



1

What this message is about

To give a background to the book of Daniel and explore the important themes.

2

Purpose of this message

To contemplate the amazing power, mercy, and grace of our God so that our faith in him will be encouraged in our times of uncertainty.

3

Key passage in Daniel

*Daniel answered and said:
"Blessed be the name of God
forever and ever, to whom belong
wisdom and might. He changes
times and seasons; he removes
kings and sets up kings;*

4

Key passage in Daniel

*he gives wisdom to the wise and
knowledge to those who have
understanding; he reveals deep and
hidden things; he knows what is in the
darkness, and the light dwells with
him.*

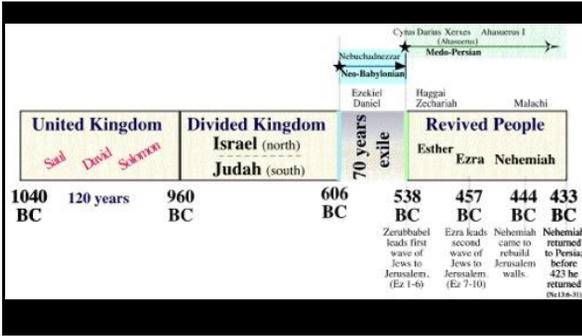
- Dan. 2:20-22 ESV

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1. Daniel's place in Israel's History:

He Lived and wrote during the
Babylonian captivity: 605-538 BC.

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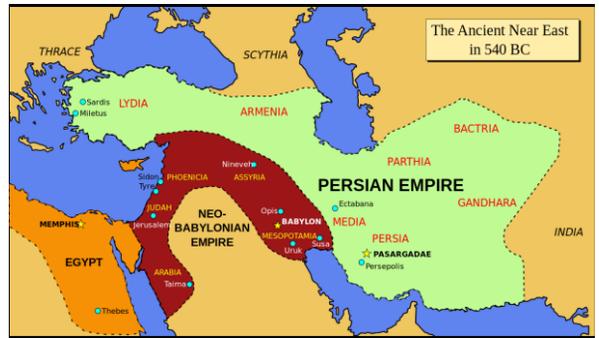
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2. Who Was Daniel?

•דַּנְיֵאל: His name means **God is my judge**.

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2. Who Was Daniel?

•He was of noble descent: Dan. 1:3

12

2. Who Was Daniel?

- He was only about 15 years old when he was deported to Babylon. Lived to see the return.

13

2. Who Was Daniel?

- A man of great faith that never wavered.

14

2. Who Was Daniel?

- He was chosen by God to maintain the honor of the true God (Yahweh) in a pagan land.

15

2. Who Was Daniel?

- To enhance the welfare of the Jews living in captivity.

16

3. Contents of Daniel:

- Six chapters of narrative.
- Six chapters of prophetic and apocalyptic literature.
- Written in two different languages: Hebrew and Aramaic.

17

4. Evidence for a 6th Century BC Date

- Internal Evidence (8:1, 9:1, 10:2)

18

4. Evidence for a 6th Century BC Date

- Author shows remarkable knowledge of Babylonian and early Persian history.

19

4. Evidence for a 6th Century BC Date

Manuscripts from Daniel found in Qumran dating just years after the supposed late writing of Daniel.

20

4. Evidence for a 6th Century BC Date

- There is a unified theme throughout Daniel: The Supremacy of Yahweh over all earthly kingdoms and kings.

21

4. Evidence for a 6th Century BC Date

- Jesus quoted Daniel -Mt. 24:15.

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4. Evidence for a 6th Century BC Date

- Ezekiel mentions Daniel -Ez. 14:13

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5. Archaeology and Daniel

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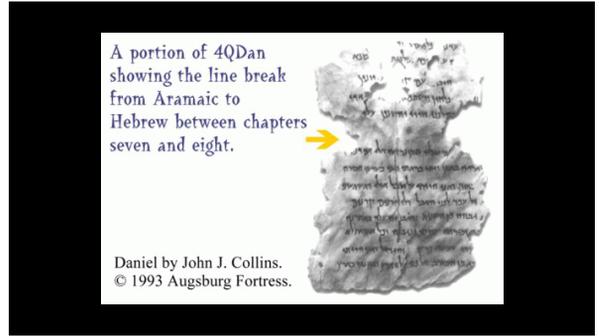
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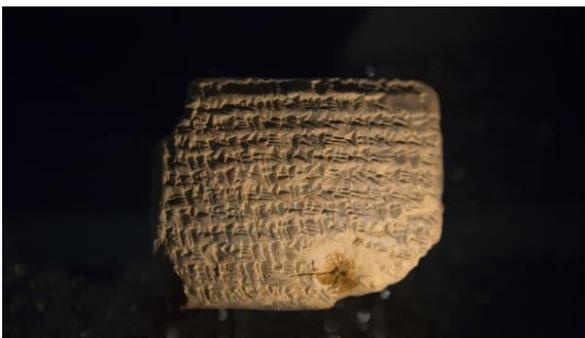
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Pottery with Rosette stamp

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Themes of Daniel

1. God is sovereign over human history.

38

Dan. 4:34b-35

I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;

39

Dan. 4:34b-35

³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth;

40

Dan. 4:34b-35

and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

41

Themes of Daniel

2. God has not forgotten his covenant people. He is faithful and gracious to them even while they are under discipline.

42

Daniel 9:1-4

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—

43

Daniel 9:1-4

² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

44

Daniel 9:1-4

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

45

Daniel 9:1-4

⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

46

Purpose and Themes of Daniel

3. God is worthy of trust and faithful obedience

47

Daniel 3:16-17

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

48

Daniel 3:16-17

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

49

Daniel 3:16-17

18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

50

Daniel 6:10

When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem.

51

Daniel 6:10

He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

52

Purpose and Themes of Daniel

4. To reveal his plan for human history

53

Daniel 2:44-45

And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people.

54

Daniel 2:44-45

It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,

55

Daniel 2:44-45

⁴⁵ just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold.

56

Daniel 2:44-45

A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

57

Next Step

This week read through Daniel. Take note of the themes and purpose. Listen for God’s voice as you read.

58