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# LISTENING TO THE PROPHETS

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**A Study of the Old Testament Major Prophets**

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Instructor's Manual

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# Lesson One

## Introduction to the Major Prophets

### Introduction

- The Major Prophets of the Old Testament consist of: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.
- Each of these books are titled by the prophet's name.
- Jeremiah has two books attributed to him. He wrote, not only the book of Jeremiah, but also the book of Lamentations.
- The primary focus of the Old Testament prophets was to make Israel (Jewish northern kingdom and/or Judah (Jewish southern kingdom) turn from sin.
- After Israel's captivity in 722 B.C. by the Assyrian Empire, the focus of the prophets centered on Judah's repentance.
- Judah failed to repent and Babylon took them captive in 605 B.C., 597 B.C. and 586 B.C.



# Make-Up of the New and Old Testament

- The Bible is composed of 66 books.
- There are 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament.<sup>1</sup>
- The Old Testament records the beginning of earth's history, the making and development of the Jewish nation, and ends prior to Christ's birth.
- The New Testament details the birth of Christ, His death and resurrection, the formation of the Christian church (all believers of Christ), the rapture of the church, the time of tribulation, Jesus' second coming, and the formation of a new heaven and new earth.
- The Old Testament is divided into Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets, and Minor Prophets.
- The New Testament is divided into the Gospels (material relating to Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection), history of the early church, letters by the Apostle Paul, and general letters by other New Testament writers.
- The emphasis of this study will focus on the Major Prophets of the Old Testament.
- The study of the Old Testament Major Prophets is important in that, not only were their writings and prophecies important to Israel and Judah but they are relevant to our modern world.

## Categorical Divisions of the Old Testament and the New Testament

OLD TESTAMENT 39 BOOKS			NEW TESTAMENT 27 BOOKS	
<b>LAW 5</b>	<b>WISDOM/POETRY 5</b>	<b>MAJOR PROPH 5</b>	<b>GOSPELS 4</b>	<b>PASTORAL EPISTLES 9</b>
GENESIS	JOB	ISAIAH	MATTHEW	1 TIMOTHY
EXODUS	PSALMS	JEREMIAH	MARK	2 TIMOTHY
LEVITICUS	PROVERBS	LAMENTATIONS	LUKE	TITUS
NUMBERS	ECCLESIASTES	EZEKIEL	JOHN	PHILEMON
DEUTERONOMY	S. OF SOLOMON	DANIEL		
		<b>MINOR PROPH 12</b>	<b>HISTORY 1</b>	
<b>HISTORY 12</b>		HOSEA	ACTS	
JOSHUA		JOEL		
JUDGES		AMOS	<b>PAULINE EPISTLES 9</b>	<b>GENERAL EPISTLES 9</b>
RUTH		OBADIAH	ROMANS	HEBREWS
1 SAMUEL		JONAH	1 CORINTHIANS	JAMES
2 SAMUEL		MICAH	2 CORINTHIANS	1 PETER
1 KINGS		NAHUM	GALATIANS	2 PETER
2 KINGS		HABAKKUK	EPHESIANS	1 JOHN
1 CHRONICLES		ZEPHANIAH	PHILIPPIANS	2 JOHN
2 CHRONICLES		HAGGAI	COLOSSIANS	3 JOHN
EZRA		ZECHARIAH	1 THESSALONIANS	JUDE
NEHEMIAH		MALACHI	2 THESSALONIANS	REVELATION
ESTHER				

- The Old Testament Prophets are grouped into two categories: Major Prophets and Minor Prophets.
- The distinguishing factor between the Major and Minor Prophets are the length of their books.
- There are 12 Old Testament Minor Prophets and 4 Old Testament Major Prophets
- The Minor Prophets follows the Major Prophets

### THE MINOR PROPHEETS (Update)

Prophet	Date (B.C.) Approx	Name Meaning	Prophecies To/About	King at Time (assumption)
Obadiah	845-750	'Servant of the Lord'	Israel/Edom	Jehoram (Ju) Joram (Is)
Joel	835-796	'Yahweh is God'	Judah	Joash (Ju) Jehu/Jehoahaz(Is)
Jonah	793-753	'Dove'	Nineveh	Jeroboam 11 (Is) Amaziah/(Ju)
Hosea	753-715	'Salvation'	Israel	Jotham/Ahaz (Ju) Jeroboam/Pekah/Hoshea (Is)
Amos	760-755	'Burden-bearer'	Israel/Judah	Jotham/Uzziah (Ju) Jeroboam/Pekah (Is)
Micah	770-710	'Who is like unto the Lord'	Israel/Judah	Jotham/Ahaz/Hezekiah(Ju) Zechariah – Hoshea (Is)
Nahum	655	'Consolation'	Nineveh	Manasseh (Ju) *
Zephaniah	625	'Yahweh hides'	Judah/Assyria. And Nations	Josiah (Ju)
Habakkuk	610	'Clings to'	Judah/Nations	Josiah/Jehoahaz/Jehoiakim
Haggai	520	'My Feast'	Judah	N/A
Zechariah	520	'Yahweh has remembered'	Judah	N/A
Malachi	460 - 420	'My Messenger'	Judah	N/A

<https://thebiblebrief.com/minor-prophets/>

## The Major Prophets

Prophet	Date	Name	Prophecies to/about	King at Time
Isaiah	740-680 B.C	The Lord is Salvation	Judah	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh (s)
Jeremih	627-585 B.C.	Jehovah establishes	Jews in Judea and captivity	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah (s)
Ezekiel	592-570	God Strengthens	Judah	Future restoration of Israel
Daniel	537	God is my judge	The times of the Gentiles and Israel's kingdom	Jehoiakim (S), Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, Cyrus

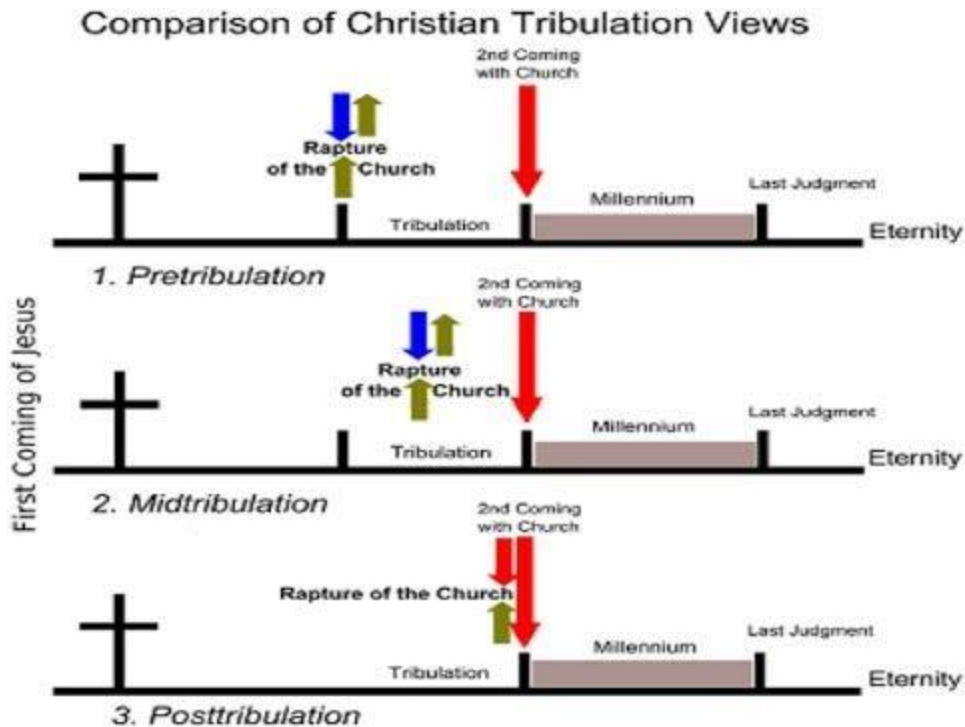
## Ages of the Bible

- Various ages of time demonstrate God's relationship to humanity.
- These ages can help one organize the structure of the Bible.

### Ages of the Bible

Name	Scripture	Responsibilities	Judgment(s)
Innocency	Genesis 1:3-3:6	Keep garden; do not eat one fruit; fill, subdue earth, fellowship with God	Curses, and physical and spiritual death
Conscience	Genesis 3:7-8:14	Do Good	Flood
Civil Government	Genesis 8:15-11:9	Fill earth, capital punishment	Forced scattering by confusion of languages
Patriarchal Rule	Genesis 11:10-Exodus 18:27	Stay in Promised Land, believe and obey God	Egyptian bondage and wilderness wanderings
Mosaic Law	Exodus 19:1-Acts 1:26	Keep the law, walk with God	Captivities
Grace	Acts 2:1-Revelation 19:21	Believe on Christ, walk with Christ	Death, loss of rewards
Millennium	Revelation 20:1-15	Believe and obey Christ and His government	Death, Great White Throne Judgment

# Rapture of the Church



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/306244843384859062/>

## Pretribulation

- Bible scholars disagree as to whether Jesus will rapture (catch up) the church (believers in Jesus) prior to the Tribulation Period.
- Pretribulation is a belief that Jesus will come for the church before the Tribulation.
- This belief comes from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 2:6-9; Revelation 4:1
- I will base our study on the Pretribulation view.

## Midtribulation

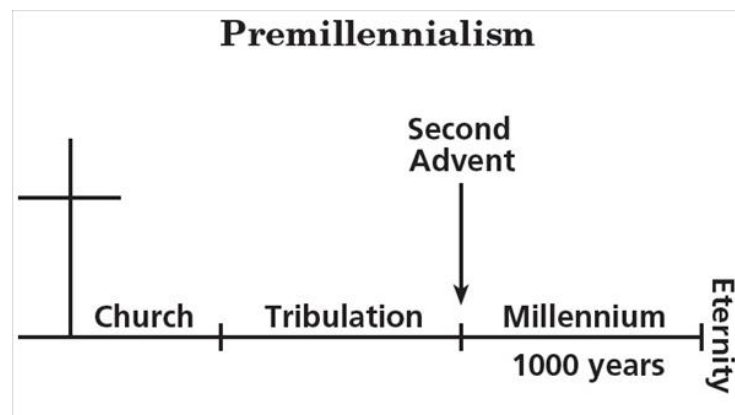
- This view believes Jesus will rapture the church after the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation period.<sup>3</sup>
- Midtribulationists base part of their views on Revelation 11:3-12.
- Many midtribulationists view Revelation 11 as allegorical rather than literal.

## Posttribulation

- Posttribulationists believe that Jesus will come for the Church after the Great Tribulation.
- They feel Jesus' coming will usher in the Millennial period.
- Posttribulationists interpret Revelation 19:11-16 to mean that Jesus will come for His church after the tribulation and at the start of the Millennium.

## Millennial Period

- The Bible predicts that Jesus will return to earth to establish a millennial (1,000 year) kingdom (Revelation 20:1-3).
- Bible scholars disagree as to when Jesus will return to establish this 1,000-year rule and whether the 1,000 years is allegorical.

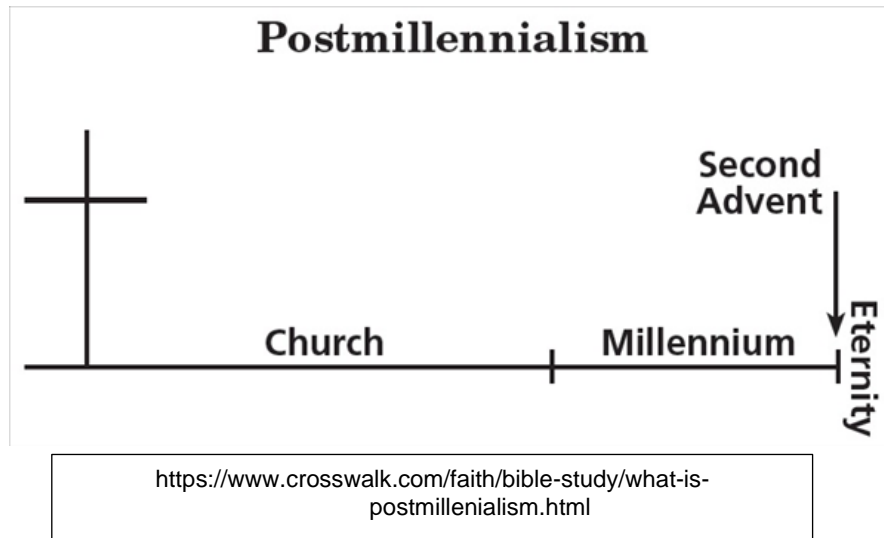


<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-is-premillennialism.html>

## Premillennialists

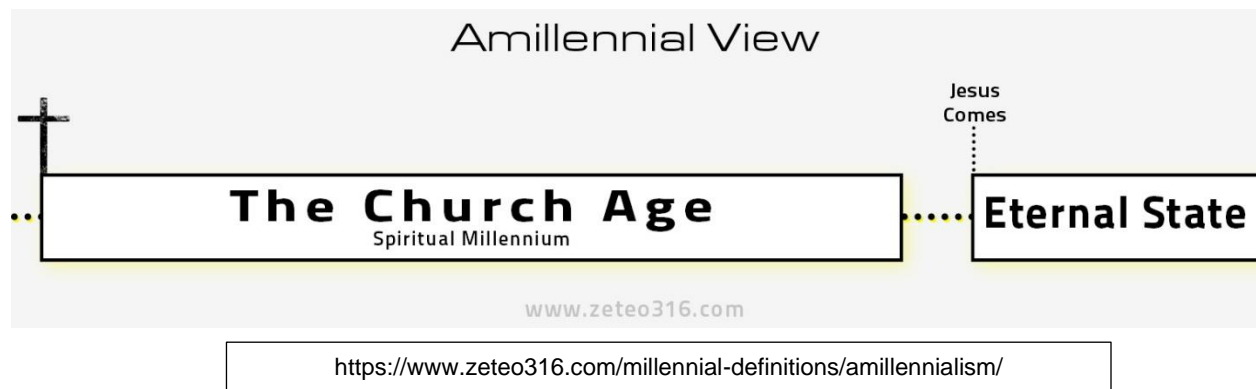
- Jesus will rapture the church before the Tribulation period (7 years-1 Thessalonians 5:9).
- After the Tribulation, Jesus will bring the church back to earth to reign with Him for 1,000 years (Revelation 19:11-15).
- After 1,000 years (millennialism), God will create a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 20:1-3, 7; 21:1-2).
- I will take the Premillennialist view.





### Postmillennialists

- Jesus will come for the church after the millennial period.
- The Millennial period will constitute a time where good will eventually overrule evil (Matthew 13:36-43).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:1-3 and Matthew 24:10-12 refute this theory.



### Amillennialism

- Amillennialism does not believe in a literal millennium (1,000-year period of Christ's reign on the earth).
- They interpret the millennium as a spiritual kingdom whether this kingdom is in heaven or represented by the current church age.<sup>4</sup>

## Summary

Israel and Judah failed to repent after many warnings by the Old Testament prophets. As a result, foreign countries captured Israel and Judah. Israel was taken in 722 BC and Judah was taken in three waves by the Babylonians (605 BC, 597 BC, and 586 BC). After 70 years of captivity, the Judean captors allowed them passage back to Jerusalem.

The Old Testament Major prophets prophesied of Israel and Judah's demise, their contemporary restoration, and their future restoration during Jesus' millennial reign. The prophecies prove amazingly accurate. Their future prophecies are yet to come.

God has given us a timeline of ages that help to clarify His dealing with humanity. Within each timeline, there are three stages: God's requirement for humanity, man's failure to meet those requirements, and God's punishment for not adhering to the requirements.

Since the Jewish nation refused to accept Jesus, the church age was born on the day of Pentecost. The church consists of anyone (Jew and Gentile) that has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal lord and savior.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51-52 states that one day Jesus will return in the sky and rapture all believers and take them to heaven. After the rapture, there will be a seven-year tribulation period in which evil will reign under the leadership of the Antichrist. After the seven-year period, Revelation 19:14 states that Jesus will come back to earth with all believers, and we will reign with Him for one-thousand years (the millennium). Revelation 21:1 states that after the one-thousand years, God will create a new heaven and a new earth and all believers will live with God forever-AMEN!

# Discussion Questions

## Lesson One

1. Are the Old Testament Prophets a new study for you?
  - A. What parts seem confusing?
  - B. Do you find the chart of God's ages helpful? Explain.
  - C. Why do you think God chose to create the various ages?
  
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51-52 states that God will rapture the Church (all believers) before the tribulation period.
  - A. Why would God rescue the Church from the Tribulation period?
  - B. Does the rapture mean Christians will not be persecuted prior to the rapture?
  - C. Why do you think God allows the persecution of Christians today?
  
3. Revelation 20:4 states that we will reign with Christ upon the earth for 1,000 years. This is called the Millennium.
  - A. What do you think the earth will be like during this time?
  - B. How does Isaiah 11:6-8 illustrate the millennial period?
  - C. Why don't we experience this earthly peace today?
  
4. Israel and Judah failed to repent after multiple warnings by the prophets.
  - A. Why do you think Israel and Judah had such a hard time repenting after multiple warnings by the prophets?
  - B. Why is repenting so difficult?
  - C. Do you see a lack of repentance in our world today? Why or why not?
  
5. The church is defined as all believers in Christ.
  - A. How does this definition differ from the church as a local congregation (Hillside Community Church)?
  - B. Why is the local church important?
  - C. How does Christ see the church in Ephesians 5:25-27?

# Lesson Two

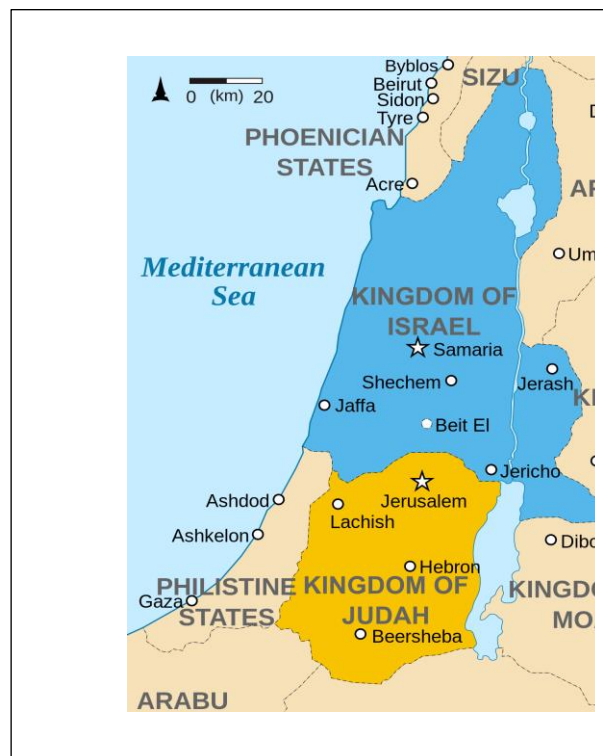
## The Book of Isaiah (Chapters 1-37)

### Introduction

- The book of Isaiah has two major divisions:
  - Part 1-denunciations and prophecies for (about):
    - Judah (Ch. 1-12)
    - Other nations (Ch. 13-23)
    - The Tribulation and Kingdom periods (Ch. 24-27)
    - Israel and Judah (Ch. 28-35)
    - Sennacherib, King of Assyria, Ch. 36-39)
  - Part 2 proclamation of consolations:
    - The greatness of God (Ch. 40-48)
    - The salvation of the Servant-Messiah (Ch. 49-57)
    - The program of God for peace (Ch. 58-66) <sup>5</sup>

### History

- Isaiah prophesied while in Judah. Judah was the southern kingdom while Israel was the Northern Kingdom.



<https://messianiclight.com/two-houses-part-1/>

- Isaiah ministered from 740 B.C.-680 B.C<sup>6</sup>. during the kings of:
  - Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, and Manasseh. <sup>7</sup>
- Isaiah prophesied 20 years prior to the destruction of Israel (the northern kingdom) in 722 B.C. and 75 years before King Nebuchadnezzar's first invasion of Judah (the southern kingdom) in 605 B.C.
- King Uzziah was a godly king. Unfortunately, later in life, God punished him with leprosy due to pride (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 26: 4-5, 15, 16-21).
- Much of Isaiah's ministry took place during the reign of King Ahaz.
- King Ahaz sacrificed his son to a wicked heathen god-Molech (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 16:2-3).
  - Ahaz did not trust God and made an alliance with the evil kingdom of Assyria (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 16:7).
  - Isaiah warned Ahaz against such an alliance.

## Assyrian Empire



<https://www.worldhistory.org/image/117/neo-assyrian-empire/>

- Hezekiah was a good and godly king. God gave him an extra 15 years to live after being struck with a terminal illness (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20:1-6).
  - Unfortunately, Hezekiah's pride caused him to show-off Israel's treasures to the nobles of Babylon (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20:12-17).
  - Isaiah prophesied that the king of Babylon would eventually take all Israel's treasures.

- Many of Isaiah's prophecies tell of the first and second coming of Jesus, His role as Messiah, and His Millennial Reign.
- Isaiah's prophecies give parallel accounts of both his contemporary period and of future events (skipping stone theory-mervinism).

## Part 1-The Denunciations

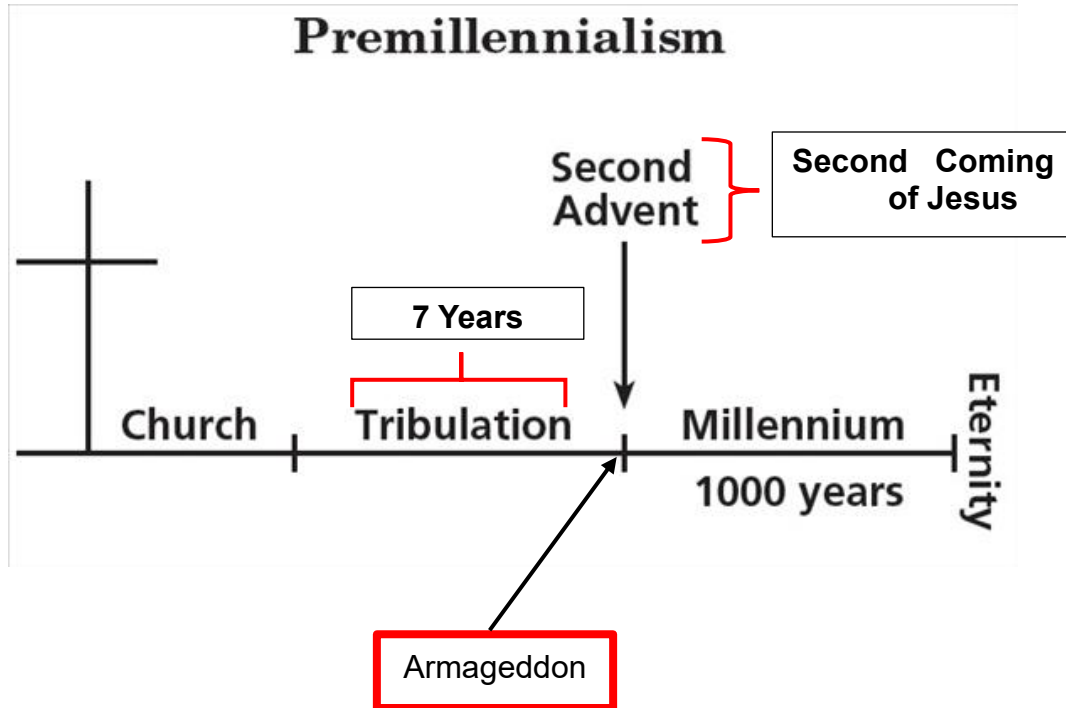
- Isaiah 1:1 gives a timeline summary of Isaiah's prophecies.
- Isaiah 1:2-9 states God's reasons for pronouncing judgment upon Israel.
- Isaiah 1:16-18 is a well quoted passage that tells of God's mercy and forgiveness toward one with a repentant heart.
- Isaiah 1:24-28 mentions Christ's millennial kingdom.
- Isaiah 2:1-4 gives a further description of the Millennial Kingdom for both Jews and Gentiles (see Micah 4:3).



<http://miraclesandoddities.blogspot.com/2011/06/second-coming.html>

## The Battle of Armageddon

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-is-premillennialism.html>



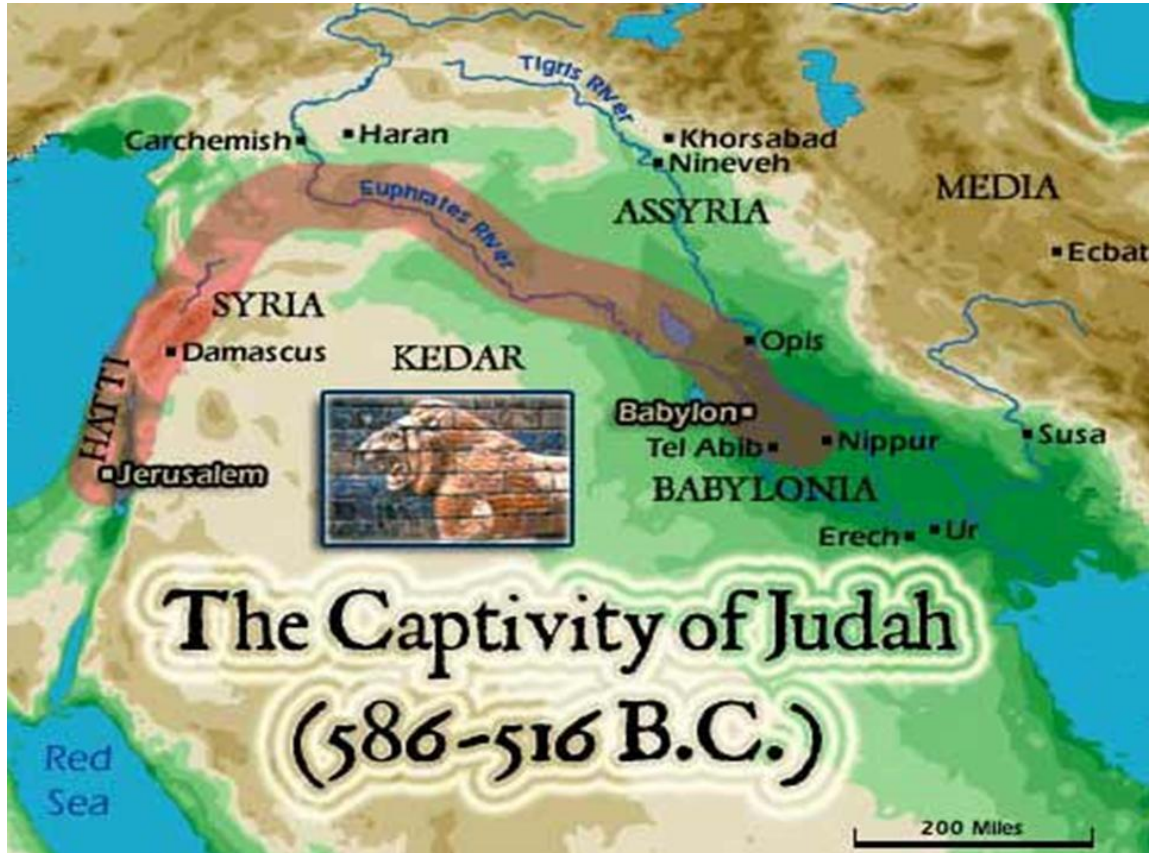
- Joel 3:10 explains a prophecy of swords and spears before the Battle of Armageddon.
- Isaiah 2:19-21 parallels Revelation 6:12-17 which references Christ's second coming.
  - Isaiah's prophecies often show a dual reference to the Babylonian captivity and the future judgment of Christ.
- The phrase, "In that day," (4:1 and other passages) usually refers to a future event.
  - "In that day," often refers to Christ's millennial reign.

## Judah's Future

- "In that day," was also used to announce a more immediate judgment, such as the Babylonian take-over.



## Judah's Return from Captivity



<https://www.gbcdetatur.org/sermons/Captivity.html>

- Isaiah 6:1-13 references Isaiah's calling to a life of prophecy.
- This passage further gives an account of Judah's return from captivity after 70 years.
  - Jeremiah also speaks of Israel's 70-year captivity.
  - Only a tenth of Judah's population would return from Babylon.



## Destruction of Israel



<https://messianiclight.com/two-houses-part-1/>

- Isaiah 7:8-9 foretells the destruction of Northern Israel and their Assyrian intermarriage.
  - This intermarriage would result in Israel's Samaritan culture.
- Isaiah gives a parallel prophecy of Israel's destruction in 722 B.C. as shown by the birth of Isaiah's son (7:14).
  - This birth also referenced Christ's virgin birth.
  - Israel's destruction occurred 12 years after this prophecy.<sup>8</sup>
- Isaiah 9:1-7 tells where the Messiah would live and prophecies of His 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> reign.
- Isaiah 11:1-9 gives a further description of the Messiah and the millennial reign.
- Isaiah 11:11-13 alludes, not only to Zerubbabel's return from Babylon, but to Christ's second coming.

## Judgment

- Chapters 13-23 foretells God's judgment upon surrounding nations.



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kingdoms\\_of\\_the\\_Levant\\_Map\\_830.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kingdoms_of_the_Levant_Map_830.png)

- Chapters 24-27 mentions:
  - God's judgments during the Tribulation period (24:21).
  - His blessings during the Millennial age<sup>9</sup> (24:14-16; 18-19; 21-23).
- Isaiah 25:8-9, Revelation 20:14, and Revelation 21:4 reference the blessings of the Millennial age.
- The Jews did not understand that the Messiah would come at two different times (Luke 4:17-19 and Isaiah 61:1-2 (a) (b)).
  - The first time Christ would bring salvation and die for our sins.

- Christ would reign as king during His second coming.
- The Jews only understood His second coming.
- Isaiah 26:19 explains that Old Testament believers will have a bodily resurrection when Christ returns the second time.
  - Old Testament believers will not have a bodily resurrection at the rapture.
- The rapture will only include New Testament believers (the Church-the Bride of Christ).
- Isaiah 28:19 and 32:1 give another reference to the coming Messiah.
- Isaiah 30:18-20 describes the Millennial Reign.
- Chapter 34 gives an account of the battle of Armageddon.
- Chapter 35 shows the blessings during the Millennium.
  - Jesus quoted Isaiah 35:5-6 when validating His position as Messiah to John the Baptist (Matthew 11:5).
  - Chapters 36-37 tell of King Sennacherib's failure to take Judah after conquering Israel.
  - This passage can be found in 2 Kings 18-19 and 2 Chronicles 32:1-23.



<https://www.worldhistory.org/image/117/neo-assyrian-empire/>

# Discussion Questions

## Lesson Two

1. Even though Isaiah continued to warn Israel and Judah of their demise, they did not listen but turned their back on God.
  - A. What caused the people to harden their hearts against God?
  - B. Does God appear unjust for His judgments?
  - C. Why did the Jewish people follow other religions so easily? Does this happen today? Explain.
  
2. Isaiah was destined to be a prophet; however, the people did not listen to what he had to say.
  - A. What kept Isaiah prophesying when nobody listened?
  - B. Do you think Isaiah was discouraged?
  - C. Have you ever been discouraged in trying witness for God? Explain.
  
3. Uzziah and Hezekiah were good kings but suffered from pride?
  - A. What happened to these kings because of pride?
  - B. Why is pride so destructive?
  - C. What does Proverbs 16:18 say about pride?
  
4. Read Isaiah 2:4
  - A. What does this passage say about war in the Millennial kingdom?
  - B. Do you think total peace will ever happen before Christ comes? Explain.
  - C. Explain the lack of peace in the world today? Explain.
  
5. Revelation 19:7-9 states the Church is the Bride of Christ.
  - A. Explain the meaning of these verses.
  - B. What does this say as to God's love for the Church?
  - C. How should we treat members of the Church? Why is this often difficult?

# Lesson Three

## The Book of Isaiah (Chapters 40-66)

### Part 2-God's Consolations and Blessings

- Isaiah 40:3-5 explained God's provisions for Israel as they prepared to return from captivity.
  - This reference parallels a reference to John the Baptist who prepared the way for Christ.
  - Isaiah 40:29-31, a well-known passage, gives promise for those who wait on the Lord.
- Isaiah 42:1-2; 6-7; and 9-10 explain that the Messiah will fulfill the old covenant and install a new covenant (vs. 6, see also Matt. 5:17).

### Cyrus

- Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1 gave an incredible prophecy, specifically naming Cyrus as the future King of Persia. Cyrus would eventually authorize the rebuilding of the Jewish temple. The fulfillment of this prophecy took place after Israel's 70 years of captivity.
  - Isaiah's prophecy occurred approximately 120 years before Cyrus made his decree<sup>10</sup> (Ezra 1:1-4). Compare this with Exodus 11:1-3a.
  - Even though God used Cyrus, Isaiah 45:5 seems to indicate he did not know Him personally.<sup>11</sup>
- Isaiah 48:12 explains Christ was not created but always existed (Rev. 1:17, 22:13).

### Persian Empire

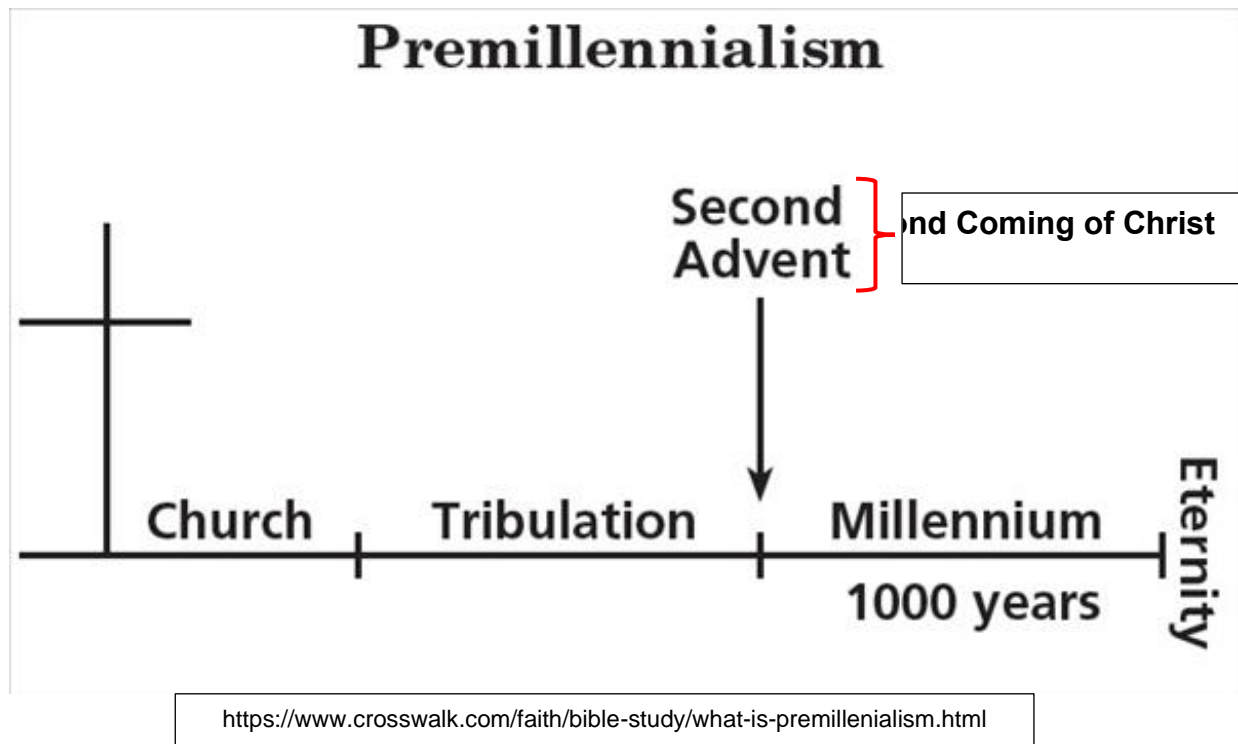




## Christ's Role on Earth

- Isaiah 48:16 references the Trinity: God-the Father; God-the Son; and God-the Holy Spirit.
- Isaiah 49:5-7 commissioned Israel to bring God's message of salvation to the Gentile world.
  - Unfortunately, Israel rejected Christ during His first coming (vs. 7a).
  - Israel will receive Christ as king during His second coming (vs. 7b).
- Isaiah 49:14-16 foretold the piercing of Christ's hands at His crucifixion.
- Isaiah 50:6-7 discloses Christ as the obedience and suffering servant.
- Isaiah 52:6-7 and Romans 10:15 demonstrate the joys of the millennial period.
- Isaiah 52:13-53 tells of Christ's suffering and death on the cross.
- Isaiah 55:1-2 relates how all can receive salvation.
- Isaiah 55:5-9 states how Gentiles could receive salvation.
  - This passage also indicates why "today" is important in receiving salvation.

## Christ's Promise to Gentiles



- Isaiah 56:3-8 gives a promise to Gentiles.
- Isaiah 59:1 states how sin separates us from God.
- Isaiah 59:16-21 shows Christ as a "kinsman-redeemer." This analogy is seen with Boaz to Ruth (Ruth 3:9).
  - God's Spirit will indwell Israel during the Millennium reign.

- Jesus quoted Isaiah 60:1-2a in Luke 4:18-19.
  - Jesus deliberately stopped quoting the rest of verse 2 since that portion dealt with His second coming.
- Isaiah makes a comparison between Gentiles who will receive Christ as opposed to Jews who will reject Christ as Messiah (Isaiah 65:1-2).
- Isaiah 65:8 states not all Jews will reject God (Zechariah 12:10).
- Isaiah 65:17-25 sites a well-known passage concerning the wonders of the Millennial Kingdom.
- When Christ returns to the earth, Israel's restoration will happen quickly and suddenly (Isaiah 66: 7-8).
- A great missionary zeal will break out during the Millennium (Ryrie-Isaiah 66:18-20).
- Isaiah gives a last warning to those who refuse Christ (Isaiah 66:22-24).

## Summary

- Isaiah spoke powerfully and prophetically as God gave him the words.
- Isaiah directed his message to his contemporaries and to future generations.
- Isaiah's message states God will hear and pardon those who turn to Him for salvation and forgiveness. Those who refuse God's grace and mercy will reap eternal punishment.

# Discussion Questions

## Lesson Three

1. Isaiah 40:3 states, “Listen! It’s the voice of someone shouting, ‘Clear the way through the wilderness for the Lord! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God!’” (NLT)
  - A. How did this verse reference Israel’s return to Jerusalem?
  - B. How did this verse reference John the Baptist?
  - C. Would this verse have any implication for us today?
  
2. Romans 10:15 (b) states, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!”
  - A. How does this verse apply to a Christian’s witness?
  - B. Why is it often difficult to witness for the Lord? Explain.
  - C. What can we do to prepare ourselves to proclaim Christ’s message to the world? Our neighbors? Our family members?
  
3. God used Cyrus to allow the Jewish return from captivity.
  - A. Do you think Cyrus became a believer in God?
  - B. Can God use unbelievers for His purpose? Explain.
  - C. Can you think of a time when God used you for His purpose? Explain.
  
4. Isaiah 50 and 52 foretell Christ’s suffering.
  - A. Why didn’t the Jewish people connect Isaiah’s prophecy to Christ while He was on the earth?
  - B. Why do many people reject Christ today?
  - C. Did you come to know Christ later in life? What caused you to come to know Him?
  
5. Christ is known as the kinsman-redeemer.
  - A. What does this say about God’s feels toward us?
  - B. Read 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:4-6. What does this say about God’s desire for all to be saved?
  - C. What are some effective ways to bring a person to Christ?



# Lesson Four

## The Book of Jeremiah

### Introduction

- Jeremiah prophesied from 627-585 B.C. This period took place before, during, and after the fall of Judah (the Southern Kingdom).<sup>12</sup>



<https://www.gbcdecatur.org/sermons/Captivity.html>

- Many refer to Jeremiah as the:
  - “Weeping prophet” for his compassion and concern for Judah (9:1; 13:17; 14:17).
  - “Prophet of loneliness” since God commanded him not to marry (16:2).
  - “Reluctant prophet” since he felt unqualified to serve the Lord as a prophet (1:6).

- Jeremiah proclaimed God’s judgment upon Judah for 40 years. During this time, Jeremiah endured opposition, beatings, and imprisonments.
- Jeremiah began his ministry around the age of 20 under King Josiah.<sup>13</sup>
  - During Josiah’s reign, the book of the Law was rediscovered and read before all the people of Judah (2 Kings 22:8).<sup>14</sup>
- After Josiah’s death, Jeremiah endured countless persecutions until Judah fell in 587 B.C.
- Jeremiah predicted the fall of Judah and witnessed its destruction.
- Jeremiah was eventually taken to Egypt in which he prophesied a few more years before his death.<sup>15</sup>



<https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/38175050590782227/>

- Jeremiah's faithfulness to God should be an example for all believers to "fight the good fight" (2 Tim. 4:7)

## **Jeremiah's Call and Commission: 1:1-19**

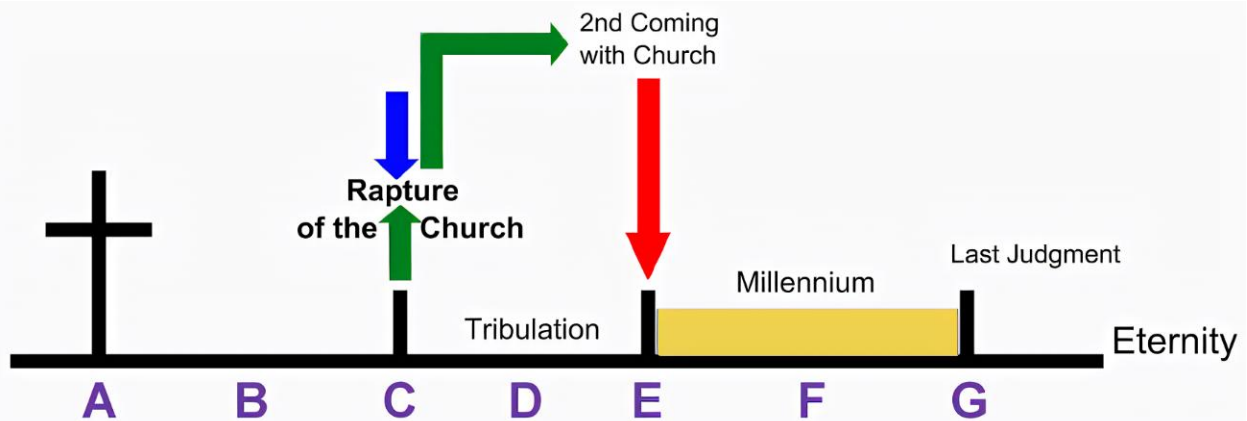
- Jeremiah prophesied during the reign of the last 5 kings of Judah: Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah.<sup>16</sup>
- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, took captives from Judah in 605 B.C. during the reign of King Jehoiakim.
- Jehoiachin became king and then taken to Babylon as prisoner in 597 B.C.
- Nebuchadnezzar proclaimed Jehoiachin's uncle, Zedekiah, as king.
- In 586 B.C., King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed all of Judah and sent the Israelites into Babylonian captivity.
- Despite Jeremiah's warnings, the Israelites refused to repent of their sins.
- At first, Jeremiah was very reluctant to serve as a prophet. However, God encouraged and empowered him (1:1-10).
- God assured Jeremiah:
  - His words would come to pass (1:12)
  - Babylon would conquer Judah (1: 13-16)
  - Of His protection (1:17-19).

## **Prophecies Concerning Judah: Chapters 2-10**

- God spoke through Jeremiah and asked why Judah had chosen to turn from God (1:5-6).
- God told the Israelites that punishment would come upon them (1:9).
- God gave the people two reasons for punishment:
  - The Jews turned away from God
  - They had turned to idolatry (1:13; 22-23).

## Jeremiah's Warning to Judah

- Jeremiah repeatedly warned Judah against turning away from God and turning to idolatry.
- God rebuked Judah for not heeding the punishment that fell upon the northern kingdom of Israel (3:6-11).
- Jeremiah prophesied concerning the coming Messiah and the Millennial Reign (3:15-18).
  - During the millennial period, Jeremiah stated that Christ replace the Ark of the Covenant.



<http://tombostudios.com/blogs/blog201304.html>

- Jerusalem did not have one righteous person. (5:1)
- Jeremiah prophesied concerning the destruction of Babylon (6:22-23).
- Judah's feelings of invincibility made them think that God would never destroy their land (7:3-4).
- Jesus quotes Jeremiah 7:11 in Mark 11:17 and in Luke 19:46.
- Judah had degraded itself to the point of offering child sacrifices (7:30-31).



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- God asked whether there was balm in Gilead (8:22).
  - Resin came from Gilead and was used for medicinal purposes.
  - Gilead was a little more than a day's journey away.<sup>17</sup>
  - Jeremiah used Gilead metaphorically to describe Judah's condition.
  - Due to the close proximity between Gilead and Judah, the Jews could easily obtain the healing ointment. This analogy signified God's nearness to heal Judah's spiritual condition.
- Judah refused to repent.

## God Promises Judah a Future and a Hope

- God reminded the people of His promises and judgments (11:1-5; 10-11).
- Jeremiah prophesied Judah's destruction and restoration (1:14-17).
- God did not allow Jeremiah to:
  - Marry since God was about to destroy the people (16:1-4)
  - Mourn (vs. 5)
  - Rejoice and feast (vs. 8-9).
- Jeremiah prophesied about the Second coming of Christ (16:14-16).
- Jeremiah 20:1-4 records his own punishment in the stocks for proclaiming God's word.
- Jeremiah could not stop preaching God's word (20:7-9).
- Jeremiah 20: 11-13 tells of God's faithfulness toward those persecuted for His name.
- Jeremiah proclaimed judgment upon those who remained in Judah after King Nebuchadnezzar's attack (21:1-9).
- God's judgment would testify to the surrounding nations the reason for Israel's destruction (22:8-9).
- Jeremiah 22:24-25; 30 predicted the end of Jehoiachin's royal line.

### LAST KINGS OF JUDAH

- Manasseh: 696-642 B.C.; died
- Amon: 642-640 B.C.; murdered
- Josiah: 640-609 B.C.; died in battle
- Jehoahaz: 609 B.C. (3 months); Egypt
- Jehoiakim: 609-596 B.C.; Babylon
- Jehoiachin: 598 (3 months); Babylon
- Zedekiah: 597-586; Babylon

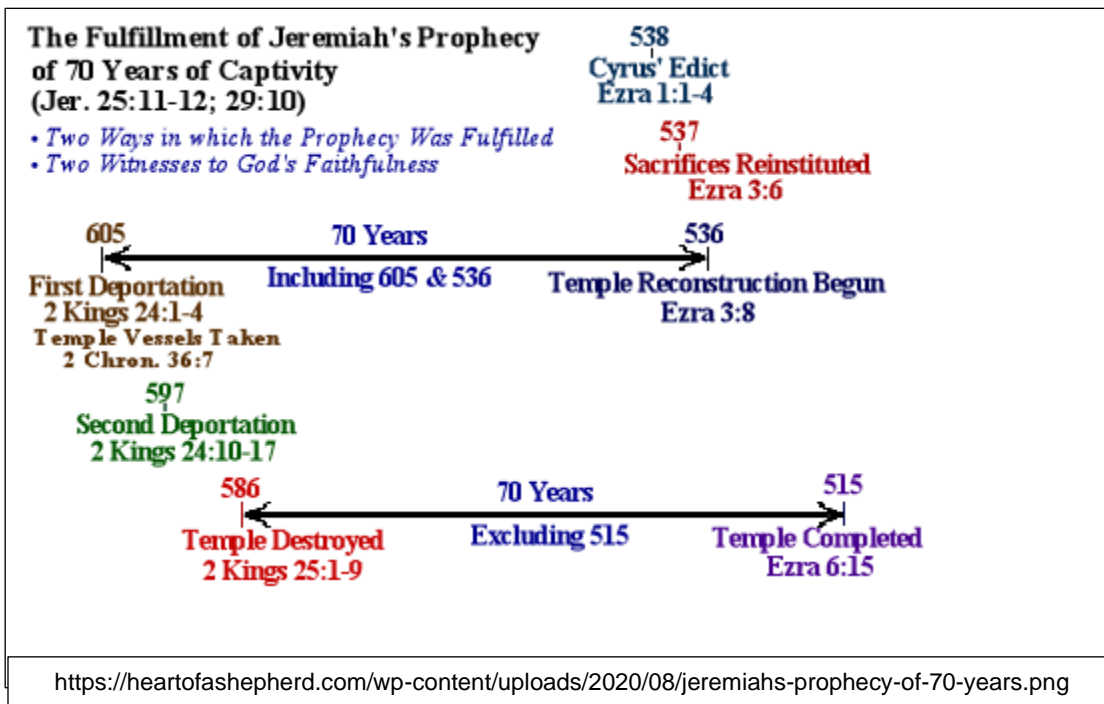
<https://www.slideserve.com/perdy/daniel-chapter-1>



- Discussions arise how Christ came from the line of David if Jehoiachin's lineage ended.
  - Up to this time the Kings of Judah had come from David's son Solomon.
  - Christ's lineage came through Nathan, David's other son.
- Mary, the mother of Jesus, was from the lineage of Nathan while Joseph was from the lineage of Solomon.

## The Coming Messiah

- Jeremiah 23:1-8 explains the Millennial Period, the Messiah's reign, and the regathering from Babylonian captivity.
- Jeremiah 23: 33-36 cautioned against self-righteousness.
- Jeremiah 24-25 gave an accurate account of Judah's captivity and a prophetic announcement of its duration.
- Jeremiah sent a letter to the captives in Babylon after the Second Babylonian captivity during Jehoiachin's reign (Jeremiah 29).
  - This letter stated the captivity would last 70 years.

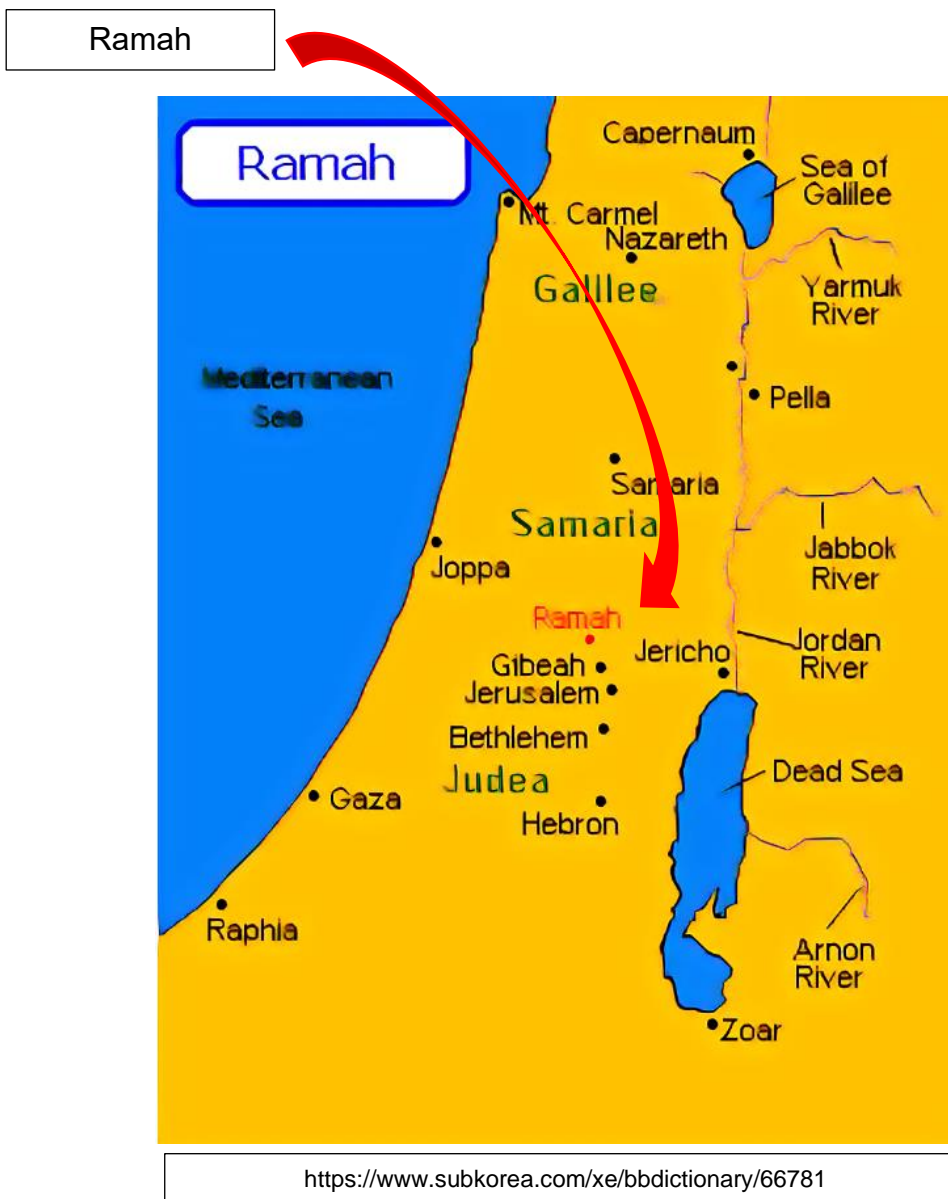


- Daniel must have read this letter (Daniel 9:1-2).
- Jeremiah 29:11 contains a well know verse about God's sovereign plan for our lives.

- Jeremiah 29:12-14 gives a glimpse into the millennial period and the Babylonian captivity (skipping stone theory).

## Hope and Prosperity

- Jeremiah chapter 30 gave hope to those in Babylon and declared prosperity to those during the Millennial period.
- Jeremiah 31:15 portrays a parallel reference to those assembled at Ramah awaiting deportation and the eventual weeping over Herod's slaughter of infants (Matt. 2:18).

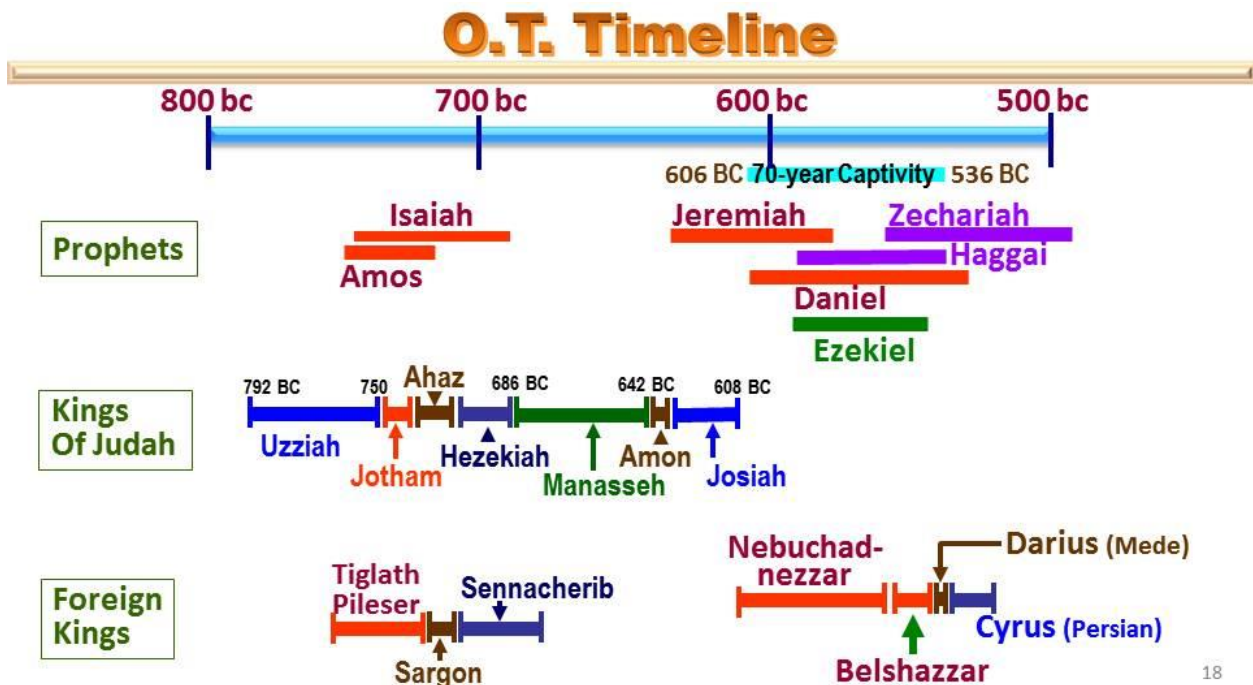




- Jeremiah 31:27-40 promises blessings to those who witness the Lord's return.
- Jeremiah 31:1 document Jeremiah's incarceration.
- Jeremiah 32:17; 27 give comfort and confidence to all believers.
- Jeremiah 33 portrays the Millennial Kingdom.

## Events before the fall of Jerusalem: Chapters 34-51

- Jeremiah 35: 2; 5-6 talk about a faithful group of Hebrews, the Rechabites.
  - God honored their faithfulness for following His laws.
- Jeremiah was put into a cistern (38:6).
- Jerusalem fell in 586 B.C. (chapter 39).

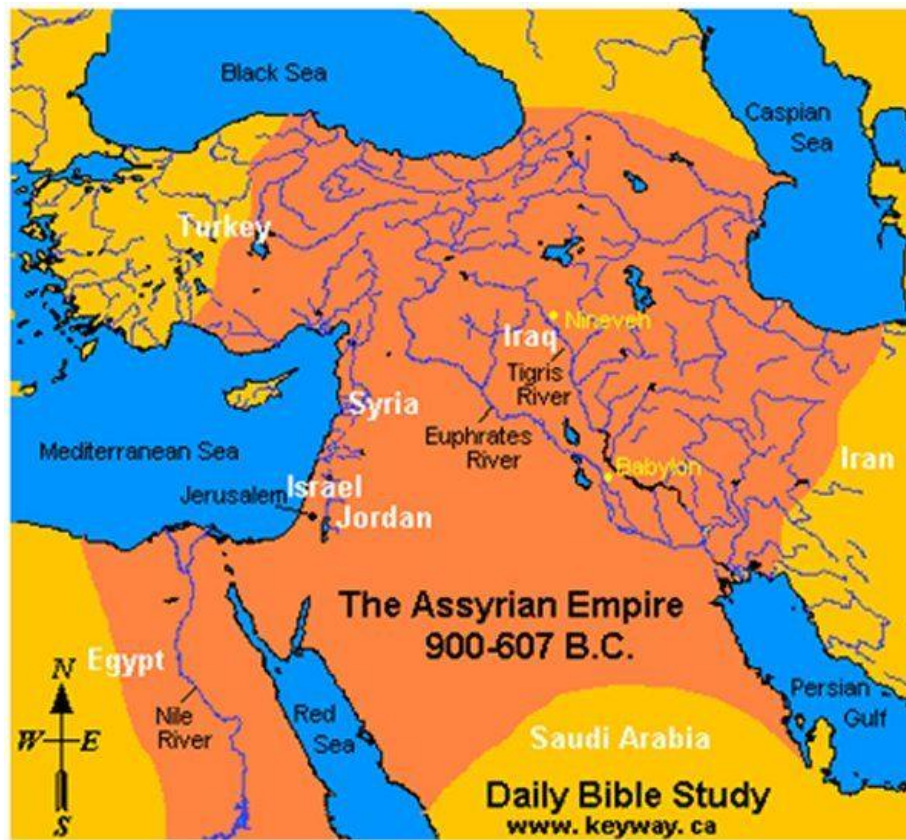


18

[http://johnsnotes.com/archives/Lake\\_of\\_Fire.htm](http://johnsnotes.com/archives/Lake_of_Fire.htm)

- Jeremiah chose to stay in Jerusalem and minister to those who remained (chapter 40).
- Jeremiah warned the remnant not to escape into Egypt (42:9-12; 13-16).

- The people disobeyed, they took Jeremiah, and fled into Egypt. (43: 4-7).
- Jeremiah 43: 9-13 foretold the remnants' fate while in Egypt.
- The people refused to listen to Jeremiah (44:11-16).
- Jeremiah prophesied of Egypt's destruction by King Nebuchadnezzar.



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- Chapters 47-51 warned of God's judgment upon the surrounding nations.
- Jeremiah 51:7-8 gives reference to the destruction of Babylon.
- This passage could parallel the destruction of Babylon at the end times (Rev. 14:8; 17:1-6).

## Jerusalem's fate: Jeremiah 52

- This chapter chronicles Zedekiah's downfall (52:10-11).
- Jeremiah 52:28-34 explains the exile into Babylon and Jehoiachin's favor with King Evil-merodach.

## Summary and Application

- Even though Jeremiah gave repeated warnings concerning Judah's rebellion and destruction, the people refused to listen.
- The Jews did not believe God would send them into captivity since they were His chosen people.
- Many believe today they can earn salvation through good works. They say God would not send a "good" person to hell.
- Salvation can only come by faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31).
- God expects every believer to follow His laws and to abide by His Word. God's laws are not meant for punishment or hardship but for life, health, and peace (John 14:27).

# Discussion Questions

## Lesson Four

1. Jeremiah is known as “The Weeping Prophet” due to his compassion and concern for Judah,
  - A. How could Jeremiah have such compassion for a people that did not listen to him.
  - B. Have you ever tried to witness to someone about Jesus and they would not listen to you? How did you feel? What did you do?
  - C. How should we respond to those whose hearts are closed to the Gospel?
  
2. After many years of warning, Judah was eventually captured by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Read Jeremiah 29:10-13.
  - A. How did Jeremiah respond to those in captivity?
  - B. Do you think Jeremiah struggled with a “I told you so” syndrome?
  - C. Have you ever had an “I told you so” moment? Explain. What did you do?
  
3. Judah spent 70 years in captivity.
  - A. How would you describe their feelings?
  - B. Do you think they repented?
  - C. Why is it hard to recognize a wrong and repent from it?
  
4. Jeremiah remained in Jerusalem and ministered to those who did not go to Babylon. He warned the people against going to Egypt.
  - A. Why didn’t the people listen to Jeremiah?
  - B. What happened to them in Egypt? (Jeremiah 43:9-13)
  - C. Could the Jews justly blame God for their demise? Is it easy to blame God for our misfortunes? Explain? Any personal examples?
  
5. Many people trick themselves into believing there is no God.
  - A. Why are some people angry with God?
  - B. Are their reasons for anger justified?
  - C. How do you respond to a person who tragically loses a loved one? Is God to blame?

# Lesson Five

## The Book of Lamentations

### Introduction

- The word for Lamentations, comes from a Greek verb meaning “to cry aloud” and accurately describes the contents of the book.
- Lamentations consists of five melancholy poems mourning the destruction of Jerusalem.<sup>18</sup>
- Most Bible scholars credit Jeremiah as the author of Lamentations.
  - This conclusion seems logical since Jeremiah lived to see the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.<sup>19</sup>
- Also, the writing style is characteristic with other “laments” issued by Jeremiah (2 Chronicles 35:25).<sup>20</sup>
- Despite Jeremiah’s repeated warnings, the Jews refused to obey God and turn from their idolatrous practices.
- The Jews never believed God would allow His chosen people, His temple, and His land to be taken by a heathen nation. They felt their existence was divinely secure despite disobeying God’s laws.

**Lamentations 1**

... אֵיךְ יָשְׁבָה בְּדוֹד הָעִיר רַבְּתֵי עָם הָיְתָה ... 1

... כָּסוּ תְּבֻכָהּ בְּלִילָה וְדַמְעָתָהּ עַל לְחֶיָּהּ ... 2

... גָּלְתָה יְהוּדָה מֵעֲנִי וּמְרַב עֲבֹדָה הִיא ... 3

... דָּרְכֵי צִיּוֹן אֲבֵלוֹת מִבְּלִי בְּאֵי ... 4

... הָיוּ צָרִיחַ לְרֹאשׁ אֵיבִיחָהּ שְׁלוֹ ... 5

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ פ צ ק ר ש ת

Mem Mem Lamed Khaf Khaf Yod Teit Cheit Zayin Vav He Dalet Gimel Beit Aleph

Last Letter

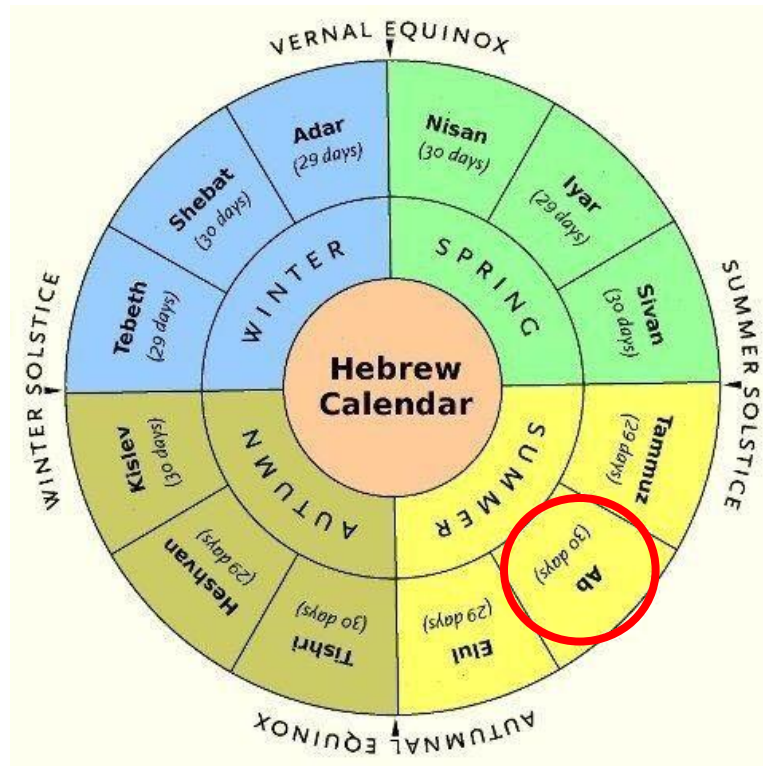
First Letter

ת ש ר ק צ פ פ א י נ נ

Tav Shin Reish Qof Tzadi Tzadi Peh Peh Ayin Samekh Nun Nun

(Note: Hebrew is read right to left.)

- Lamentations consists of five poems, each one chapter in length.
  - The first four poems or chapters begin as an acrostic (each verse begins with a word whose first letter is successively one of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet).
- The first four chapters are written in “limping meter,” a cadence used in funeral dirges.
- The Jews read this book publicly on the ninth day of the month of Ab (about mid-July).



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/473089135859261798/>

- The reading commemorates the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
- Roman Catholics also read this book in commemoration of Jerusalem’s destruction by the Romans in 70 A.D.
- Lamentations reminds one of Jesus’ burdens over Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37-38).<sup>21</sup>



## Chapter 1-The Desolation of Jerusalem

- Jeremiah laments over Jerusalem's barren roads and over the silence of the Feasts (1:4).

Feast of	Jewish Calendar Month	Day	Month	Ref
* Passover (Unleavened Bread)	Nisan	14-21	Mar-Apr	Ex. 12:43-13:10 Matt 26:17-20
* Pentecost (First Fruits or Weeks)	Sivan	6 (50 days after Passover)	May-June	Deut 16:9-12 Acts 2:1
Trumpets <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	Tishri	1,2	Sept-Oct	Num. 29:1-6
Day of Atonement <i>Yom Kippur</i>	Tishri	10	Sept-Oct	Lev 23:26-32 Heb 9:7
* Tabernacles (Booths or Ingathering)	Tishri	15-22	Sept-Oct	Neh 8:13-18 John 7:2
Dedication (Lights) <i>Hanukkah</i>	Chislev	25 (8 days)	Nov-Dec	John 10:22
Purim (Lots)	Adar	14,15	Feb-Mar	Esth 9:18-32
* The three major feasts for which all males of Israel were required to travel to the Temple in Jerusalem (Ex. 23:14-19)				

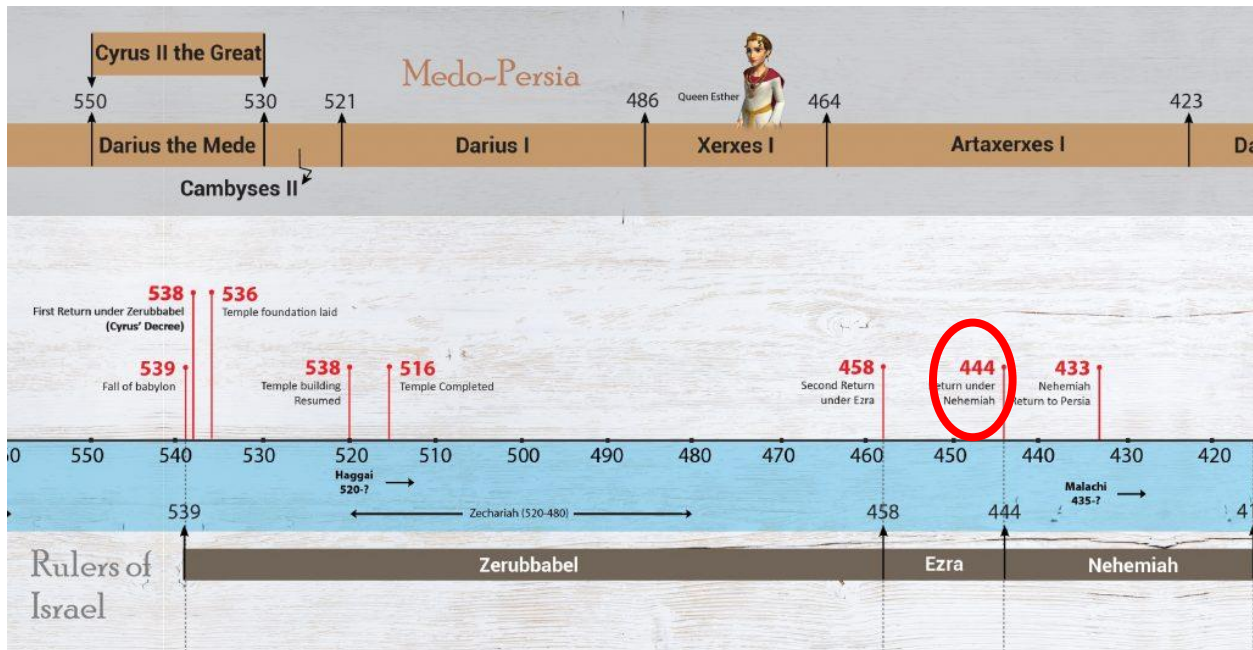
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- Jeremiah clearly states the reason for Jerusalem's captivity (vs. 5).
- Jeremiah 1:1-3 explains Jerusalem's complete destruction.
- Jeremiah prophesied the captivity would take place and the duration would be 70 years (Jer. 25:11).
- Chronicles 36:14-16; 20-21 states why the captivity took place.
  - The captivity was due to Israel's idolatry and for Israel neglecting the 70 years of sabbatical rest.
- During Israel's captivity, the people had time to ponder over their life back in Jerusalem (vs.7).

## Chapter 2-The Destruction of Jerusalem

- Jerusalem's siege lasted from 588-586 B.C.
  - During the siege, the living conditions within the city degenerated to unimaginable proportions (2: 20-21).

- Lamentations 2:8-9 describes the destruction of Jerusalem's walls.
  - The restoration of the wall marked the beginning of the Messiah's timeline as king.
  - Daniel 9:24-27 gave specific details about the countdown from the time of the wall's rebuilding to the Messiah coming as king.
- Christ's entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) occurred on the exact day predicted by Daniel.



<https://simplifybible.com/bible-study/old-testament/zechariah/>

### Chapter 3-The Distraught Prophet

- Jeremiah poured out his soul over the destruction of Jerusalem.
- Many refer to Jeremiah as the “weeping prophet” because of his compassion for Israel (vs. 48-51).
- Jeremiah's hope in the Lord sustained him despite his suffering.
- Verses 19-26 are some well quoted parts of scripture.
- Verse 40 gives a good recipe for repentance.
- Jeremiah expressed his hope and trust in God (vs. 55-58).

### Chapter 4-The Defeated People of Jerusalem

- Chapter 4 describes the plight of those in Jerusalem who were under siege. The Jews still refused to repent of their sins. (Vs. 4-6; 10).
- The Jews eventually ostracized the false prophets and priests, however, the time for restoration had passed (vs. 13-15).<sup>22</sup>



- The Babylonian captivity came swiftly (vs. 19-20).

## Chapter 5-Prayer for the People (Confession)

- Jeremiah interceded on behalf of Jerusalem.
- Jeremiah reminded God of Israel's grief and waited for God's restoration (vs. 9-12; 16; 21).

## Summary

- God does not show favor, nor does He demonstrate partiality.
- The Jews believed God would never destroy them or forsake them.
- The Jews felt exempt from following God's laws since they were His "chosen" people.
- Even though God chose the Jews as His people, they were still held accountable for their obedience to the Law.
- Do we as Christians tend to rest upon the laurels of our past or upon our redeemed position in Christ?
- It is easy to fall into the trap of feeling exempt from God's laws.
- Even though we live under grace, we should keep His laws for our good.
- When we disobey God and deliberately refuse to obey His commands, we often pay the price for our actions.
- God is merciful and full of forgiveness.
- It is important not to harden our hearts and refrain from repenting.
- A fulfilled life of blessing is one that adheres to God's instruction.

# Discussion Questions

## Lesson Five

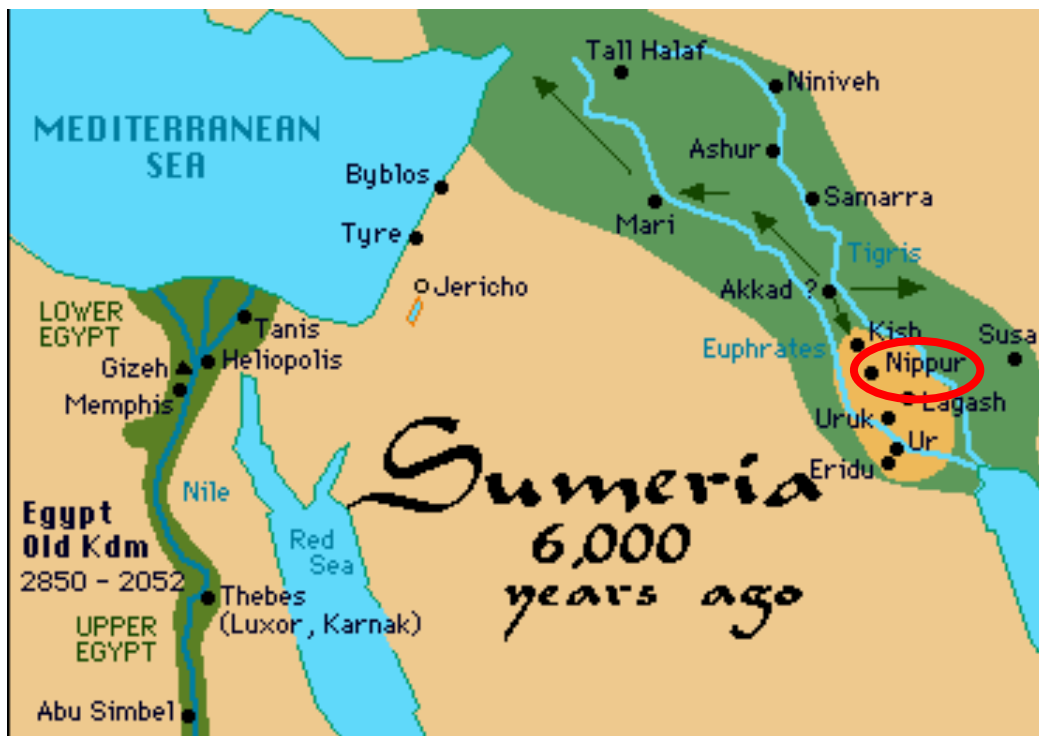
1. Lamentations is a sorrowful book written by Jeremiah lamenting over the destruction of Jerusalem.
  - A. Describe Jeremiah's feelings when he saw Jerusalem reduced to rubble?
  - B. How do you think God felt about Jerusalem's demise?
  - C. Did Nebuchadnezzar's destruction ruin God's ultimate plan for Jerusalem?
  
2. Despite Jerusalem's downfall, God had a plan for its rebuilding.
  - A. Have you had dreams crumble and not come to fruition?
  - B. How did you feel?
  - C. Looking back, can you see God's hand in your situation?
  
3. Part of Judah's destruction was a result of idolatry.
  - A. Why do you think the Jews fell into idolatry?
  - B. What are some forms of idolatry that people follow today?
  - C. Why is it hard to break from these present-day idols?
  
4. From 588-586, Jerusalem was under siege.
  - A. How do you think the Jews felt while trapped within the walls of Jerusalem?
  - B. Do you think they hoped God would rescue them? Explain.
  - C. Have you ever felt under a spiritual, material, or situational siege, a time of trouble, that you could not see an answer? Explain? What happened?
  
5. Jeremiah continued to intercede for those in captivity.
  - A. Did God answer the prayers of Jeremiah?
  - B. Do you think some repented while in Babylon?
  - C. How should we respond when friends or loved ones refuse to accept Jesus as their personal savior?

## Lesson Six

### The Book of Ezekiel (Chapters 1-37)

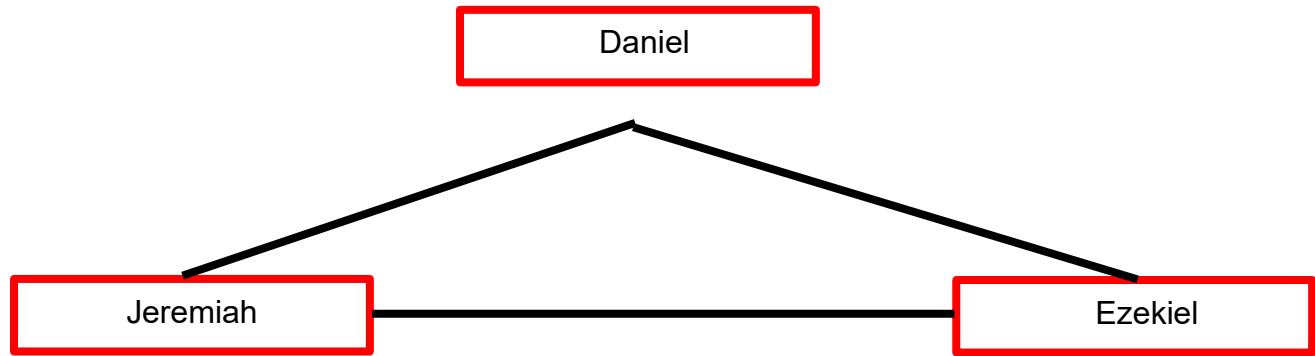
#### Introduction

- Ezekiel's name means "God strengthens."
- Ezekiel came from priestly family and spent his early years in Jerusalem.
- Nebuchadnezzar took Ezekiel captive to Babylon in 597 A.D. (second wave of captivity).
- After Nebuchadnezzar's captivity, Ezekiel lived in a village near Nippur (southeast of Babylon) and prophesied to the captives in Babylon for about 22 years.



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- Ezekiel told the captives the fate waiting those back in Jerusalem.
- Ezekiel prophesied, not only about Jerusalem's ultimate destruction, but of Christ's return.
- Ezekiel ministered to the exiles in Babylon; Jeremiah ministered to the Jews in Jerusalem; and Daniel ministered to the royal court in Babylon.



- Chapters 1-24 were written before the fall of Jerusalem while chapters 33-48 contain prophecies about the future of Israel and the restoration of Israel during the Millennial Kingdom.<sup>23</sup>

## Chapter 1

- Ezekiel may have been 30 years old at the time of his commissioning (1:1-3).<sup>24</sup>
- Ezekiel saw four living beings with strange characteristics. (1:4-14).



<https://www.pinterest.com/LadyPFlory/ot-bible-26-ezekiel/>

- These four beings stood in a square, each with four faces, four wings (two that touched each other and two that enveloped each being), and with hands underneath their wings.
- Vs. 15-17 describes how the beings moved. The spirit of the living beings resided in the wheels (vs. 21).
- Vs. 22 depicts a “platform” over the living creatures’ heads.
- Upon the platform was the appearance of God in the incarnation of Jesus Christ.
- God let Ezekiel know that He had not departed Israel while in a far and distant land.<sup>25</sup>



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## Chapters 2-3

- God commissioned Ezekiel in chapter 2:1-6.
- God commanded Ezekiel to eat His word.
  - Ezekiel found God’s Word sweet (2:8-3:4).
  - God told Ezekiel when to speak and when not to speak (3:27).

## Chapters 4-5

- Ezekiel acted out the coming siege of Jerusalem (4:1-3).<sup>26</sup>
- God described the horrors that would befall those in Jerusalem (4:16-17).
  - Jeremiah also prophesied about these horrors. (Lamentations 2:20-21).
- God showed Ezekiel all of Jerusalem’s wickedness (5:6-7).

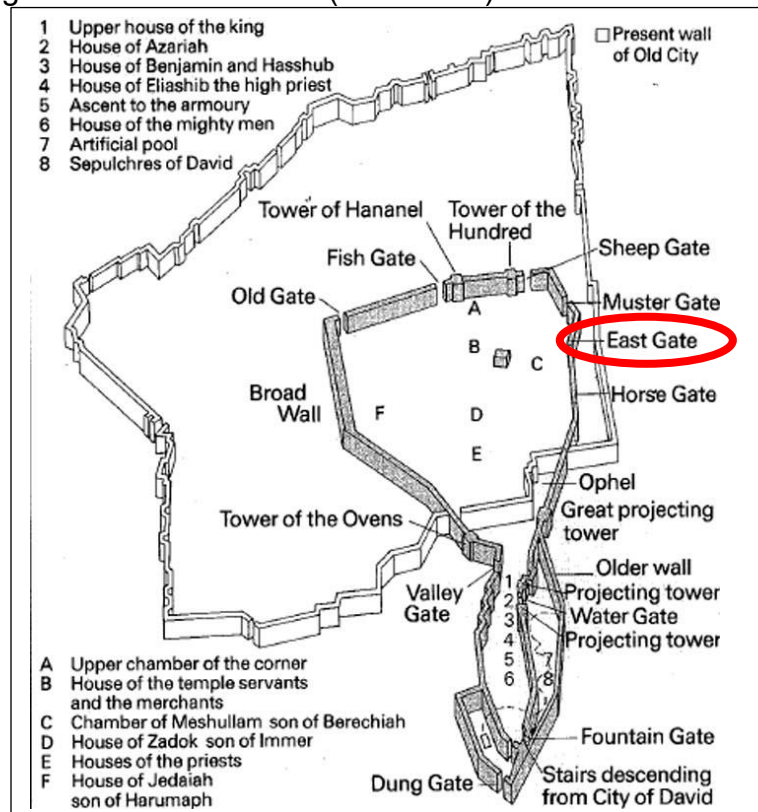
- Ezekiel 5:9-10 parallels Lamentations 4:10.

## Chapters 6-7

- The remnant of Jews in Jerusalem would eventually lament over their wrongdoings (6:8-10; 7:27).

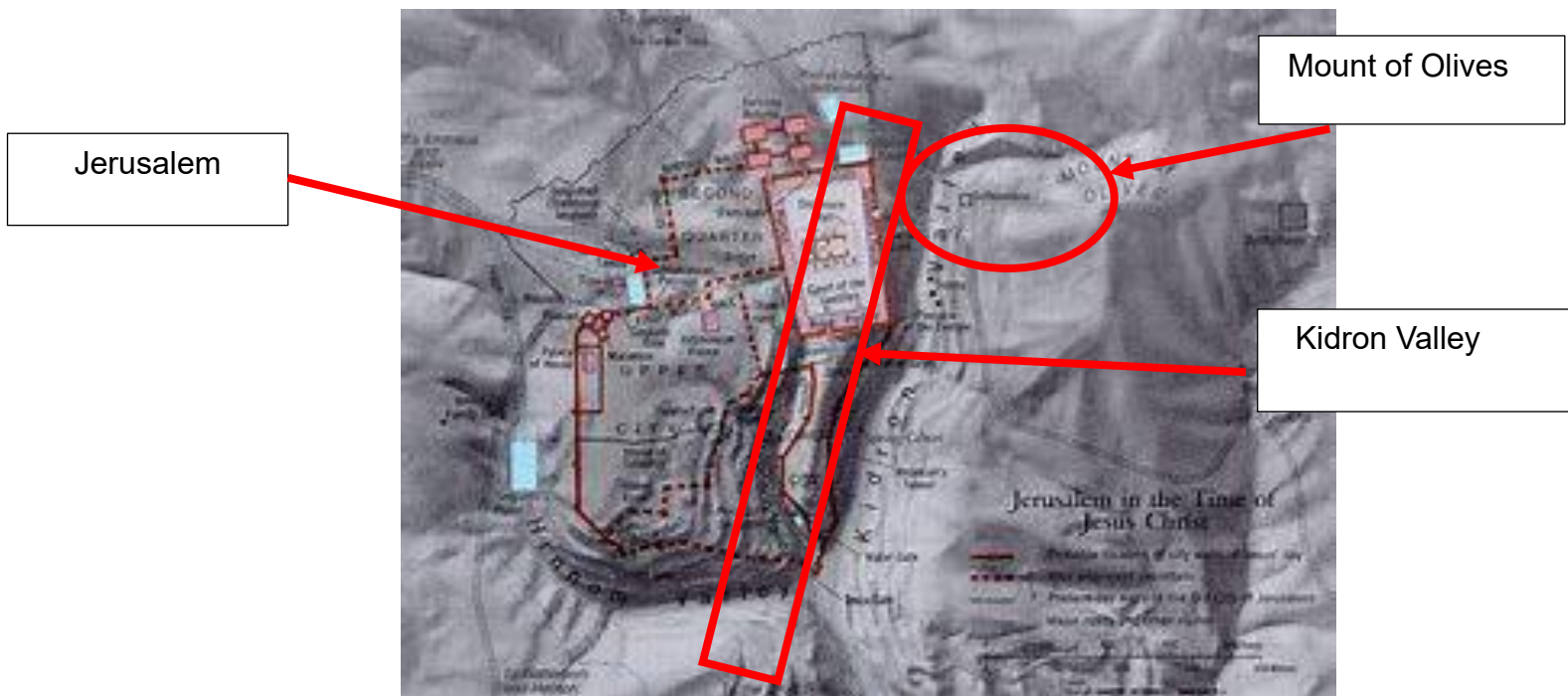
## Chapters 8-11

- Ezekiel visited Jerusalem by way of a vision. God showed him the wickedness of the people and why His judgments were righteous (8:1-3).
- Ezekiel 8:8-13 reveals the corruption of those in Jerusalem.
  - Ezekiel saw the wickedness in the inner court of the Lord's house (vs. 16-18).
- The Lord put a mark on the foreheads of those who sighed and groaned over Israel's wickedness.
  - God preserved these righteous ones from judgment.
  - This vision could be a foreshadowing of God's protection upon the 144,000 during the Great Tribulation (Rev. 7:3-4).



- Chapters 10 and 11 give a grievous account of God's Spirit departing Israel.
  - Ezekiel 10:18 tells of God's Spirit departing the threshold of the temple at the East Gate. Parallel this with Jesus departing Jerusalem (Matthew 21:12-17).
  - When Christ returns at the start of His Millennial reign, He will return by way of the East Gate (Ezekiel chapter 43:1-2).
- Ezekiel 11:17-20 talks about the new covenant with Christ during the Millennial Reign (see Jer. 31:31-34).<sup>27</sup>
- Ezekiel 11:22-23 tells of God's spirit departing Jerusalem and resting on the Mount of Olives.

### Mount of Olives



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- Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives, and it will be upon the Mount of Olives Christ will return (Acts 1:9-12, Zechariah 14:4).
- The Spirit of God took Ezekiel back to Chaldea.
- Ezekiel told the exiles all the Lord had shown him (11:24-25).



## Chapters 12-24-The Certainty and Causes of Judgment through Signs, Messages, and Parables

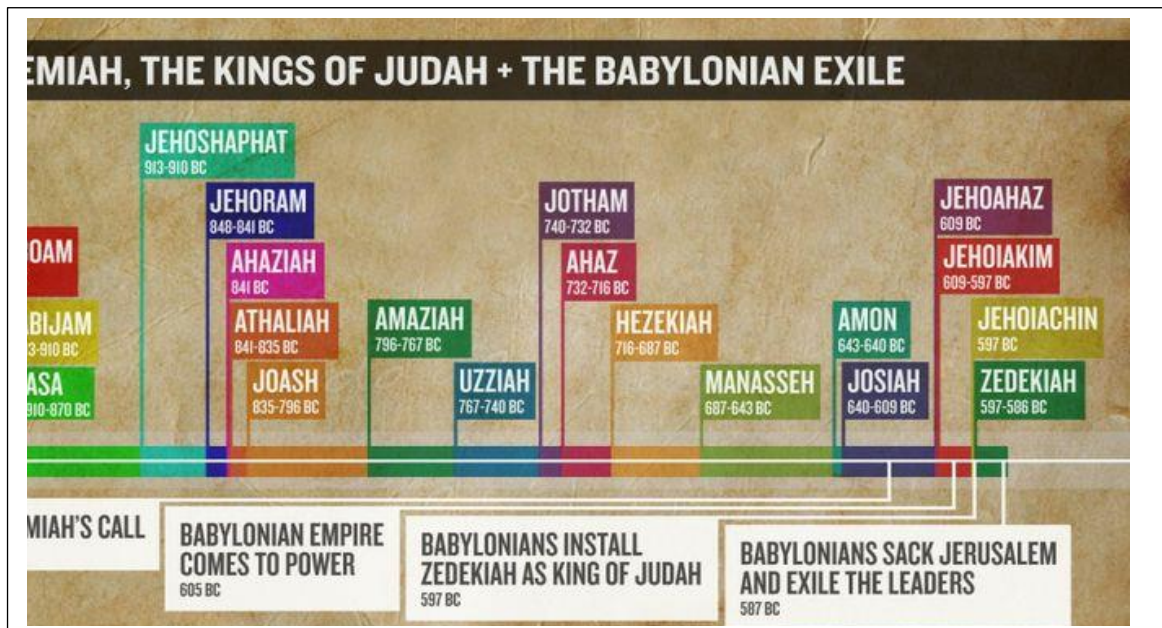
- God told Ezekiel to prepare luggage as though going into exile. Ezekiel was instructed to dig a hole in the wall at night. He was to go through it with a covering over his face. The covering was meant to blind his way (12:1-6)
  - This act was a sign to the people they would be carried off into a far and distant land.



<https://www.gbcdccatur.org/sermons/Captivity.html>

- Ezekiel 12:12-13 explained what would happen to King Zedekiah.
- As prophesied, the Babylonians blinded King Zedekiah and took him to Babylon. (2 Kings 25:4-7).
- God told the people His word would come to pass, and all the events would happen in their day (12:25).
  - Jesus made a similar statement when He prophesied about the end times (Mark 13:30).

- Chapter 13 states false prophets and prophetesses told the people they would experience peace (13:9-10).
  - God gave a rebuke by saying utter destruction would come.
  - This is an interesting parallel of end time events before Christ returns to the earth (1 Thessalonians 5:3).
- Chapter 14-Even if Noah, Daniel (a contemporary), and Job were in their midst, God would still destroy Jerusalem.<sup>28</sup>
- God promised to restore Israel during the Millennium (16:60-63).
- God showed his love for all creation (18:30-32).
- Chapter 20 relates the different periods of rebellion throughout Israel's history.
  - Ezekiel 20:5-9 tells of Israel's rebellion while in Egypt.
  - Ezekiel 20:10-17 explains Israel's rebellion on the journey from Egypt to Kadesh-barnea.
  - Ezekiel 20:18-26 shows Israel's rebellion in the wilderness.
  - Ezekiel 20:27-29 reiterates Israel's rebellion when they came into the Promised Land.
  - Ezekiel 20:30-32 recites Israel's unfaithfulness during Ezekiel's time.<sup>29</sup>
- Ezekiel 20:33-34 foretells Israel's future restoration (Matthew 25:32).
- Ezekiel 21:10 contains an interesting passage and may explain why Israel did not listen to Ezekiel's words.<sup>30</sup>
  - The people did not believe God would allow Israel's destruction.
  - They did not understand the full meaning of Genesis 49:9-10.
- Ezekiel 21:27 states a ruler would not rule in Israel again until the Messiah's reign (Genesis 49:10).<sup>31</sup>



- Ezekiel's wife died (24:15-18).
  - Ezekiel was forbidden to mourn.
  - The lack of mourning represented Jerusalem's capture.
  - The Israelites would have to mourn for Jerusalem silently as could not mourn while in Babylon.

## Chapters 25-32-Prophecies concerning the Surrounding Nations

- Chapter 28 tells of Satan's prior position and future judgment:
  - 28:13-15-Satan's original position
  - 28:15-19-Satan's fall and judgment

## Chapters 33-37-Prophecies of Israel's Restoration

- God commissioned Ezekiel as a watchman for the house of Israel and to sound the warning of Israel's impending doom (33:7-8)
  - Even after Israel's deportation, the people still denied Ezekiel as a true prophet (33:30-33).
  - At the end of the Tribulation period, Christ will return to earth and will separate the sheep from the goats-the righteous from the wicked (34:16-17).
  - Compare this with Matthew 25:32-33.
  - God will protect Israel during the Millennium (34:21-31; 36:24-28).
    - Israel will mourn over her unfaithfulness and will rebuild and inhabit her cities (36:31, 33-35).
  - God showed the physical and spiritual restoration of Israel in 37:1-14 (The Valley of Dry Bones).
  - God promised to restore both Israel and Judah during the Millennium (37:15-17, 21-22, 23-27).
  - This restoration did not refer to the restoration of Israel in 1948 since Israel, as a nation, is not yet walking in God's ordinances and observing His ways (vs. 24).
- (See chart next page)

# Israel Timeline

- **17<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> BCE**  
Biblical Times
- **1800 BCE**  
Abraham
- **1000 BCE**  
King David conquers Jerusalem
- **586 BCE**  
Destruction of First Temple by the Babylonians
- **516 BCE**  
Second Temple rebuilt by Ezra & Nehemiah
- **164 BCE**  
The Maccabees
- **313 - 63 CE**  
Roman Rule
- **70**  
Destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans
- **132**  
Bar Kochva revolt
- **313- 636**  
Byzantine rule - C. 390
- **636- 1099**  
Arab rule - 691
- **1099-1291**  
Crusader domination
- **1291-1517**  
Mamluk rule
- **1517-1917**  
Ottoman rule
- **1896**  
Theodor Herzl's treatise "The Jewish State" published
- **1909**  
Tel Aviv founded
- **1917**  
400 Years of Ottoman rule end by British conquest  
British Foreign Minister Balfour pledges support for establishment of a "Jewish national home in Palestine"
- **1922**  
The League of Nations recognizes historical connection of Jewish people to Palestine
- **1933-1945**  
The Holocaust (Shoah)
- **1939-1945**  
World War II
- **1947**  
UN adopts Partition Plan (Jews accept, Arabs reject)
- **1918-1948**  
British rule
- **1948**  
End of British Mandate (14 May)  
Modern State of Israel proclaimed (14 May)  
Israel invaded by Five Arab states (15 May)  
Israel Defense Forces (IDF) established  
War of independence (May 1948-July 1949)
- **1949**  
Israel's first national election;  
David Ben-Gurion elected Prime Minister
- **1950**  
Operation Magic Carpet brings 47,000 Yemeni Jews to Israel
- **1956**  
Sinai Campaign
- **1957**  
Israel's Agency for International Development (MASHAV) launched
- **1964**  
Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) created
- **1967**  
Six-Day War. Jerusalem reunited  
UN Security Council Resolution 242, framework for negotiations based on "Land for Peace"
- **1972**  
Massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at Munich Olympics
- **1973**  
Yom Kippur War  
Adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 338 (re-affirmation of Resolution 242)
- **1977**  
Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visits Jerusalem
- **1979**  
Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty
- **1982**  
First Lebanon War
- **1984-1991**  
Operations Moses, Joshua, and Solomon airlift thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel
- **1987**  
First Palestinian Intifada starts
- **1989**  
Mass immigration of Jews from Former Soviet Union begins
- **1991**  
The Gulf War
- **1992**  
Diplomatic relations established with China and India
- **1993**  
The Oslo Accords between Israel and the PLO
- **1994**  
Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty  
Palestinian self-government in Gaza Strip and Jericho Area  
Full diplomatic relations with the Holy See  
Rabin, Peres, Arafat awarded Nobel Peace Prize
- **1995**  
Broadened Palestinian self-government in West Bank and Gaza Strip; Palestinian Council elected  
Prime Minister Rabin assassinated at peace rally (November 4)
- **2000**  
Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Palestinian "Second Intifada" begins
- **2002**  
Operation Defensive Shield to uproot Palestinian terror infrastructure in West Bank
- **2005**  
Disengagement from Gaza
- **2006**  
Hezbollah kidnaps and kills Israeli soldiers in Israeli territory, sparking Second Lebanon War
- **2007**  
 Hamas take-over of Gaza
- **2008**  
Operation Cast Lead to halt Hamas rocket attacks from Gaza
- **2010**  
Israel joins the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)
- **2014**  
Operation Protective Edge to eliminate rocket attacks from Gaza
- **Present**  
Israel, the "Start-Up Nation" is respected as global leader in health innovation, cyber-security, auto technologies, water innovation, and humanitarian assistance.

<https://www.israel-maps.com/fullscreen-page/comp-ja5o0m3a/26979d3b-449a-4bdf-8532-621359fd27d5/3/%3Fi%3D3%26p%3Dvboy2%26s%3Dstyle-ja5nv630>

## Summary

Even through punishment, God proved faithful to His people. God never left them alone in a far and distant land. Sometimes we may feel trapped in a spiritual exile. During these difficult times we must trust God. Know that He will never leave us and that He will encourage us to remain faithful and patient. God will fulfill all His promises.

# Discussion Questions

## Lesson Six

1. Ezekiel's name means "God strengthens".
  - A. How did God use Ezekiel to strengthen the Jews?
  - B. What does this show about God's character?
  - C. Do you think the people were willing to listen to Ezekiel? Explain?
  
2. God gave Ezekiel a vision of God's presence through four living beings.
  - A. What purpose did these beings have?
  - B. Explain their characteristics?
  - C. What does this tell us about God's character?
  
3. Spiritual wickedness prevailed throughout Jerusalem.
  - A. What did God treat the non wicked?
  - B. What significance does this have for believers today?
  - C. Describe the fate of those who groaned over the wickedness of Jerusalem?
  
4. Jerusalem had an eastern gate.
  - A. Explain the significance of the eastern gate?
  - B. What connection did God's spirit have with the eastern gate?
  - C. What significance will the eastern gate have in the future?
  
5. Read Ephesians 1:13.
  - A. Can a Christian ever lose God's spirit?
  - B. How could God's spirit leave during Ezekiel's time but not today?
  - C. How does Hebrews 9:22 answer the above question?



## Lesson Seven

### The Book of Ezekiel (Chapters 38-48)

#### Chapter 38-The Great Battle of Armageddon

##### Vs. 1-7

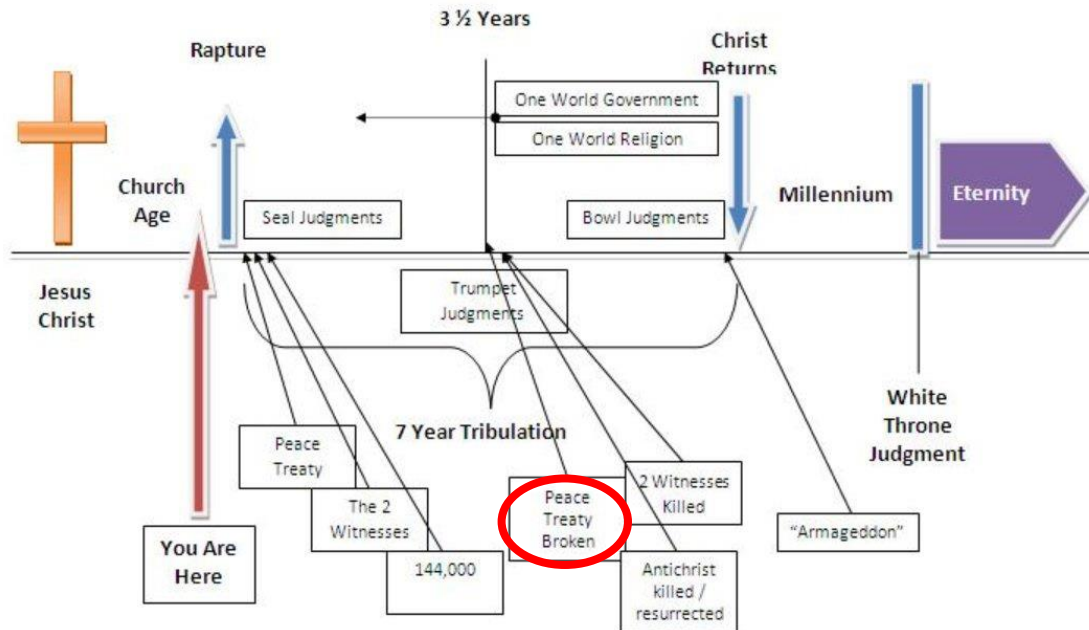
- The battle of Armageddon will take place at the end of the Tribulation Period.
- A powerful leader (Gog) will lead a coalition of nations against Israel.
- Some interpret Gog as the antichrist,<sup>32</sup> while others see Gog as a ruler north of Israel.<sup>33</sup>
- Some interpret Rosh as “prince of” Meshech and Tubal which could be the lands of Asia Minor.<sup>34</sup>
- This leader will also coordinate with North and Eastern African Nations.



<http://www.e38news.com/nations.html>

## Vs. 8-16

- Israel will have experienced a time of peace (“unwalled cities”) and great prosperity when this northern battle takes place.
- This battle could take place after the first three and one-half years of the tribulation in which the Antichrist makes a peace treaty with Israel (Daniel 9:27).



- This sudden invasion of Israel will surprise European nations.
- Other prophets prophesied of this event (Joel 3:9-17; Zephaniah 3:8; Daniel 2:44)<sup>35</sup>

## Vs. 17-23

- God will completely crush the Antichrist and all warring armies with an earthquake, rain, hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

## **Chapter 39- The Great Battle of Armageddon (continued)**

### Vs. 1-7

- God will destroy Gog's empire.

### Vs. 8-16

- Israel will make fires for seven years with Gog's weapons.



- After the battle, it will take seven months to bury the corpses and Israel will have fuel for seven years.

### **Vs. 17-20**

- The birds of the air and the beasts of the fields will devour the bodies of the dead.
- Compare this with Matthew 24:27-28 and with Revelation 19:17-18.

### **Vs. 25-29**

- God promises to restore Israel again and protect it during the Millennial Period.

## **Ezekiel 40-48- Prophecies concerning Israel in the Millennial Kingdom**

### **Chapters 40-48**

- God translated Ezekiel from a vision back to Jerusalem (chapter 40).
  - God showed Ezekiel a vision of the Temple (chapters 40-41).
  - Ezekiel saw the glory of the Lord return to the temple (43:1-7) after its departure in 10:18-19 and 11:22-25.
  - The glory of the Lord will return at Christ's Second Coming.
- Chapter 47:7-10 gives an account of the new Holy Land.
  - A river will flow from the Temple eastward into the Dead Sea.
  - The purified water of the Dead Sea will allow fish to multiply.
  - Trees will grow along the banks of this river.
- Ezekiel 47:13-20 give the boundaries of Israel during the Millennium.
- Israel will control all the land from the Nile to the Euphrates<sup>36</sup> (Genesis 15:18).
- See map next page.



<https://ptnews.org/wpupdater2/blog/author/jeffrey-w-crowder/page/6/>

- Ezekiel 48 gives the division of the land among the tribes of Israel.
  - Verses 31-34 give reference to three gates on each side of the city.
  - Each gate will have a name from the tribe of Israel.
- The name of Jerusalem during the Millennial Period will be "The Lord is there" (48:35).

## Summary

Many mysteries of the Bible will become clear during the Millennial Period. Obscurity of God's word should never give room for doubting His promises. God has always and will always have complete control of His creation. Ultimately, God will receive all the glory by every living being. The city of Jerusalem will be called "The Lord is there." This name also represents the omnipresence of Christ in our lives. The Lord will never leave our side (Hebrews 13:5).

# Discussion Questions

## Lesson Seven

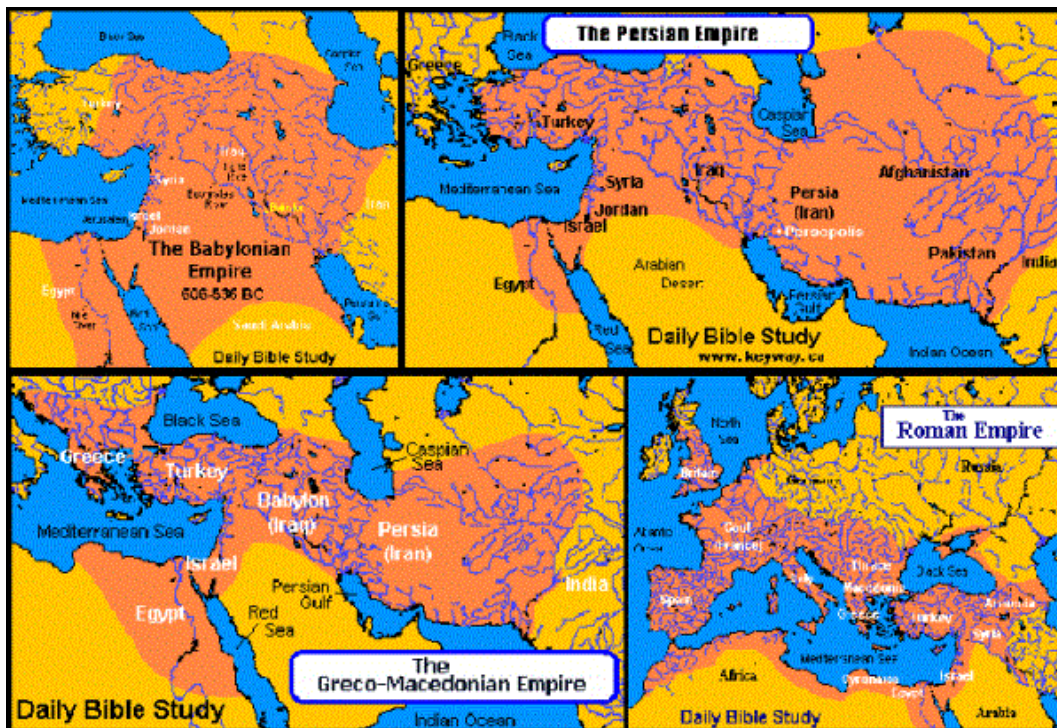
1. The Bible references a great battle at Armageddon.
  - A. Locate Armageddon in relation to Jerusalem.
  - B. What is the significance about the battle of Armageddon?
  - C. Might Christians today experience this battle?
  
2. During the first half of the Tribulation, Israel will experience peace.
  - A. What causes this peace to end?
  - B. Explain the conditions of the earth after the battle?
  - C. When will God's ultimate promise to restore Israel take place?
  
3. The Millennial Kingdom is established after the Tribulation.
  - A. Describe Jerusalem after Armageddon.
  - B. What does Ezekiel say about God's spirit returning to Israel?
  - C. Why do you think God's spirit returned?
  
4. Ezekiel lays out the boundaries of Israel during the Millennium.
  - A. Where are these boundaries?
  - B. Compare the size of Israel today with its size during the Millennium?
  - C. Will Israel have protection during the Millennium? Explain.
  
5. Jerusalem will have the name, "The Lord is There".
  - A. What significance does this have for Christians today?
  - B. Explain the lay-out of Jerusalem's gates.
  - C. What will determine the gate's names?

## Lesson 8

### The Book of Daniel (Chapters 1-6)

#### Introduction

- Daniel wrote the book of Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar took him captive to Babylon in the year 605 B.C.<sup>37</sup> Daniel served in the court of King Nebuchadnezzar who elevated him to the second in command of all Babylon.
- God revealed to Daniel the four great empires that would rule the ancient world: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

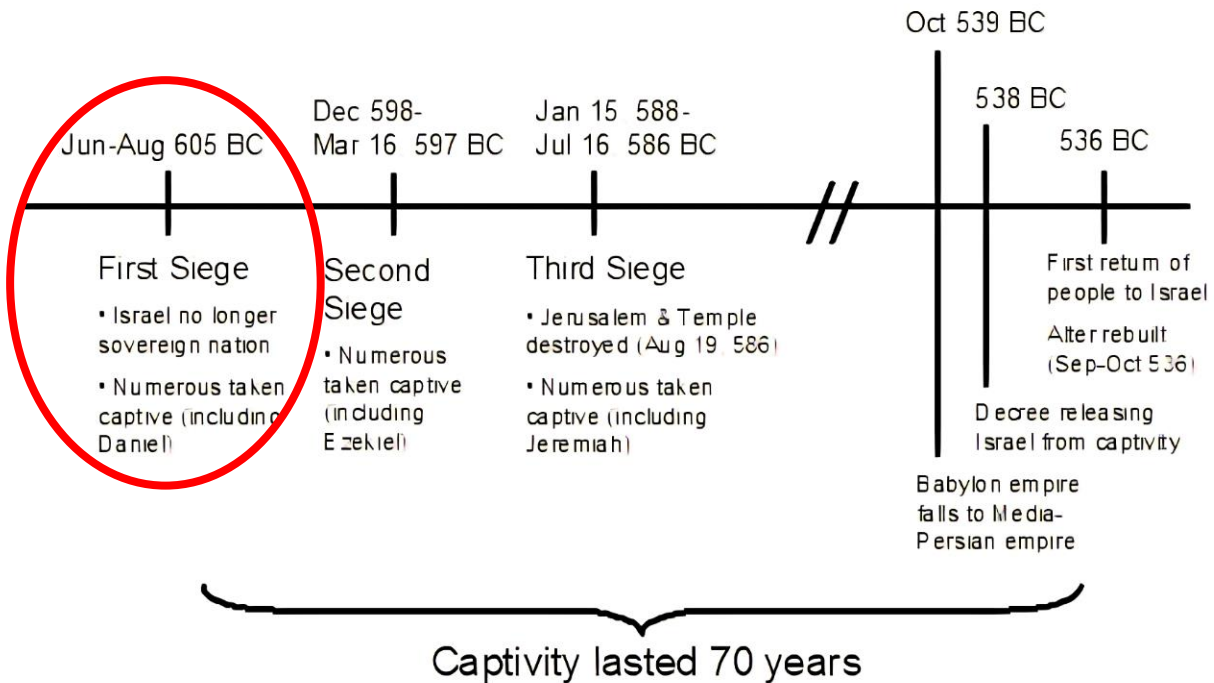


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- The Book of Daniel also gives reference to the future Tribulation Period and to Christ's Millennial Reign.
- Many have tried to dispute the accuracies of Daniel and discredit the work for a much later time. Through much scrutiny and Biblical study, Daniel stands tested and true to any criticism that would render it anything less than authentic.

## Chapter 1-The Captivity

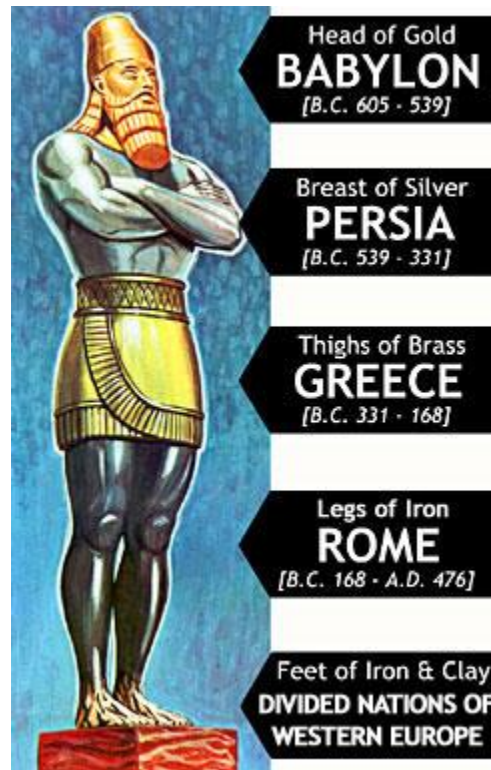
- Daniel 1:1 gives the historical time frame for Israel's first captivity by King Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C. King Nebuchadnezzar took Daniel captive at this time.<sup>38</sup>



<https://yeshua.org/bible/the-bibles-most-amazing-prophecies/>

- Jeremiah 7:30-31 states the reason for Israel's 70-year captivity (see also Leviticus 25:44-47; 2 Chronicles 36:20-21).
- Ezra 3:8 gives the date for the laying of the temple's foundation. This event occurred in the Spring of 535 B.C.<sup>39</sup>
- Note the name changes for Daniel and his three friends: 1:7
  - Daniel- "God is Judge" changed to Belteshazzar- "May Bel protect his life"
  - Hannaniah- "Yahweh is gracious" changed to Shadrach-possibly means "command of Aku" (the moon god)
  - Mishael- "Who is what God is?" changed to Meschach-may mean "Who is what Aku is?"
  - Azariah- "Whom Yahweh helps" changed to Abed-nego "servant of Nebo"<sup>40</sup>
- Daniel had made up his mind not to defile himself with the King's food (1:8). We will note Daniel continued to serve God and to obey His laws even though he did not reside in Jerusalem nor within the proximity of the temple.

## Chapter 2-Nebuchadnezzar's dream



[http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/End%20of%20the%20World/nebuchadnezzars\\_image.htm](http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/End%20of%20the%20World/nebuchadnezzars_image.htm)

- Daniel 2:1-6 gives an interesting narration of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. King Nebuchadnezzar probably knew full well what his dream meant and that he understood the interpretation of the dream.
- Daniel 2:29 gives us an insight to Nebuchadnezzar's pondering; more specifically, future events (possibly the longevity of his kingdom).
  - This verse implies God had revealed the mystery of the dream to Nebuchadnezzar.
- The phrase in 2:4, "Oh king, live forever," seems to indicate the wise men told the king his reign would always endure. This contradicts Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Speculation indicates Nebuchadnezzar knew the dream foretold destruction of his kingdom and the words of the wise men did not match up (2:8-9).
- Nebuchadnezzar tested the wise men to see if they could really tell the future. If not, then what good were they? The king might as well destroy them.<sup>41</sup>
  - Verse 11 indicates the wise men acknowledged their lack of ability to communicate to God.
- Daniel gave God complete credit for the interpretation of the dream (2:27-30).



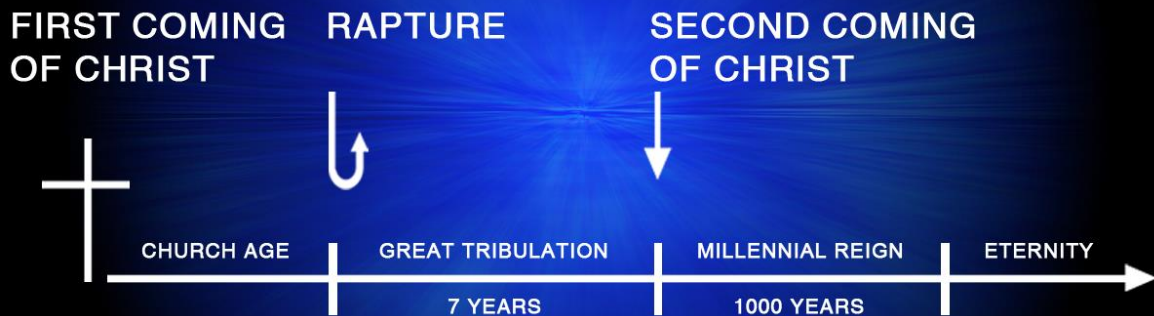
- Daniel interpreted the dream (2:31-45).
  - Nebuchadnezzar saw a great statue whose head was made of gold
  - The chest and arms were made of silver
  - The stomach and thighs were made of bronze
  - The legs were made of iron
  - The feet were made partly of iron and partly of clay
  - A great stone not made from hands struck and crushed the statue.
- The meaning is as follows:
  - The head of gold represented Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon.
  - The chest and arms of silver represented the Medo-Persian Empire.
  - The stomach and thighs of bronze represented the Greek Empire.
  - The legs of iron represented the Roman Empire.<sup>42</sup>
  - The feet of iron and clay indicated the non-cohesive and fractured empire of the future antichrist.
  - The carved stone represented Jesus, the Messiah, who will wipe away all kingdoms and establish an everlasting kingdom.

### Chapter 3-Nebuchadnezzar's Statue

- Note the continuity of chapter 3 with chapter 2.
- Daniel 3:1-6 presents an enormous gold statue King Nebuchadnezzar had erected. Anyone who did not worship the image would die.
- It makes one speculate whether this image had a comparable likeness to the image in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream. It is possible that Nebuchadnezzar tried to interfere with God's ultimate plan and thwart the downfall of his kingdom.
- King Nebuchadnezzar's fury toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego could possibly have resulted from their affirmation of Nebuchadnezzar's shortened lineage (3:19).
- Daniel 3:24-27 explains the miraculous deliverance of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Verse 25 indicates a fourth man walked among the three. This fourth man appears to have been Christ incarnate.
- Such a miraculous event should have encouraged all the Jews living in Babylon. God had spoken through Jeremiah and Ezekiel that He would deliver the Jews and make them a holy nation. The fulfillment of this event will take place during the end of the Gentile domination<sup>43</sup> (the end of the seven-year tribulation) and the beginning of the Millennium.



## BIBLICAL EVENTS TIMELINE



<http://mikesorcinelli.blogspot.com/2012/09/questions-for-back-to-future-week-two.html>

- Some may say that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego could represent the 144,000 Jewish believers who God will protect during the Tribulation Period.
- Notice the homage Nebuchadnezzar gave to God. We do not know whether Nebuchadnezzar became a believer. However, he had to admit God was the ultimate and sovereign Lord. A similar event will take place at Christ's second coming (Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:10-11).

### **Chapter 4-King Nebuchadnezzar's Transformation**

- Notice the excessive use of pronouns: I, me, my, etc. (4:4-9)
- Three important lessons come from this dream (4:17):
  - The Most High rules over the realm of mankind
  - God gives authority to those He wishes
  - God gives authority to the lowliest of men (Matthew 11:25)
- The tree represented King Nebuchadnezzar and all his glory.
- Daniel told the king that he would temporarily lose his kingdom for a period of seven years. Seven also parallels the duration of the Tribulation Period.

## Chapter 5-Belshazzar's Feast

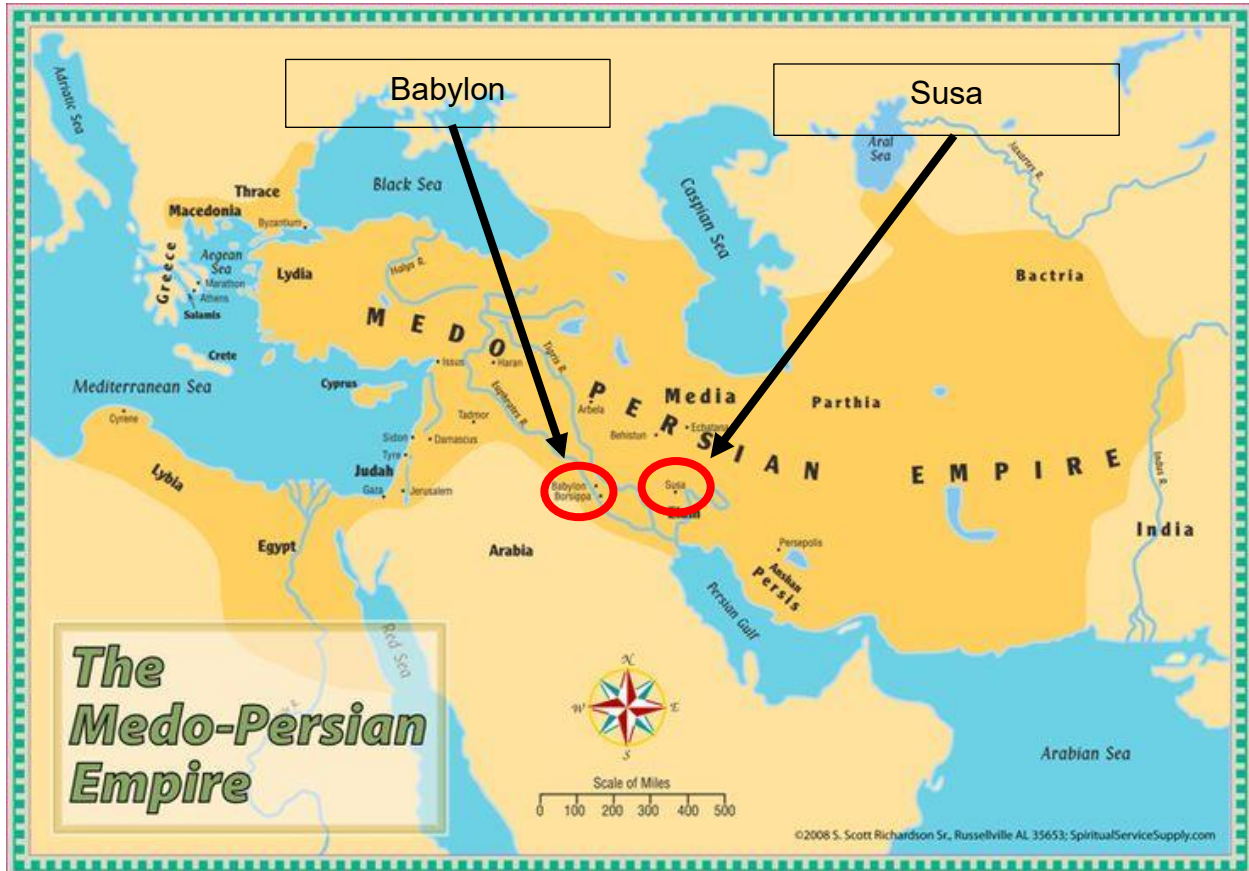
- Belshazzar was the grandson of King Nebuchadnezzar.<sup>44</sup>
- Jeremiah 27:6-7 states that Babylon would fall.
- Modern interpreters state that Babylon's walls were not more than 100 feet tall at the towers and the outer wall may have been 17 miles in circumference.<sup>45</sup>
- The Babylonians had stored 20 years of supplies within the city.<sup>46</sup>
- While this drunken party progressed, Gobryas and his Persian army came into the city.
- It appears that 23 years had passed since Daniel served in Nebuchadnezzar's court.
- Daniel 5:5-9 states the fingers from God appeared on the wall and terrified Belshazzar to the point that his knees began to shake. Chances are, Belshazzar knew immediately why the hand had appeared. Daniel states, "you knew all this..." (5:22).
- During the banquet, Gobryas marched his army into the inner city and to the palace.
- The Persian army had re-channeled the Euphrates River from running through Babylon. The soldiers marched into the inner city and took Babylon.<sup>47</sup>



<https://www.pinterest.ie/pin/466615211383701448/>

- The “head of gold” as seen in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was destroyed. Now the “silver” part of the statue would reign (the Medo-Persian Empire).

## Chapter 6-Daniel and the Lions' Den



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- Babylon came under Medo-Persian rule on October 11, 539 B.C.
- Daniel 6:1-2 states that Darius set up 120 princes and 3 presidents to rule what King Nebuchadnezzar had ruled by himself.
- Daniel had been set aside for many years and yet he remained faithful to God.
- Daniel 6:6-9 states that Darius could not revoke a law of the Medes and Persians and yet King Nebuchadnezzar could have revoked any law. We see the devaluing of metals in Nebuchadnezzar's statue.
- Daniel 6:10-11 states Daniel prayed facing Jerusalem three times a day (2 Chronicles 6:34-39).<sup>48</sup>
- Daniel 6:18-20
  - Did Darius have faith?
    - He spent the night fasting with no entertainment
    - Sleep fled from him

- Darius went in hast to the lions' den
- Darius cried out with a troubled voice
- Did Daniel have faith?
  - The great men of faith in Hebrews 11:33 include Daniel.
  - Daniel continued to pray in front of an open window
  - There is no mention of Daniel's defense before he was thrown into the lion's den.
  - Daniel probably slept well

## Summary

- Daniel never tried to make events happen.
- Daniel remained faithful to God even when demoted after King Nebuchadnezzar's reign.
- God led, elevated, and revealed Himself to Daniel at just the right time.
- Daniel remained faithful and let God work in his life.

# Discussion Questions

## Lesson Eight

1. Bible scholars feel Daniel's Babylonian captivity occurred in 605 B.C. This was Nebuchadnezzar's first set of attacks against Jerusalem.
  - A. Why do you think God chose Daniel to serve in Nebuchadnezzar's court?
  - B. How do you think Daniel felt about serving in the court of a heathen king?
  - C. How did Daniel handle his new situation?
2. Israel's captivity lasted 70 years.
  - A. Why did God punish Israel for 70 years in Babylon?
  - B. Was God just in punishing Israel?
  - C. Do you think Israel responded to God's punishment? (Make a good guess. We will find the answer to this later).
3. God changed the names of Daniel and his three friends to heathen names.
  - A. How did Daniel respond to this?
  - B. Should Daniel have rebelled against his heathen name?
  - C. Have you ever found yourself in a situation that violated your religious beliefs? How did you respond?
4. It is possible that Nebuchadnezzar knew what his dream meant.
  - A. How did Nebuchadnezzar respond to the dream?
  - B. What type of answer do you think Nebuchadnezzar hoped to hear from his counselors?
  - C. Why do confirming opinions seem to justify our wrongdoings?
5. It is possible that Belshazzar knew the meaning for the hand and the writing on the wall.
  - A. How did Belshazzar respond to this incident?
  - B. Was Belshazzar's response like Nebuchadnezzar's response? Explain.
  - C. Did Belshazzar show repentance or remorse for his actions? Explain.



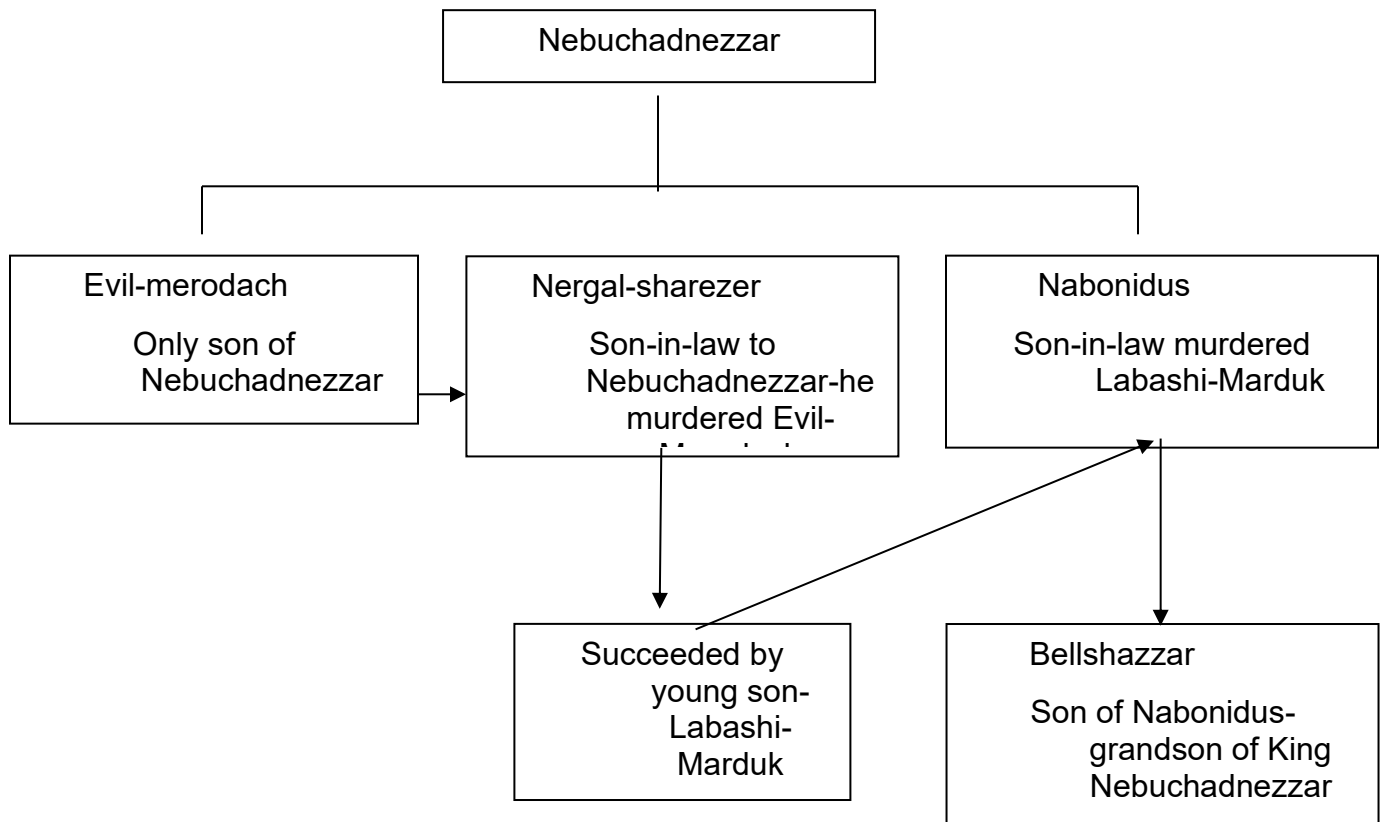
# Lesson 9

## The Book of Daniel (Chapters 7-12)

### Introduction

- Chapter 7:1 takes place during the first year of Belshazzar, probably 553 B.C., fourteen years before the fall of Babylon.<sup>49</sup>

### Nebuchadnezzar's Lineage



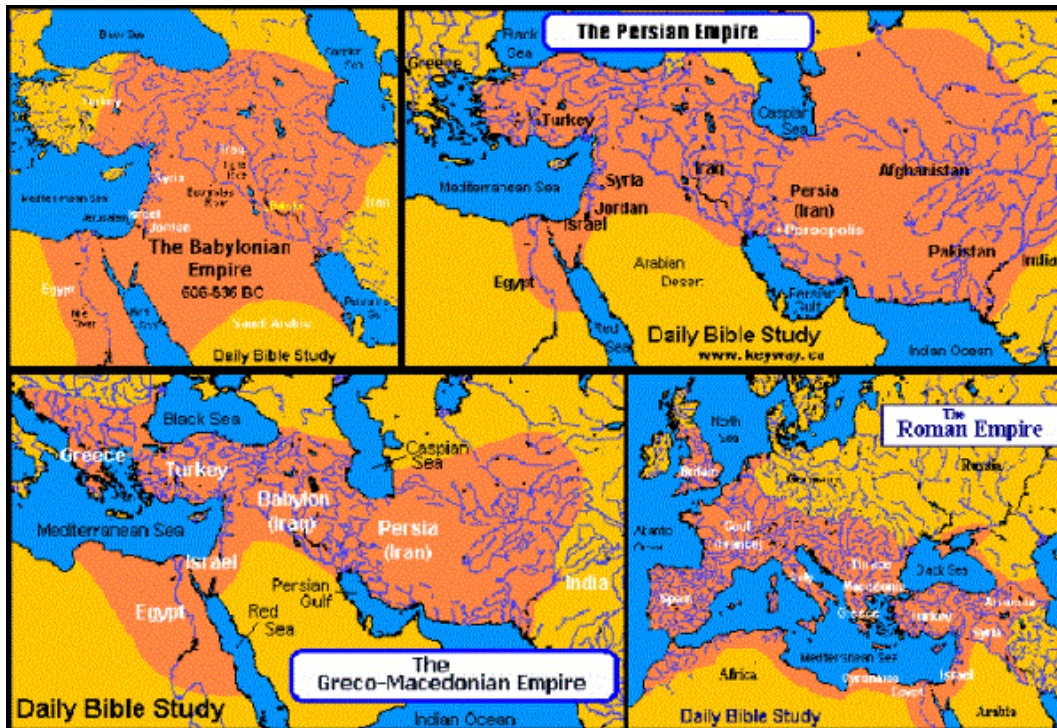
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- Daniel's vision takes place between Chapters 4 and 5.
- Daniel had these visions after King Nebuchadnezzar's reign and during his exile years from the King's palace.
- The "winds" in 1:2 speak of agitation, propaganda, public opinion, and disturbance while the "sea" suggests the masses, the mob, and the peoples of the Gentiles.<sup>51</sup>

- In other words, the conglomerate population of Gentiles.<sup>52</sup>

## Chapter 7-Daniel's Vision

Chapter 7:3-10 represents the four kingdoms in Daniel chapter 2 that was characterized by the great image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream statue.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/561331541030841672/>



## Verses 4-8



<http://lamadodeberea.blogspot.com/2012/05/daniel-7-las-visiones.html>

- The eagle's wings represented the speed of Babylon's army; and the plucked feathers represented Nebuchadnezzar's mental lapse and loss of identity. The fact that the beast stood upon its feet as a man represented Nebuchadnezzar's restoration.<sup>53</sup>
- The Bear "raising up on one side" most likely represented the dual reign of the Medes and the Persians with the Persians being the stronger of the two.<sup>54</sup>
- The Leopard's four wings represented the tremendous speed of Alexander's Empire. The four heads represented the division of Alexander's empire after his death.<sup>55</sup>
- More attention is given to the fourth beast than to all the other three (vs. 7-8).
  - This beast characterized the strength of the Roman Empire.<sup>56</sup>
  - The ten horns represented the future ten nation confederacy that would arise from the old Roman Empire. This will take place during the Great Tribulation period.<sup>57</sup>
  - The ten horns paralleled the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's statue.

- The little horn represented the antichrist that would arise from among the ten-nation confederacy.<sup>58</sup>

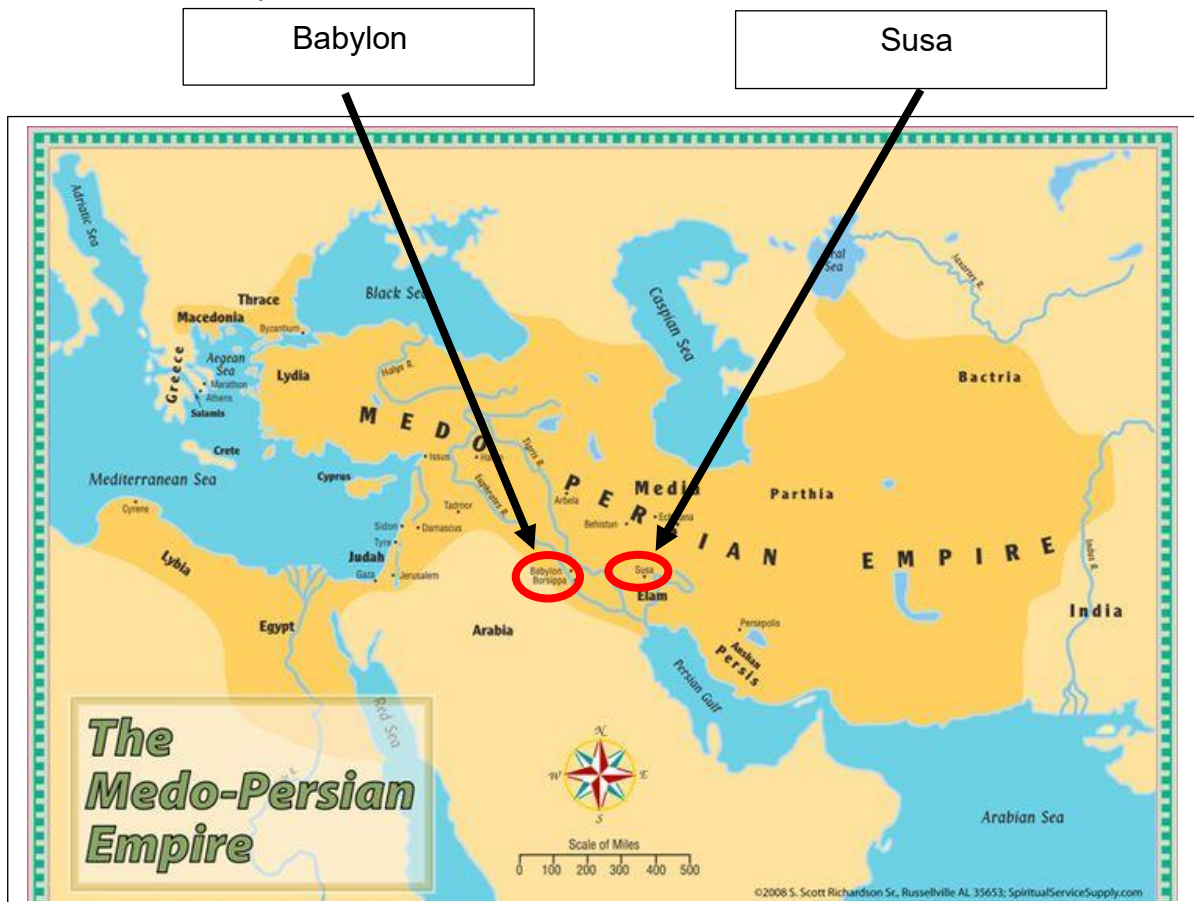
## Verses 9-28

- Verses 9-10 represent the preparations for the judgment of the Great Tribulation and Christ's second coming to the earth.<sup>59</sup>
- Verses 11-28 tell of another kingdom.
  - This kingdom will be Christ's kingdom during the Millennial Reign.
  - The "times of the Gentiles" began with Nebuchadnezzar and will end with Christ's return after the Great Tribulation.

## Chapter 8-The Goat and the Ram

### Verses 1-2

- This vision took place two years after Chapter 7 and before the fall of Babylon in 539 B.C.<sup>60</sup>
- Daniel's vision took him to Susa, which later became the capital of the Medo-Persian Empire.



- At the time of the vision, Susa was a little-known town yet destined to be the important capital of Persia, the home of Esther, and the city from which Nehemiah would come.
- Susa was where the Code of Hammurabi was found in 1901.
- The reason why Daniel found himself in Susa rather than Babylon was because this vision applied to the up-coming Medo-Persian Empire.
- Ancient Susa was about 150 miles north of the present head of the Persian Gulf near Iran.<sup>61</sup>

### **Verses 3-4**

- The ram signified Media-Persia. The first horn represented Median Empire while the second and larger horn represented the Persian Empire. Persia would become the greater of the two empires.<sup>62</sup>

### **Verses 5-7**

- The goat represented the Greek empire under Alexander the Great.
- Under Xerxes, Persia intended to move west toward Greece. However, the goat (Greece) swiftly attacked and destroyed Persia from the west.
- Xerxes moved his 300,000-man army with their families toward Greece.<sup>63</sup> This slow lumbering speed represented the bear in Chapter 7.
- Bible scholars feel Xerxes was the king to Queen Esther of the Bible.<sup>64</sup>

### **Verses 8-12**

- The phrase (vs. 8) "...as soon as he was mighty, the large horn was broken..." represented Alexander's sudden death.
- Alexander was seized by a fever after a night-long drinking binge. He died in Babylon in 323 B.C.<sup>65</sup>
- The four horns represented Alexander's divided empire.
  - Four of Alexander's generals took over the empire: Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus, and Ptolemy.<sup>66</sup>
- The little horn represented Antiochus Epiphanes, the eighth king in the Syrian dynasty. He reigned from 175-164 B.C.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/56506170297511644/>

- Epiphanies attacked and captured Jerusalem. His cruelty was unimaginable.
- Verse 10 indicates Antiochus challenged God and was allowed to capture Jerusalem and the temple.
  - This warfare included the spiritual realm of angels and demons. Some feats attributed to Antiochus are astounding; if true, demonic power was exhibited.<sup>67</sup>
- Antiochus defiled the temple and sacrificed swine and unclean animals.<sup>68</sup>

### **Verses 13-16**

- Verses 13-14 states Epiphanies would defile the temple for 2,300 evenings and mornings. This defilement lasted from about 171 B.C. to Dec. 25, 165 B.C.<sup>69</sup>
- Epiphanies died during a military campaign in Media.<sup>70</sup>
- The Jewish priest, Judas Maccabeus, the “hammer,” drove out the Syrian army and cleansed and rededicated the temple.
- The Feast of Lights celebrates this event. The Jews celebrate this feast today (Hanukkah).
- These events occurred during the intertestamental period between the Old and New Testaments.





<https://patch.com/new-jersey/chatham/happy-hanukkah-menorah-lighting-chatham-sunday>

### **Verses 17-27**

- Verse 19 states all these events pertained to end times and paralleled Daniel Chapter 2.

## **Chapter 9**

### **Verses 1-2**

- Babylon fell during the first year of Darius the Mede and Cyrus, king of Persia.



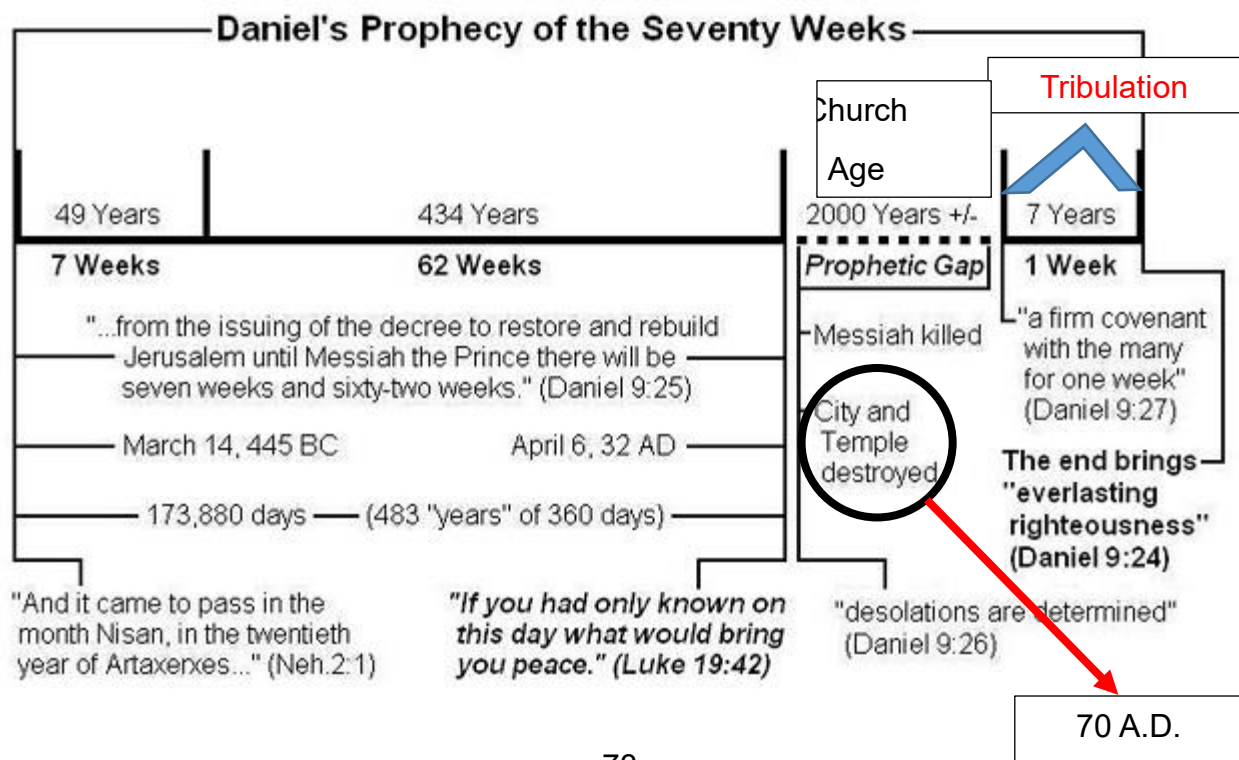
- Darius could have been a provincial governor or could have been Cyrus himself.
- Darius might have been a provincial governor or could have been Cyrus himself.
- Daniel studied Jeremiah's prophecy of the seventy-year captivity (Jeremiah 25: 11-12)

### Verses 3-19

- Daniel confessed Israel's sins and praised God for His faithfulness.

### Verses 20-27

- The angel Gabriel visited Daniel for the second time (Daniel 8:16).
- Daniel 9:24 gives a countdown from the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah, the Prince (Jesus), would come.
- The countdown included 70 weeks of years or 490 years.
- The decree to restore Jerusalem took place in the month of Nisan 445 B.C. (Nehemiah 2:1-8). This began the countdown for Daniel's 70 weeks.
- After 69 weeks, the Messiah would come.
- "Sir Robert Anderson in his book, *The Coming Prince*, has worked out the time schedule. After 69 weeks (173, 880 days) the Messiah would come. The command to rebuild Jerusalem by Artaxerxes took place Nisan 445 B.C. From this date to when Jesus entered Jerusalem (April 6 A.D. 32) calculates to 173,880 days which is the exact day Jesus entered Jerusalem openly declaring Himself as the Messiah.<sup>71</sup>





- A gap appears between the 69th year and the 70th year. Verse 26 includes this gap. We are now in this gap which is called the “age of grace” or the present Church Age.
- After 69 weeks, the Messiah would be cut off or crucified.
- Verse 26 states the people of the prince (the Romans) who is to come will destroy the city and sanctuary. The destruction occurred in 70 A.D. The Prince will come later (at the start of the Tribulation). The Antichrist will manifest himself as The Prince. This Prince is the “little horn” in Daniel 7 and the “beast” of Revelation 13.
- Daniel 9:27-The 70th week will take place after the Church is removed from the earth (the rapture).
- “...and he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week...” This covenant will be made by the Antichrist with Israel during the Great Tribulation.
- One week refers to a seven-year period. At the beginning of the seven years, the antichrist will make a peace covenant with Israel. However, in the middle of the seven years 3 ½ years, he will break this covenant and will defile the temple.
- Christ’s second coming will bring an end to the Antichrist and his rule.

## Chapters 10-12

- Chapters 10-12 bridge the gap between the Old and New Testaments. This period is often referred to as the “Period of Silence” since there are no recorded prophets.
- Even though there were no actual prophets during this “intertestamental” period, Chapters 10-12 explain the events that would occur.
- These prophecies so accurately describe the “intertestamental” period that many critics say the book of Daniel must have a later date. Evidence, however, proves otherwise.
- These chapters give a very detailed account of Alexander’s empire, his death, and the division of the empire.
- Chapter 11 gives astounding and accurate accounts of the strife that would occur between Syria and Egypt.
- Chapter 12 predicts the resurrection of Old Testament believers, the resurrection of the Tribulation martyrs, and the second coming of Christ.

## Summary

- Though many of Daniels visions would not take place during his lifetime, Daniel remained faithful to God.
- Daniel knew that obedience to God was more important than seeking the favor of man.

- God has given us amazing prophecies through the Old Testament prophets. Many of these prophecies have come to pass while others are future related.
- It is up to each person to study God's word and to patiently apply it their lives.
- Do no become discouraged when prayers are not answered immediately. Trust God's timing and trust His faithfulness.

# Discussion Questions

## Lesson Nine

1. God gave Daniel a vision of four beasts representing four empires.
  - A. Discuss the significance of the four beasts. What did they represent?
  - B. How do you think Daniel felt knowing he would die and not see these empires?
  - C. Have you ever had a plan that never came to pass? How did you feel? How did you react?
2. The fourth beast differed from the other three.
  - A. Discuss the unusual characteristics of this fourth beast.
  - B. Did the fourth beast represent yet another empire? Explain.
  - C. When did and will these empires take place?
3. Chapter 8 describes a goat and a ram.
  - A. What did each animal represent?
  - B. Which of the two animals became stronger?
  - C. What happened to the ram? What did the four horns represent?
4. God revealed amazing revelations in chapters 7 and 8.
  - A. Did these visions have any purpose to Israel?
  - B. Did God have a role in these visions? Explain.
  - C. Have you ever experienced a time when God seemed absent in a difficult situation? When the situation cleared, could you eventually see how God worked in your situation?
5. God gave Daniel an amazingly accurate prophecy in chapter 9.
  - A. What can this prophecy tell us about God's promises?
  - B. Is God faithful in all situations?
  - C. 1 Read Hebrews 13:5-6. Can we confidently stand upon this promise? Explain.

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## End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> <https://gospelchange.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Books-of-the-Bible-chart.jpg>.
- <sup>2</sup> Charles C Ryrie, *Dispensationalism* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2007), 62.
- <sup>3</sup> J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things to Come: A Study in Biblical Eschatology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1964), 179.
- <sup>4</sup> Reid A. Ashbaucher, *Dispensational Theology: A Textbook on Eschatology in the Twenty-First Century* (Toledo: Reid Ashbaucher Publications, 2019), 21.
- <sup>5</sup> Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1995), 1045-1046.
- <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, 1044.
- <sup>7</sup> MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, 934.
- <sup>8</sup> Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, 1059.
- <sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, 1080.
- <sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, 1113.
- <sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, 1114.
- <sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, 1148.
- <sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, 1148.
- <sup>14</sup> MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, 1037.
- <sup>15</sup> Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, 1148.
- <sup>16</sup> MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, 1037.
- <sup>17</sup> Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, 1168.
- <sup>18</sup> *Ibid*, 1249.
- <sup>19</sup> *Ibid*, 1249.
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid*, 1249.
- <sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, 1249.
- <sup>22</sup> *Ibid*, 1258.
- <sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, 1261.
- <sup>24</sup> *Ibid*, 1265.
- <sup>25</sup> *Ibid*, 1266.
- <sup>26</sup> *Ibid*, 1268.
- <sup>27</sup> *Ibid*, 1277.
- <sup>28</sup> *Ibid*, 1281.
- <sup>29</sup> *Ibid*, 1290.
- <sup>30</sup> *Ibid*, 1293.
- <sup>31</sup> *Ibid*, 1294.
- <sup>32</sup> MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, 1180.
- <sup>33</sup> Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, 1323.
- <sup>34</sup> MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, 1180.
- <sup>35</sup> *Ibid*, 1181.
- <sup>36</sup> Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, 1340.
- <sup>37</sup> *Ibid*, 1343.
- <sup>38</sup> *Ibid*, 1346.
- <sup>39</sup> *Ibid*, 726.
- <sup>40</sup> *Ibid*, 1346.
- <sup>41</sup> *Ibid*, 1348.
- <sup>42</sup> *Ibid*, 1350.
- <sup>43</sup> John F. Walvoord, *Daniel: The Key To Prophetic Revelation* (Chicago, Moody Press, 1971), 92.
- <sup>44</sup> J. Vernon McGee, *Through The Bible Commentary Series: The Prophets, Daniel* (Nashville, Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1991), 86.
- <sup>45</sup> Walvoord, *Daniel: The Key To Prophetic Revelation*, 119.

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- <sup>46</sup> Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, 1358.
- <sup>47</sup> *Ibid*, 1358.
- <sup>48</sup> Walvoord, *Daniel: The Key To Prophetic Revelation*, 138.
- <sup>49</sup> Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, 1360.
- <sup>50</sup> *Ibid*, 1356
- <sup>51</sup> McGee, *Through The Bible Commentary Series: The Prophets, Daniel*, 111.
- <sup>52</sup> J. Vernon McGee, *Thru The Bible with J. Vernon McGee: Proverbs through Malachi*, Vol. III (Nashville, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982), 568.
- <sup>53</sup> McGee, *Through The Bible Commentary Series: The Prophets, Daniel*, 113.
- <sup>54</sup> Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, 1361
- <sup>55</sup> McGee, *Through The Bible Commentary Series: The Prophets, Daniel*, 115.
- <sup>56</sup> *Ibid*, 116.
- <sup>57</sup> Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, 1362.
- <sup>58</sup> McGee, *Through The Bible Commentary Series: The Prophets, Daniel*, 117.
- <sup>59</sup> *Ibid* 119.
- <sup>60</sup> Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, 1363
- <sup>61</sup> Walvoord, *Daniel: The Key To Prophetic Revelation*, 180-181.
- <sup>62</sup> McGee, *Through The Bible Commentary Series: The Prophets, Daniel*, 133.
- <sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, 133-134.
- <sup>64</sup> Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, 763.
- <sup>65</sup> McGee, *Through The Bible Commentary Series: The Prophets, Daniel*, 135.
- <sup>66</sup> *Ibid*, 136.
- <sup>67</sup> *Ibid*, 136-137.
- <sup>68</sup> Walvoord, *Daniel: The Key To Prophetic Revelation*, 187.
- <sup>69</sup> Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, 1364.
- <sup>70</sup> Walvoord, *Daniel: The Key To Prophetic Revelation*, 190.
- <sup>71</sup> J. Vernon McGee, *Thru The Bible*, 588.

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Note: study notes located in the pages of the *Ryrie Study Bible* and the *MacArthur Study Bible* were used in this work.



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