



CHAPTER NINE

A golden-hued, textured background image depicting a scene from the Book of Daniel. On the left, a large, dark, bearded statue of a king stands with arms crossed. In the background, a city with various buildings and structures is visible, including a prominent multi-tiered building on the right. The overall scene is set against a hazy, golden sky.

THE BOOK OF  
DANIEL

*...a verse by verse study*



# Israel's History

Review

# Israel's History

- God calls Abram (Abraham)
  - Genesis 12
- Isaac / Jacob / Joseph
  - 430 years of Oppression
  - Beginning with Ishmael, ending in Egypt
- God delivers Israel (through Moses)
  - Given the Law (10 commandments)
  - inc. Lev 25:1-23 'Sabbath for the Land'
  - Lev 26:14-43 'result of disobedience'

# The Sabbath for the Land

- 3 Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof;
- 4 But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.

**Leviticus 25:3-4**

# The Sabbath for the Land

- 31 And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours.
- 32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.
- 33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

**Leviticus 26:31-35**

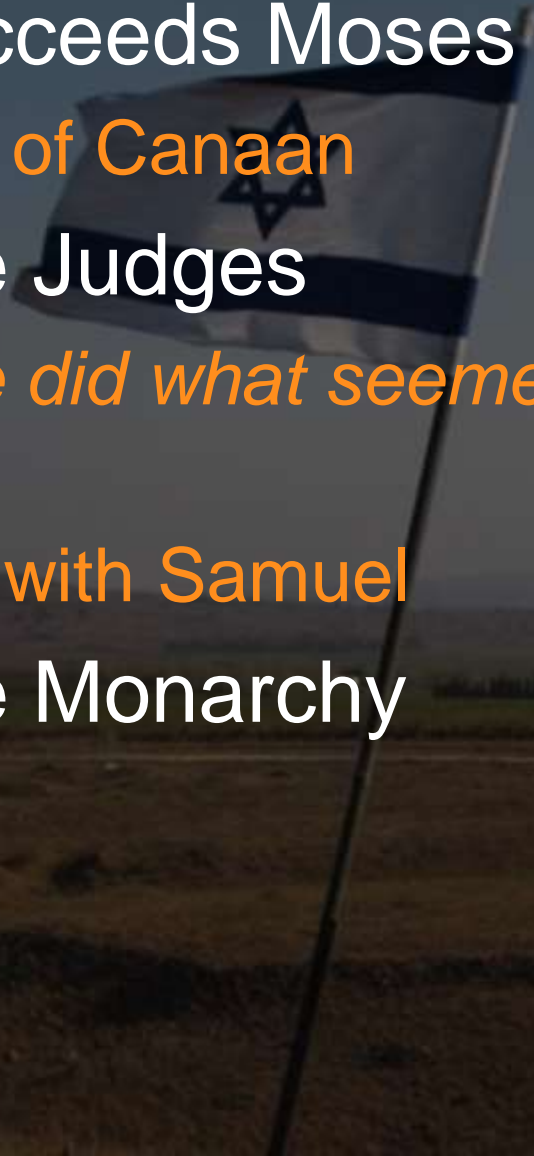
# The Sabbath for the Land

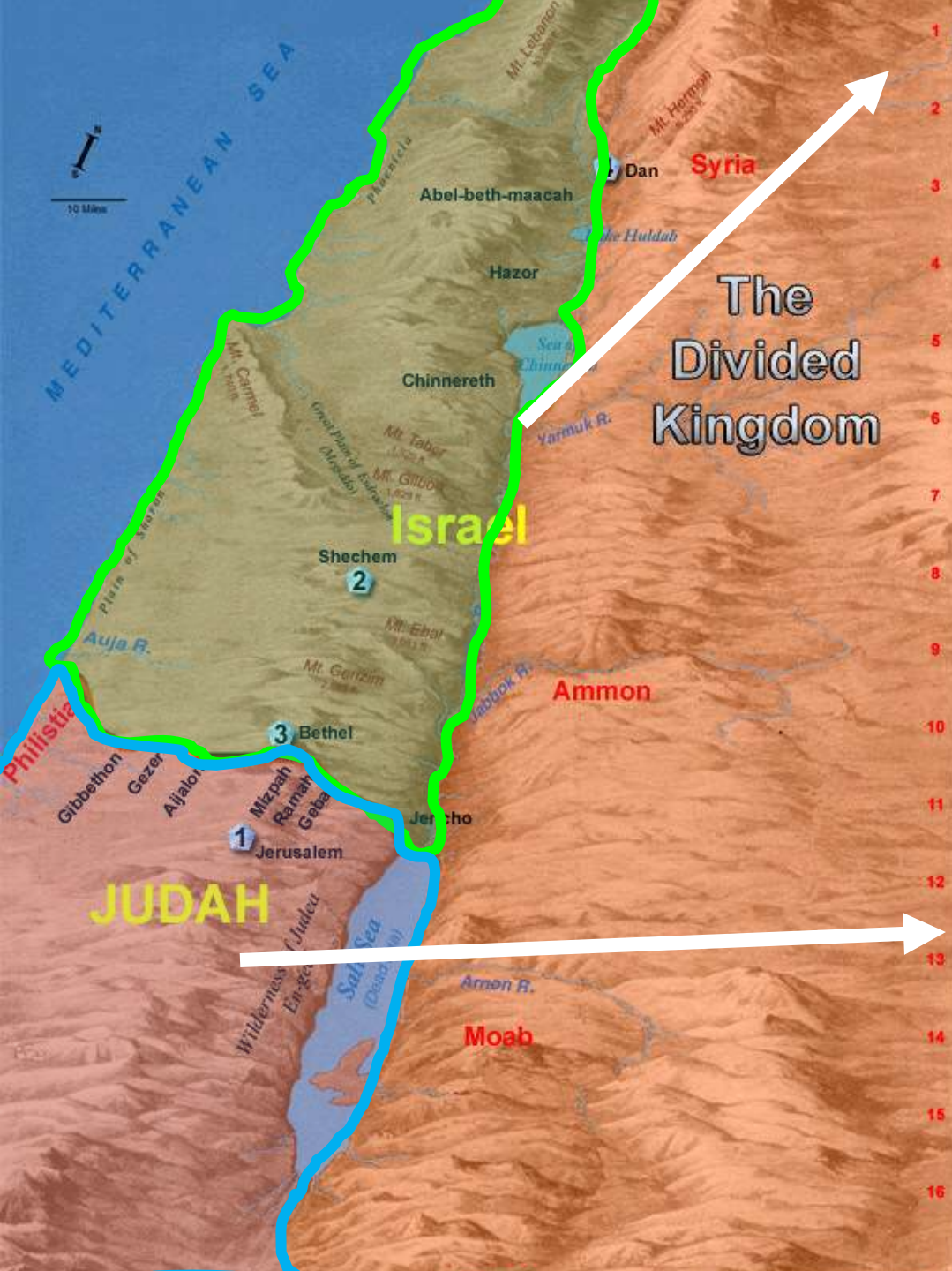
- 34 Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.
- 35 As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.

**Leviticus 26:31-35**

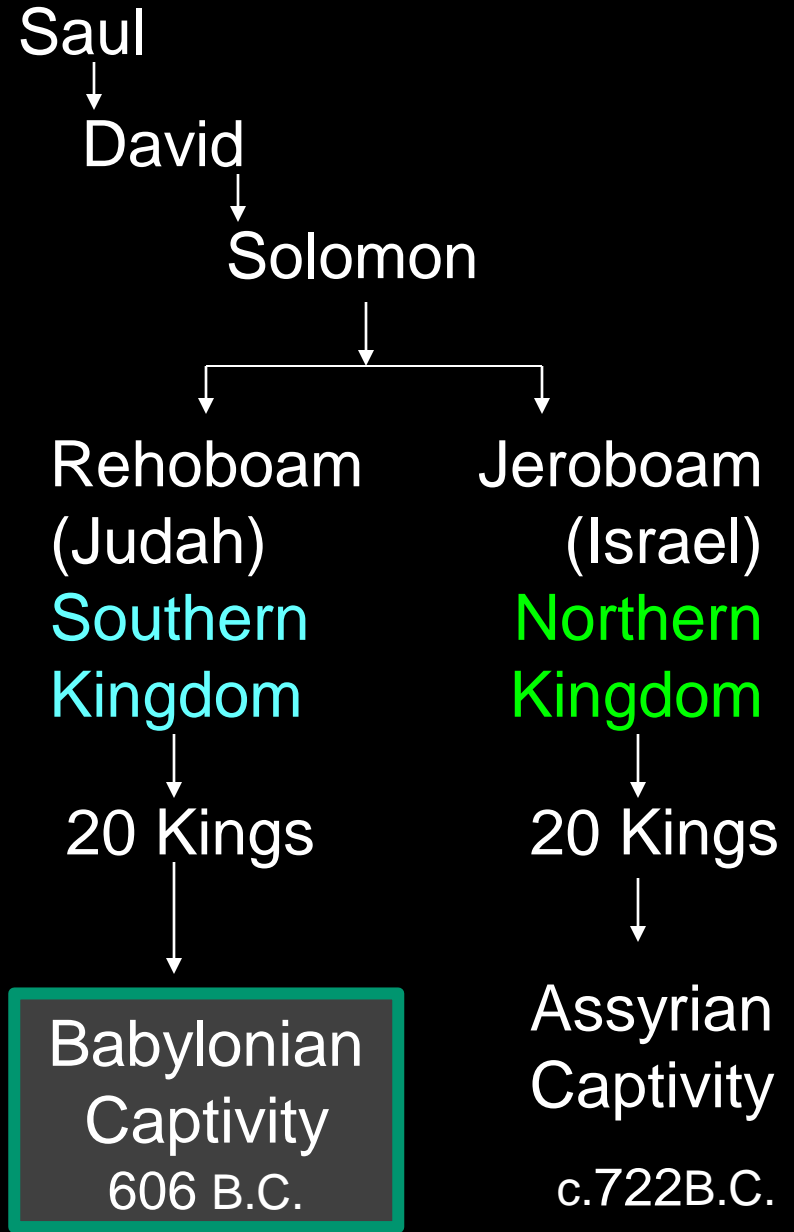
# Israel's History

- Joshua succeeds Moses
  - Conquest of Canaan
- Time of the Judges
  - *'Everyone did what seemed right in their own eyes'*
  - Era close with Samuel
- Time of the Monarchy





# Israel's History





# Why the Captivity?



# Sabbath Rest For The Land

<sup>17</sup> Therefore [God] brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

<sup>18</sup> And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.

# Sabbath Rest For The Land

<sup>19</sup> And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

<sup>20</sup> And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:

<sup>21</sup> To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.



CHAPTER NINE

Verses 1-23

THE BOOK OF

DANIEL

*...a verse by verse study*

<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;

Daniel 9:1

- As we move into chapter 9, we find that 12 years have past since Daniel's last vision (Ch8)
- The mighty Babylonian Empire has fallen into the hands of the Persians,
  - Just as Daniel had seen in his vision of the ram (chapter 8: 3-4 & 20).
- Isaiah had prophesied this 200 years before
  - See Isaiah 46

# Chronological Order

## Chapter

1	Babylonian Captivity	606 B.C.
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	604 B.C.
3	Nebuchadnezzar's Image	587 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's Enduring Ministry

- Daniel was 14 when taken to Babylon

- Chapter 9 occurs when Daniel was c.83 years old

Appendix C - Chronology of the Book of Daniel

Approx. B.C. Chapter Ref.	Daniel's Age	Event / Description	Reigning King	Approx. Year
1st Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	Taken to Babylon	Nebuchadnezzar II	605 B.C.
2nd Siege of Jerusalem [597]	20	Exile begins	Nebuchadnezzar II	597 B.C.
3rd Siege of Jerusalem [586]	29	Temple destroyed	Nebuchadnezzar II	586 B.C.
4th Siege of Jerusalem [582]	33	Rebuilding begins	Nebuchadnezzar II	582 B.C.
5th Siege of Jerusalem [562]	53	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	562 B.C.
6th Siege of Jerusalem [550]	65	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	550 B.C.
7th Siege of Jerusalem [540]	75	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	540 B.C.
8th Siege of Jerusalem [530]	85	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	530 B.C.
9th Siege of Jerusalem [520]	95	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	520 B.C.
10th Siege of Jerusalem [510]	105	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	510 B.C.
11th Siege of Jerusalem [500]	115	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	500 B.C.
12th Siege of Jerusalem [490]	125	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	490 B.C.
13th Siege of Jerusalem [480]	135	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	480 B.C.
14th Siege of Jerusalem [470]	145	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	470 B.C.
15th Siege of Jerusalem [460]	155	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	460 B.C.
16th Siege of Jerusalem [450]	165	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	450 B.C.
17th Siege of Jerusalem [440]	175	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	440 B.C.
18th Siege of Jerusalem [430]	185	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	430 B.C.
19th Siege of Jerusalem [420]	195	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	420 B.C.
20th Siege of Jerusalem [410]	205	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	410 B.C.
21st Siege of Jerusalem [400]	215	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	400 B.C.
22nd Siege of Jerusalem [390]	225	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	390 B.C.
23rd Siege of Jerusalem [380]	235	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	380 B.C.
24th Siege of Jerusalem [370]	245	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	370 B.C.
25th Siege of Jerusalem [360]	255	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	360 B.C.
26th Siege of Jerusalem [350]	265	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	350 B.C.
27th Siege of Jerusalem [340]	275	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	340 B.C.
28th Siege of Jerusalem [330]	285	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	330 B.C.
29th Siege of Jerusalem [320]	295	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	320 B.C.
30th Siege of Jerusalem [310]	305	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	310 B.C.
31st Siege of Jerusalem [300]	315	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	300 B.C.
32nd Siege of Jerusalem [290]	325	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	290 B.C.
33rd Siege of Jerusalem [280]	335	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	280 B.C.
34th Siege of Jerusalem [270]	345	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	270 B.C.
35th Siege of Jerusalem [260]	355	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	260 B.C.
36th Siege of Jerusalem [250]	365	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	250 B.C.
37th Siege of Jerusalem [240]	375	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	240 B.C.
38th Siege of Jerusalem [230]	385	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	230 B.C.
39th Siege of Jerusalem [220]	395	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	220 B.C.
40th Siege of Jerusalem [210]	405	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	210 B.C.
41st Siege of Jerusalem [200]	415	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	200 B.C.
42nd Siege of Jerusalem [190]	425	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	190 B.C.
43rd Siege of Jerusalem [180]	435	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	180 B.C.
44th Siege of Jerusalem [170]	445	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	170 B.C.
45th Siege of Jerusalem [160]	455	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	160 B.C.
46th Siege of Jerusalem [150]	465	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	150 B.C.
47th Siege of Jerusalem [140]	475	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	140 B.C.
48th Siege of Jerusalem [130]	485	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	130 B.C.
49th Siege of Jerusalem [120]	495	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	120 B.C.
50th Siege of Jerusalem [110]	505	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	110 B.C.
51st Siege of Jerusalem [100]	515	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	100 B.C.
52nd Siege of Jerusalem [90]	525	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	90 B.C.
53rd Siege of Jerusalem [80]	535	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	80 B.C.
54th Siege of Jerusalem [70]	545	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	70 B.C.
55th Siege of Jerusalem [60]	555	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	60 B.C.
56th Siege of Jerusalem [50]	565	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	50 B.C.
57th Siege of Jerusalem [40]	575	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	40 B.C.
58th Siege of Jerusalem [30]	585	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	30 B.C.
59th Siege of Jerusalem [20]	595	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	20 B.C.
60th Siege of Jerusalem [10]	605	Rebuilding continues	Nebuchadnezzar II	10 B.C.

IF Daniel had died in the end of the Decalogue, he would have been 182!      \* Daniel's Great signet the decree that ended the Decalogue for August 21st 48 / Error 4

<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;

Daniel 9:1

- Daniel would have been around 83 by now!
- It is interesting to note that this chapter seems to occur about a year after the 'lion's den' incident of chapter 6.
- **Note that Darius was 'made king'**
  - i.e. appointed king
  - This confirms what we know from secular history regarding Gubaru



# Darius The Mede / Gubaru

- Appointed by Cyrus
- Ascension Year: 539 B.C. – 538 B.C.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year of reign: 538 B.C. – 537 B.C.

# The Babylonian Empire

606-539 BC



# The Persian Empire

539-332 BC

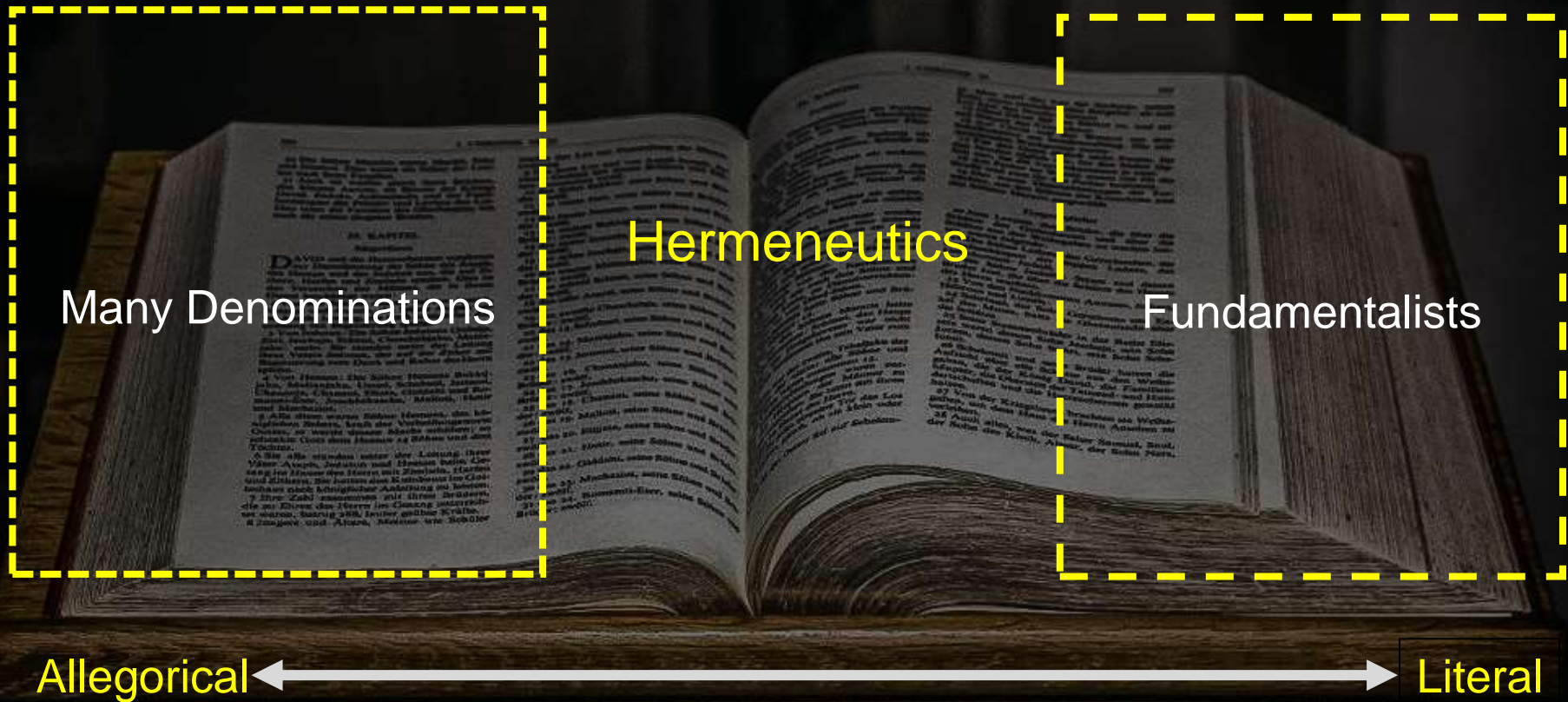


2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

**Daniel 9:2**

- Note: Literal fulfilment, not allegorical!
- When scripture interprets scripture it is always literal!

# Biblical Interpretation?



- Does the text mean what it says?
- Do we have to try to interpret a hidden meaning?

2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:2

- What did Daniel understand?
- That there were two periods of 70 years!
  - Not co-terminus!
    - One period of 70 yrs for the people
      - That had now come to an end
    - The other for the Land
- The 'desolations' still had another 19yrs to run

# The Servitude of the Nation

- 8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.
- 9 For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

**Jeremiah 29:8-11**

# The Servitude of the Nation

- 10 For thus saith the LORD, That after **seventy years** be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, **in causing you to return to this place.**
- 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an **expected end.**

**Jeremiah 29:8-11**

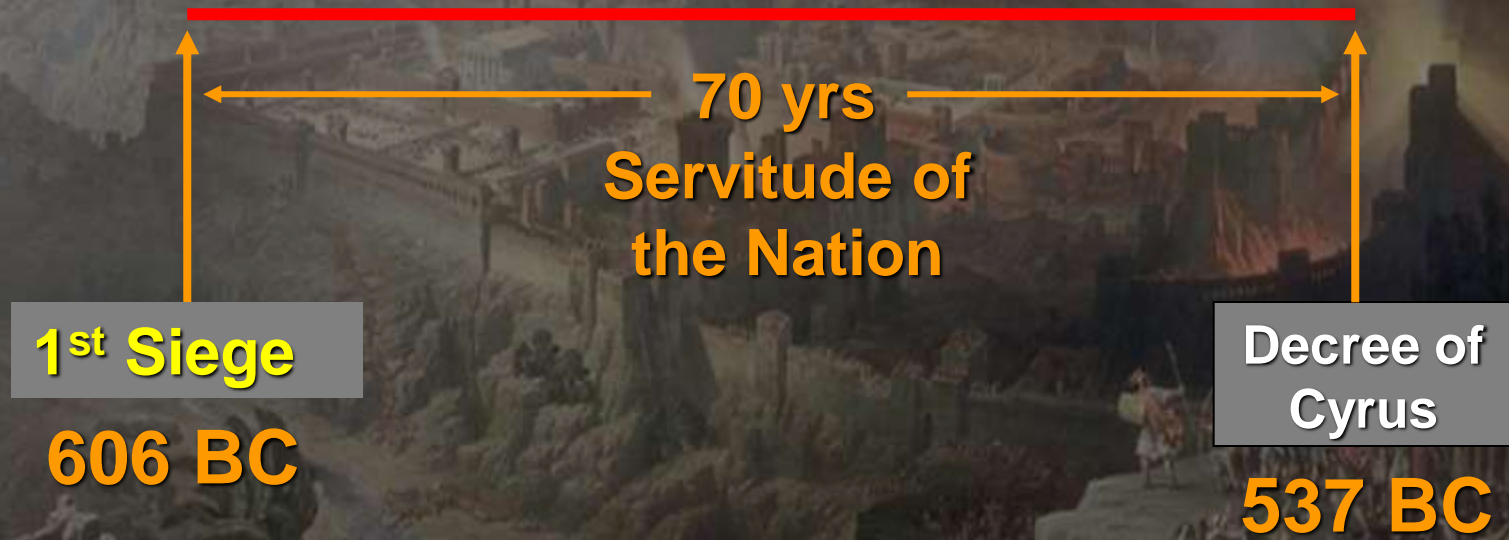


# The Servitude of The Nation

- Nebuchadnezzar put Israel under servitude with the 1<sup>st</sup> Siege of Jerusalem in summer 606 B.C.
- Daniel deported to Babylon
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> July 606 B.C. (?)
- Servitude ends with the decree of Cyrus in summer of 537 B.C.
  - 20<sup>th</sup> July 537 B.C. (?)
- The interval is 25,200 days,
  - 70 years of 360 days each.

(Cf. Jer 29:10 / 2 Chron 36:23)

# The Servitude of the Nation



**Daniel reads Jeremiah 25:11-12**

# The Desolations of Jerusalem

- 8 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words,
- 9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual<sup>\*</sup> desolations.

*Heb: `owlam* i.e. the vanishing point; time out of mind

# The Desolations of Jerusalem

<sup>10</sup> Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.

<sup>11</sup> And **this whole land shall be a desolation**, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

**Jeremiah 25:8-11**

# The Desolations of Jerusalem

START...



- 1 Again in the ninth year, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
- 2 Son of man, write thee the name of the day, even of this same day: the king of Babylon set himself against Jerusalem this same day.

**Ezekiel 24:1-2**

# The Desolations of Jerusalem

...END



15 And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the LORD...

18 ... Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid, consider it.

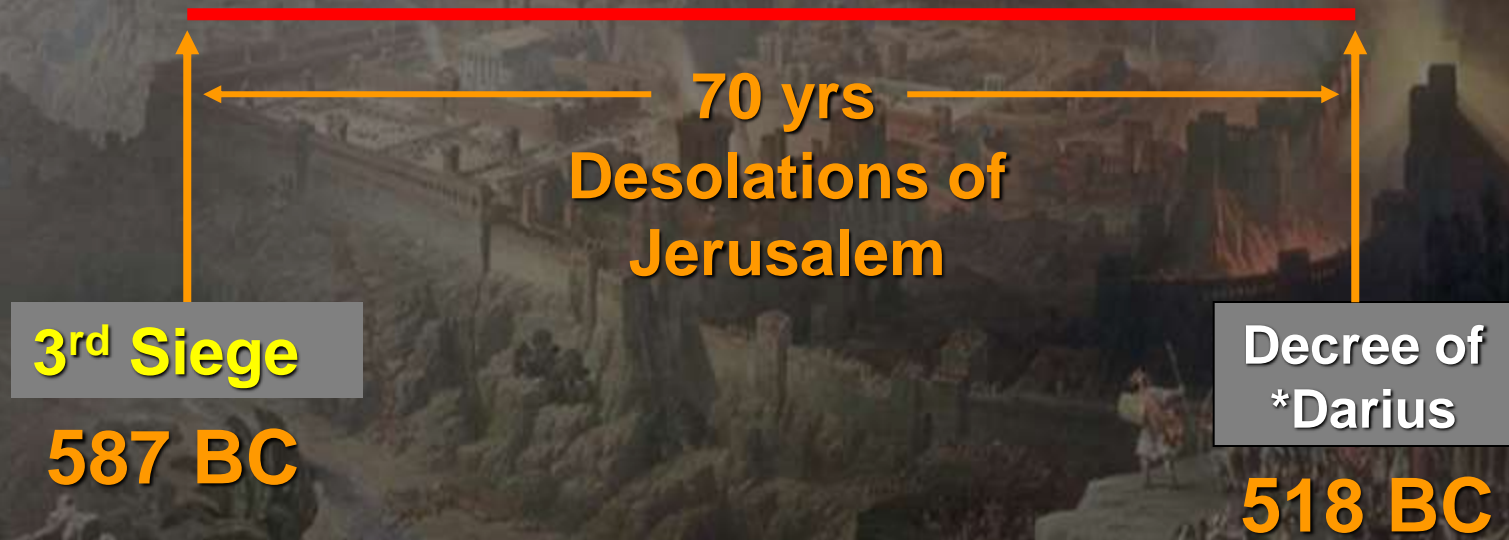
**Haggai 2:15-18**

# The Desolations of Jerusalem

- At the very time the Babylonian army was surrounding Jerusalem, Ezekiel, hundreds of miles away in Babylon, is told to record,
  - 10<sup>th</sup> day of 10<sup>th</sup> Month, 587 BC (16<sup>th</sup> Aug 587 B.C.)
- Haggai, nails the date they ended,
  - 24<sup>th</sup> day of 9<sup>th</sup> Month, 518 BC (14<sup>th</sup> Aug 518 B.C.)
- The interval is 25,200 days,
  - 70 years of 360 days each.

(Cf. 2 Kings 25:1; Jeremiah 52:4)

# The Desolations of Jerusalem



**\*Darius the Great**



# Kings of the Persian Empire

THE PERSIAN EMPIRE  
(CA. 538-332 B.C.E.)



Darius (Gubaru) (539-533)

Ruled Babylon

Cyrus (559-530)

Cambyses II  
(530- Sept. 522)

Smerdis  
(8 months –Sept. 522-521)

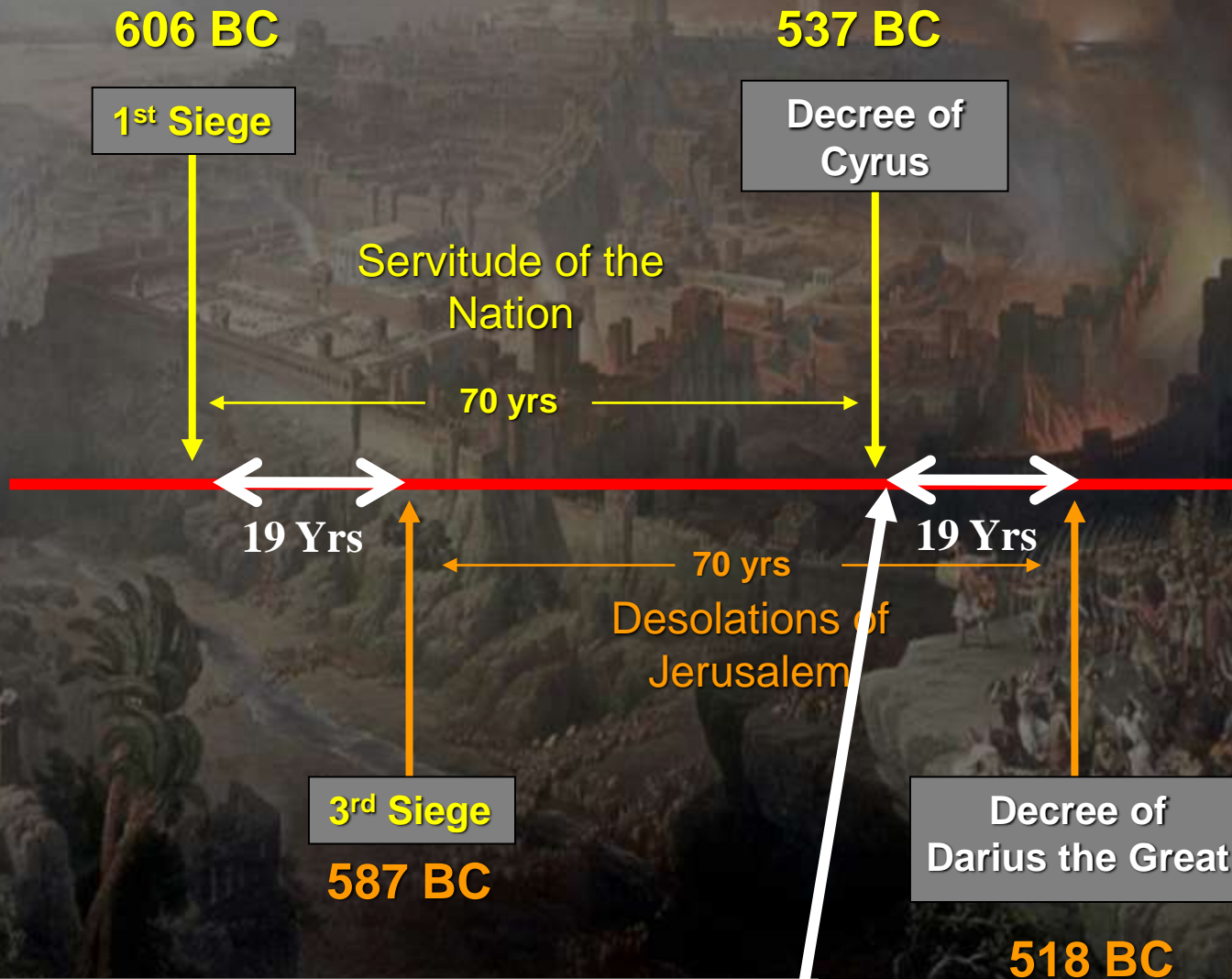
Darius The Great (Ezra 4:24)  
(521/20-486)

Makes Susa his capital

Xerxes (Esther)  
(486-465)

Artaxerxes  
Longimanus  
(465-424)

# Servitude / Desolations



Daniel reads Jeremiah 25:11-12

<sup>3</sup> And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

<sup>4</sup> And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

**Daniel 9:3-4**

- Notice Daniel's humility!
- Daniel appeals to God's goodness
  - This our only basis for appeal

<sup>5</sup> **We** have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:

<sup>6</sup> Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

**Daniel 9:5-6**

- Daniel is one of only a few of whom no sin is recorded in scripture
- Yet he acknowledges the nations sin as his own
- This is intercession!

# Daniel's Confession:

- We have sinned
  - For all have sinned and fallen short - Rom 3:23
- Committed iniquity
  - 'with knowledge', with intent
- Have done wickedly
  - Out working of character - Rom 7:15
- Have rebelled
  - Result of a defiant life 'conscience seared'
- Departing from thy precepts/judgments
  - Rejecting the truth in favour of lies

# Daniel's Confession:

- Neither hearkened to the prophets:
  - Isaiah / Jeremiah / Micah / Hosea / Ezekiel
  - Most notably: Moses
- Do we hear the prophets?
  - John, Jude, Paul, Peter & Jesus all prophesied the coming deception
- Modern day 'prophets':
  - Amir Tsarfati, Jonathan Cahn, Dave Hunt, Chuck Smith, Chuck Missler

7 O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

8 O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

**Daniel 9:7-8**

- cf. Deut 28:25,64 / Lev 26:33,44-45

<sup>9</sup> To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

<sup>10</sup> Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

**Daniel 9:9-10**

- God is a God of forgiveness even though we have rebelled against Him...
- But only because of Jesus
  - see Isaiah 53:4-6
- NB verse 10: the purpose of the Law
  - Galatians 3:22 'confine all under sin'



11 Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.

12 And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

**Daniel 9:11-12**

13 As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.

14 Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.

**Daniel 9:13-14**

- **The promised judgment was not allegorical!**

<sup>15</sup> And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

**Daniel 9:15**

- Daniel ends his confession of Israel's sins as he had begun in v.5
- We have sinned because we are sinners,
- ...but we have also sinned through choice.

# Daniel's Prayer

- Daniel now changes his focus, and prays regarding what might be, rather than what has been...
- The Servitude of the nation has now ended, and Daniel's prayer to this point has been confessing the sin that brought the Servitude about in the first place.
- Now we see a shift in emphasis from the people of Israel, to the city of Jerusalem

16 O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.

**Daniel 9:16**

- From v.16 to v.19 'the city' mentioned 8x
- His prayer is not now for forgiveness for the past...
- ...but for mercy in the present

17 Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.

18 O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.

**Daniel 9:17-18**

19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy **city** and thy people are called by thy name.

**Daniel 9:19**

- Clearly, this portion of Daniel's prayer is now in regard to the city of Jerusalem that still lay in ruins despite the fact that Cyrus had granted permission for the rebuilding of the Temple.
- Incredibly, it was not until the 2nd year of Darius the Great (not to be confused with Darius the Mead), 19 years later, that the foundations of the Temple were laid.

# Daniel's Burden

- It is incredible to realise that the objections of a few 'locals' back in Jerusalem (that we read about in Ezra 4) were enough to thwart the decree of a Persian king *for 19 years* and prevent the rebuilding of the Temple!
  - even more incredible when we remember that the 'law of the Meads and Persians' cannot be altered!
- Yet until God's time was right and the decreed desolations were ended, the Jews were seemingly powerless.



# Daniel's Burden

- But mark the contrast when God *“stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God”* (Hag 1:14 - see also Ezra 3:8)
- From this point the Temple was rebuilt in just a little over 4 years, two months!

# Daniel's Burden

- Thus Daniel's prayer was answered, whether in his lifetime we don't know,
  - for he would have been about 102 when the Temple foundations were laid and 106 when it was completed.
- However, you just wonder whether, like Simeon and Anna, God allowed Daniel to live to see his prayer answered.(?)

# Daniel's Burden

- It is also interesting to note that Daniel's real concern is for God's reputation
  - for the **Lord's sake** (v17),
  - city which is called **by thy name** (v18)
  - for **thine own sake.... for thy city and thy people** are called by **thy name** (v19).
- God had called this people His own, and made an everlasting covenant with their fathers.

# Daniel's Burden

- He had brought them out of Egypt with an outstretched hand and defeated their foes before them.
- He brought them into the Promised Land and promised to put His name in the Temple that Solomon had built **2 Chron 6:20**
- That Temple had now been destroyed and the city lay in ruins; in addition, the people had been taken away captives into foreign lands.

# Daniel's Burden

- None of this presented a good impression of the 'God of Israel' to Israel's neighbours.
- So, just as Moses had done in Exodus 32:10-12,
  - when God had threatened to wipe out Israel and start a new nation with Moses,
- Daniel asks God to have mercy on his people and city simply *for God's own glory*, not because they deserve it.

# Daniel's Burden

- Daniel's motivation to pray this prayer was almost certainly due to Solomon's words in 1 Chronicles 6:36-39 which bear a distinct resemblance to what Daniel prayed:

# Solomon's Prayer

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

**1 Chronicles 6:36-39**

# Solomon's Prayer

If they return to thee with all their heart 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.



# Heavenly Interruption!

- Now we move into the next section of this chapter as we find that Daniel is interrupted by an important visitor!

20 And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

**Daniel 9:20**

- Note Daniel's own division of his prayer:
- 1) Firstly he was confessing the sin of his people Israel,
- 2) then he changes to present his requests regarding Jerusalem.

# Daniel's Prayer

- This is further confirmation that the *Servitude* had ended but the *Desolations* were still ongoing; for he doesn't present his supplications for his people, which surely he would have done had they still been captive.
- In other words, he acknowledges and confesses the sins of his people, but his request is concerning Jerusalem.

21 Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

**Daniel 9:21**

# Enter... Gabriel

- Daniel immediately recognises Gabriel!
- This shows that angels have identifiable characteristics.
- We are told in scripture that angels are spirits (Heb 1:7, 14),
- They are also able to dwell in bodies (Jude v6)
- They can appear in bodily form, being able to touch and move physical objects when they choose (or rather as God commands) (cf Matt 28:2).
- Gabriel always appears in scripture on an errand to do with announcing the Messiah.

21 Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

**Daniel 9:21**

- Daniel notes that Gabriel touched him ‘about the time of the evening sacrifice’.
- This was not some Babylonian ritual, but rather the sacrifice that would have taken place in Jerusalem, in the Temple – only problem was, that Jerusalem and the Temple were in ruins and Daniel hadn’t been there for 70 years anyway!

# Evening Sacrifice

- *Now, it is very likely that whilst he was praying, Daniel would have been thinking about those who were returning home to Jerusalem, no doubt by now on their way back, whose sins he had been confessing, and wondering what they would find, how bad a state the Temple was really in? When would they be able to start sacrificing again as the Law of Moses required? We can only guess what he was thinking; but one thing is clear: despite being in Babylon for 70 years, Daniel's mind was fixed on the things of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the covenants that God had made with His people.*

22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said,  
O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and  
understanding.

**Daniel 9:22**

- Once again, this verse underlines that fact that God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor 14:33),
- He wants His people to know!
- God delights in telling the future before it happens and revealing it to His servants (Isaiah 46:10-11 / Amos 3:7)
- Revelation was given ‘to show unto His servants!’”



23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

**Daniel 9:23**

- Here we have it confirmed that Gabriel was dispatched as soon as Daniel started praying,
- Gabriel was 'caused to fly swiftly' (v21) i.e. made to go on this errand at top speed.
- Was he in Heaven when he got the call to go to Daniel? If so, how far is Heaven away from Earth? And if he was in heaven, how fast must he travelled to get to Daniel?

# The God Who Hears

- It's a great comfort to realise is that when Daniel 'set his face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes', God despatched Gabriel with the answer to his prayer immediately.
- We too have the great promise that "whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (Matt 21:22).

23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art **greatly beloved**: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

**Daniel 9:23**

- **Beloved** – reserved for those closest to Him
  - Daniel
  - John (John 21:20)
  - Church (Rom 1:7;16:8 / Col 3:12)



To be continued...

The background of the central section is a golden-hued illustration. On the left, a large, dark, bearded statue of a man with a crown stands with arms crossed. In the background, a cityscape with various buildings and structures is visible under a hazy, golden sky. The overall style is reminiscent of a classic book cover or a historical painting.

THE BOOK OF  
DANIEL

*...a verse by verse study*



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