



# THE BOOK OF DANIEL

...a verse by verse study

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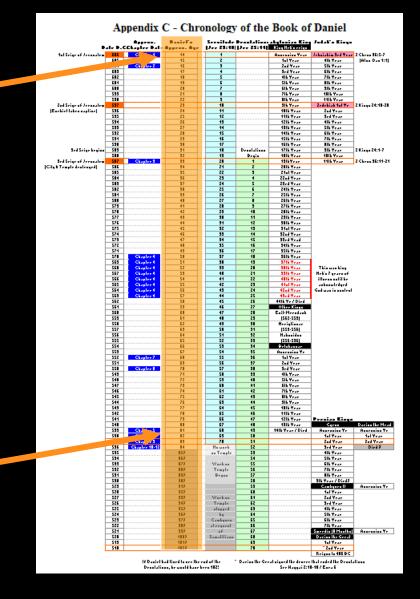
# Chronological Order

Chapter 606 B.C. **Babylonian Captivity** 1 604 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream 2 Nebuchadnezzar's Image 587 B.C. 3 Nebuchadnezzar's Pride 570-563 B.C. 4 The vision of the 4 beasts 552 B.C. 7 550 B.C. Ram and He-goat vision 8 **Babylon falls to Persians** 539 B.C. 5 539 B.C. The Lions' Den 6 Vision of seventy weeks 537 B.C. 9 10-12 Closing visions 536 B.C.

## Daniel the Aged!

Daniel was14 when taken to Babylon

- Chapter 6 occurs when he was c.82 years old!
- He will only be 'seen' for another 2 yrs after this







#### CHAPTER SIX

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### THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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<sup>1</sup> It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

<sup>2</sup> And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

**Daniel 6:1-2** 

### Daniel Chapter 6

- "It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 princes..."
- "Darius" was a title given to Medo-Persian kings
  - much like Pharaoh for Egyptian kings
- "Darius" means "holder of the sceptre".
- Cyrus was the king of the Medo-Persian empire, having united the two nations
  - Cyrus had one parent from Media and the other from Persia

### Daniel Chapter 6

- Darius was 'appointed' to this position by Cyrus
- Daniel 9:1 confirms that he was 'made king over the Chaldeans'
- Secular history records Darius the Mede as Gubaru – Cyrus' military general who captured Babylon in 539 B.C.

## Kings of the Persian Empire

Cyrus (559-530) (537 B.C. Jews Return Home)

Darius (Gubaru) (539-?) Ruled Babylon

Cambyses II (Artaxerxes – Ezra 4:7-24) (530-521) (Work on Temple stopped)

Smerdis (8 months 521-520)

Darius The Great (Hystaspes) (520 486) (Ezra 4:24)

> Xerxes (Esther) (486-465)

Artaxerxes Longimanus (465-424) <sup>3</sup> Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

- Not only did Daniel outrank all the other government officials, we are told that he was preferred above them all.
- You can almost hear the murmuring in the background already 'who does he think he is...?'.

### Daniel: No#2 in the Realm!

- Daniel becomes one of Darius' government officials – much to the consternation of the other officials!
- Why the antagonism?
- Back in Ch 2 Daniel had been made 'Rab-Mag' (Chief of the Magi)
  - This was an hereditary Persian sect
  - Responsible for appointing kings and acting as royal counsellors
- But Daniel wasn't a Mede or Persian!

#### Daniel: No#2 in the Realm!

 No doubt the other Magi and appointees were expecting a regime change now that Medo-Persia were in charge

Daniel had served under a Babylonian king

- The fact the Daniel is appointed as head over the others speaks volumes of his standing in Babylon at this time
  - It also corroborates the record of Josephus re Daniel meeting Cyrus at the gate of Babylon and presenting him with a copy of the scroll of Isaiah

### Daniel Chapter 6

- It's against that background that we find a conspiracy to frame Daniel in this chapter
- Foolishly Darius signs a decree that no-one should petition any power except him for 30 days or be thrown to the lions
- The Law of the Meads & Persians cannot be altered (cf: Chest & Arms of Silver 2:32/39
- The most remarkable thing is Daniel's reaction:

<sup>4</sup> Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

- 'A bishop must be blameless...' 1 Tim3:2
- Daniel was beyond reproach

<sup>5</sup> Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.
<sup>6</sup> Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

**Daniel 6:5-6** 

- What a testimony this is!
- It was clear to all, that Daniel was unwavering in his relationship with his God.
  - If this is the only 'chink' in our armour we need not worry!

<sup>7</sup> All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

<sup>8</sup> Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

# <sup>9</sup> Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

#### Prof. Robert Dick Wilson

• "The decree of Darius the Mede with regard to the den of lions was easy of execution, inasmuch as at that time lions were common in all that part of the world. The Assyrian kings were wont to hunt lions as a pastime. Thus Tiglath–Pileser I says that he killed 920 lions in one hunting expedition; and Ashurnasirpal says that he killed at one time 120 lions and that at another time he captured 50 young lions and shut them up in Calah and in the palaces of his land in cages and let them produce their young.

#### Prof. Robert Dick Wilson

• At another time he killed 370 strong lions. In his menagerie, he says, also, that he had herds of wild oxen, elephants, lions, birds, wild asses, gazelles, dogs, panthers, and all animals of the mountains and of the plains, to show to his people. Moreover, the Hebrew poets and prophets were familiar with lions; the people, also, made proverbs concerning them; and their heroes, such as Samson and David, are said to have slain them. So, also, the oldest story in the Aramaic language (that of Achikar from the fifth century B.C.) treats the lion as a well known animal.

#### Prof. Robert Dick Wilson

 Herodotus says that lions interfered with the march of Xerxes army to Greece. Surely, if we can believe that the Romans imported lions from Africa and threw the Christians to them in the Coliseum, we can readily believe that a Median king of Babylon may have had a den of lions into which to throw those who had disobeyed his laws. Certainly, at least, there was no physical impossibility in the matter."

<sup>10</sup> Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

- Daniel did not wait for the crisis to decide what he was going to do!
- The decision had been made before the choice was presented!
- This was Daniel's way of life

- This is another hugely significant verse.
- Jerusalem lay in ruins, Daniel had not seen it for almost 70 years, and yet he prays towards it in accordance to Solomon's petition as recorded in 2 Chron 6:34-39:

#### Solomon's Petition

If thy people go out to war against their enemies by the way that thou shalt send them, and they pray unto thee toward this city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name; Then hear thou from the heavens their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

#### 2 Chronicles 6:34-39

### Solomon's Petition

If they sin against thee, (for there is no man which sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before their enemies, and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near; Yet if they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto thee in the land of their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly; If they return to thee with all their heart...

#### 2 Chronicles 6:34-39

### Solomon's Petition

...and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, and toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name: Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee.

- It is from this passage that devout Jews even today pray toward Jerusalem
- It is also the reason that Muslims pray toward Mecca, because after Mohamed was rejected by the Jews he established Mecca instead of Jerusalem as the place of worship for his new religion.
- The fact that his windows were open, demonstrates readiness and preparation, but what is also interesting is that Daniel doesn't panic when he finds out about the decree.

#### Daniel 6:10

- Daniel had never lived in the fear of man and he is not going to worry now.
- Daniel's prayer life was habitual and it was the easiest thing in the world for him to pray when trouble arose.
- How often do we stumble at the first hurdle when trials come simply because we are not in the habit of taking everything to God in prayer?

- Oh what needless pain we bear!

#### he kneeled upon his knees...

- There are many ways to pray, and limitless places to pray, but shutting yourself away and praying on your knees seems to make our physical body more in tune with the spiritual.
- Jesus said:
  - "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (Matt 6:6).
- Bowing our knees when we pray emphasises the fact that we are addressing the God of Heaven, whose presence we should never enter lightly

#### he kneeled upon his knees...

- We have an advocate with the Father in the person of Jesus, but we should still fear (reverence/respect) God.
- In what was probably Jesus' most intense prayer in the garden of Gethsemane we read:
  - "He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed," (Luke 22:41)
- When we address the Creator God of the Universe we should do so with humility of heart, that will naturally overflow into the physical.

- Many of us, if we are honest, struggle to pray once a day 'on our knees' i.e. actually putting time aside specifically to pray.
- It is of course right and proper that we pray 'on the go', Paul said that we should:
  - "pray without ceasing" (1 Thes 5:17),
  - "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (Eph 6:18);
- However, this is not to be a substitute for going into our room, shutting the door and spending some quality time with God.

- For Daniel on the other hand, this was a way of life, "...as he did aforetime".
- Faced with this situation Daniel just did what he had always done since coming to Babylon almost 70 years ago; he had purposed in his heart to be separated unto his God and no distraction would keep him from this task.

- How often the attractions of our 'Babylon' become the subtle distractions that keep us from a life of prayer and an undefiled walk with God.
- Paul said:

 "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any" (1 Cor 6:12)

- It is also important to notice how Daniel behaves in this situation, for the days are coming where those who would accuse us will be watching our every move, looking for an opportunity to entrap us.
- Already in Canada it is an offence to declare that Jesus is the only way under their 'hate crimes' laws.
- In various European countries pastors have been arrested for taking a Biblical stand against moral, gender and sexual issues

- It is true that the church won't go through the Great Tribulation, but we would be naive if we thought we would escape persecution altogether.
- Jesus said that in this world we would be persecuted, and that the world would hate us (John 16:1-3).
- This has been the case for the last 2000 years in most of the world.
- In the west we have largely escaped the persecution that many Christians face on a daily basis.

- So how did Daniel behave in this situation?
- The first thing to notice is that he didn't panic, nor did he do anything to intentionally draw attention to himself.
- He did not set out to provoke his accusers; he simply carried on serving God as he had always done.
- All that we do should be done in an attitude of love.
- Love does not provoke.

- As we noted in chapter three, we are to obey the laws and ordinances of men so long as they don't contradict the commands of God
- But if and when such occasions arise that mans laws become contrary to the word of God, we should have no hesitation in serving the Lord, regardless of the cost.

## <sup>11</sup> Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

• The whole thing was such an obvious set-up!

**Daniel 6:11** 

 We are not told how many men gathered outside Daniel's house to 'catch him in the act', but if *'these men'* refers to the same crowd mentioned in verses 4 & 5, it may have been all 120 princes and the other two presidents. <sup>12</sup> Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

#### **Daniel 6:12**

• They had no need to ask if the king had signed such a decree because they had written it and taken it to him to sign in the first place!

<sup>13</sup> Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

- Now their plan comes to light, as does the fact that they had been watching him.
- Notice how they try to insult Daniel and put him down: 'That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah' – 'this guy is only a slave anyway, and from Judah at that'.

<sup>14</sup> Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him

 Notice that the king is not cross with Daniel, he is cross with himself for being so naive.

**Daniel 6:14** 

 How quick we are to try and undo what has been done when we realise the error of our ways. How was Darius going to explain this to Cyrus next time he was in town and asked to speak to that incredible old Jewish man? <sup>15</sup> Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed. <sup>16</sup> Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

#### Daniel 6:15-16

- With no way out the king does what he had to do.
- Did Darius have faith that God would deliver Daniel, or was he just hoping?

## The King's Favour

<sup>34</sup> Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.
<sup>35</sup> The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame.

Prov 14:34-15:1

<sup>17</sup> And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

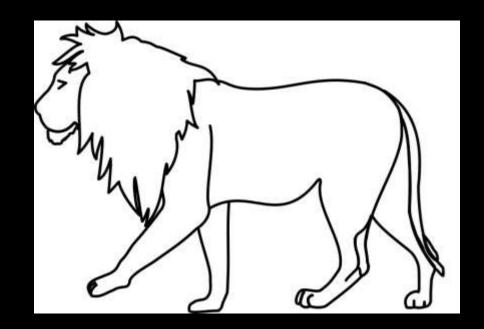
Daniel 6:17

 There are few mental traumas worse than remorse, for there is nothing that can be done to change the circumstances

## Straightening the Croked

- Solomon said: "That which is crooked cannot me made straight" Ecc 1:15
- Fortunately, for us all there is One greater than Solomon (Matt 12:42)
- Regardless of what you have done, there is One, outside of time, who entered into His creation at a specific point in history and paid once and for all for every wrong thing we have ever *done*, *said or thought* thus wiping the slate clean.
- He can even purge the conscience (Heb 9:14)

<sup>18</sup> Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.





## <sup>19</sup> Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

<sup>20</sup> And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

<sup>21</sup> Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.
<sup>22</sup> My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Daniel 6:21-22

 How incredible it must have been for Daniel to have spent a night in safety knowing that God had sent His angel and that the lions couldn't harm him!

## ... a roaring lion

- How incredible also for us to know that our adversary, who roams about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, cannot harm us because we also are protected by the angel of the Lord (Heb 1:14 / Heb 13:5).
- Could it have been the same 'angel' who protected the three in the furnace? Throughout the Old Testament the Angel of the Lord is no mere angel but the commander of the armies of the Lord – i.e. Jesus Christ.

## ... a roaring lion

- It is worth noting that when a lion is about to move in for the kill they are silent, not wanting to disturb their prey.
- However, generally speaking, the only times they roar is when they feel threatened;
- Jesus said in Luke 10:19
  - "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.".
- John states:
  - "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4).

## ... a roaring lion

- Our enemy is also behind bars
- He can roar all he wants, and little children my still be frightened...
- but those who are mature in the faith know they need not fear because between us and him there is the impenetrable barrier of the blood of Jesus and we are safe in His hands (John 10:27-28).

<sup>23</sup> Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

### A Model?

- There is someone else who was faultless yet betrayed,
- handed over to death,
- went down into a pit,
- a stone was rolled into place and sealed to stop Him escaping,
- yet on the third day He was taken 'up out of the den and no manner of hurt was found upon Him\*, because He believed in His God'
  - \* Except for the nail prints in His hands & feet, which will serve as an eternal reminder of His love and sacrifice for you and I.

<sup>24</sup> And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

**Daniel 6:24** 

• We should not be envious of the workers of iniquity for their day is coming. David wrote:

#### The Workers of Iniquity...

Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green berb..... fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

Psalm 37

#### The Workers of Iniquity...

For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

Psalm 37

### The Workers of Iniquity...

The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken".

#### Psalm 37

 This is exactly what happened to the wicked ones who plotted against Daniel; their 'sword' did indeed enter their own heart.

#### Prof. Robert Dick Wilson

 "The possibility of the destruction of the one hundred and twenty satraps and their families by lions is shown from the fact that the monuments of the kings of Assyria say that they had menageries containing "all the animals of the mountains and of the plains," including elephants, panthers, and lions. Further, it is shown that lions at that time were the pest of the Euphrates Valley, hundreds of them being killed in a single hunting expedition, and that in one case mentioned by Ashurnasirapal, king of Assyria, fifty young lions were captured alive and shut up by him in the city of Calach." - Studies In Daniel

<sup>25</sup> Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. <sup>26</sup> I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

#### Daniel 6:25-26

 So just as with Nebuchadnezzar, Darius now acknowledges the God of Daniel, who is steadfast forever and whose kingdom is without end! <sup>27</sup> He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

<sup>27</sup> He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions

## <sup>28</sup> So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

### Daniel – A Role Model

- Just as Joseph had prospered because he trusted his God regardless of the circumstances, so Daniel did.
- Jesus said in Luke 16:11
  - "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?"
- He also told us to be as wise as serpents but as harmless as doves (Matt 10:16).
- Paul tells us that Christians should work even harder for their employers than the world does because we should work as unto the Lord

- (see 1Tim 6:1 / 2 Tim 4:9-10 / Titus 2:7-10)

### The Book of Daniel

- This ends the first (historical) section of the book.
- Chapters 7-12 will see Daniel having breathtaking visions that foretell the future of the Medo-Persian, Greek, Roman and final world empires.
- We will be introduced to the 'little horn' speaking great things, and we will see some of the most incredible prophecies in the Bible that help to unravel the days that we are living in right now and prove beyond doubt that Jesus Christ is the Messiah of Israel and He is destined to return and rule on the throne of David and establish an everlasting kingdom!

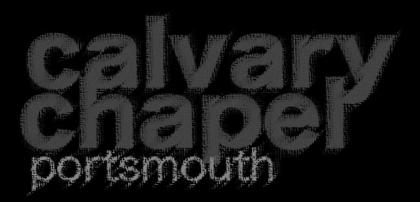


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To be continued...

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