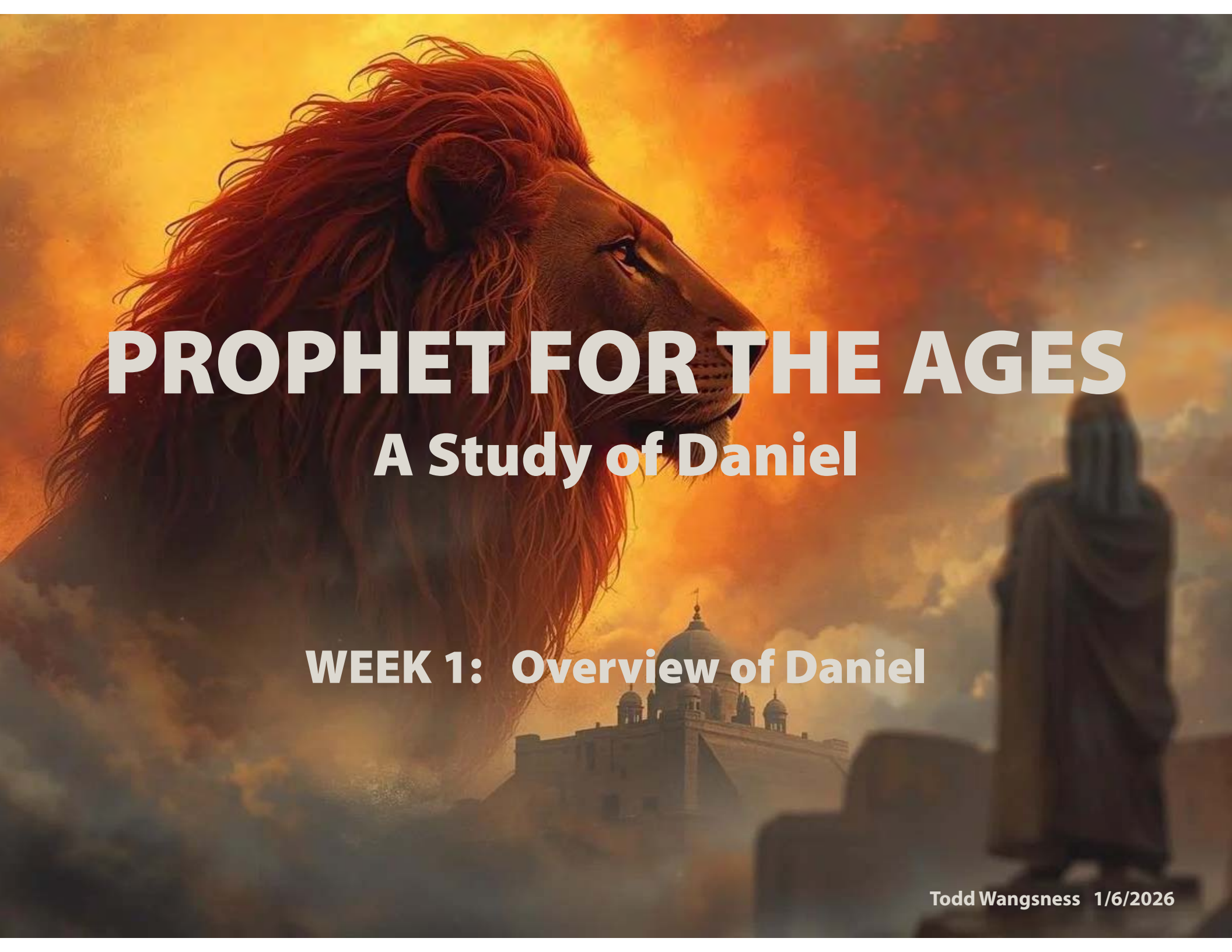




PROPHET FOR THE AGES

A Study of Daniel

WEEK 1: Overview of Daniel

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Notable Quotes About the Book of Daniel

"The prophet Daniel is the most excellent of all the prophets... He not only predicts the things that will happen in the future, as do the other prophets, but he also sets the times and years, and arranges everything in a definite order... This Daniel far surpasses all the other prophets, for he not only shows what will happen, but also indicates the time when it will happen, so that one can see that the appointed hour is approaching. Therefore, he is a remarkable and beloved prophet."

- Martin Luther

"The Book of Daniel is a prophecy given at the time of the Babylonian captivity, and it extends from that time to the consummation of all things... The prophecies of Daniel are all related to one another, as if they were but several parts of one general prophecy given at several times. The first is the easiest to be understood, and every following prophecy adds something new to the former."

- Sir Isaac Newton

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Book of Daniel Outline

Chapter 1: Daniel and His Three Friends Taken Captive

- Introduction to the book: background and authentication

Chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the Great Image

- An overview of all of Gentile dominion on the Planet Earth

Chapter 3: "Fiery Furnace" Deliverance

- Nebuchadnezzar's ego trip; the mandated worship of his image

Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream and Humiliation

- The only chapter in the Bible written by a Gentile King!

Chapter 5: Belshazzar's Feast and the Fall of Babylon

- The "handwriting on the wall"

Chapter 6: Daniel in the Lions' Den

- How Daniel avoided the "mark of the beast."

Chapter 7: Vision of the Four Beasts

- The four empires, which climax Gentile dominion on the Earth

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Chapter 8: Vision of the Ram and the Goat

- The succession of the Medo-Persian and Greek Empires and the rise of Alexander the Great
- Foreshadowing of the final World Leader

Chapter 9: Daniel's Prayer and the Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- The Angel Gabriel predicts the precise day on which Jesus presented Himself as the "Meshiach Nagid" (The Messiah the King)
- The mysterious interval between the 69th and 70th "weeks" of Daniel and the final seven years of world history

Chapter 10: Final Great Vision

- A glimpse into the spiritual warfare that lies behind world events

Chapter 11: Detailed Prophecy of Future Kings

- The amazing prediction of the conflicts between the Greek Ptolemaic and Seleucid Empires and the emergence of the final World Leader

Chapter 12: The Time of the End

- The climax of all history

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Approach to the study of Daniel

- Our study of Daniel is presented favoring a pre-millennial, pre-tribulational view
- However, the study of prophecy is NOT an exact science! There is room for alternate views.
- Differing views of prophecy are *never* a reason to break fellowship (unless the view violates the clear teaching of scripture and introduces heresy)
- No one knows the exact ways God Almighty will bring future events to pass
- We see through a glass darkly (1 Cor 13:12)
- Prophecy is accurate using 20/20 hindsight!
- *Isa 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."*
- The study incorporates resources pulled from Ariel Ministries, Clarence Larkin, Dr. Ken Johnson, and Chuck Missler, along with my own research

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Integrated Message System

- **We have in our possession an Integrated Message System:**
 - 66 separate books penned by 40 different individuals over thousands of years
 - Tightly engineered in theme, structure, and details
- **The prophecies of the Bible have their origin from outside our time domain due to its integrity of design**
- **No other book is as vindicated by history as is the book of Daniel**
 - It is too specific and precise in attempts to discredit it!

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Background

- The nation of Israel began as a nation under Saul and David
- Solomon (David's son) built the temple
- At Solomon's death (931 BC), the nation split into northern and southern kingdoms
 - The northern kingdom kept the name Israel
 - The southern kingdom was renamed to Judah
- Both nations turned away from the Lord in spite of dire warnings from many prophets
- God allowed Assyria to conquer the northern nation of Israel in 722 BC
 - The people of the nation of Israel were dispersed (aka "the lost 10 tribes of Israel")
- 110 years later in 612 BC, the Babylonians conquered the Assyrians and destroyed their city of Ninevah (modern day Mosul in Iraq)

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Background (cont.)

- Even though the Assyrian dispersion of Israel took place as prophesied by Hosea, Amos, Isaiah and Micah, the southern nation of Judah still would not repent
- Consequently, God allowed the Babylonians to conquer Judah
 - Isaiah predicted this around 800 BC, almost 200 years before the prophecy was fulfilled
 - *Isa 39:5-7 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: 6 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the Lord. 7 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.' "*
- Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem in a series of sieges beginning in 607 BC and took the first wave of captives back to Babylon
- Daniel and his friends (Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah) were among these captives
- In 587 BC, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Solomon's temple and the city of Jerusalem

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Background (cont.)

- Thus began 70 years of Judah's exile in captivity as prophesied in Jeremiah
 - *Jer 25:11-12 And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 12 'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the Lord; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.*
 - *Jer 29:10 For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.*
- Hebrew and Babylonian names (and their meanings) of our heroes
 - **Daniel** (*God is my Judge*)
 - **Hananiah** (*Beloved of the Lord*)
 - **Mishael** (*Who is as God*)
 - **Azariah** (*The Lord is my Help*)
 - **Belteshazzar** (*Prince of Bel*)
 - **Shadrach** (*Illumined by the Sun God*)
 - **Meshach** (*Who is like unto the Moon God*)
 - **Abednego** (*Servant of Nego a shining fire*)

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Ultimate Authentication

- **Detractors over the millennia have stated that the book of Daniel was written in the 1st or 2nd centuries AD, instead of the 6th century BC**
- **They vehemently object to the authenticity of Daniel as the prophecies it contains are so incredibly accurate**
- **They want to marginalize the book of Daniel as it places a spotlight on the foreknowledge and sovereignty of the Almighty God!**
- **These detractors have been largely silenced with the discovery of eight manuscripts in Dead Sea scrolls that contain fragments of the book of Daniel dating from the 2nd century BC**
- **These fragments closely align with the Masoretic Text (the basis for modern translations of the Old Testament), showing remarkable textual stability with only minor variants**
- **The multiple copies and their early dates clearly show that Daniel was highly regarded and widely circulated in the Qumran community by the 2nd century BC**

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

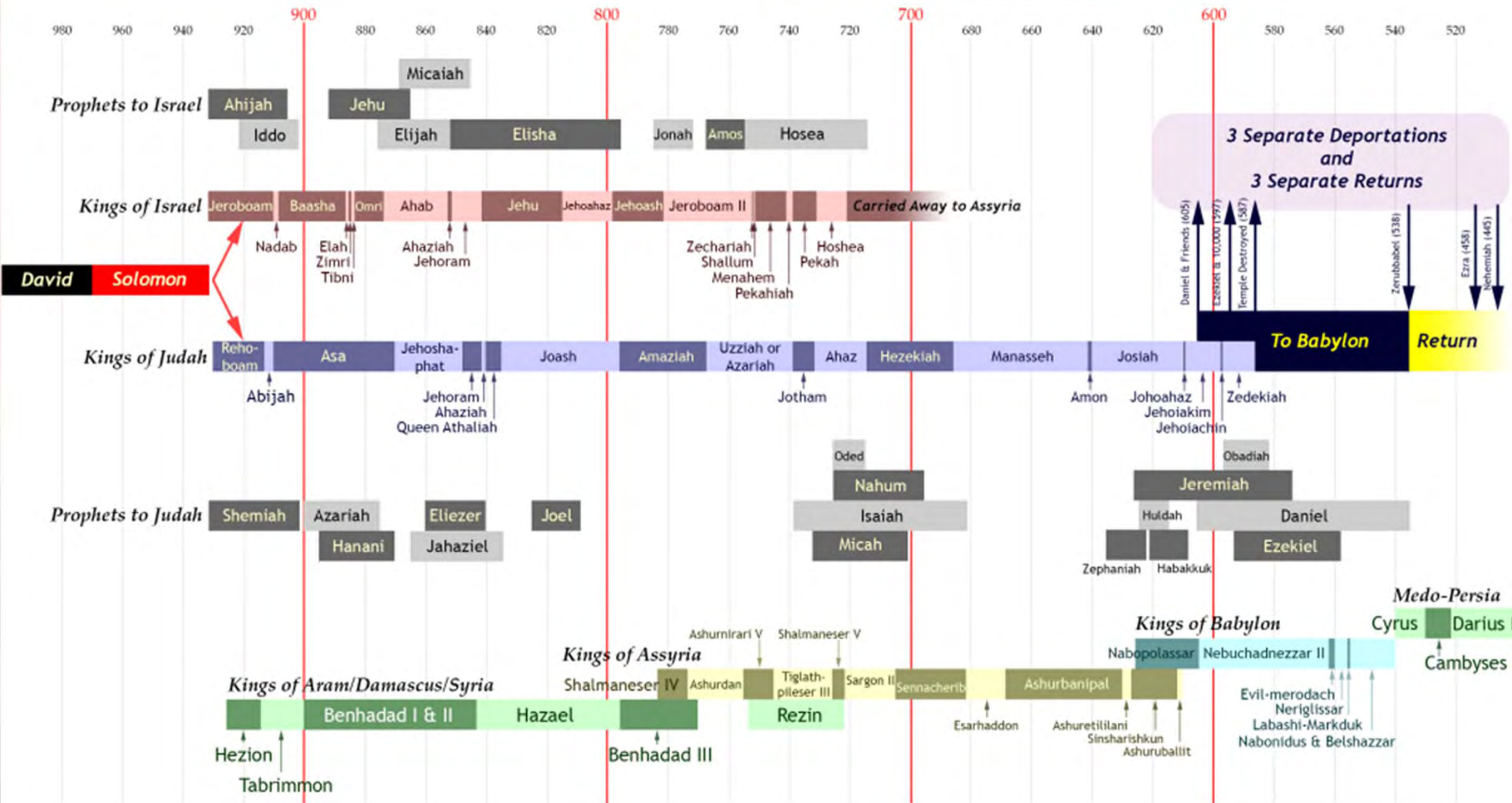
- If there is a God who defines times and seasons and has the **POWER** to bring His purposes to pass, then – logically – that means we have **ACCOUNTABILITY** before an All Powerful Everlasting God!
- Jesus quotes or references the book of Daniel several times (Mat 24:15, Mar 13:14, Mat 26:64, Mar 14:62, Luk 22:69, Mat 24:30, Mar 13:26, Luk 21:27)
- Daniel is quoted three times in Ezekiel (Eze 14:14, 20; Eze 28:3)
- Daniel the prophet was described by Ezekiel as the standard against which to measure wisdom
- Daniel, along with Noah, Job and John the Baptist, are described in the bible as being the most exemplary men ever to walk the earth

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Incredibly Accurate Prophecies

- The prophecies of Daniel pin-point Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as well as key end-times events TO THE DAY!
 - **April 6, 32 AD:** Jesus' triumphal entry at the start of the Passion Week
 - **May 14, 1948:** The modern-day Nation of Israel restored/established
 - **June 7, 1967:** Control of the Temple Mount restored to Israel
 - **Note:** We will cover these prophecies in detail as we encounter them in our study
- Daniel also prophesies of four (some say five) empires in tremendous detail centuries in advance!
- Daniel (in conjunction with Revelation) details future actors and events surrounding the Rapture, the Great Tribulation, Jesus' Second Coming, and the Millennial Age (Note: Dates are not detailed for these future events, only their sequence).
- There is much we don't understand or clearly see in these future prophecies, but the framework is carefully described through God's sovereignty and foreknowledge

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel



Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Daniel: Content and Chronology

Nebuchadnezzar's Reign	Nabonidus Rules	Belshazzar as Co-regent	Babylon Falls to Medo-Persia	1 st year of Cyrus. First exiles return to Judah.	Daniel's Ministry ends
605-562 B.C.	556-539	553-539	October 539	March 538	536
 Chapters 1-4 Captivity and interpretation of dreams and visions	 Chapter 7 Vision of the 4 Beasts  Chapter 8 Vision of the ram and the goat	 Chapter 5 Handwriting on the Wall	 Chapter 6 Daniel in the lions' den  Chapter 9 Prophecy of 70 Weeks	 Chapters 10-12 Daniel's Prayers and Visions about Israel	

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Timeline of the Book of Daniel

Chapter 1:	Third year of Jehoiakim	607 BC
Chapter 2:	Second year of Nebuchadnezzar	605 BC
Chapter 3:	Sometime after Chapter 2	???
Chapter 4:	Towards the end of Nebuchadnezzar's life	???
Chapter 7:	First year of Belshazzar	539 BC
Chapter 8:	Third year of Belshazzar	536 BC
Chapter 5:	Death of Belshazzar	536 BC
Chapter 9:	First year of Darius the Mede	536 BC
Chapter 6:	Sometime after Chapter 9	???
Chapter 10-12	Third year of Cyrus	533 BC

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

World-Ruling Empire Timelines

- In view of the Great Image prophecy of Chapter 2

1. Babylonian (626 – 539 BC)	Head of Gold
2. Medo-Persian (539 – 331 BC)	Breast and Arms of Silver
3. Greek (331 – 31 BC)	Belly and Thighs of Bronze
4. Roman (31 BC – ???)	Legs of Iron
5. Roman & Egypt (?)	Feet & Toes of part Iron and part Clay
6. Millennial Reign	Stone Cut Without Hands

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Biblical admonitions to not neglect the study of prophecy

- Promises of blessing for reading, hearing, and heeding the prophetic book of Revelation.
 - *Rev 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.*
- Peter urges believers to pay close attention to the prophetic word, describing it as a reliable guide
 - *2 Pet 1:19-21 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*
- Daniel foretells that in the end times, many will seek greater understanding of sealed prophetic words, implying active study and illumination at that time
 - *Dan 12:4 "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."*

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

- Even the prophets (and angels!) diligently studied and inquired into their own prophecies, setting an example for us
 - *1 Pet 1:10-12 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.*
- Habakkuk encourages recording and engaging with prophetic revelation, with assurance for those who wait and study it
 - *Hab 2:2-3 Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.*
- Rev 22:7 Reinforces blessing for keeping (observing and applying) the prophetic words.
 - *Rev 22:7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."*

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Incredible Examples of Faith and Powerful Witness

- The book of Daniel documents the faith that four young Jewish lads showed in the face of tremendous opposition and situations of certain death!
 - Daniel – along with Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) faced an edict of death when Nebuchadnezzar intended to kill all the wise men of Babylon when the Babylonian wise men were unable to recount his dream or its interpretation ([Dan 2](#))
 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a fiery furnace when they refused to bow down to the image of Nebuchadnezzar ([Dan 3](#))
 - Daniel continued to openly pray three times daily in spite of an edict forbidding worship to any God. As a result, he was thrown into a den of hungry lions, which would certainly result in his death. ([Dan 6](#))
- God used these dire circumstances to elevate the prominence of these young men (particularly Daniel) in both the Babylonian and Medo-Persian kingdoms
- Likewise, God is able to use our trials beneficially also. Through our trials and tribulations, God can (and does) bring blessings into our lives and the lives of others!

Prophet for the Ages: Overview of Daniel

Questions to Ponder

- Is it possible that the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 may result in the prophecy in Dan 12:4 being fulfilled?
 - Dan 12:4 “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”
- How should we treat and regard others that hold to differing eschatological (study of end times) views?
 - What would we consider to be “heretical views”?
- Why are certain scholars so vocal about saying Daniel was written in the 1st or 2nd centuries AD?
- In your opinion, is the study of prophecy important or unimportant? Could we say the “past is prologue” and the only thing that matters is what the future holds?
- Daniel and his friends faced severe trials and tribulations. How would we respond if we were in their shoes? Is it unthinkable that similar trials may happen to some Christian believers even here in the USA?