecy, because it shows the accuracy of the Bible and supports the fact that the Bible is the Word of God. They move the date of Daniel forward so that the author was writing history and not prophecy, but he made it sound like prophecy.
2. One response is that the book of Daniel was found in the Dead Sea Scrolls, which are dated conservatively to at least 150 B.C. These copied manuscripts indicate that the original writing of the book of Daniel was much earlier. Many of the prophecies of Daniel were fulfilled after 150 B.C. – prophecies concerning the Roman Empire and the coming of the Messiah.
3.
 - Verse 2 – Three Persian kings arose after Cyrus: Cambyses, Pseudo-Smerdis, and Darius I. A fourth Persian king arose who was rich and powerful: Xerxes I, who was Ahasuerus of the Book of Esther. Xerxes I was defeated by the Greeks
 - Verse 3 – The mighty king of the Greek Empire was Alexander the Great. He not only brought down the Persian Empire, he conquered most of the ancient world.
 - Verse 4 – After Alexander's untimely death, his kingdom was divided into 4 divisions – north, south, east, and west. The Greek Empire was not passed on to Alexander's sons, but was eventually divided between four of his military generals. (Remember the four heads of the leopard in Daniel 7 and the four horns of the goat in Daniel 8.
4. The kings of the North, or Syria, were the Seleucid kings. The kings of the South, or Egypt, were the Ptolemaic kings.
5. Of course He does!

discuss\ consider

Discuss the detailed fulfillment of these prophecies concerning the involved conflicts between the Ptolemaic and Seleucid kingdoms. How do you respond to these amazing fulfillments? Do they leave you in awe of our awesome God?

challenge

Just as God was using all the intricate and involved details of history to refine, purge, and purify His people (verse 35), so He uses all the details of your life to sanctify you, make you, and mold you to be more like Christ (Romans 8:28-29).

memorize

"Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity." Daniel 11:3-4

"Also the king of the North shall come to the kingdom of the king of the South, but shall return to his own land." Daniel 11:9

Lesson 14

**The Prediction of the Coming Godless King &
The Future King of the North
Daniel 11:36-45**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Daniel's final vision revealed the future godless king of the Tribulation Period.
2. Daniel's final vision revealed the future King of the North of the Tribulation Period.

practical application

Don't let distractions keep you from studying Bible prophecy!

questions

1. What do the Jewish people celebrate each year with the feast of Hanukkah?
2. What does verse 35 teach us about God's dealings with the Jewish people?
3. Review the varying interpretations regarding the character(s) in this passage of Daniel 11.
4. Describe the attitude and actions of this willful king in verses 36-39.
5. What historic character typified the King of the North?

answers

1. They celebrate the cleansing of the Temple which took place in 165 B.C., during the Maccabean revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes.
2. God is refining, purging, and purifying the Jewish people until the end time. Their persecutions and struggles over the years have not happened by chance. God has allowed these things to take place as part of His sovereign will.
3.
 - Some say verses 36-39 are still talking about Antiochus Epiphanes of intertestamental history.
 - Some say verses 36-45 are about the one future leader, the Antichrist, who is the first beast of Revelation 13, the head of the Revived Roman Empire, and whose number is 666.
 - Others say there are two future end time leaders in these verses. The willful king of verses 36-39 is the False Messiah of the Jews, the False Prophet; this is the beast in the second half of Revelation 13. The second godless leader in verses 40-45 is the future King of the North.
4. He is an apostate Jew posing as the False Messiah. He magnifies himself and speaks blasphemous words. He shows no regard for the one true God of his Jewish heritage, instead he deifies himself. He has no regard for the true Messiah, the desire of women.
5. The wicked Seleucid king, Antiochus Epiphanes, described in Daniel 8

discussion\ challenge

1. Discuss how Daniel 11:40-45 may play out in the future. Remember, the details will become clear during the Tribulation Period.
2. Discuss the distractions that keep you from studying the Bible. Which of these can be planned around? Which must simply be endured? What is your best strategy for being consistent in your Bible Study, despite distractions?

memorize

“And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.” Daniel 11:35

“Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished.” Daniel 11:36

Lesson 15

The Conclusion of Daniel's Fourth Vision & The Climax of all the Prophecies in this Book Daniel 12

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The resurrection in Daniel 12 does not include the Rapture of the Church.
2. The numbered days in Daniel 12 do include the Return of the Lord.

practical application

It will be great to be an end time Monday Morning quarterback.

questions

1. When will the archangel Michael arise on behalf of the Jewish people (verse 1)?
2. What is the Rapture of the Church? Which New Testament passages address this?
3. List three reasons we don't believe Daniel 12 refers to the Rapture of the Church.
4. So when does this resurrection fit into the biblical timeline?
5. Explain the two different numbers given in verses 11-12.

answers

1. In context this is the same time as the last half of Daniel 11, a time of great distress on the earth – the Tribulation Period.
2. In 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4 we read of a resurrection of Christians in which the bodies of Christians who have died will be resurrected and the bodies of Christians who are alive will be changed and become immortal.
3.
 - 1) When you put together all of the Biblical prophetic passages systematically, the Rapture of the Church occurs before the Tribulation Period, which is the time period of Daniel 12:1-2.
 - 2) It is Daniel's people, the Jewish people, who are written in God's book here.
 - 3) Unbelievers are involved in this resurrection, whereas only believers are involved in the Rapture.
4. We believe that this resurrection in Daniel 12 is the same as the resurrection of Revelation 20, which involves the martyrs of the Tribulation Period, certainly including the martyrs of the godly remnant of Jewish believers. They will be resurrected at the end of the Tribulation Period to enter and reign with Christ in His millennial kingdom, along with the rest of believers (Revelation 20:4). Revelation 20 goes on to reveal that the resurrection of the damned (Daniel 12:2), who come to life for shame and everlasting contempt, comes at the end of the 1,000 year earthly kingdom of Christ.
5. The second half of the Tribulation Period, known as the Great Tribulation, will last 42 months or 3½ years (Revelation 11:2, 13:5). Based on a Hebrew year of 360 days, this is 1260 days. An additional 30 days may be for the setting up of the Abomination of Desolation before the mid-point of the Tribulation. Or the total 45 days may be at the end of the Tribulation Period, during which time the cleansing of the Temple and the judgments will take place.

discuss\ consider

1. Can you answer Daniel's question in verse 8 about how all these events will work out in the end? Does God have a plan and purpose for the Jewish people?
2. Think back over your study of the book of Daniel. Which have you enjoyed more, the life of Daniel or the prophecies of Daniel? What is a practical lesson you will take away?

challenge

When all the events of the end time begin to take place it will be a lot easier to see God's overall plan. It is good for us to study God's prophetic program, but there are many details we cannot be dogmatic about. Enjoy studying what you can, and know the rest will turn out God's way!

memorize

"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever." Daniel 12:2-3