OLD TESTAMENT · MAJOR PROPHETS · BOOK 27 OF 66

# Daniel

*The most High ruleth in the kingdom of men (4:17)*

| 12 | Daniel | 605–536 B.C. | Stories · Visions |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chapters, 357 Verses | Author, in Babylon | From Exile to Cyrus | 1–6 and 7–12 |

STRUCTURE

## The Book in Four Parts

Daniel has two halves: **stories** of faithfulness in Babylon (1–6) and **visions** of the kingdoms and the time of the end (7–12). The stories show God ruling the kings of Daniel's day; the visions show Him ruling all of history.




Each bar shows that part's share of the 357 verses.

**I** 1–2 · 70 verses

### Faithful in Babylon; the Great Image

Daniel and his friends refuse the king's meat; God reveals the king's dream.

**II** 3–6 · 126 verses

### God Rules over the Kings

The fiery furnace, the tree cut down, the writing on the wall, the lions' den.

**III** 7–9 · 82 verses

### Visions of the Kingdoms

Four beasts and the Son of man, the ram and the he goat, the seventy weeks.

**IV** 10–12 · 79 verses

### The Time of the End

The man clothed in linen, the kings of the north and south, the resurrection.

DATES B.C. (APPROXIMATE)

## The Kings Daniel Served

Daniel lived through the whole exile, from Nebuchadnezzar to Cyrus: "And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus" (1:21).

605 B.C.
### Carried to Babylon
Third year of Jehoiakim (1:1)

605–562 B.C.
### Nebuchadnezzar
The image, the furnace, the tree (1–4)

c. 553 B.C.
### Belshazzar's First Year
The four beasts (7:1)

539 B.C.
### Babylon Falls
The writing on the wall (5:30–31)

539 B.C.
### Darius the Median
The seventy weeks; the lions' den (6; 9:1)

538 B.C.
### Cyrus's Decree
The Jews may go home (Ezra 1:1–3)

c. 536 B.C.
### Third Year of Cyrus
The final vision (10:1)

c. 536–530 B.C.
### The Book Written
Near the end of Daniel's life

DANIEL 1

## Faithful in a Foreign Land

Four young men from Judah are given new names, new learning and the king's food, but they keep their hearts for God.

DANIEL
### Belteshazzar
Daniel means "God is my judge"

HANANIAH
### Shadrach
Hananiah means "the LORD is gracious"

MISHAEL
### Meshach
Mishael means "who is like God?"

AZARIAH
### Abed-nego
Azariah means "the LORD helps"

> *"But 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."*
>
> Daniel 1:8 (KJV)

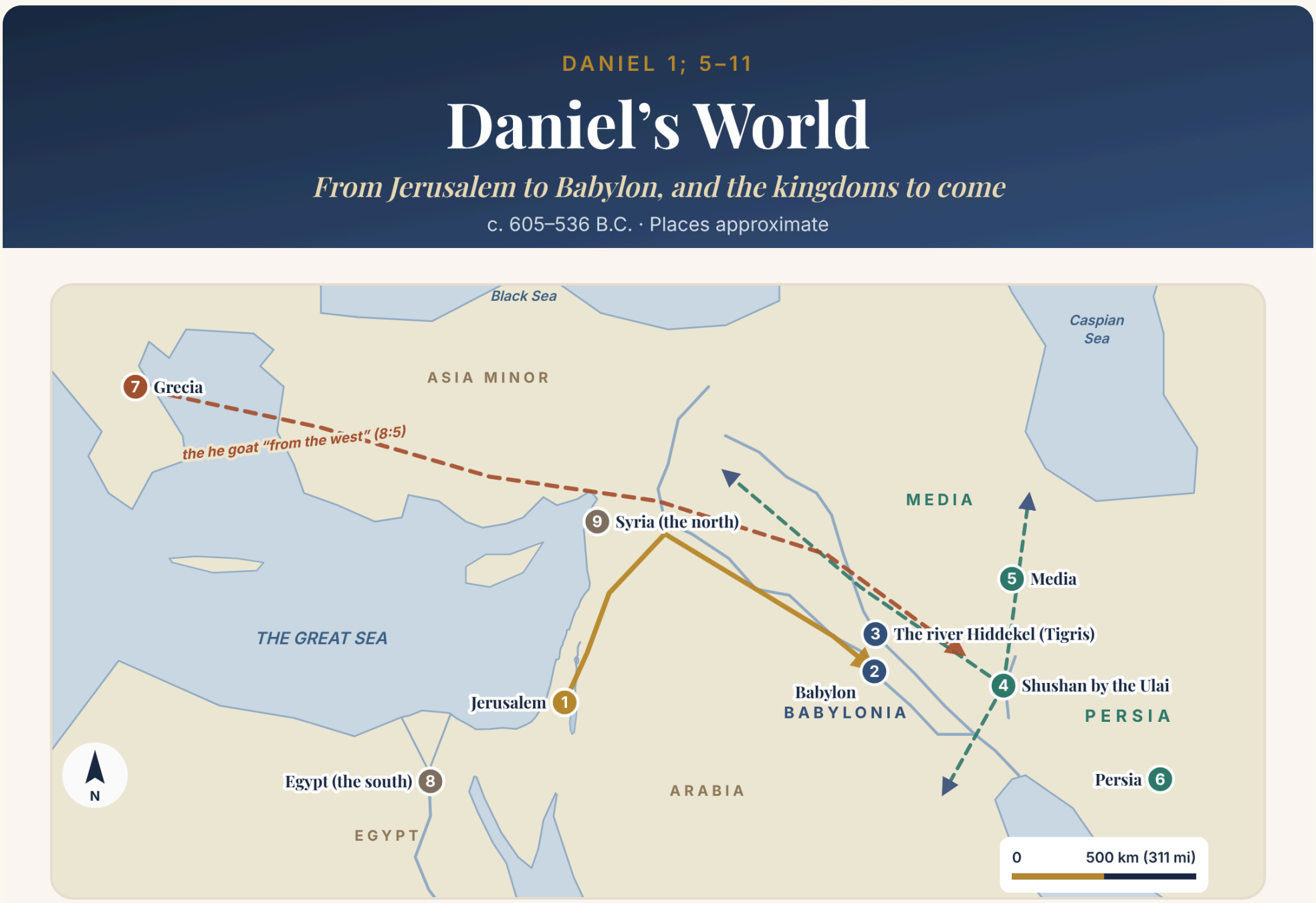
Their Hebrew names honoured the LORD; the new Babylonian names honoured Babylon's gods. After ten days of pulse and water they were "fairer and fatter in flesh" than all the others (1:15).

# Daniel's World

DANIEL 1; 5–11 · MAP

## Daniel's World

Daniel was carried from Jerusalem to Babylon as a young man and served there under Babylon and Persia. His visions reach across the whole map, from Grecia in the west to Persia in the east. The numbers match the cards below.




**Judah carried to Babylon**
Daniel and his friends (1:1–6)

**The ram: Media and Persia**
Westward, northward, southward (8:4, 20)

**The he goat: Grecia**
From the west (8:5, 21)

**The kings of the north and south**
Syria and Egypt (11)

*"He removeth kings, and setteth up kings: He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding."*

DANIEL 2:21 (KJV)

*The arrows show the visions of chapter 8 as they were fulfilled in history. Places approximate.*

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

**1** 1:1–2; 6:10; 9:2, 16–27

### Jerusalem

Besieged by Nebuchadnezzar; Daniel prays toward it and is told of its rebuilding.

**2** 1–5; 7

### Babylon

Daniel serves in the king's court for about seventy years; the writing on the wall.

**3** 10:4

### The river Hiddekel (Tigris)

By the great river Daniel sees a man clothed in linen.

**4** 8:2, 16

### Shushan by the Ulai

In vision Daniel sees the ram and the he goat beside the river Ulai.

**5** 5:28, 31; 6:8; 8:20; 9:1

### Media

Darius the Median takes the kingdom; the law of the Medes and Persians.

**6** 8:20; 10:1, 13, 20; 11:2

### Persia

Cyrus king of Persia; the ram with two horns is "the kings of Media and Persia."

**7** 8:5–8, 21; 10:20; 11:2–4

### Grecia

The rough goat is "the king of Grecia"; his great horn is broken and four come up.

**8** 11:5–9, 40–43

### Egypt (the south)

The king of the south, at war again and again with the king of the north.

**9** 11:6–15, 21–31

### Syria (the north)

The king of the north, who would come against the glorious land.

# The Four Kingdoms, the Fiery Furnace and the Lions' Den

DANIEL 2 AND 7

## The Great Image and the Four Beasts

Nebuchadnezzar's dream (2) and Daniel's vision (7) show the same four kingdoms, followed by the kingdom of God.

| THE IMAGE (CHAPTER 2) | THE BEASTS (CHAPTER 7) |
|---|---|
| **Head of gold: Babylon, "Thou art this head of gold"** | **A lion with eagle's wings** |
| 2:37–38 | 7:4 |
| **Breast and arms of silver: Medo-Persia** | **A bear raised up on one side** |
| 2:39 | 7:5 |
| **Belly and thighs of brass: Greece** | **A leopard with four wings and four heads** |
| 2:39 | 7:6 |
| **Legs of iron, feet of iron and clay: Rome** | **A fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, with ten horns** |
| 2:40–43 | 7:7–8 |

DANIEL 2:44

### The Stone Cut Out Without Hands

"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 3 AND 6

## The Fiery Furnace and the Lions' Den

Two tests of faith, two refusals to bow, and two deliverances that make pagan kings praise the God of Israel.

| THE FIERY FURNACE (3) | THE LIONS' DEN (6) |
|---|---|
| **King: Nebuchadnezzar** | **King: Darius the Median** |
| 3:1 | 6:1 |
| **The test: bow to the golden image** | **The test: pray to no one but the king** |
| 3:4–6 | 6:7 |
| **"we will not serve thy gods"** | **"he kneeled upon his knees three times a day"** |
| 3:18 | 6:10 |
| **"the form of the fourth is like the Son of God"** | **"My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths"** |
| 3:25 | 6:22 |

> *"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. But if not, … we will not serve thy gods."*
>
> Daniel 3:17–18 (KJV)

# Proud Kings Humbled and the Son of Man

DANIEL 4–5

## Proud Kings Humbled

One king learns humility and praises God; the next mocks God and loses his kingdom that same night.

1 · 4 · NEBUCHADNEZZAR

### The Tree Cut Down

Driven out to eat grass like oxen until he knows that the most High rules; then restored.

*"those that walk in pride He is able to abase"*

4:37

2 · 5 · BELSHAZZAR

### The Writing on the Wall

He drinks from the temple vessels; Babylon falls that night.

*"Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting"*

5:27

5:26

### MENE

God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

5:27

### TEKEL

Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

5:28

### PERES

Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

DANIEL 7:9–14

## The Ancient of Days and the Son of Man

After the four beasts, Daniel sees the throne of God and one like the Son of man receiving the everlasting kingdom.

DANIEL 7:13–14

### One Like the Son of Man

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away."

MARK 14:61–62

### Jesus' Answer

"ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

MATTHEW 24:30

### His Coming

"they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

REVELATION 1:13–14

### John's Vision

"one like unto the Son of man … His hairs were white like wool."

DANIEL AT A GLANCE · PART 5 OF 6

# The Seventy Weeks and the Time of the End

DANIEL 9:24–27

## The Seventy Weeks

Seventy "weeks" of years (70 × 7 = 490 years) are determined for Daniel's people and the holy city.

> *"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness."*
>
> Daniel 9:24 (KJV)

7 · 9:25 · 49 YEARS

### Seven Weeks

From the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem; "the street shall be built again, and the wall."

62 · 9:25–26 · 434 YEARS

### Threescore and Two Weeks

"unto the Messiah the Prince": then "shall Messiah be cut off, but not for Himself."

1 · 9:27 · 7 YEARS

### The Last Week

Belongs to the time of the end, with the abomination of desolation (Matthew 24:15).

Daniel's prayer of confession (9:3–19) came first: he read Jeremiah's seventy years (Jeremiah 25:11) and sought the Lord "by prayer and supplications, with fasting."

DANIEL 10–12

## The Time of the End

Daniel's last vision reaches from the Persian kings to the resurrection of the dead.

1 · 10

### The Man Clothed in Linen

After three weeks of prayer, Daniel learns of the unseen battle behind the nations: "O man greatly beloved, fear not" (10:19).

2 · 11:1–35

### Kings of the North and South

Persian and Greek kings, and the persecutor who defiles the sanctuary, foretold in detail.

3 · 11:36–45

### The Wilful King

A final king who "shall exalt himself … above every god" at the time of the end.

4 · 12:1–3

### Trouble, Deliverance, Resurrection

Michael stands up; all found written in the book are delivered; the dead awake.

> *"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."*
>
> Daniel 12:2 (KJV)

# Christ in Daniel, Key Themes and Key Verse

LOOKING FORWARD

## Christ in Daniel

Daniel's visions point to the Lord Jesus Christ and His everlasting kingdom.

2:34–35, 44–45

### The Stone

Cut out without hands, it becomes a mountain that fills the whole earth (compare Luke 20:17–18).

3:25

### The Fourth Man in the Fire

"like the Son of God": the Lord with His servants in the furnace.

7:13–14

### The Son of Man

Receives everlasting dominion; the title Jesus used most for Himself.

9:25–26

### Messiah the Prince

Comes at the appointed time and is "cut off, but not for Himself."

BIG IDEAS

## Key Themes

### God Rules History

He removes kings and sets up kings.

2:21; 4:17, 34–35

### Faithfulness Under Pressure

Stand firm for God, whatever it costs.

1:8; 3:16–18; 6:10

### Prayer

Daniel prays three times a day, in trouble and in confession.

2:17–23; 6:10; 9:3–19

### Pride Humbled

God is able to abase those who walk in pride.

4:30–37; 5:20–23

### God Reveals Secrets

There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets.

2:22, 28, 47

### The Kingdom of God

A kingdom that shall never be destroyed.

2:44; 7:14, 27

### The Son of Man

One like the Son of man receives the everlasting kingdom.

7:13–14

### Messiah the Prince

Cut off, but not for Himself.

9:24–26

### Resurrection

Many that sleep in the dust shall awake.

12:2–3, 13

KEY VERSE

*"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 (KJV)**