

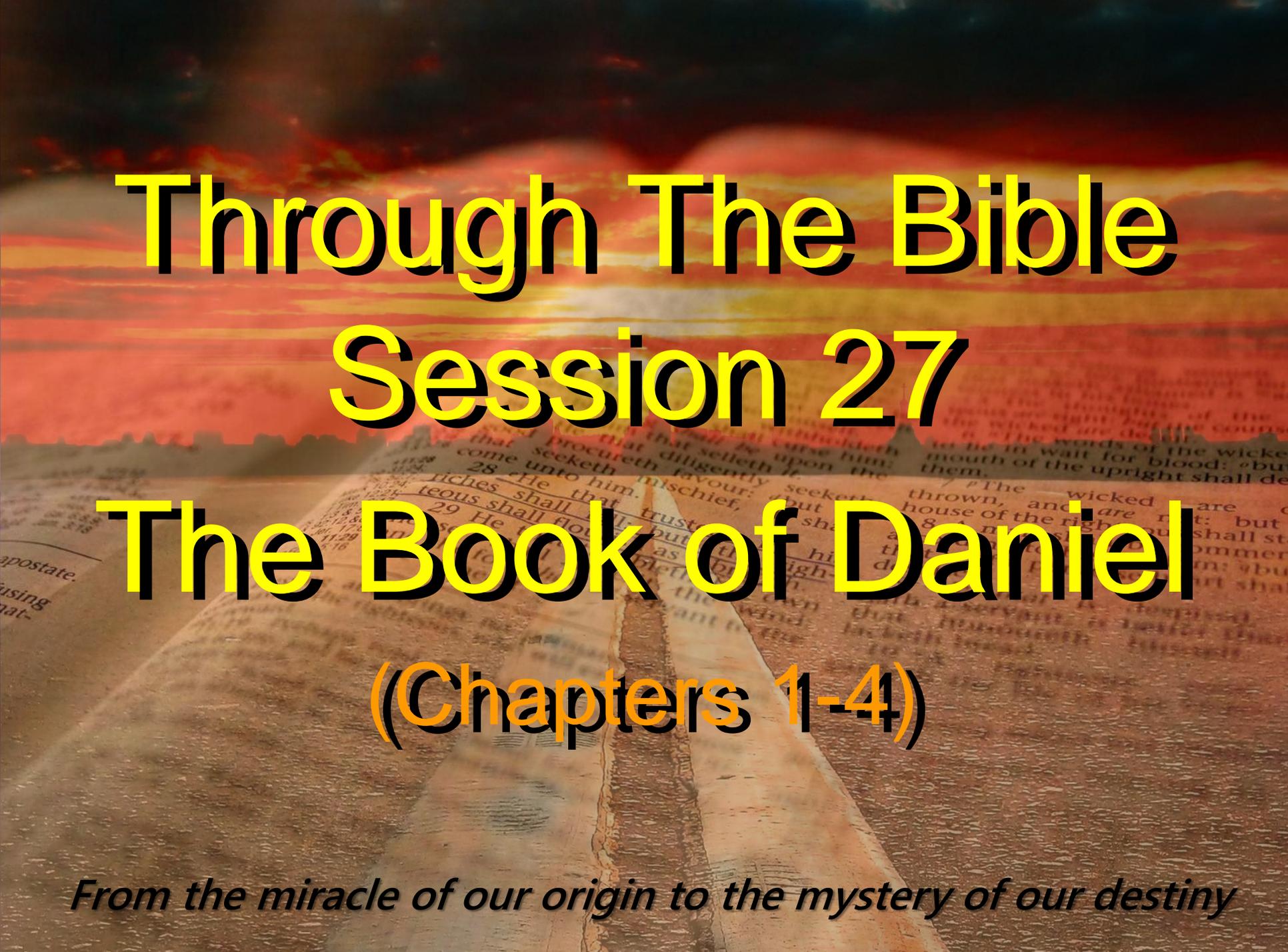
*Welcome to*

**calvary**  
**chapel**  
portsmouth



[www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk)

*Simply teaching the Word simply*

The background of the slide features a vibrant sunset with a gradient of colors from deep blue at the top to bright yellow and orange near the horizon. In the foreground, an open Bible is laid flat, showing its pages which are slightly aged and have some text visible, though it is mostly obscured by the large text overlay. The text on the Bible pages includes phrases like "that procureth diligently", "28 He that", "riches shall", "29 He that", "The wicked are", "mouth of the upright shall de", "thrown, and are not", "house of the right", "8 A man", "The wicked are", "but", "shall st", "ommer", "ab", "urt sha".

# Through The Bible

## Session 27

# The Book of Daniel

(**Chapters 1-4**)

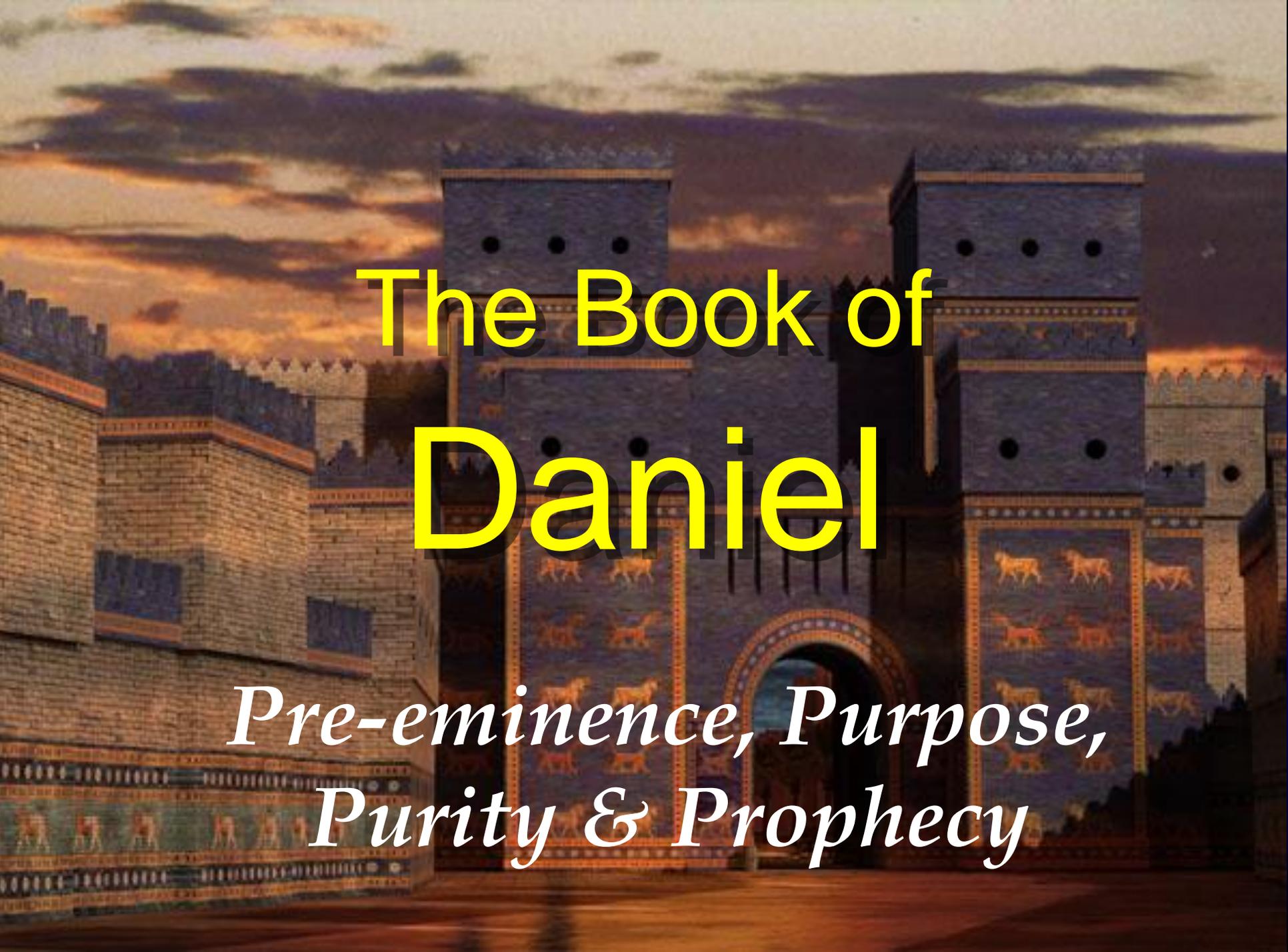
*From the miracle of our origin to the mystery of our destiny*

# Daniel

- 12 chapters,
- 357 verses;
- 11,606 words;
- 16 questions;
- 218 verses of history;
- 79 verses of fulfilled and 60 verses of unfulfilled prophecy;
- 7 commands;
- 4 promises;
- 6 messages from God.

# Daniel

- It is recorded by Josephus that in 332 B.C. Jeduthan, a Jewish high priest, met Alexander the Great at the gates of Jerusalem and presented to him a copy of the book of Daniel.
- Upon showing Alexander the prophecies about himself in the book, Alexander was so impressed that he spared the city!



# The Book of Daniel

*Pre-eminence, Purpose,  
Purity & Prophecy*

# Theme of the Book

- Pre-eminence - The Lord Reigns!
- Purpose
  - Purpose in life
  - Purpose of heart
- Purity
  - The decision is made before the choice is presented!
- Prophecy
  - Job 24:1 *“Why do they that know Him not see His days?”*

# Pre-eminence

- Pre-eminence because the book shows time and again that it is God who rules in the kingdoms of men (Dan 4:17 / 4:25 / 4:32).
- It is He who orders the steps of a good man (Psalm 37:23), indeed, *“Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?”* (Prov 20:24).
- This was the basis of Daniel's life, a confident assurance that whatever happened on the outside, however desperate things seemed to be, God was still on the throne, (Heb 13:8).

# Purpose #1

- Firstly, because this book underlines the fact that God has a purpose for all that happens in our lives, as Daniel and his friends show:
  - Who would have thought that these teenagers who were dragged away in shackles would be the ones to bring the most powerful of nations to its knees?
- Paul reminds us: *“And we know that **all things** work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”* (Rom 8:28).

# Purpose #2

- Secondly, purpose because *“Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself”* (Dan 1:8).
- In this context the ‘purpose’ referred to is a determined conscious decision that is made in the heart (Matt 6:21). Daniel’s treasure was to do the will of God regardless of what others thought or said

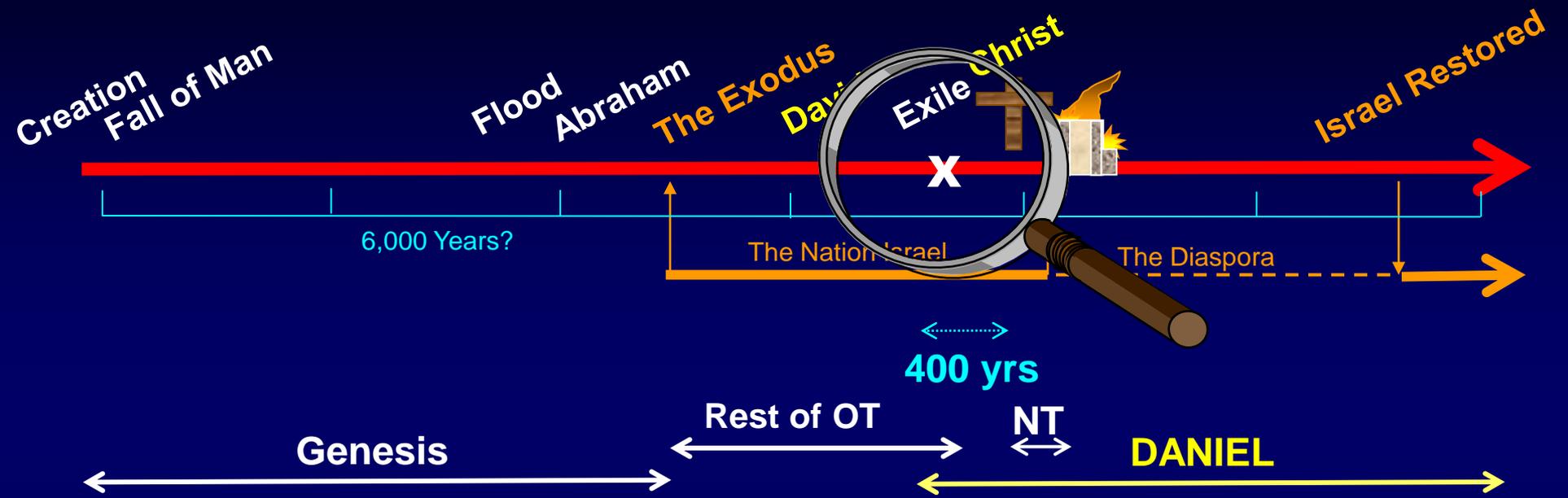
# Purity

- “*Daniel purposed in his heart that he would **not defile himself***” (Daniel 1:8)
- Because Daniel had decided *before* the event, there was a beauty & simplicity about Daniel – *Just as there was with Joseph.*
- Daniel never gave in; and twice in the book of Ezekiel God points to Daniel as an example of what a righteous man should be like. (Ezekiel 14:14 /20).
- Daniel held loosely to this world, but tightly to God

# Prophecy

- Prophecy is one of the undeniable proofs God has given to show His word is true (2 Peter 1:19).
- Jesus pointed to a Daniel's prophecy as the key to understanding the end-times, yet it is astonishing that so many Christians are ignorant regarding the prophecies in the Bible.
- Job said: *“Why, seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty, do they that know him not see his days?”* (Job 24:1).

# The Panorama of History



- The book of Daniel records the collapse of the nation of Israel and the beginning of the **'times of the gentiles'** - a period of time that will last until the Messiah of Israel will return and re-establish Israel.

# Re-Establishment of Israel

<sup>14</sup> [Peter] hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

<sup>15</sup> And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

<sup>16</sup> After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up

**Acts 15:14-16**

# Organization

- Historical Chapters 1 - 6

- 1 Deported as a teenager
- 2 Nebuchadenzzar's Dream
- 3 Bow or Burn: the Furnace
- 4 Nebuchadnezzar's Pride
- 5 The Fall of Babylon
- 6 The Lion's Den
- 7 Daniel's Vision

Hebrew

Aramaic

# Organization

- Visions Chapters 7 - 12
  - 7 Four Beasts
  - 8 The Ram and the He-Goat
  - 9 The Seventy Weeks
  - 10 A Glimpse of the Dark Side
  - 11 The “Silent Years” (in advance)
  - 12 The Consummation of All Things

Aramaic

Hebrew

# Chronological Order

## Chapter

1	Babylonian Captivity	606 B.C.
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	604 B.C.
3	Nebuchadnezzar's Image	588 B.C.
4	Nebuchadnezzar's Pride	570-563 B.C.
7	The vision of the 4 beasts	552 B.C.
8	Ram and He-goat vision	550 B.C.
5	Babylon falls to Persians	539 B.C.
6	The Lions' Den	539 B.C.
9	Vision of seventy weeks	537 B.C.
10 -12	Closing visions	536 B.C.

# Daniel in the Critic's Den

- No other book is as vindicated by history.
- 332 BC: Alexander's conquest of Jerusalem: Priest Jaddua showed him references to himself in Daniel; city was spared.

Josephus

- R. Kodewey, 1899-1917: excavations of Nebuchadnezzar's palace, et al, Banquet hall found, 173' x 56'. Rebuilt by Saddam Hussein
- Conclusion: Daniel had to be an eyewitness.

# Historical Confirmation

Babylonian Clay Prism, now in Istanbul Museum:

- **Ha-nu-nu**, Chief of the Royal Merchants, a variation of Hananiah, or **Shadrach**
- **Mushal-emarduk**: (less marduk) **Meshach**
- **Ardi-nabu**, Secretary to the Crown Prince; an alternative form of **Abed-Nego**

# Daniel in the Critic's Den

- Two books that thoroughly attest to the historicity of Daniel, and it's writing at the time indicated in the Bible:
- *Studies In The Book of Daniel*
  - by Professor Robert D Wilson
- *The Authenticity of the Book of Daniel*
  - by Bill Cooper

# Daniel in the Critic's Den

“Perhaps the most sensible thing that has ever been said about the critics, was said by Sir Robert Anderson in 1909 who, as an accomplished policeman, knew a thing or two about how evidence works. He states that in any court of law which was trying the case of Daniel, the critic would be considered at best a specialist witness: *“He can supply but a part, and that by no means the most important part, of the necessary evidence. And if a single well-ascertained fact be inconsistent with his theories, the fact must prevail.”* Unfortunately, the critics have always mistaken their role and presume to speak as judge and jury”.

*The Authenticity of the Book of Daniel* Bill Cooper

# Ultimate Authentication

- Divine accreditation:
  - Jesus quotes Daniel 3 times:
  - “Daniel the Prophet”
- Historical authentication
  - Quoted 3x in Ezekiel Ezek 14:14, 20; 28:3
  - Classed with Noah, Job, et al

# Chronology

- 612 BC: Nineveh falls
  - to an alliance of Babylon and Media



# Chronology

- 612 BC: Nineveh falls
  - to an alliance of Babylon and Media
- 609 BC: Pharaoh Necho leads army against Assyria
  - Josiah fights Necho and gets killed

2 Chron 35:20-24



# The Final Kings of Judah

Josiah

Died in battle against Pharaoh Necho

Jehoahaz

Reigned 3 months

Taken to Egypt by Pharaoh Necho

Jehoiakim

Reigned 11 years

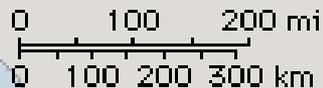
# Chronology

- **612 BC:** Nineveh falls
  - to an alliance of Babylon and Media
- **609 BC:** Pharaoh Necho leads army against Assyria
  - Josiah fights Necho and gets killed

2 Chron 35:20-24
- **606 BC:** Battle of Carchemesh
  - Nebuchadnezzar vs Pharaoh Necho
  - W bank of Euphrates Jer 46:1-6



	Assyrian Empire under Shalmaneser III (858-824 BC)
	Assyrian Empire under Ashurbanipal (668-627 BC)
	Kingdom of Judah tributary to Assyria



# The Final Kings of Judah

Josiah

Died in battle against Pharaoh Necho

Jehoahaz

Reigned 3 months

Taken to Egypt by Pharaoh Necho

Jehoiakim

Reigned 11 years

3<sup>rd</sup> yr (606 B.C.)

Nebuchadnezzar

1<sup>st</sup> Siege

Jehoiachin

(Jeconiah)

Blood Curse: Jer 22:30

Reigned 3 months

Taken to Babylon

Zedekiah

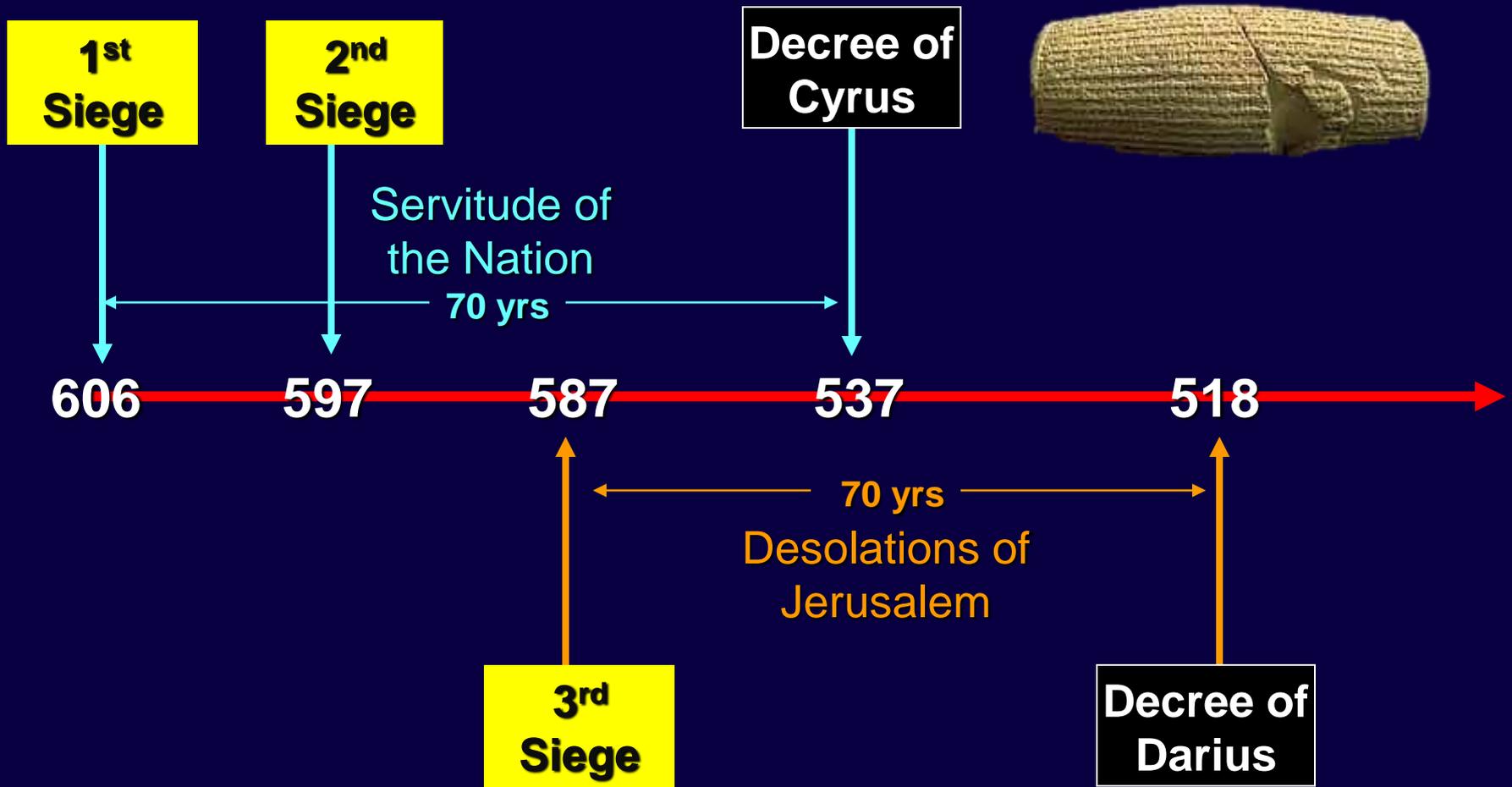
Appointed by Nebuchadnezzar

Reigned 11 years

Finally taken captive in final siege

587 B.C.

# The Captivity



# Introduction

- Daniel was just a teenager when he was deported to Babylon in 606 B.C.
- Josephus records that he met Cyrus at the gates of Babylon in 539 B.C., and we know that he served under king Darius the Mede (who reigned in the province of Babylon under Cyrus).
- He ministered under 4 kings and lived to see the Jews return to their land at the end of their captivity.

# Introduction

- His ministry lasted over 70 years
- Therefore, we see that Daniel's ministry stretched into his late 80's, and saw him serve as 'prime minister' under two successive world empires
  - a feat unparalleled in history.
- But as Daniel records at the end of chapter 1, it was God alone who had lifted him up. His is the power, glory might and dominion, He alone rules in the kingdoms of men.

# Introduction

- Daniel is called 'beloved' (Dan 9:23 / 10:11 / 10:19), the same title is given to John in the NT.
- Both Daniel and John were given revelations of the climax of world events. It appears that
- God reserves His most intimate secrets for those who are His beloved.
- The church is also called His beloved (Rom 9:25) – i.e. these secrets are for us – what a privilege!

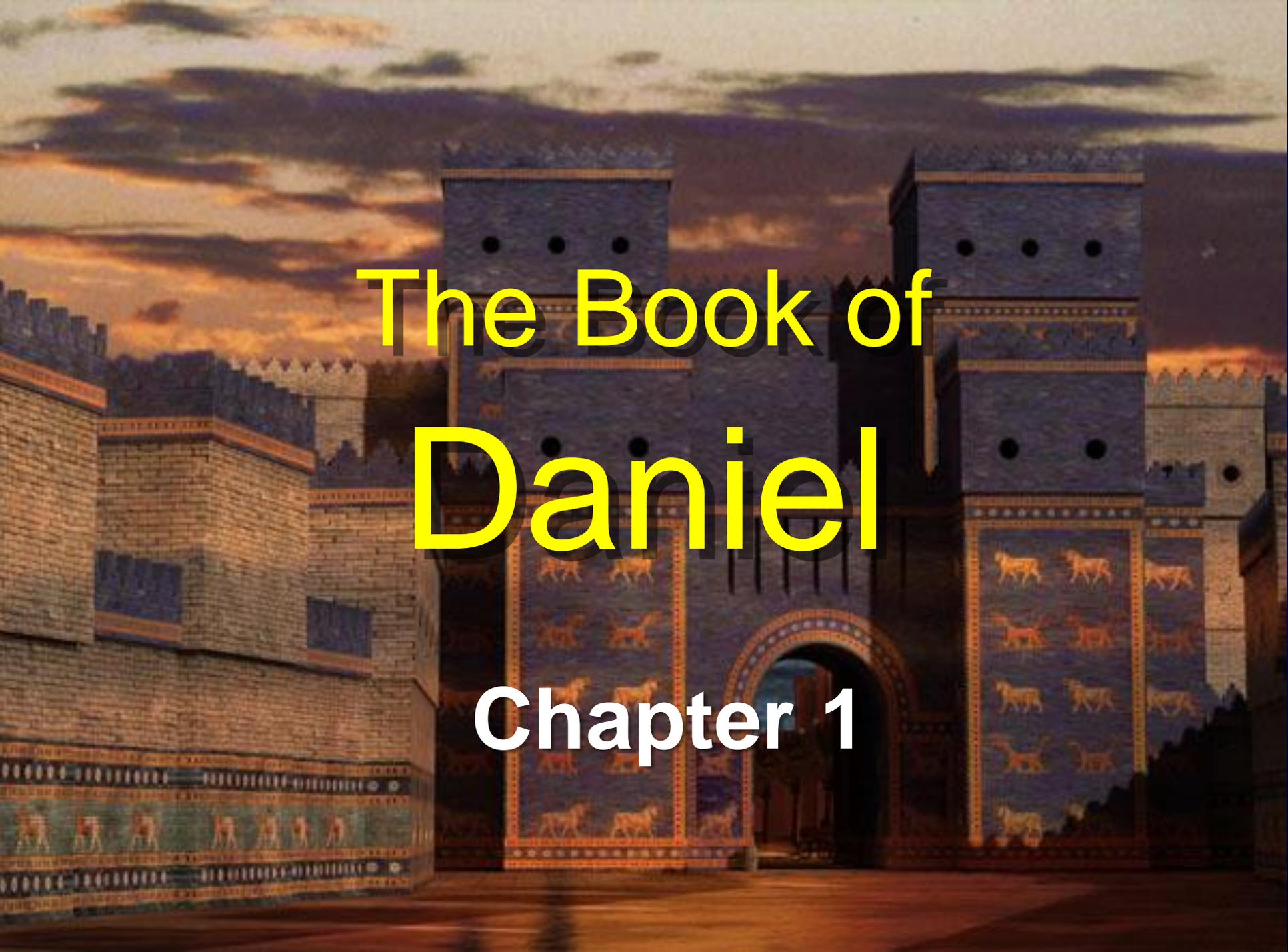
# Daniel's Career

- Destined to
  - Rise to prime prominence in Babylonian Empire
  - Rise to prime prominence in the subsequent Persian Empire
  - Personally receive the most astonishing prophecies in the entire Bible Dan 9-12
  - Authenticated by Jesus Himself Matt 24:15
  - Classed with Noah and Job Eze 14:14

# Godly Example

7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: **whose faith follow,** considering the end of their conversation

**Hebrews 13:7**



# The Book of Daniel

## Chapter 1

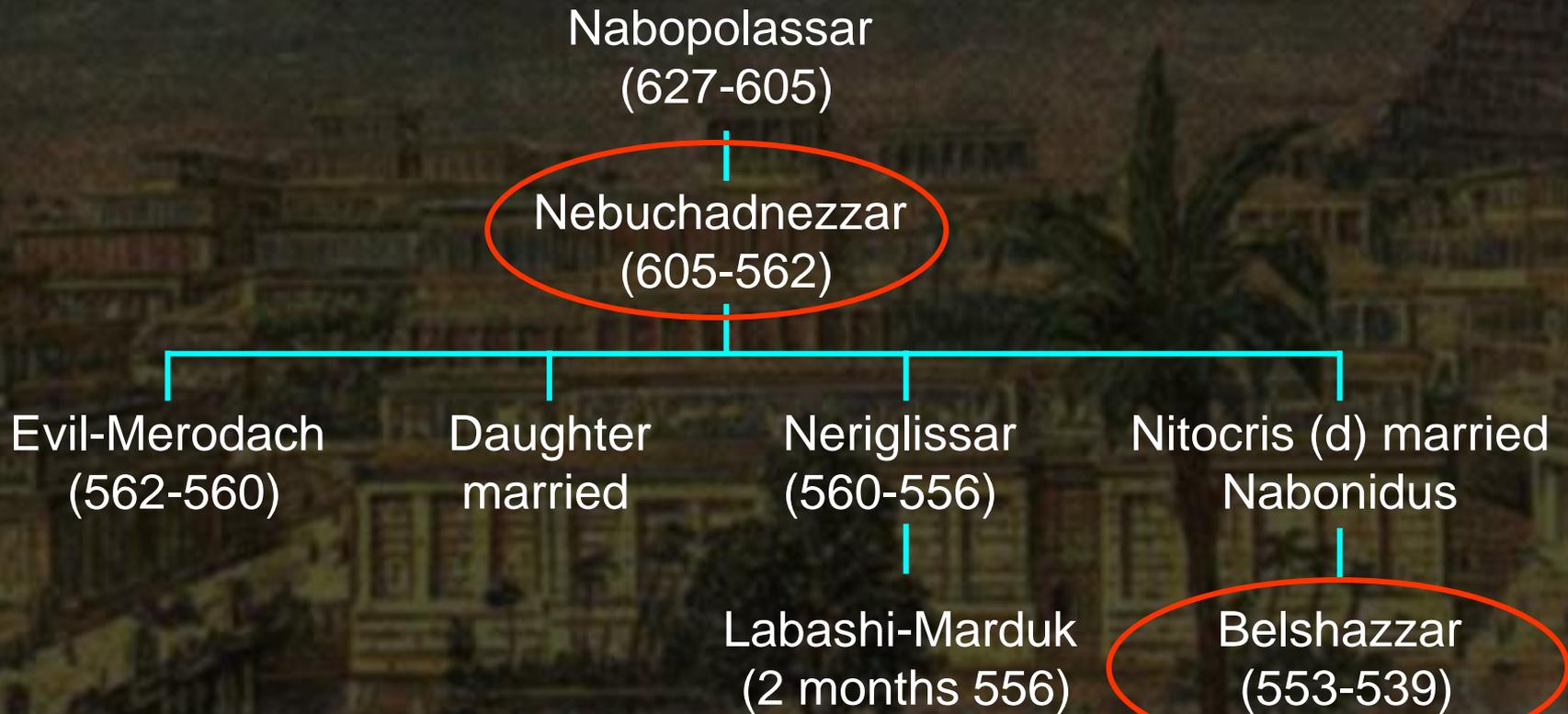
<sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.

<sup>2</sup> And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

Daniel 1:1-2

- Note: “The Lord gave Jehoiakim...”
  - Daniel sees this as literally fulfilled prophecy
  - Daniel was fundamentalist!

# Kings of Babylonian Empire

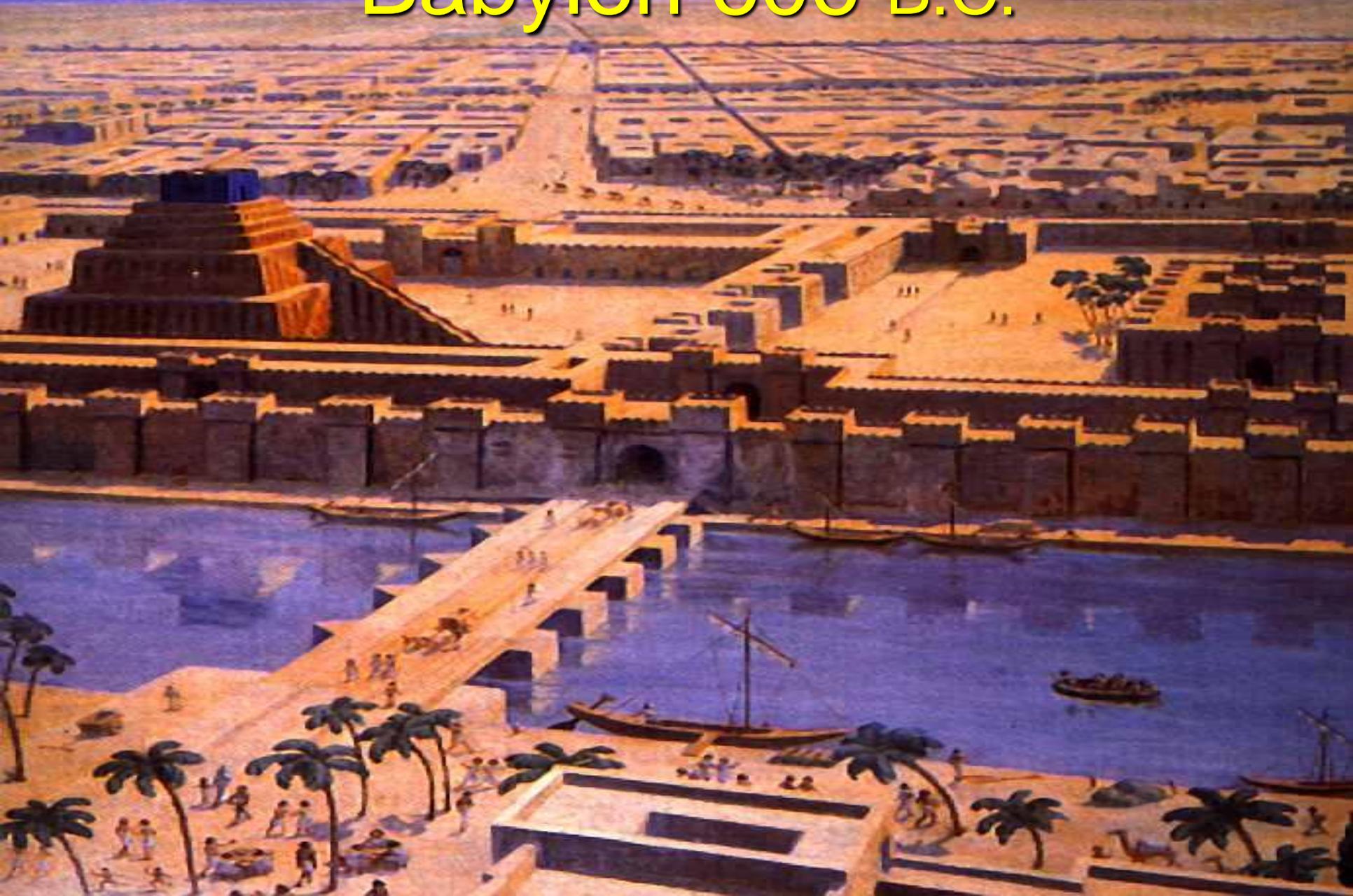


3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, **and of the king's seed, and of the princes;**

4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

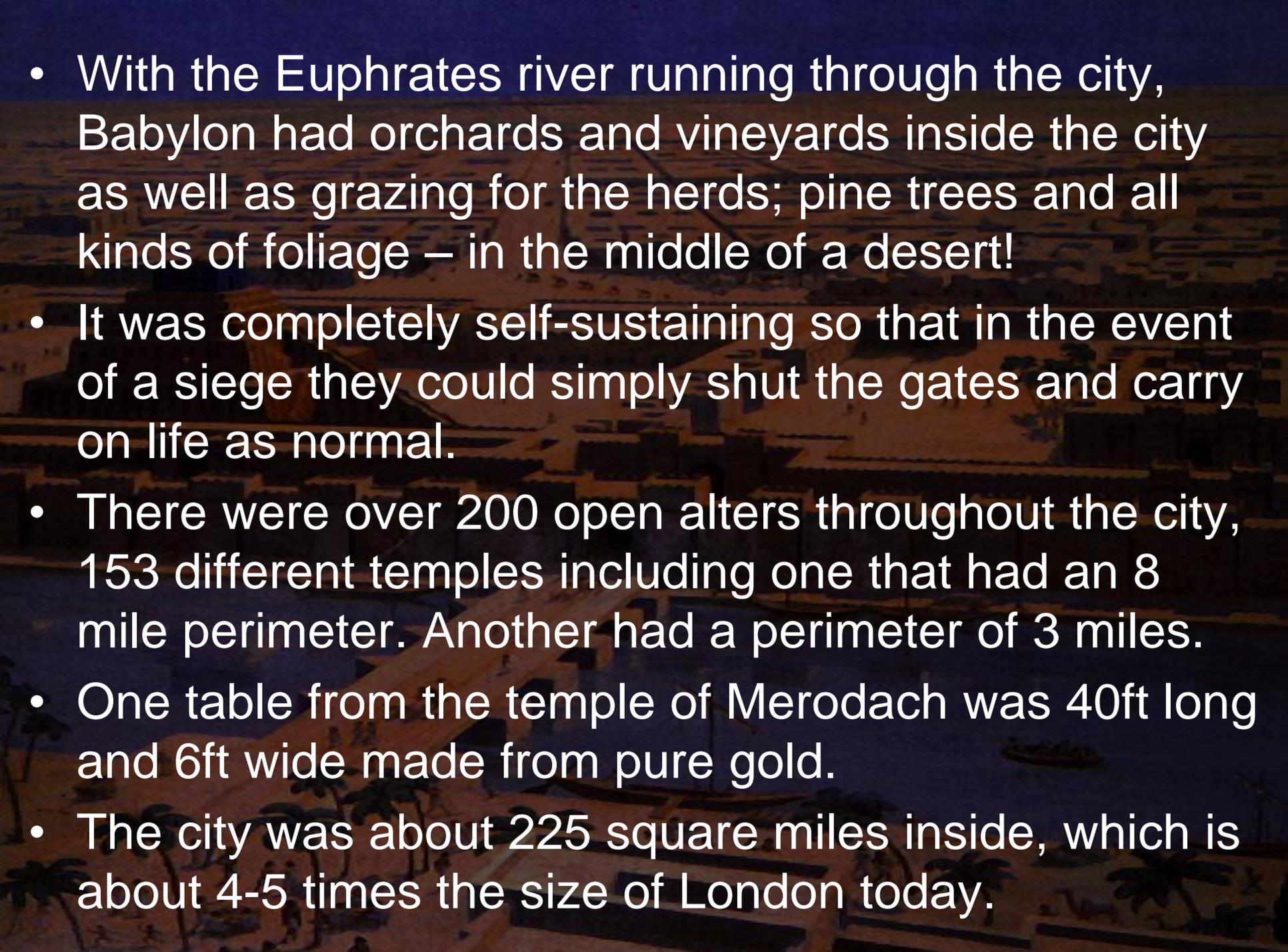
**Daniel 1:3-4**

# Babylon 606 B.C.



# Bright Lights of the City

- A 14-16 year old Daniel and his friends leave Jerusalem and travel for weeks across desert terrain.
- Suddenly they see a city in the distance. As they get closer the scale becomes clear.
- This is a city that is 15 miles per side, walls that are 330ft high and 80ft thick
  - wide enough for the Babylonians to have chariot races around the walls – six a breast!
- 250 towers are around the walls; 80ft brass gates reflecting the sun and shining for miles around, and the infamous hanging gardens that were one of the seven wonders of the ancient world

- 
- An aerial view of ancient Babylon, showing the Euphrates river flowing through the city. The city is enclosed by a large, dark wall, and the interior is filled with a dense grid of buildings and streets. The river is a prominent feature, winding through the city and providing a source of water for the inhabitants. The overall scene is a detailed reconstruction of the city's layout and its relationship to the river.
- With the Euphrates river running through the city, Babylon had orchards and vineyards inside the city as well as grazing for the herds; pine trees and all kinds of foliage – in the middle of a desert!
  - It was completely self-sustaining so that in the event of a siege they could simply shut the gates and carry on life as normal.
  - There were over 200 open alters throughout the city, 153 different temples including one that had an 8 mile perimeter. Another had a perimeter of 3 miles.
  - One table from the temple of Merodach was 40ft long and 6ft wide made from pure gold.
  - The city was about 225 square miles inside, which is about 4-5 times the size of London today.

*5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.*

*6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:*

**Daniel 1:5-6**

- 3-year training programme for Daniel and friends

*7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abed-nego.*

**Daniel 1:7**

- This was intended to make them forget their God and embrace the god's and culture of Babylon.

# New Names Given

Daniel

“God is my Judge”

Belteshazzar

“May Bel protect you!”

Hananiah

“Beloved of the Lord”

Shadrach

“Illumined by the Rah”

Mishael

“Who is as God”

Meshach

“Who is like unto the Acou”

Azariah

“The Lord is My Help”

Abednego

“Servant of Nego, a shining fire”

<sup>17</sup> To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone **a new name written**, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

**Revelation 2:17**

- A new name given that we might be conformed to His likeness

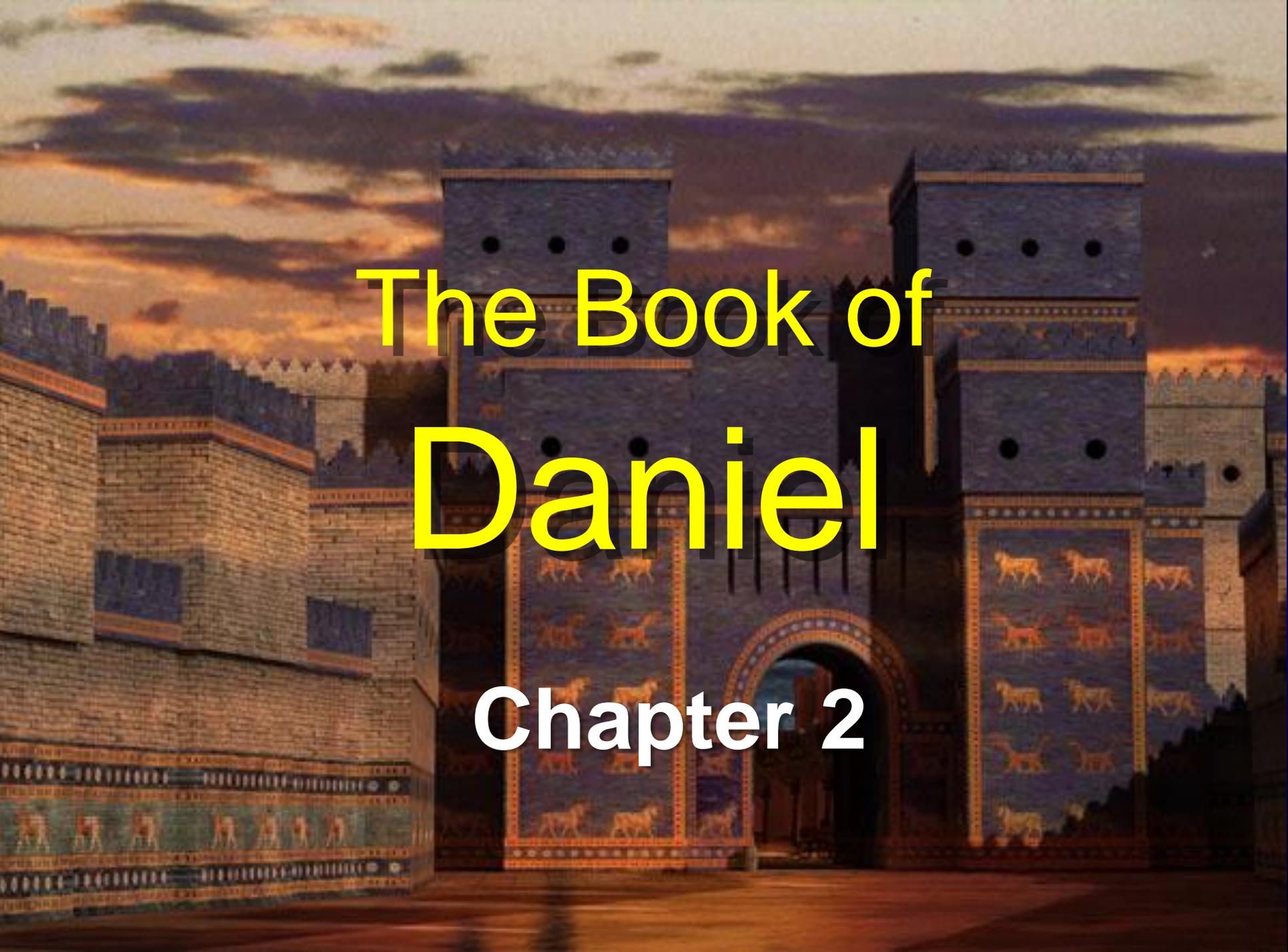
# Daniel's Purity

- How much this change of names influenced Daniel's thinking can be seen in the fact that only once does Daniel call himself by this new name, and it only appears ten times in total in the book - including this occurrence.
  - Bill Cooper points out that Daniel intentionally miss-spells this new name so as not to give any honour to the false Babylonian god!
- Yet he uses His Hebrew name 75 times.
  - Daniel never forgot that 'God was his judge'

<sup>21</sup> And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

Daniel 1:21

- Daniel purposed in his heart as a 14 year old, and as we will see, nothing has changed by the time he is in his 90's.
- *'Daniel continued'*
  - What a testimony, what a challenge!



# The Book of Daniel

## Chapter 2

*I And in the second year of the reign of  
Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams,  
wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake  
from him.*

**Daniel 2:1**

# Nebuchadnezzar's 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr

- 606 B.C.
- Jehoiakim's 3<sup>rd</sup> year (Dan 1:1)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Siege of Jerusalem
  - Nebuchadnezzar's ascension year
  - Daniel's 1<sup>st</sup> year in training (Dan 1:5)
- 

- 605 B.C.
- Nebuchadnezzar's 1<sup>st</sup> year as king
  - Daniel's 2<sup>nd</sup> year in training
- 

- 604 B.C.
- Nebuchadnezzar's 2<sup>nd</sup> year as king
  - Daniel's 3<sup>rd</sup> year in training

# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- Power struggle between magicians (Magi), and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans
- The Magi were the priestly order of the Meads
  - Their order was hereditary
  - They were renowned for astronomy (but also fell into astrology) and were recognised as 'dream interpreters'
- The Chaldeans, being of Babylonian descent saw themselves as the true counsellors to the king

# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- The king asks for an interpretation of his dream...
- The Chaldeans offer to go first 2:4
  - Deliberate attempt to upstage the Magi
- But then the king explains that he cannot remember (or wanted to test them!) 2:5
  - (The Chaldeans soon wish they had let the Magi go first!)

# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- None can interpret – or even 'remember' the dream so the king decrees that all should be killed 2:12
- Daniel – still in his training period - hears of this and petitions the king for time to seek his God 2:16
- Daniel then goes home and gives the good news to his friends!

# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- *“Guess what guys, the king has had a dream. No one could figure it out so he was going to kill all of us.....But I told him that me and my buddies would be able to work it out! How cool is that?”*
- You can hear their reply:
- *‘You did what?!’*
- Something tells me that Daniel did not need to encourage them too hard to pray that evening!

# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- Daniel receives the interpretation from the Lord and then (seemingly inexplicably) asks for the Magi to be spared
- Subsequently Daniel is appointed as 'Rab-Mag' (Chief of the Magi) Ref: Dan 4:9 / Jer 39:3
- One of their principle rolls was to appoint and advise kings Ref: Esther 1:13

# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- It seems that Daniel entrusted this elite group with one of the most treasured secrets of all time!
- ...that God would become incarnate!
- Through the centuries the Magi waited until in 2 B.C. they look up and see a new star!
- They begin their journey to Roman occupied Jerusalem in search of the One they were to anoint as king!

# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- As these horse-riding 'king makers' with an entourage of 1000 or more arrive in Jerusalem...
- ... "all Jerusalem is troubled" [Matt 2:3](#)
- ... and none more than the Idumean king Herod who had been appointed by Rome to rule Judea
- When the Magi arrive they ask: "Where is He who has been *born* king of the Jews!"

# Giovanni - The Journey Of The Magi



# Detail From “Adoration Of The Magi” By Botticelli



# Christmas Card from Woolworths!



“you invalidated the word of God for the sake of  
your tradition” **Matt 15:6**

# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- Daniel explains the dream and gives the interpretation:
  - There is to be four great empires following Babylon
  - At the end of days, the God of Heaven will establish His own throne and rule over the whole earth.
  - His will be a kingdom that will never end

# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

**Gold**

**Babylon**

606 BC – 539 BC

**Silver**

**Persia**

539 BC – 332 BC

**Brass**

**Greece**

332 BC – 68 BC

**Iron**

**Rome I**

68 BC – ?

**Iron + Clay**

**"Rome II"**



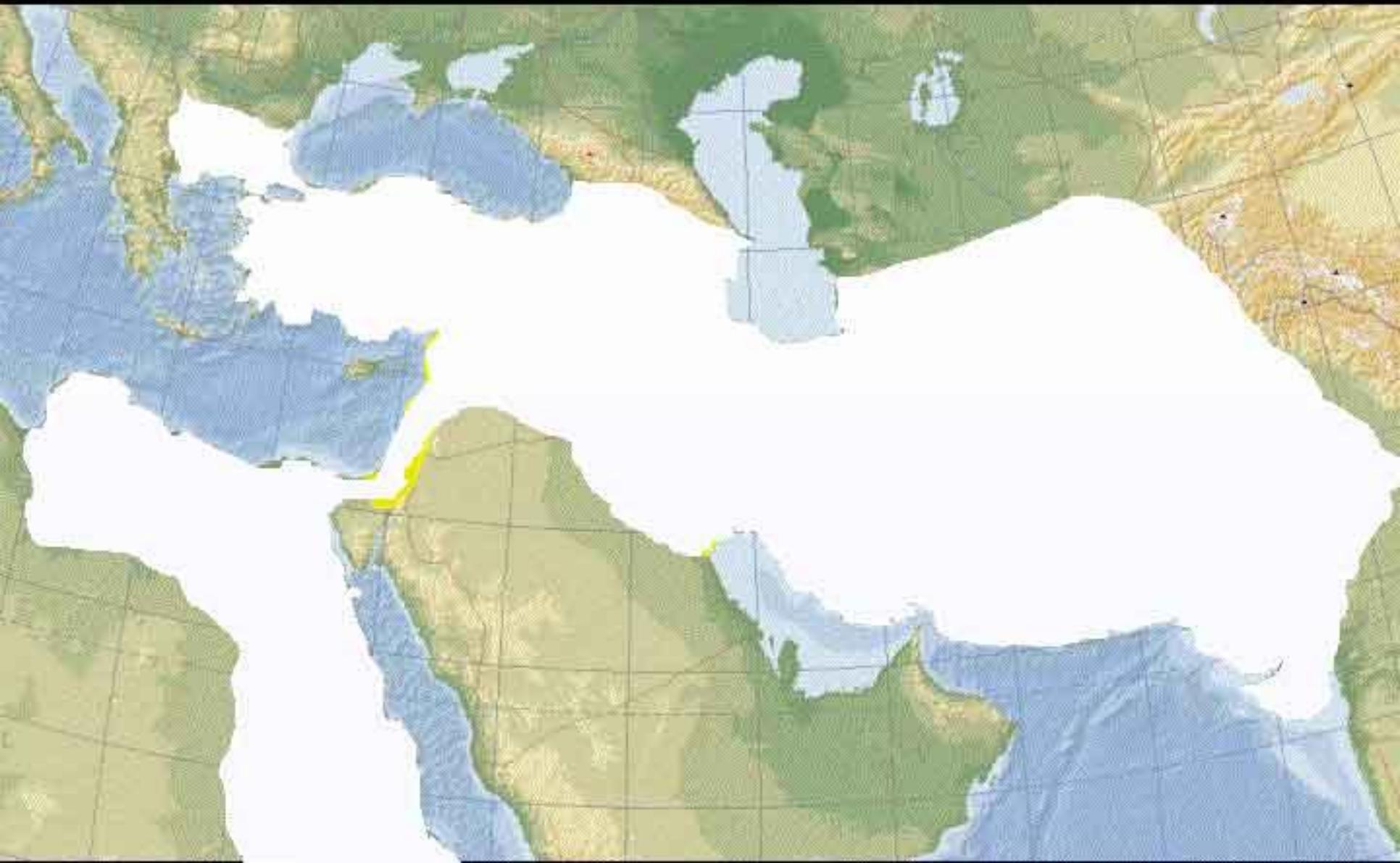
# The Babylonian Empire

606-539 BC



# The Persian Empire

539-332 BC



# The Greek Empire

332 – 68 BC



# The Empire Divided

Daniel 11



Cassandria

Lysimachus

**Seleucus**

**Ptolemy**

400 "Silent Years"  
(Detailed in advance in Daniel 11)

# The Roman Empire

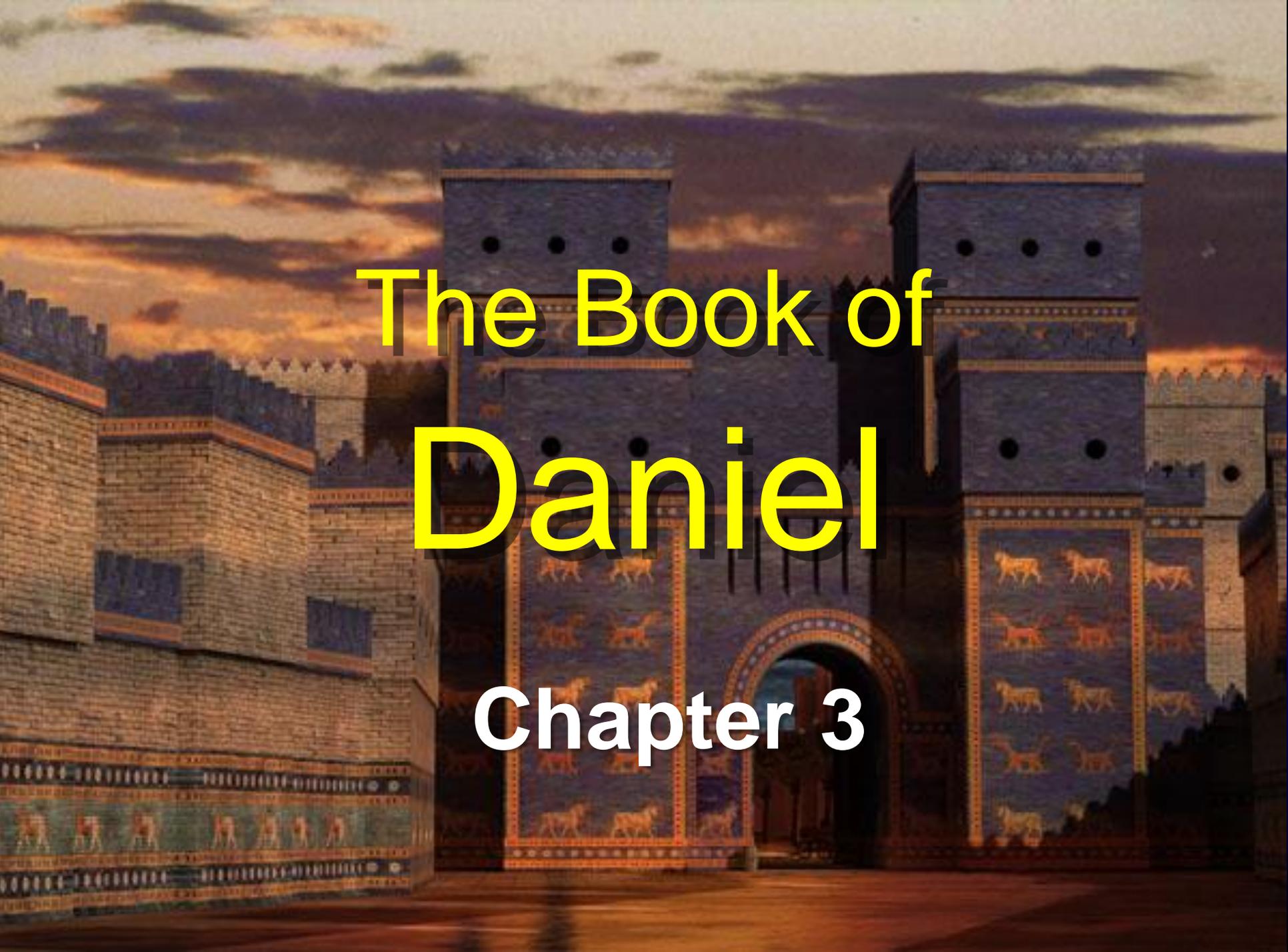
68 BC – 476 AD



44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

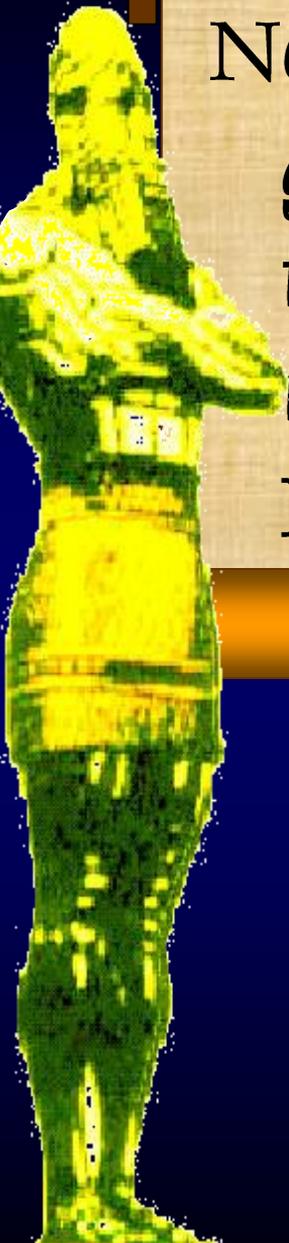
Daniel 2:44

- This kingdom is the 'Kingdom *from* Heaven' spoken of Matthew's gospel 32x
- It is an earthly kingdom
- It is a sub-set of the 'kingdom of God'



# The Book of Daniel

## Chapter 3



Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height *was* threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:1

All Gold  
6 x 60 cubits high  
9 x 90 ft high



# A Vote of Confidence

- A revolt in 596 B.C. may have set the stage for the wide scale reaffirmation and swearing allegiance in support of Nebuchadnezzar.
  - Cuneiform tablets in British Museum
- Jeremiah 51:59 records a visit Zedekiah had to make to Babylon at this time

# Historical Confirmation

- Archaeologists have unearthed a 45ft square & 20ft high 'base' in the plain of Dura which many now believe could have been the base for this image, and would have been clearly visible from the walls of Babylon
- A furnace has also been discovered at this site

*16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.*

*17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.*

*18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

**Daniel 3:16-18**

- Echo's of Job 13:15?

# But if not...

In World War II when the British and allied forces had been pushed back by the German army to the beaches of Dunkirk, France, being trapped by the English Channel on one side and the approaching German's on the other, they sent a simple three word message back home: "But if not". Immediately this was recognised as being a quote from the book of Daniel and was understood to mean that the trapped British troops would wait to be saved, but if not, they would die fighting and standing up for their cause. This then led to the famous Dunkirk evacuations where hundreds of military, merchant and private fishing boats set sail across the Channel and dramatically rescued in the region of 350,000 British and allied soldiers. It has been said that if such a message were to be sent today, the soldiers would perish, as no one knows what the Bible says anymore.

*19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.*

*20 And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

**Daniel 3:19-20**

- Furnace is mentioned 30 times in the Bible (KJV), and always in connection with tribulation and/or judgment
- Furnace. 7x – Interesting!

*21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

*22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.*

**Daniel 3:21-22**

*24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.*

*25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.*

**Daniel 3:24-25**

- By going through this furnace the only thing that was burnt up was what was binding them!

# Son of God?

- The Aramaic actually says ‘the son of the gods’ - Plural.
- The Aramaic word used is equivalent to the Hebrew ‘Eloheim’ (Gods) and is not the same as ‘Bar Eloheim’ (sons of God) usually translated ‘angels’.
- Thus this is seen to be an Old Testament appearance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Trinity – our Lord Jesus Christ
  - Referred to by scholars as a Christophany
  - See also Joshua 5:13-15 / Judges 13:3-22

The Missing Element:

*Where's Daniel?*

# Why Wasn't Daniel in the Furnace?

1. Did Daniel yield to the king's challenge?
  - Never!
2. Was Daniel was exempted from accusation by his enemies?
  - The Satanic intent behind this precludes this!
3. Was Daniel 'out of the land', on an errand for the king?
  - Most likely. And Daniel's absence may well have given rise to the Chaldeans seizing this moment to try to implicate his 3 friends in treason

# Daniel 3

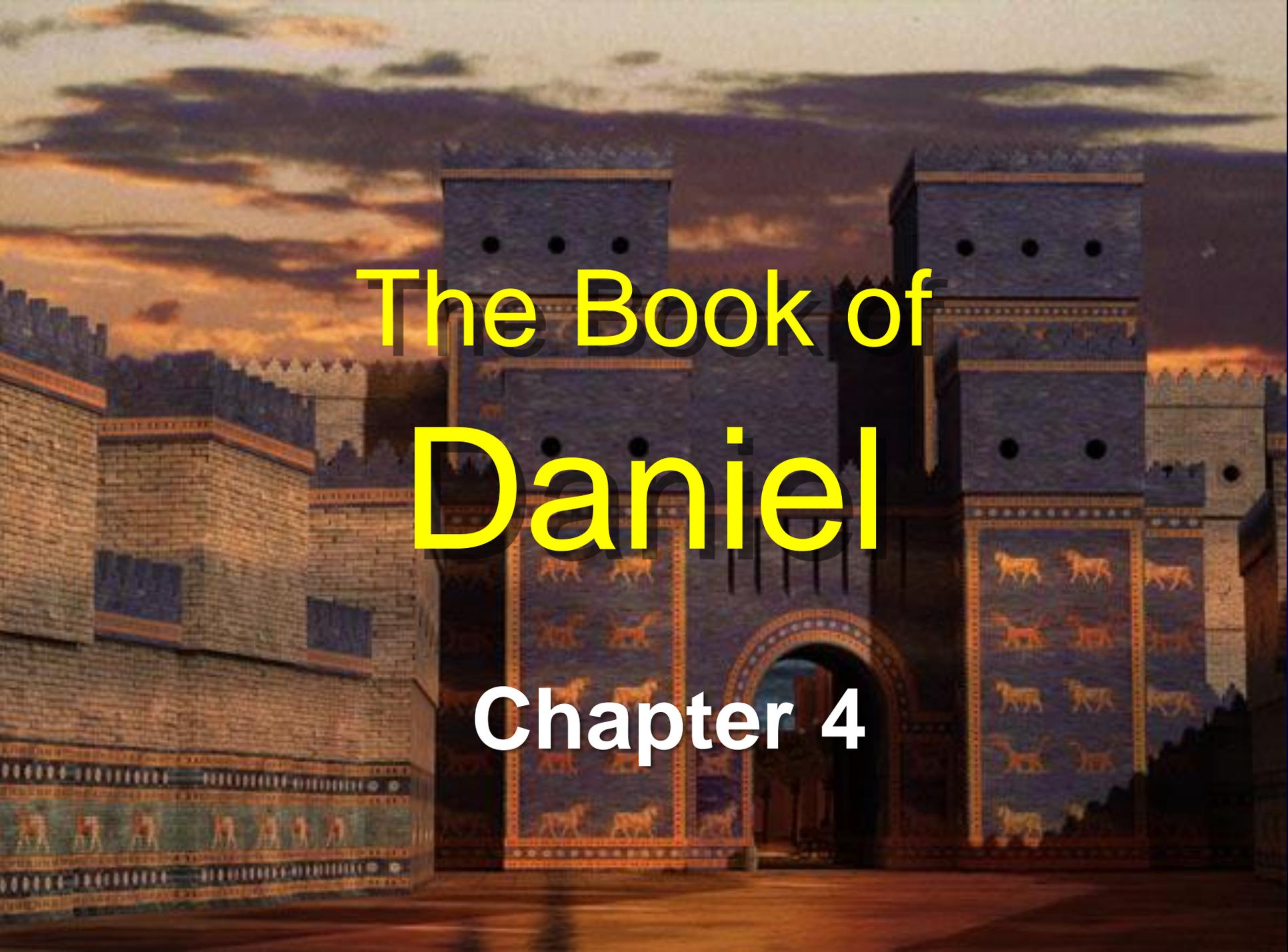
(Revisited:)

*A Remez\*?*

\* A hint of something deeper

# Daniel 3 vs Revelation 13

- Forced worship of Image Rev 13:1; Mt 24
  - Nebuchadnezzar = Antichrist?
  - Cf. Babel, Nimrod
  - One Enforced religion Rev 17; 2 Thes 2:4
- Mark of the Beast Rev 13:18
  - Barcodes? Microchips?
  - Vs. “seal” of the Holy Spirit Cf. Ezek 9:4
- Fiery furnace = Tribulation? Isa 43:1,2; Dan 9.
  - Men destroyed by flames: 2 Thes 2:8;  
Rev 20:10; 19:20
- 3 youths of Israel: 144,000? Rev 7; 15:2



# The Book of Daniel

## Chapter 4

# Nebuchadnezzar's Pride

- Chapter 4 of Daniel is written by a Gentile king!
- Neb explains his experience, that he was humbled as a result of his pride...
- But then finally learned the lesson God had tried 3x to teach him...
  - Ch 2: His dream / Ch 3: His image / Ch 4: His kingdom
- *“That the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will” 4:25*
- Neb was only king by God's decree!

*29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.*

*30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?*

*31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.*

**Daniel 4:29-32**

<sup>32</sup> And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

**Daniel 4:29-32**

# Nebuchadnezzar's Testimony

## Daniel 4

- Nebuchadnezzar's 2<sup>nd</sup> Dream
  - Great Tree, hewn down for 7 years
- Daniel interprets...
- 1 Year later,
  - Nebuchadnezzar stricken with mental derangement for 7 years
  - (Daniel was his personal nurse)
- Nebuchadnezzar recovers and publishes the entire testimony throughout the world

# Pride

- God hates it.

Prov 6:16-19; 16:5; 16:18; 21:24; 26:12;  
29:23

1 Cor 4:6,7; Phil 2:3-4; 1 Tim 6:4-10,17;  
James 4:13-17;

- Why?

– Satan's fall:

Isa 14:4-14

# Lycanthropy

- (Greek: *lykos*, “wolf”; *anthropos*, “Man”)
- Mental disorder in which the patient believes he is a wolf or some other animal.
- Romans: *versipellis* (“turnskin”)
- Boanthropy: an ox.

# Other Examples

- 268 BC: Abydenus, a Greek historian aspects of Nebuchadnezzar's insanity, being on the roof, and other details

Eusebius

- Berossus, Babylonian historian, a Chaldean priest at the time of Alexander

Josephus, *Contra Apion*, I, 20

- 1946: British Mental Institution
  - 20 yr-old; Hospitalized for 5 years

# “Prayer of (Nabonidus?)”

Found in Cave 4 at Qumran

“The words of the prayer that (Nabonidus?), the king of A[ssyria and Ba]bylon, the [great] king, prayed [when he was smitten] with a malignant disease by the decree of the [Most High God] in [the city of] Tema. I was smitten for seven years and from [men] I was put away. But when I confessed my sins and my faults, He [God] allowed me (to have) a soothsayer. This was a Jewish [man of the exiles in Babylon. He] explained (it) and wrote (me) to render honor and g[reat glor]y to the name of the [Most High God]...”

# Application

- Immediate: Nebuchadnezzar
- Prophetic?
  - Ecumenical outreach of Babylonianism and Gentile power in the last days and final overthrow?
  - Seven years of insanity and confusion?
  - Conversion took place after the 7 years of madness.
  - The tree did not sprout again until after it had been cut down...



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