

Answers

Study 1. A Life without Compromise.

Daniel 1:1-8

1. Because of all the evil he did, as well as the evil of his forefathers. Neither Jehoiakim nor his ancestors heeded the warnings of the prophets.
2. To show that his god, Nabu or Bel, was superior to YAHWEH.
The Babylonians certainly thought they were in control when they carried articles from the temple of YAHWEH to the temple of their gods. It seemed Nebuchadnezzar was triumphant, and God's name was shamed. The placing of the temple articles in *the treasure house of his god* declared the triumph of the pagan deity Nabu over YAHWEH.
3. To disempower the future leadership of the Jews, to train them for Babylonian service, to indoctrinate them.
4. Three years. In the Babylonian language, customs, sciences, administration, religion and all other forms of wisdom.
5. It is quite possible that they were castrated in Babylon, although this cannot be proven without any doubt.
Note: According to the Apocrypha, Daniel was married to Susanna. However, there is no proof of this in any of the Biblical records.
6. Named after the God of Israel.
Daniel God is my Judge
Hananiah Yah (YAHWEH) has been gracious
Mishael Who is what God is?
Azariah Yah (YAHWEH) has helped
Their names were filled with the name of God, **el** אֱל or **yah** יָה
Yah is the short form of YAHWEH, such as in Hallelu-yah, or praise Yah (YAHWEH).
7. The gods of Babylon, such as Bel, Nabu and Aku.
Belteshazzar Keeper of the treasures of Bel. Chaldean of Baal
Shadrach Aku the Moon God / Royal or the great scribe
Meshach Who is what Aku is / Guest of a King
Abed-Nego Servant of Nabu / Nebo, son of Bel
To remove the influence of the reminder of hearing their Jewish names reminding them of God.
8. 'But Daniel resolved...'
 - Daniel would not eat this diet, as it was explicitly against the Word of God
 - On top of that, the food and wine were dedicated to their gods.He was willing outwardly to become a Babylonian, but he would not and could not become Babylonian in his spirit. He would not accept the gods and the worship of the Babylonians.

Reflection and Application _____

1. They had to be useful to the Babylonian administration.
They had to become Babylonians in thought and practice.
They had to be pleasant in appearance to the Babylonians.
2. It is still done by many influential countries.

Offering bursaries, scholarships and opportunities to young, bright and often very attractive people.

This is to prepare them for use in their companies, or future leadership in the nation's various levels of administration

The result is that many young people are captured by the world and its thinking and are removed from any influence by God in their lives'

3. They devoted followers of YAHWEH.
4. Some of our brightest young men and women end up at secular universities where they get brainwashed into the thinking and practices of the world. They lure the young and the bright with bursaries, lodging, sporting facilities, exchange and cultural programs. After a three-year undergraduate program, sometimes more, they turn out to be total pagans and unbelievers! Babylonians.

Study 2. Consequences of an uncompromising Life Daniel 1:8-21

1. These were dedicated to the Babylonian gods.
This was one of the ways Daniel and his friends would become assimilated into Babylonian culture.
'Defilement' meant that these things were dedicated or connected to the Babylonian gods in some way.
2. It was an extremely dangerous thing to do. There were many other young men who could replace them. If they looked worse in any way than the other young men, it would not only endanger them, but also the chief eunuch. However, God brought Daniel into favour with the chief of the eunuchs.
3. Daniel showed great humility and wisdom in speaking to the chief eunuch. He proposed a trial period of ten days for the chief eunuch to determine in this course of action was safe and feasible.
4. He did. He put them to the test for ten days. They looked healthier and better than the other young men after the trial period.
5. God gave them great knowledge and skill. They were highly intelligent young men, as they were among the group from both the royal family and the nobility (Daniel 1:3).
Daniel had the extra ability of understanding of visions and dreams.
6. They excelled among all the other young men. Note that their godly names are used when mentioning their exceptional abilities. 1:19
7. Their influence was felt over the length and breadth of the Empire. They were better than all the indigenous magicians and astrologers in all of the realm of Babylon.
8. Daniel's service extended to the first year of King Cyrus of Medo-Persia. This covers the span of four Babylonian rulers and one Medo-Persian ruler. A period from 605 to 539 BC. If we subtract the 3 years of training, that is $67-3 = 64$ years

Reflection and Application _____

1. Daniel served from the time of Nebuchadnezzar all the way through to King Cyrus of the Medo-Persian Empire.
605 – 562 Nebuchadnezzar
605 1st Deportation, Daniel amongst exiles Daniel 1:1
597 2nd Deportation

586	Destruction of Jerusalem	
562 – 560	Amēl-Marduk / Evil- Merodach	2 Ki. 25:27
560 – 556	Neriglissar / Nergal Sharezer	
556 – 539	Nabonidus	
542 – 539	Belshazzar	Daniel 5:1, 30-31
539 – 530	Cyrus the Great / Darius the Mede	Daniel 1:21, Daniel 6:28
537	Decree to build the 2 nd Temple	
	Darius, son of Xerxes	Daniel 9:1
	Cyrus, king of Persia	Daniel 10:1
	Darius the Mede	Daniel 11:1
	Cyrus the Great = Darius the Mede	Daniel 1:21; 5:30, 6:28, Daniel 10:1

Note: Cyrus the Great is probably the same person as Darius the Mede.

2. Jesus? When 'offered food' by Satan.

Study 3. The King's disturbing Dream.

Daniel 2:1-23

1. The King called on the help of all the wise men of his realm. They included magicians, enchanters/astrologers/conjurors/necromancers, sorcerers and Chaldeans (soothsayers). In other words, there was a spiritual connection to these wise men.
2. The King needed to know the interpretation of the dream, as the dream greatly troubled his mind.
3. They needed to hear the substance of the dream in order to come up with some explanation. They were not at all able to come up with the dream themselves.
4. They first had to tell the King what he had dreamt. Once they had told the dream, then they had to give the meaning of the dream. There was the added incentive that if they were not able to, they would be executed and their houses turned to rubble.
5. They would receive great gifts and wealth and honour.
6. The King did not trust their ability to actually get to the true meaning of the dream, and if they heard it from the King's mouth, they would probably concoct some story.
7. No human being was able to do what the king had asked for. Only the gods could know the king's mind and give the king the interpretation of the dream. Unfortunately, the gods did not live among men. This implied that they actually had no real and meaningful contact with the gods.
8. Daniel and his friends were part of the wise men of Babylon by this time, as their training period had ended and they had been inducted into the order of wise men. As they were probably considered too junior, they did not accompany the more senior wise men to speak with the King.
9. He spoke with great counsel and wisdom to Arioch, the captain of the King's guard.
אֲרִיּוֹךְ 'Aryowk **Meaning:** "lion-like" Probably the chief of the executioners for Nebuchadnezzar
This was indeed a dangerous man, comfortable and able with the art of killing and carrying out the king's orders.
10. Daniel knew that, as he could not know what the King had dreamt, he needed time to enquire from God, to give him the content and the meaning of the dream.

11. Daniel gathered his friends, informed them about what he did and asked them to pray. They determined to plead with God for revelation.
12. The God of Heaven, not the fake gods of Babylon, revealed the content and meaning of the dream to Daniel in a night vision. Daniel thanked and blessed the God of Heaven.

Reflection and Application _____

1. Nabu, Bel an Aku were not real gods, but idols or statues.
There was, of course, a demonic presence invested in these gods.
On the other hand, the God of Heaven was:
 - Real and eternal.
 - The source of all wisdom and might.
 - Changes the times and the seasons.
 - The one who removes kings and raises up kings.
 - The one who gives wisdom to the wise.
 - The one who gives knowledge to those with understanding.
 - The one who reveals deep and secret things.
 - The one who knows what *is* in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.
2. He changes the times and the seasons;
He removes kings and raises up kings;
3. Daniel praised and thanked the God of heaven
Daniel said:
 - Wisdom and power are his.
 - He changes times and seasons.
 - He sets up kings and deposes them.
 - He gives wisdom to the wise.
 - He gives knowledge to the discerning.
 - He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.

Study 4. The Meaning of the Dream.

Daniel 2:24-49

1. He went to inform Arioch, the lion-like, about his knowledge of the dream and its interpretation. Daniel also interceded for the lives of the other wise men. Arioch reacted immediately and arranged for Daniel to appear before the King. "I found a man among the captives of Judah"
Although they are supposed to be assimilated into Babylonian society, it is clear that they were still seen as foreigners. Cf. Daniel 5:13
2. Daniel right away denied his own ability to make known the dream and to interpret it.
Secondly, Daniel took this opportunity to witness to the King that there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets. This God of Heaven had revealed the future to Nebuchadnezzar
This is the same approach Joseph had Genesis 41:16, 25, 28, 32
3. Two times Daniel witnesses to the God of heaven. 2:28, 29
Daniel also makes it clear that he did not know the dream because he had more wisdom than the others.

- The dream was revealed for the sake of all the wise men.
4. He saw a great image with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron and feet partly iron and clay.
 5. A stone cut without hands struck the image, crushed all its parts and every bit that remained was carried away.
The stone grew and became a great mountain that filled the earth.
 6. The God of heaven appointed Nebuchadnezzar as ruler over a powerful and glorious kingdom. He was represented by the head of gold. After Nebuchadnezzar, three other successive but lesser kingdoms would arise
 7. These four kingdoms would be:

Head of Gold	The Babylonian Empire
Chest and arms of silver	The Medo-Persian Empire
Belly and thighs of bronze	The Macedonian Empire
Legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay	The Roman Empire
 8. The fourth kingdom would be immensely powerful, yet also divided and fragile.
 9. In the days of these kings, i.e. the days of the 4th Kingdom (the Roman Empire), the God of heaven would set up a kingdom that:
 - shall never be destroyed;
 - shall not be left to other people;
 - shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms,
 - and shall stand forever.
 10. Daniel's God was:
 - The God of gods
 - The Lord of kings
 - The Revealer of Secrets
 11. Daniel was promoted as ruler over the whole province of Babylon.
Daniel was made chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. His three friends were also promoted to preside over the affairs of the province of Babylon

Reflection and Application _____

1. Five times.

28	The God of heaven
29	The One who reveals secrets
37	The God of heaven
44	The God of heaven
45	The great God

 He wanted to make sure Nebuchadnezzar heard about the one true God who is sovereign over all nations, rulers, empires and peoples.
2. The Kingdom of Jesus Christ that arose during the time of the Roman Empire.

Study 5. Idolatry or Death.

Daniel 3:1-18

1. Nebuchadnezzar probably thought that since he was the head of gold and all the other subsequent kingdoms were of inferior quality, he needed some special worship. 3:2

2. King Nebuchadnezzar sent *word* to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.
אֶחָשְׁדָּרְפָּן 'achashdarpan, (Aramaic), meaning a satrap, which is a governor of a Persian province.
3. They were all the government officials from the least to the greatest in all of Babylon.
4. At the time they heard the sound of the music, they had to fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up;
Considering Nebuchadnezzar's recently acquired knowledge that there was God in Heaven who decides the future and fate of kingdoms and rulers, this was not a very wise decision.
5. "Whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."
6. All the people, nations, and languages fell down *and* worshipped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.
7. Certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."
8. Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "*Is it true*, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, *that* you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?"
9. We have no need to answer you in this matter.
"If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. "But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

Reflection and Application _____

1. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon, which was a certain distance away from the city where Daniel was.
2. "Who *is* the god who will deliver you from my hands?"
He had seen what the God of Daniel and his friends could do. He himself had witnessed the God of Heaven as the:
 - God of gods
 - Lord of kings
 - Revealer of dreams.

Study 6 Firm before the Flames.

Daniel 3:19-30

1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were bound and cast into the burning fiery furnace.

2. These men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. I.e. they were dressed in their official attire.
3. Although the flames of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.
4. There were four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."
They walked around in the fire unharmed, and there was another person with them in the fire.
5. The form of the fourth is like the Son of God."
6. Nebuchadnezzar called them by the Name of the Most High God to come out.
7. "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!
The God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego
8. Their own God.
9. If any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against **the God of** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is **no other God who can deliver like this.**"
There is no other God like the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego

Reflection and Application _____

1. The form of the fourth is like 'the Son of God' or 'an angel of God' (לְבֶרֶךְ-אֱלֹהִים)
2. The friends of Daniel in the furnace.
3. Yes, God is able.

Study 7. Warning of Imminent Judgement.

Daniel 4:1-27

1. A personal testimony. Nebuchadnezzar.
2. To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.
3. He thought it good to declare
 - the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me. How great *are* His signs, and how mighty His wonders!
 - His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom,
 - And His dominion *is* from generation to generation.
4. Why did he speak like this? What had happened to him? Do you think he was a believer or an unbeliever when he wrote this? 4:2-3
5. What had happened to Nebuchadnezzar? 4:5
6. I told them the dream; but they did not make known to me its interpretation.
7. Who could interpret the King's dream? Was Daniel with him? 4:8
Daniel 4:8 But at last Daniel came before me (his name *is* Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god; in him *is* the Spirit of the Holy God), and I told the dream before him, ...

8. What was significant about Daniel? 4:9; 18
 He did not associate with the so-called wise men.
 The Spirit of the Holy God *is* in you.
 For the Spirit of the Holy God *is* in you.
 Daniel 4:9 "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the Spirit of the Holy God *is* in you, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation. ¹⁸ "This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, declare its interpretation, since all the wise *men* of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation; but you *are* able, for the Spirit of the Holy God *is* in you."
9. What was the substance of the dream? 4:10-16
 Daniel 4:10 "I was looking, and behold, A tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. ¹¹ The tree grew and became strong; Its height reached to the heavens, and it could be seen to the ends of all the earth. ¹² Its leaves *were* lovely, Its fruit abundant, And in it *was* food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, the birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it. ¹³ "I saw in the visions of my head *while* on my bed, and there was **a watcher, a holy one**, coming down from heaven. ¹⁴ He cried aloud and said thus: 'Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, Strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts get out from under it, and the birds from its branches. ¹⁵ Nevertheless leave the stump and roots in the earth, *Bound* with a band of iron and bronze, In the tender grass of the field. Let it be wet with the dew of heaven, And *let* him graze with the beasts On the grass of the earth. ¹⁶ Let his heart be changed from *that of* a man, Let him be given the heart of a beast, And let seven times pass over him."
10. What was the purpose of the dream? 4:17
 Daniel 4:17 'This decision *is* by the decree of **the watchers**, And the sentence by **the word of the holy ones**, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'
 So that the living may know what was about to happen.
 It had been firmly determined.
11. What is a watcher? 4:13, 17, 23
 Daniel 4:18 "This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, declare its interpretation, since all the wise *men* of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation; but you *are* able, for the Spirit of the Holy God *is* in you."
12. Was Daniel happy to give the King the interpretation of the dream?
 Why did this dream bother Daniel so?
 Daniel 4:19 Then Daniel, whose name *was* Belteshazzar, was astonished for a time, and his thoughts troubled him. So the king spoke, and said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation trouble you."
 Daniel loved the King. Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, *may* the dream concern those who hate you, and its interpretation concern your enemies!"
13. What was the Interpretation of the dream? Who did the dream apply to? 4:20-23
 Daniel 4:20 The tree that you saw, which grew and became strong, whose height reached to the heavens and which *could be* seen by all the earth, ²¹ whose leaves *were* lovely and its fruit abundant, in which *was* food for all, under

which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the heaven had their home-- ²² it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth.

14. What was the meaning of the watcher's cry?

Daniel 4:23 And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, *bound* with a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him'; ²⁴ this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:

15. What had to happen for the sentence to end? 4:25

Daniel 4:25 They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.

16. What did Daniel warn the King to do? 4:27

Daniel 4:26 And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump *and* roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules. ²⁷ Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by *being* righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to *the* poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity."

Reflection and Application _____

What is the recurring refrain? 4:17, 25, 32

17: In order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men.'

25: Till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.

32: **The Most High** rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."

Study 8. Humiliation and Restoration.

Daniel 4:28-37

1. All *this* came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.
At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honour of my majesty?"
2. While the word *was still* in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!
And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling *shall be* with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that **the Most High** rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."

- That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' *feathers* and his nails like birds' *claws*.
3. And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and
 4. What did Nebuchadnezzar confess?
I blessed the Most High and praised and honoured Him who lives forever: For His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom *is* from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and *among* the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?"
 5. At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honour and splendour returned to me. My counsellors and nobles resorted to me; I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me.
 6. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all of whose works *are* truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.

Reflection and Application _____

1. What was the aim of Nebuchadnezzar's humbling?
2. A Man becoming like an animal? Does not make any connection with the rest of the prophecy.
Daniel 7:4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it. (Dan 7:4 NIB)
3. Note the structure of the King's testimony:

Believer	4:1-3	testimony
Unbeliever	4:4-27	dream
Unbeliever	4:28-33	interpretation
Believer	4:34-37	sentence

Study 9. The Writing on the Wall.

Daniel 5:1-17

1. A pagan Feast. Fast forward 23 years after King Nebuchadnezzar's reign ended to the year 539 BC. The story begins with a great banquet, more like a debauched drinking and sexual orgy.
2. Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which *had been* in Jerusalem. So that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of **the house of God** which *had been* in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them.
'They drank wine, and praised **the gods** of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone'. As the wine flowed and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines lost their inhibitions, they became happy and brave. When people get drunk, they go through these different phases or emotions:
Jolly, Amorous, Rumbustious, Brave, Depressed, Religious, Sorrowful, etc.
So they went from the jolly to the brave part.

3. The fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. All of a sudden, all of the jollification and bravado disappeared. The king watched the hand as it wrote. He turned pale, and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together.
4. As his grandfather and the kings before him, he called on the wise men of the Empire. The astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. Whoever reads this writing, and tells me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and *have* a chain of gold around his neck; and he shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."
5. Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king what it meant. So King Belshazzar became even more terrified, and his face grew paler. His nobles were baffled.
6. The queen, probably the queen mother (daughter/granddaughter of Nebuchadnezzar), remembered a man of whom could be said, 'the spirit of the gods was in him'.
 Daniel was old and forgotten by all except the queen, definitely not Belshazzar's wife, but probably the queen mother.
 Either the mother of King Belshazzar, or even one of Nebuchadnezzar's daughters. Alternatively, perhaps even Nebuchadnezzar's widow.
 How many years later: 562- 539 = 23 years Daniel had been forgotten.
 It was now 23 years after the end of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, 562-539 BC
 The time since Daniel had been taken into exile: 605 BC – 539 BC = 66 years.
 Let us say Daniel was 18 years old at the beginning of the exile; at this time, 66 years later he was $18 + 66 = 84$ years old.
 It did not seem as if Daniel was still held in high esteem and was all but forgotten. This is strange considering that he had been placed as ruler over the entire province of Babylon and over all the wise men at the court during Nebuchadnezzar's reign 2:48
 Daniel was old and forgotten by all except the queen, definitely not Belshazzar's wife, but probably the queen mother.
 Either the mother of King Belshazzar, or even one of Nebuchadnezzar's daughters. Alternatively, perhaps even Nebuchadnezzar's widow.
7. "There is a man in your kingdom in whom *is the Spirit of the Holy God*. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like **the wisdom of the gods**, were found in him; and King **Nebuchadnezzar** your father-- your father the king-- made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, *and* soothsayers. Sounds like Daniel 4.
9. "Are you that Daniel who is one of the captives from Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah?
 Not a trusted, loyal official and servant of my fathers. No, a captive from Jerusalem. Daniel had served in Babylon for 64 years.
Irony: 'Are you one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah?'
 A wise and grey old man of over 80 years of age and at least 43 years of valuable and fruitful service to the Empire!
 He was a legend before Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian people.
10. "I have heard of you, that **the Spirit of God** *is* in you, and *that* light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you.
 And I have heard of you, that you can give interpretations and explain enigmas. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you

shall be clothed with purple and *have* a chain of gold around your neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."

11. Then Daniel answered, and said before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another; yet I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

Reflection and Application _____

1. Not heeding the warnings, he heard from his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar.
No repentance.
Defilement
Rebellion against God and
Blasphemy
2. The Spirit of the Holy God
The Wisdom of God
3. No, not at all.
4. Not is someone spoke to him lie that. He was a weakling and very afraid.

Study 10. The End of an Empire.

Daniel 5:18-30

1. Daniel started with a testimony about the Most High God!
He could have just explained the dream, but the King needed to hear about the ultimate reality. Telling the King about God the Most High
Not to the King alone, but also the thousands present.
Daniel 5:18 "O king, **the Most High God** gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honour. ¹⁹ "And because of the majesty that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and whomever he wished, he put down.
2. God Most High humbled him. When Nebuchadnezzar's heart was filled with pride and arrogance and rootless behaviour, and he rebelled against the Most High, he became proud and arrogant. However, he was deposed from his royal throne. He was driven from the sons of men; his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling *was* with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till he knew that **the Most High God** rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses.
3. Seven years. So that he might realise that God Most High was sovereign over kings and kingdoms.
4. He knew all this, but he did not humble himself. He was willfully ignorant.
The problem with Belshazzar was that he had no excuse!
"You should have learned from this! But you did not!" "But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this.
5. He challenged the Lord of Heaven. This is blasphemy.
What was even worse was that he set himself up against the Most High God. He blasphemed the God of Heaven.
'You did not honour the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.'
And the Most High God saw this, and God sent you his judgement.

- "And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them.
6. He rebelled against the God of Heaven, as it was the cups from his temple. And you have praised **the gods** of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and **the God** who *holds* your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.
 7. The inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.
MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it;
"TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;
"PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians."
 8. That very night the life of Belshazzar ended.
The Medo-Persians under Darius the Mede diverted the flow of the Euphrates River into a marsh, and the soldiers simply walked into the city in the dry riverbed. They took over the city without firing a single arrow or casting a spear. **Darius the Mede** took over the Babylonian kingdom at the age of 62
Nabonidus, Belshazzar's stepfather, was captured near Babylon and taken into exile. **Darius the Mede** is also called **Cyrus the Great**, and he ruled from **539 – 530 BC**

Reflection and Application _____

1. Belshazzar had the witness and testimony of Nebuchadnezzar, the queen mother, and the officials of his grandfather's era, yet he did not listen and humble himself. He blasphemed against the God of Heaven by drinking out of the vessels from the temple and praising false gods.
2. That God Most High is sovereign. He rules over all.
3. ^{ESV} **Ezekiel 2:9** And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. ¹⁰ And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.
Ezekiel 3:1 And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.
Revelation 8:10 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." ⁹ So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." ¹⁰ And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. ¹¹ And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."
^{ESV} **Zechariah 5:1** Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a flying scroll!
² And he said to me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits, and its width ten cubits." ³ Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole land. For everyone who steals

shall be cleaned out according to what is on one side, and everyone who swears falsely shall be cleaned out according to what is on the other side. ⁴ I will send it out, declares the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter the house of the thief, and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. And it shall remain in his house and consume it, both timber and stones."

4. Within the 70 years as prophesied by the prophet Jeremiah, the Babylonian kingdom ceased to exist, just as the Most High had predicted.
It unceremoniously and shamefully passed from existence.
This weak King and his weak stepfather had led the once mighty Empire come to ruin. Like so many successful Kingdoms and thriving Empires in history.
5. Daniel
6. NB: Always be ready for evangelism! There were more than a thousand officials plus all the wives and concubines listening!

Study 11. Daniel, a Faithful Servant.

Daniel 5:31-6:17

1. It pleased **Darius** to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps. Over these were three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. That sounds as if these people were corrupt. These measures were put in place so that there would be no corruption. No stealing!
2. The new King, Darius the Mede, almost immediately recognised Daniel's value. Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. The way that Daniel performed during that very **first year of Darius' reign** showed the king enough of his character and integrity. And the king rearranged the administration completely
3. The governors and satraps sought to find *some* charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.
They were full of envy.
At the hearing of the King's plans to promote Daniel, they were upset.
They probably knew that they would not be able to fleece the King.
They would not be able to keep on living under the vile Belshazzar.
4. They were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.
They realised that Daniel was without fault in his character, his actions and his intentions. He was never negligent, and there was no corruption in him and this over a period of 67 years! They could not fault him on his administration, his character, his faithfulness to the King. The only way they could find anything against Daniel was in something to do with his God.
5. So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever!
Daniel 6:7 The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that **anyone who prays to any god or man** during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den.
6. "All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counsellors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute

and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸ "Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."

He was unaware of it, else he would have opposed it.

7. Yes, he was flattered, and he put the decree in writing.

Daniel 6:9 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

8. No, he was not, because we read, "Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened towards Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to **his God**, just as he had done before."

Then these men went as a group and found **Daniel praying and asking God for help.**

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his **God**, as was his custom since early days.

9. These men went as a group and found **Daniel praying and asking God for help.** They accused Daniel before the king, saying, "Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."

10. The King was greatly distressed, and he tried his best to rescue Daniel.

Why was he distressed? The King knew that he had been foolish

He was swept away by the glory of the moment when they came with their idea.

"You are the best, O King, and we really admire you. For 30 days, let all in the empire pray only to you."

They came as a group, and the pressure they brought to bear was immense.

What king would not like all his satraps and administrators to think very highly of him? And to venerate him like this! It all went to his head, and he did not see the trap

Secondly. The King knew there was no one else like Daniel, who was completely loyal to him, who would not steal from him. One who had proven himself over a period of 67 years!

However, the King could not change the law of the Medes and Persians.

Once the King had issued an edict, it could not be changed.

Daniel was going to die!

11. The king said to Daniel, "May **your God**, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

Reflection and Application _____

1. Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus Daniel 1:21.
I.e. for 67 years: 3 years in training, 64 years in service, 43 years under Nebuchadnezzar.
For the next 23 years, he was neglected and almost forgotten under Amel Marduk, Nergal Sharezer, Nabonidus and Belshazzar. If he came as a young man of 18, he was now 85 years old
2. Daniel was a man of integrity and a faithful servant to whichever king he was appointed to serve.
3. No, not at all.

4. He remained quiet.
5. Without fault.
Humble servant.
Falsely accused.
Hated because of his love for God.
Quiet before his accusers.
Sentenced to death.
Entered into the grave.

Daniel and Christ: Daniel is a shadow of Christ

Once again, we can see the similarity between Daniel and Christ!

Just like Jesus, Daniel was sentenced to death.

Just as there was no way, humanly speaking, that Jesus could survive the crucifixion, so there was no way Daniel could survive the horde of hungry lions in the pit.

As Daniel was thrown in, they would have been startled.

Then the pit was immediately closed off with a stone and sealed with the king's own seal, so that it would be impossible for anyone to attempt to rescue Daniel.

Hated without a cause

NO BASIS - There was no basis of any kind of charge against Daniel.

Neither sins of commission nor sins of omission.

He had been loyal to the ruling king, whoever it was, for 67 years.

He had never stolen, misappropriated or neglected.

He did not enrich himself or use the power and position for his own benefit.

He served the King and the people.

Luke 23:4 Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, **"I find no basis for a charge against this man."**

Falsely accused

Daniel was a shadow or a type of Christ

If they wanted the Romans to execute him, they had to set Jesus up falsely against the Emperor, as a rival King to Caesar, as he claimed to be the King of the Jews.

Pilate: **'Are you the king of the Jews?'** **'My kingdom is not of this world'**, was the reply.

But what was the real reason? They did not like his claim to be the Messiah or Christ!

Are you the Christ?

Matthew 26:63 The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: **In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.**"

For the Jews, that claim meant equality with the God of the Universe.

That to them meant blasphemy and death

For Pilate, it had to be political opposition to Caesar; that is why the charge read: **'The King of the Jews'.**

ENVY **It was out of envy that they wanted to get rid of Daniel**

Daniel was sentenced to death, and a stone placed over his grave.

Daniel 6:17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.

Matthew 27:62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³ "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ **So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.**

Despite all these precautions, Daniel, as Jesus, rose from the dead.

Study 12. Shielded by God's Power.

Daniel 6:18-28

1. **"May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"**
Imagine a man being cast down into the pit without ceremony, on top of these very irritable and starving lions. Imagine in your mind's eye these ferocious lions setting upon him, tearing him apart.
What a testimony! Daniel was a Servant of the Living God, and Daniel served God continually. Darius did not know this God personally, but he had seen this God as a real presence in Daniel's life. There was no difference in the way that he served the King. He served the King as God's ordained and sovereign appointment here on earth!
2. The king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.
At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, **"Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"**
And he used Daniel's Hebrew name and the same phrase... Daniel, **servant of the living God**
3. The King had a small sliver of hope. So he called out to Daniel: **"Servant of the living God!" "Has your God whom you serve continually been able to rescue you?"** King Darius saw God as real in Daniel's life, affecting Daniel's lifestyle. Not just the superficial, ritualistic worship of the pagan gods.
Daniel lived constantly before the face of God. His very name, Daniel, meant – **God is my Judge. This pagan King hoped that Daniel would somehow come back from the dead!**
4. No, not at all. He answered, "O king, live for ever!
My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."
He spent the whole night amongst these starving lions.
They did not hurt Daniel, because he reiterated what the King had observed.
 - He was found **'innocent in God's sight.'** Not only was Daniel found innocent before the sight of God

- Daniel had also '**done no wrong to the King.**' He had served the king faithfully
5. Does God always save innocent men from death? 6:22-23
 My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."
 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.
 6. At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.
 Sin never simply affects the sinner, but also those closest and nearest to him.
 - If I am addicted to alcohol, that will affect my whole family
 - If I watch porn, that will affect my relationship with my wife or husband, and people of the opposite sex.
 - If there is a breakdown of the family, it affects the children to the third and fourth generation.
 They are not guilty for my sin, but my sin affects them!
 7. He was the living God. He rescues, and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.
 Eternal God.
 The kingdom will not be destroyed.
 His dominion will never end.
 Rescues and saves
 Performs signs and wonders (remember the magicians in Egypt recognising this is the finger of God!)
 8. No. That was no guarantee, but it did sound promising.
 Not necessarily no. However, read Isaiah's prophecy with regard to Cyrus.
 9. Darius is the same as Cyrus. Darius was named as ruler over Babylon, but Cyrus was his Medo-Persian name as ruler over the whole Medo-Persian Empire. So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. (Dan 6:28 NIB)

Reflection and Application _____

1. If Darius and Cyrus are the same person, then a radical change had taken place in his life. The king's witness in 6:25-26 and the edict to restore the temple in Jerusalem indicate a radical change of heart.
2. Both. Daniel served faithfully in every administration with utmost integrity. However, when it came to that which belonged to God, Daniel stood against the whole of the Empire.
 He stood for God and for what was right, and his enemies wanted to destroy him. But God blessed him. So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius the Mede, that is, Cyrus the Persian!
3. No, he continued as before. He prayed to God for deliverance. There is always a price to pay! And most times this price is very steep.
4. He remained quiet (Isaiah 53:7).

5. Jesus. Just like Jesus, Daniel 'came back from the dead,' as it were, and he prospered (Isaiah 53:8, 12).

Daniel and Jesus

Would you expect Daniel to rise from the pit if you haven't read the story before? Not really! We know that human beings do not survive being cast into a pit of starving, man-eating lions.

It is hard to believe, but this prepares us for the coming of Jesus. Jesus was also cast into the pit of death.

You know what this story reminds one of concerning Jesus?

Who went to the grave on that 1st day of the week after the crucifixion?

They did not expect anything, but they went to anoint what they thought would be the dead body of Jesus!

Daniel was lifted out of the pit, and no wound was found on him because he trusted in his God.

What was this? For all practical purposes, this was a return from the dead.

There was, humanly speaking, no way that Daniel could survive a whole night in a pit full of hungry lions.

A Shadow of Christ!

What is this a shadow of? The Bible prepares us for resurrection. This is a picture and a shadow of a resurrection! Just like Joseph, who, for all practical purposes, was dead, came back to life and ruled over all Egypt as vice regent of the high king. Just as Daniel, too, was sentenced to death, by God's power was raised from certain death. The lion pit was closed off and sealed, just like Jesus' tomb.

Example: Jesus was, of course, the perfect example, the fulfilment, the anti-type. He was executed and placed in a grave, and the grave was sealed. But then Jesus came back from certain death. And he is ruling at the right hand of God as God's King forever.

Study 13. Four Beastlike Kingdoms.

Daniel 7:1-10

1. The four winds of heaven blowing on the sea and four successive beasts coming from the sea.
2. "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea". Great angels of God. Probably the cherubim.
3. The great sea represents Ideologies, political systems such as Nazism, Marxism and Islam. 7:2; Isaiah 17:17ff; Revelation 17:1
4. Four great kingdoms of the World / Empires/ Rulers
5. 1st: Babylonian. Nebuchadnezzar became human. No longer a beast. At his conversion, the heart of a man was given to it. 7:4
2nd: Medo-Persian. Cyrus the Great. Conquered three kingdoms.
3rd: Macedonian Empire under Alexander the Great. Swift and ferocious. When he died, his kingdom was divided into four under each of his generals. 7:5-6
4th: Roman Empire. Crushes everything in its way. Not even a beast, least of all a man. 7:7
6. "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast--terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it

crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns”.

It is different to the other beasts before it. Not like a human at all. Even worse than an animal. Like a machine, not feeling.

7. Note: 10 is the number representing completeness.
Complete and total control
8. What is the content of the little horn’s boastful speaking? Where does this little horn find its inspiration? 7:8
"While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

Reflection and Application _____

1. And there, in this horn, *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.
2 Thessalonians 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for *that day will not come* until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.
2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendour of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders...
2. The Antichrist.
1 John 2:18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

Study 14 The Ancient of Days and the Son of Man Daniel 7:9-14

1. God the Father
2. The following imagery...

Thrones	Rule, power and authority
Ancient of Days	Eternity.
Seated	Ultimate authority
Clothes	Holiness
Hair	Wisdom
Fire	Purity and judgement
Wheels	Movement
Millions	Immense influence and power
Court	Judgement
Books	Evidence

The imagery conveys eternity, wisdom, serenity, peace and control.
3. The rule and empires of the beasts are short-lived and non-human.

4. He will be slain, destroyed completely, cast into the flames.
5. Not long. Only for a very short period of time.
6. One like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He will be seated at the right hand of the Ancient of Days. Psalm 110:1-3
7. The Son of man. Psalm 2
8. Totally unlike the beasts. He is the representative man. The perfect human. Psalm 8.
9. His dominion will be over all nations and peoples; it will last for all eternity and will never be destroyed.

Reflection and Application _____

1. The Son of man.
Matthew 26:64 "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."
2. He fulfilled Daniel 7:13-14
3. Who comes on the clouds according to the pagans? Hint: look at Baal.
Baal is the rider of the clouds. He brings the lightning and the rain.
He is called Bel in Babylon.
Like Daniel's name, Belteshazzar.
How is God described in the Psalms?
In the Psalms, we are told that God rides the clouds.
Psalm 18:9 He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet.
Psalm 68:4 Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds-- his name is the LORD--and rejoice before him.
Psalm 97:2 Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
Psalm 104:3 ...and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.
4. There had been no rain for three years! God shows that Baal was not in control. In Canaanite religion, Baal is described as **the rider of the clouds**. The reason is that he is a fertility god, and he provides the rain. Baal, or Bel is a fertility god, and he is seen in the storm, the clouds, and the rain. The lightning and the thunder announce his presence. Remember also that **Baal** is called **Bel** in Babylonian religion.
5. Note: As the Son of Man comes with the clouds, he comes as a witness against the religion of Babylon. As a testimony to the fact that it is God who is sovereign over creation. In the ancient Jewish writings, the Messiah is described in one of the messianic titles as **the cloudy one**. The only one who can walk into God's presence as his equal.
During the time of this vision, the king's name is Belshazzar, and **his name meant Belshazzar = "Bel protect the king."** Even **Daniel** is called **Belteshazzar**, "**Keeper of the treasures of Bel.**" So the question is, who is the real rider of the clouds?
6. He wanted them to know that he was the Son of Man of Daniel 7!
Note: John, in exile on the island of Patmos:

Revelation 1:7 Look, he is **coming with the clouds**, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

7. **Ezekiel 30:2** "Son of man, prophesy and say: `This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Wail and say, "Alas for that day!" ³ For the day is near, **the day of the LORD is near--a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations.**
Zephaniah 1:14 "The great **day of the LORD** is near -- near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the **day of the LORD** will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. ¹⁵ That day will be **a day of wrath**, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, **a day of clouds and blackness...**

Study 15. The War against the Saints.

Daniel 7:15-28

1. He did not understand the vision
 Daniel 7:15 "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within *my* body, and the visions of my head troubled me.
2. "I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: They told him.
3. `Those great beasts, which are four, *are* four kings *which* arise out of the earth, representing four successive kingdoms.
4. The saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.'
5. They will receive it together with the Son of Man, as they belong to him.
6. "Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, *with* its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, *which* devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; Not human-like, not even animal-like. His power and dominion seemed to be total. The Roman Empire lasted from 63 BC to well past 300 AD. During the 4th Kingdom or Empire, God's eternal kingdom would be set up. Cf. Daniel 2. In 312 AD, the Edict of Toleration was promulgated by Emperor Constantine, giving freedom of worship to the Christians for the first time.
7. Note: 10 is the number representing completeness. Complete and total control.
8. This little horn seems small and insignificant, but will wield great power. It speaks with the mouth of a man, so it will deceive its followers into considering it different to the beasts, i.e. human. However, it will be worse than all the other beasts.
9. Daniel 7:21 "I was watching; and **the same horn** was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, "until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made *in favour* of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

Reflection and Application _____

1. `The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.

2. The ten horns *are* ten kings *who* shall arise from this kingdom. They are 10 rulers or kings. Ten is not to be taken literally, but is the apocalyptic number signifying total and complete control
3. He is like the antichrist under the control of Satan or the beast from the sea of Revelation
 "And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first *ones*, And shall subdue three kings.
 - He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High,
 - Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,
 - And shall intend to change times and law.
 Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand "**for a time and times and half a time.**"
4. Who are the saints? The followers of the Son of Man
 Set times and Laws. What God has ordained,
5. This is the gospel age. Cf. Revelation 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5
 The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.
6. The Last Judgement
 Daniel 7:26 "But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy *it* forever. ²⁷ Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him."
7. Daniel 7:28 "I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself."

Study 16. The Two-Horned Ram.

Daniel 8:1-4; 15-20

1. **Daniel 8:1** In the third year of King Belshazzar's reign.
 Belshazzar would die, and the Babylonian Empire would come to an end.
2. I, Daniel, had a vision after the one that had already appeared to me.
 All that he saw in Daniel 7. The four beasts, the Ancient of Days and Son of Man, the little boastful horn, the kingdom handed over to the saints.
3. In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal.
4. The Medo- Persian Empire.
 I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later.
5. I watched the ram as he charged towards the west and the north and the south.
 No animal could stand against him, and none could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.
6. While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision."
7. Daniel 8:17 "As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate."
8. It concerns the time of the end.
 "He said to me, 'Understand that the vision concerns the time of the end.'
 Not the end of the world, but the end of the Medo-Persian Empire?"

- It will be replaced by the Macedonian Empire
9. Daniel 8:18 While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet.
 10. Daniel 8:19 He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end. The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia.

Reflection and Application _____

1. The kings of Medo-Persia
 2. The Macedonian Empire.
- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Neo-Babylonian Empire | 625 – 539 BC |
| The Medo-Persian Empire | 539 – 336 BC |
| Macedonian Empire | 359 – 323 BC |
| Antiochus Epiphanes | 167 – 163 BC |
| The Hasmonean Kingdom | 163 – 63 BC |
| The Roman Empire | 63 BC – 300 AD and beyond |

Study 17. The One-Horned Goat.

Daniel 8:9-14; 23-27

1. "As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground".
Alexander of Macedon, or Alexander the Great.
2. He came towards the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at him in great rage.
3. I saw him attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power.
4. The goat became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up towards the four winds of heaven.
5. The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king. The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power. They were Alexander's four generals who became known as the Ptolemies in Egypt and the Seleucids in Israel and Syria.

Reflection and Application _____

The Macedonian Kingdom under Alexander lasted only for 12 years. 1 Maccabees 1:7 It continued for many years after Alexander under the Ptolemies in Egypt and the Seleucids in Syria. Eventually Antiochus came and oppressed the Holy Land from 167 BC to 163 BC.

Study 18. The Small Horn that Grew.

Daniel 8:5-8; 21-22

1. Antiochus IV emerged in 175 BC. He took the title Theos Antiochus Epiphanes (Antiochus, the Illustrious God). Others referred to him as Epimanes ('the madman').
Horns signify power. These creatures stand for the following;
 - Ram with the two horns - The Medo-Persian King. Dan. 8: 3-4
 - The goat - Alexander the Great Dan. 8: 5-8
 - The small horn that grew in power - Antiochus IV Dan. 8: 9-12
2. Israel. He overran Palestine (the Beautiful Land; 9) and sacked Jerusalem amid terrible bloodshed.
3. What did he achieve? What does it mean that 'it grew until it reached the host of the heavens and it threw some of the starry host down and trampled on them'? 8:10, 24
Daniel 8:24 He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people.
He abolished the daily morning and evening sacrificial offerings (11; cf. Ex. 29:38-43) and committed the blasphemy of sacrificing a pig on the altar of burnt offering, later placing a statue of Zeus in the temple and making human sacrifices on the altar. (acc. to S. Ferguson)
4. What does it mean that 'it set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low. 8:11, 25
Daniel 8:25 He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.
5. What did he prevent according to the words 'because of rebellion, the host of *the saints* and the daily sacrifice were given over?' 8:11-12
The daily sacrifices in the temple were interrupted.
6. What is 'the rebellion that causes desolation, and 'the surrender of the sanctuary' and of 'the host that will be trampled underfoot'?"
7. This defilement interrupted sacrifice for 2,300 evenings and mornings, a reference to the evening and morning offering (8:14). From 167 BC to 163 BC. Note: 2300 evenings and mornings, as the Jewish day is reckoned, is equal to 1150 days, that is: 38 months (1150 / 30), or 3 years, 2 months and 10 days.
8. The period when Antiochus prevented sacrifice and desecrated the Temple. 167 BC to 163 BC
9. After this period, Antiochus was overthrown, and the sanctuary was reconstructed.
The period, then, was just a little over three years, from 167 to 163 B.C., when the temple sacrifices were reinstated by the Maccabees, when the Jews revolted against Antiochus IV in the Maccabean uprising.

Reflection and Application _____

1. He will become very strong, but not by his own power.
His power was derived from Satan himself.

2. What did he aim to do and what does it mean?
 Set up against the Host of Heaven.
 Threw some of the starry host down.....
 Set himself up as the Prince of the Host.....
 Took daily sacrifice away.....
 Aimed to destroy the Holy People.....
 Took a stand against the Prince of Princes.....
3. Whose power will it take to destroy him? 8:25
 Daniel 8:25 He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.
4. When would these things take place? 8:26
 Daniel 8:26 "The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future."
5. Why was Daniel appalled and exhausted? 8:27

Study 19 Daniel Searches the Scriptures

Daniel 9:1-6

1. Daniel realised that the seventy years were coming to an end and started praying to the LORD and pleading for his people.
 Daniel 9:2 I, Daniel, understood from **the Scriptures**, according to **the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet**, that the **desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years**.
2. Three areas:
Words – pleaded with prayer and petition
Action – deprived himself by fasting
Attitude – humbled himself in sackcloth and ashes
3. The LORD God is faithful, great and awesome.
 LORD who keeps his covenant with all who love him and obey his commands.
4. We have sinned and done wrong
 We have been wicked and rebelled
 We have turned away from the LORD's commands and laws
 We have not listened to the prophets
5. He would punish the rebels and the wicked.
 The curses of the covenant would come into play.

Reflection and Application _____

1. If we consider the Scriptures, we must. Take, for example, Israel and Judah.
2. This is Jeremiah's experience of the siege of Jerusalem. Ezekiel and Daniel both experienced the collective punishment on their nation.
3. Yes. This is what Jeremiah recognised.
4. To see and understand God's future plans.
 To take it very seriously, to humble yourself, confess sin, repent and turn away from sin.

5. Amos 3:7 Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.

Study 20 Prayer, a covenant Work

Daniel 9:7-19

1. The LORD is righteous, merciful and forgiving.
They received a deserved judgement because of their wickedness and rebellion.
Daniel 9:7 "**Lord, you are righteous**, but this day we are covered with shame-the **men of Judah** and **people of Jerusalem** and all **Israel**, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. ⁸ O LORD, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against you.
2. Covered with shame (2x), Filled with fear.
3. We have rebelled against him; we have not obeyed the LORD our God; we have not kept the laws he gave us through his servants **the prophets**.
4. Daniel 9:11 **All Israel** has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.
It does not mean literally everybody individually, as there were people like Jeremiah, Daniel and Ezekiel. However, collectively, they were a nation of rebels.
5. They were the covenant people of God. They were supposed to be God's special people. The fact is that God does not spare even those whom he loves, when they are wicked and rebellious.
Daniel 9:12 You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing upon us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem.
6. Daniel 9:11 "Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you.
Daniel 9:13 Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have not sought the favour of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth.
7. The LORD always acts in line with his character, yet, people seem to think that because they are part of the covenant community, they can disobey. 9:14
Daniel 9:14 The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.
8. Confession: recognition of wickedness.
Daniel 9:15 "Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong.
9. Daniel 9:16 O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from **Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill**. Our sins and the iniquities of our fathers have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.
10. Daniel 9:17 "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favour on your **desolate sanctuary**. ¹⁸ Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name.

11. Mercy and forgiveness
 God's concern for the honour of his Name.
 Daniel 9:18 We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. ¹⁹ O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because **your city and your people bear your Name.**"
 Daniel 9:7 "**Lord, you are righteous**, but...⁹ The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving... 13 the favour of the LORD...14 the LORD our God is **righteous** in everything he does ...¹⁶ O Lord, in keeping with all your **righteous** acts

Reflection and Application _____

1. It is still fully applicable as it is a reflection of God's character.
2. Righteousness.
3. Notice 7 times, for the LORD's sake.
 15 Who made for **yourself a name** that endures to this day.
16 Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill.
 17 For your sake, O Lord, look with favour on **your desolate sanctuary.**
18 The city that bears your Name.
 19 For **your sake, ...your city and your people bear your Name."**
4. Confession: We have sinned, we have rebelled, we have not listened
 Plea: Turn, Hear, Look, Listen, Forgive
 Reason: For your sake

Study 21 Seventy sevens

Daniel 9:20-27

1. Daniel 9:20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill--
2. Daniel 9:21 While I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.
³ Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and evening sacrifices. (Ezra 3:3 NIB)
3. An angel or a messenger
4. Daniel 9:22 He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you **insight and understanding.** ²³ As soon as you began to pray, **an answer was given**, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed.
5. The physical exile may last 70 years, however, the real exile, their spiritual exile would only end after 70 sevens, i.e. 70 x 7 years.
 This number is symbolic, not literal, although many have attempted to work out a literal timeframe.
6. "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to 1 finish transgression,
 to 2 put an end to sin,
 to 3 atone for wickedness,
 to 4 bring in everlasting righteousness,
 to 5 seal up vision and prophecy and
 to 6 anoint the most holy.

7. There were two decrees by issued by Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem namely:
458 BC in Ezra 7:8, 11-13
445 BC in Nehemiah 2:1-5
Probably the second one would make the most sense.
7 sevens and 69 sevens = 483 years.
This would bring us to around the time of Jesus' life and death on earth.
8. Rebuilding the city
The Anointed One will come
Destruction of the city.
Daniel 9:25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of **the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem** until **the Anointed One, the ruler, comes**, there will be seven 'sevens', and sixty-two 'sevens'. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. ²⁶ After the sixty-two 'sevens', the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing.
9. The anointed One, the ruler will come
The Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing
The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.
The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.
10. Daniel 9:22 I have now come to give you **insight and understanding**.
²³ As soon as you began to pray, **an answer was given**,
²⁵ "Know and understand..."
11. Set up an abomination that causes desolation
Put an end to sacrifice
Destroy the city
Continue until the end...
Sacrifices have never recommenced after AD 70, as there is no Temple.
Daniel 9:27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven'.
In the middle of the 'seven' he will **put an end to sacrifice and offering**. And on a wing *of the temple* he will **set up an abomination that causes desolation**, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."
12. Something extremely vile that desecrates the Temple. It also causes sacrifice to cease, as the Temple has become unclean.
This abomination fits between the cutting off of the Messiah (AD 33) and the end of sacrifice (AD 70). Something was set up in the temple. Some say it was the standard of the Roman general Titus.
13. The same.
The events described in 9:27 seem to run parallel with 9:24-26. This is a recurring way of presenting and emphasising things in Scripture, e.g. Daniel 7 and Revelation 12.
This fits 9:27 as events happening between the crucifixion of the Messiah and the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem in AD 70.

Reflection and Application _____

1. The physical exile would last approximately 70 years. However, the spiritual exile of the people would last for 7 times 70 or 490 years.
The spiritual exile would end at a specific time, when the Messiah came. This was not to be calculated literally, although many have attempted to do so with some good as well as bad arguments.

2. Between which two events would the solution to man's spiritual exile appear? What are the recognisable markers? 9:25-26
 Daniel 9:25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem
²⁶ The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.

A Possible Timeline of the Events in Daniel 9:24-27.

7 sevens	The Issue of the decree to rebuild	AD 445
62 sevens	The Anointed One comes	
	The Anointed One is cut off	AD 30 / 33
1 seven	The Abomination that causes Desolation	
	The Destruction of Jerusalem	AD 70

Summary:

9:25 gives us a time frame for the coming of the Anointed One or Messiah.

It adds up to 483 years. $62 \times 7 + 7 \times 9 = 483$. This is calculated from the 'issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem' v. 25. Most think that this refers to the Medo-Persian king Artaxerxes' decree in the year 445 BC.

9:26 says that at the end of this time, the Anointed One or Messiah will be cut off. That means he will die.

(Same words used in Isaiah 53:8 'cut off from the land of the living') So this is Jesus, and it speaks of his death. In other words, according to this calculation, Jesus would die around the year AD 30.

Then the people of the ruler, that is, the Romans, will come and destroy the city and the sanctuary, that is, Jerusalem and the Temple. We know this happened in AD 70.

Now v. 27 is placed for some reason by a certain understanding of the end times, before an event called 'The Rapture' and a 7-year period of what they call 'The Great Tribulation.' However, this interpretation is very problematic, for Daniel clearly presents these verses to follow one straight after another. It makes no logical sense to me to move 7 of these 490 years to some unknown time in the future.

A more straightforward understanding would be that these last 7, that is $7 \times 7 = 49$ years, follow on straight after the previous 483 years. In other words, the time between the death of Jesus and the destruction of Jerusalem. As this time period clearly sits between v. 26 and v. 27. Now we know that it was roughly 40 years, not 47, but remember that apocalyptic writing is highly stylised and not always meant to be exact. So, it would be OK to say 7 sevens to describe the period between Jesus' death and the Fall of Jerusalem. Jesus spoke of this 'abomination that causes desolation' (Mat. 24, Luk. 21, Mar. 13), and the Christians in Jerusalem at that time recognised it and fled the city before its destruction. What was it? Maybe the planting of the Roman standard bearing the image of the Roman gods on it. Maybe they sacrificed to an image of one of their gods in the temple. There may of course be much more to this presentation of the years 7 sevens, 62 sevens, 7 sevens. Many have been studying this and offering explanations.

Notice the ruler mentioned in 9:26 is different to the Anointed One, the ruler in 9:25. This ruler who comes to destroy will be one of a number of antichrists who have already come (according to 1 John 2:18, 2 John 1:7) but not the final one.

Study 22. A Glorious Vision

Daniel 10:1-9

1. Its message was true, and it concerned a great war (Armageddon). The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.
2. The rebuilding of the Temple had come to a halt. Ezra 4:34
Daniel 10:2 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks.
³ I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.
See Ezra 4:24. The Temple rebuilding had stopped from the second year of Darius the great until the reign of Darius Hystaspes in 520 BC.
3. Daniel 10:4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing (physically) on the bank of the great river, the Tigris,
⁵ I looked up and there before me was a man (cf. Rev. 1: 13)
Passover is on the 14th day of the first month, Nisan
Feast of Unleavened Bread is 15-21 of the first month
4. Daniel 10:5 I looked up and there before me was a man (cf. Rev. 1: 13)
dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold round his waist.
⁶ His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches (Rev. 1:14)
His arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude. (Rev. 1:15)
The Son of Man.
5. Daniel 10:7 I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. ⁸ So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale, and I was helpless.
⁹ Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.
John: When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Rev. 1:17
6. It was an overwhelming Reaction
Ezekiel 1; Acts 9:3ff; Paul's conversion Acts 9:7

Reflection and Application _____

1. Isaiah 6:1-5
Ezekiel 1:28-2:2
Job 38:1 – 42:6
2. 3 weeks fasting / 21 days
Hard labour.
Self-denial.
Prayer & Fasting Daniel 10:2-3
3. A time to come.
A great war.
Zechariah 12:1-9
Revelation 16:16; 19:17-19; 20:7-9

Study 23. Forces of Evil in the Heavenly Realms

Daniel 10:10-11:1

1. An angel is a sent one, a ministering spirit

- A reassuring touch by a ministering angel or messenger.
 Daniel 10:10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.
¹¹ He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for **I have now been sent** to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.
2. Daniel 10:12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.
 3. A demonic power
A Spiritual Battle: ¹³ But **the prince of the Persian kingdom** resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the **king of Persia**.
 4. The time Daniel fasted was 21 days. The angelic messenger was also resisted for 21 days. This seems to indicate that answers to the believer's prayers could be resisted by demonic opposition, at least in the time of the OT.
 5. The archangel Michael was the protector of the Jews.
 Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.
 Daniel 10:21 But first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.
 The archangel Michael (*cf.* Jude 9) is the leading defender of God's people (*your prince*, 21; *cf.* 12:1) against the powers of darkness (*cf.* Rev. 12:7–9).
 So this being is like Michael, also an archangel
 6. The Jews were Daniel's people.
 Daniel 10:14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for **the vision** concerns a time yet to come."
 7. Daniel was speechless and overwhelmed and full of anguish.
 Daniel 10:15 While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face towards the ground and was speechless. ¹⁶ Then **one who looked like a man** (son of man, Jeremiah 1) touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, "I am overcome with anguish because of **the vision, my lord**, and I am helpless. ¹⁷ How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone, and I can hardly breathe."
 8. An encouraging touch.
 Daniel 10:18 Again the one who looked like a man (son of man?) touched me and gave me strength. ¹⁹ "Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong." When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength."
 9. Demonic powers over Persia and Greece.
 Daniel 10:20 So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come;
²¹ but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.
 10. Not sure?
 11. Daniel interceded for Darius the Mede. This is significant, as we may think that our prayers for a ruler (s) are insignificant.
 Daniel 11:1 And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him.)

Reflection and Application _____

1. Angels are the guardians of the nations, communities, even individuals. Isaiah 24:21

Isaiah 24:21 So it will happen in that day, that the LORD will punish the host of heaven, on high, and the kings of the earth, on earth. ²² And they will be gathered together *like* prisoners in the dungeon, and will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished.

- 2.

	Angels	Powers	Rulers	Authorities	Thrones
Romans 8:38	X	X			
Ephesians 3:10			X	X	
Ephesians 6:12		X	X	X	
Colossians 1:16		X	X	X	X
Colossians 2:13		X		X	
Hebrews 6:5		X			
1 Peter 3:21	X	X			

3. There is an unseen spiritual realm of which one is not always aware.
4. Forces, powers, rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.
5. It is clear that behind the scenes of the conflicts of history lies a conflict 'in the heavenly realms' (Eph. 6:12), in which Daniel had become involved in his intercession. Spiritual powers tried to prevent his receiving revelation of the future (and therefore an understanding of the sure purposes of God). Implied in this is the recognition that the forthcoming revelation will strengthen Daniel and, indeed, all the people of God (14).
Currently it was *Persia*; soon it would be *Greece* (20) that, humanly speaking, dominated the experiences of the people of God.
Part of the answer to the question Daniel was asked in v. 20 is that he needs to know that there are heavenly powers defending the people of God (*cf.* 2 Ki. 6:15–23). But first he learns *what is written in the Book of Truth* (21), *i.e.* how the purposes of God will unfold.
6. It seems that a number of angelic beings were given some kind of dominion over various nations and territories.
^{ESV} **Deuteronomy 32:8** When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples **according to the number of the sons of God.**
Sons of God are angels.
^{ESV} **Job 1:6** Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

Study 24. The Kings of the North and South

Daniel 11:2-45

1. Daniel 11:2 "Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will appear in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.

4 Medo-Persian Kings are described in Daniel 11:2:

Cyrus the Great	539-530 BC
Cambyses II	530-522 BC
Darius I, son of Hystaspes	522-486 BC
Xerxes I	486-465 BC

Calvin p. 270 on Daniel 11

2. Alexander the Great, or Alexander of Macedon.
Daniel 11:3 Then a mighty king will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases.
3. Daniel 11:4 After he has appeared, his empire will be broken up and parcelled out towards the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others.

After Alexander died, his kingdom was divided between four of his generals.

This is also in line with what we heard in Daniel 8:5-8; 21-22

1 Maccabees 1:1 Alexander of Macedon, son of Philip, had come from the land of Kittim and defeated Darius, king of the Persians and Medes, whom he succeeded as ruler, at first of Hellas. ² He undertook many campaigns, gained possession of many fortresses, and put the local kings to death. ³ So he advanced to the ends of the earth, plundering nation after nation; the earth grew silent before him, and his ambitious heart swelled with pride. ⁴ He assembled very powerful forces and subdued provinces, nations and princes, and they became his tributaries. ⁵ But the time came when Alexander took to his bed, in the knowledge that he was dying. ⁶ He summoned his officers, noblemen who had been brought up with him from his youth, and divided his kingdom among them while he was still alive. ⁷ Alexander had reigned twelve years when he died. ⁸ Each of his officers established himself in his own region.

4. Alexander's four generals would gain control of Egypt (the Ptolemies) and Syria and Judea (the Seleucids)

They would wage various wars against each other, of which the details are not important as far as Biblical history is concerned.

1 Ma 1:8-9 NJB Each of his officers established himself in his own region. ⁹ All assumed crowns after his death, they and their heirs after them for many years, bringing increasing evils on the world.

The Seleucids in the end will seem to gain the upper hand.

6. The Promised Land.
Daniel 11:16 The invader will do as he pleases; no one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land and will have the power to destroy it.
7. Daniel 11:17 He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South. And he will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans will not succeed or help him. ¹⁸ Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and

will turn his insolence back upon him. ¹⁹ After this, he will turn back towards the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more. ²⁰ "His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendour. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle.

Reflection and Application _____

This was the prophetic fulfilment of Daniel's vision in Daniel 8. He saw the rise of Antiochus Epiphanes, a type of antichrist, who would take his stand against the 'Prince of princes' (8:25). His practices would become a model for the desecration of the Temple in AD 70 (Matthew 24:15), and he himself a type of the final antichrist.

Study 25. A Master of Intrigue

Daniel 11:21-35

1. We know from 1 Maccabees that this contemptible person would be Antiochus Epiphanes. He would invade the kingdom when its people felt secure, and seize it through intrigue.
1 Maccabees 1:10 From these there grew a wicked offshoot, Antiochus Epiphanes son of King Antiochus; once a hostage in Rome, he became king in the 107th year of the kingdom of the Greeks.
2. Daniel 11:22 Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed.
²³ After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power.
²⁴ When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses-- but only for a time.
²⁵ "With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him.
²⁶ Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle.
²⁷ The two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time.
3. The Holy Covenant
Daniel 11:28 The king of the North will return to his own country with great wealth, but his heart will be set against the holy covenant. He will take action against it and then return to his own country.
²⁹ "At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before.
³⁰ Ships of the western coastlands will oppose him, and he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favour to those who forsake the holy covenant.

4. Daniel 11:31 "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.
³² With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant,
5. Daniel 11:32b but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.
³³ "Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered.
³⁴ When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them.
6. Daniel 11:35 Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

Reflection and Application _____

1. Suffering
2. No.
3. Yes. Antiochus Epiphanes.
4. No.

Study 26. A Model for Things to Come

Daniel 11:36-45

1. Daniel 11:36 "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods.
2. He will be **successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.**
3. Daniel 11:37 He will show no regard for **the gods of his fathers** or for **the one desired by women**, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.
4. Daniel 11:38 Instead of them, he will honour **a god of fortresses**; a god unknown to his fathers he will honour with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts.
5. Daniel 11:39 He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and **will greatly honour those who acknowledge him**. He will **make them rulers over many people** and will distribute the land at a price.
6. Daniel 11:40 "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood.
7. Daniel 11:41 He will also invade **the Beautiful Land**. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. ⁴² He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. ⁴³ He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission. ⁴⁴ But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many.
8. Daniel 11:45 He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no-one will help him.

Reflection and Application _____

1. He is a type of the man of lawlessness or the 'antichrist'
 1 John 2:18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come.
 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for *that day will not come* until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness {Some manuscripts sin} is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.
 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.
2. The fulfilment is both in AD 70 as well as on the day of Jesus' return.

Description	Daniel 11	Fulfilment
The end of sacrifice.	11:31	
The abomination that causes desolation.	11:31	
A king who exalts himself.	11:36	
A time of wrath.	11:36	
The time of the end.	11:35, 40	

Study 27. The Last Things

Daniel 12:1-4

1. The Day of Resurrection and also the day of Judgement
2. 'The great prince who protects your people'
3. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.
4. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.
5. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.
 The Day of resurrection. And also the Day of Judgement. Some will receive everlasting life, others will face shame and everlasting contempt.
6. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.
7. But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until **the time of the end**.
8. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

Reflection and Application _____

1. Does the phrase "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake" indicate that we enter into a state of soul sleep when we die? 12:2

Exodus 3:6; Matthew 22:31-32; Luke 23:43; John 11:24-26, Philippians 1:23; Revelation 6:9-10

2. If soul sleep is not our state after death until the day of judgement, what happens when we die? Psalm 16:9
3. So how do we understand a better resurrection? Hebrews 11:35; Revelation 20:5-6

Study 28. The Time of the End

Daniel 12:5-12

1. Notice that Daniel 12 is written in the 1st person. "Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank." See also 7:2, 15, 28; 8:1, 15, 27; 9:2, 10:2, 7, all containing the phrase I, Daniel.
2. The resurrection and the judgement
3. "It will be for a time, times and half a time. {Or a year, two years and half a year} What does this mean? In Daniel and Revelation, we hear of 42 months: Rev. 11:2, 1260 days; Rev. 11:3, Rev. 12:6; a time, times and half a time Dan. 7: 25; Dan. 12:7; Rev. 12:14. All of these are 1260 days = 42 months = a time, times and half a time = 3 1/2 years. This is, of course, symbolic and not literal years.
4. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed." I.e. the believers!
5. The Jews and the believers are distinct groups.
6. We cannot fully know exactly how everything will pan out in the end. We know there is a day of resurrection, a day of judgment. Daniel 12:8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?" ⁹ He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.
7. Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.
8. We also know that there are two destinies. Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.
9. The time of Antiochus, or the year AD 70
Daniel 12:11 "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. ¹² Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.
10. Daniel 12:13 "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."

Reflection and Application _____

1. It is the Gospel Age, or the Age between the Ascension of Jesus and the Return of Jesus. Why? There are many passages. Rev. 12:5-6: the woman who gave birth to the male child snatched up to heaven- that is the Jews, and later the Gentiles are added, and then it is the church; she is kept in the wilderness for

3 1/2 years. All the while the dragon wages war on her offspring. Rev. 12:14, 17.

2. Now here is where it becomes difficult. 1290 days is 43 months; 1335 days is 44 1/2 months. Using the same logic as the 3 1/2 years, then this period has to begin before the gospel age. v. 11 "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up..."
This has to refer to the time when Antiochus IV abolished the daily sacrifice and slaughtered a pig in the temple and offered it to Zeus. This is spoken of in Daniel 8:9-12. (Not all the details). This still leaves a problem with v. 12: what is the extra month and a half? It can't be after the day of Resurrection and Judgement. It has to be before. Maybe it adds the time of suffering (symbolically) that the Jews suffered under Antiochus IV, before he set up the 'abomination that causes desolation' in the Temple. A month and a half is a relatively brief period of time. To my mind, no 100 % satisfactory answer to this has been given.
3. Two witnesses.
- 4.

Event	Antiochus	Christ	70 AD	Gospel Age	Last Day
Abomination of Desolation.	11:31		9:27 12:11		
Time of Wrath	8:19 11:35-39				12:1 12:13
Master of Intrigue	8:9-12 8:23-25				
Anointed One		7:13-14 9:24-26			
Little Horn (antichrist)				7:8 7:21 7:24-25	
Interruption of Sacrifice	8:11-14 8:25		9:27 12:11-12		
Gospel Age				7:25 12:7	
Time of the End	8:17 12:12				12:4 12:9