

Handout 1: Daniel Lesson 1
SUMMARY OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Biblical Period	#8 THE EXILE							
Covenant	Sinai Covenant and Davidic Covenant							
Focus	Captivity and history in Babylon serving pagan rulers				Daniel's visions and God's plan for the time of the Gentile nations until the coming of the Messiah			Appendix
Scripture	1:1-----2:1-----5:1-----6:1-----7:1-----8:1-----9:1-----13:1-----14:42							
Division	Daniel's captivity and early years in exile	Vision of king #1 of Babylon	Vision of king # 2 of Babylon	Decree of Darius the Mede	Vision of the Four Beasts	Vision of the Ram and Goat	Vision of the 70 weeks/ prophecy of the Messiah	Story of Susanna's virtue & Story of Bel and the dragon
Topic	Daniel's early history	Daniel interprets visions and risks His life for his faith				The angels Gabriel and Michael interpret Daniel's visions		The boy Daniel defends a daughter of Israel & God defends Daniel
Language	Hebrew	Aramaic [the language of Assyria & Babylon]				Hebrew		Greek
Location	Babylon, the capital city of the Babylonian Empire					Babylon ruled by the Persian Empire		
Time	606/5 BC – 537/6 BC							

Daniel remained Yahweh's prophet in exile from the year of his captivity in 605 BC until the third year of King Cyrus II of Persia (as the Persians counted renal the years) in 536 BC. The events in the Book of Daniel are in three languages:

- Chapters 1:1-24a and 8-12 are in Hebrew.
- Chapters 2:4b-7:28 are in Aramaic.

- The Prayer of Azariah and the Hymn of the Three Young Men in 3:25-90 are in Greek.
- Chapters 8-12 are in Hebrew.
- Chapters 13:1-14:42 are in Greek.

The Book of Daniel begins in a third-person narrative in Chapters 1-6, then changes to a mostly first-person narrative, and back to a third-person narrative in the last two chapters. There are three major divisions in the book:

- I. Daniel's captivity and exile in Babylon in service to pagan rulers (1:1-6:29)
- II. Daniel's visions and God's plan for the time of the Gentile nations (7:1-12:13)
- III. Appendix (13:1-14:42)

The book also divides into Daniel's experiences during the reigns of several pagan kings: Chapters 1-4 are during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

Chapter 5 is during the reign of Belshazzar of Babylon.

Chapter 6 concerns Daniel's service to Darius the Mede.

Chapters 7-8 revert to the rule of Belshazzar. *

Chapter 9 returns to Darius the Mede.

Chapter 10 concerns the reign of Cyrus of Persia.

*The ancient Chester Beatty papyrus Codex 967 avoids the confusion between Chapters 5-8 by placing Chapters 7-8 before Chapters 5-6.

The theme of the Book of Daniel is God's supremacy over rulers of this world and how He protects and rewards those who are faithful to Him and obedient to their covenant relationship with Him despite their struggles and sufferings. However, the key to the Book of Daniel is the word of knowledge God gives Daniel to tell King Nebuchadnezzar in 2:45b, *The Great God has shown the king what is to take place*, referring to the future fulfillment of Daniel's visions in a historical context.

The last of the Davidic Kings (counting David as king #1):

#17: Josiah son of Amon (640-609 BC): Judah's last righteous king, killed at the Battle of Megiddo by Pharaoh Neco of Egypt.

#18: Jehoahaz son of Josiah (609 BC): Egyptian Pharaoh Neco deposed him and took him in chains to Egypt, replacing him with his brother Eliakim. Neco renamed Eliakim, Jehoiakim, establishing Judah's status as a vassal kingdom of Egypt.

#19: Jehoiakim son of Josiah (609-598 BC): Forced to become a vassal of the Babylonians after the defeat of the Egyptians and Assyrians at the Battle of Carchemish in 605 BC. When he rebelled against the Babylonians three years later, he suffered a punitive invasion, but when he rebelled a second time Nebuchadnezzar deposed him and his 18-year-old son and co-ruler (Jehoiachin), taking them and many other Judahites as prisoners to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar then made Jehoiakim's brother, Mattaniah (the third son of Josiah) King of Judah, renaming him Zedekiah.

#20: Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim (598 BC): Deposed by Nebuchadnezzar and spent the rest of his life as a prisoner in Babylon.

#21: Zedekiah son of Josiah (598-587 BC): The Southern Kingdom of Judah's last Davidic king; deposed by Nebuchadnezzar and died a captive in Babylon.

A COMPARISON OF THE REIGNS OF THE KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE DIVIDED MONARCHY	
THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH (Tribes of Judah and Benjamin) 930 – 587/6 BC 1 ruling family: the House of David	THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL (10 Northern Tribes) 930 – 722 BC 9 ruling families
Rehoboam 930 – 913	Jeroboam I 930 – 910
Abijam (Abijah) 913 – 911	Nadab 910 – 909
Asa 911 – 870	Baasha 909 – 884
	Elah 886 – 885
	Zimri 885
	Omri 885 – 874
Jehoshaphat 870 – 848	Ahab 874 – 853
	Ahaziah 853 – 852
Jehoram 848 – 841	Jehoram (Joram) 852 – 841
Ahaziah 841	Jehu 841 – 814
Queen Athaliah (daughter of Ahab of Israel) 841 – 835	
Jehoash 835 – 796	Jehoahaz 814 – 798
Amaziah 796-781	Jehoash 798 -783
Uzziah (Azariah) 781 – 740	Jeroboam II 783 – 743
	Zechariah 743
	Shallum 743
Jotham 750 – 736	Menahem 743 – 738
	Pekahiah 738 – 737
Ahaz 736 – 716	Pekah 737 – 732
Hezekiah 716 – 687	Hoshea 732 – 724
Manasseh 687 – 642	Assyrian conquest of the Northern Kingdom; 10 tribes taken into exile 722.
Amon 642 – 640	Assyrians move 5 foreign tribes from the east into the territory of the Northern Kingdom. They become the Samaritans.
Josiah 640 – 609	
Jehoahaz 609 (reigned 3 months)	
Jehoiakim 609 – 598 (1 st deportation of exiles to Babylon 605)	
Jehoiachin 598 – 597 (2 nd deportation of exiles to Babylon 597)	
Zedekiah 598 – 587/6 (3 rd deportation of exiles to Babylon 587/6)	
Babylonian conquest, destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple and exile for citizens of Judah, 587/6BC	

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Nebuchadnezzar became King of Babylon in August 605 BC; the same year Daniel and his friends became captives. Since the Babylonians (and the kings of Judah) did not count a partial year, but only full years of the reign of a king, 605 BC was Nebuchadnezzar's "accession year." The first year of his reign began after the Babylonian New Year in March 604 and lasted until 603 BC, and the second year was 603-02 BC; 603 BC was the year Daniel and his friends entered the king's service after three years of study as the ancients counted from 605 BC to 603 BC (counting without the concept of a zero place-value). The third year of King Jehoiachin's reign in Daniel 1:1, after his accession year in 609 was 606/605 BC, calculated according to the lunar civil calendar that began in the fall.

Daniel's Three Years of Instruction	Nebuchadnezzar's Reign
605 BC: the year the young Jews were captured and began their instruction.	605 BC: Nebuchadnezzar's accession year.
604 BC: the second year of instruction.	604 BC: year #1 of Nebuchadnezzar's reign.
603 BC. the third year of instruction.	603 BC: year #2 of Nebuchadnezzar's reign.

Solving apparent discrepancies in the Biblical record

The Assyrian annals put 12 years between King Ahab of Israel and King Jehu. However, the Biblical record records 14 years between the reigns of these two kings with two kings between them—Ahaziah who ruled for 2 years and Jehoram who ruled 12 years (1 Kings 22:51; 2 Kings 3:1). What at first glance appears to be a discrepancy is easily explained by historians. Ancient kingdoms had different ways of recording regnal years. The Assyrians and Babylonians credited the entire year when a king died to his reign, even if he died at the beginning of the year and his successor ruled 11 months of that year. That first year for the new king was designated his "ascension year" and the new king's "Year #1" did not begin until the first day of the following New Year celebration. Historians call this method the "accession year" system or the "post-dating" system. See the document "Dating the Reigns of the Kings of Judah and the Kings of Israel at: <https://www.agapebiblestudy.com/documents/Dating%20the%20Reigns%20of%20the%20Kings%20of%20Judah%20and%20Kings%20of%20Israel.htm>.

The dates assigned to events in antiquity are only approximate dates because the actual historical events cannot usually be precisely lined up with the historical material to provide an accurate date. Historians and archaeologists must always make compromises to provide a date since they are working with different calendars and calculating of the beginning of years at different seasons in the lunar (Babylonian and Israelite) or solar year adjusted to our sidereal solar calendar. Frequently, these limitations lead to dates that are either uncomfortably vague but roughly accurate or perhaps too precise and therefore misleading.

TIMELINE 930 BC – 3/2 BC

-930: When King Solomon dies, his son Rehoboam becomes King of Israel. Jeroboam of the tribe of Ephraim leads the ten northern tribes in a revolt against Rehoboam. The civil war results in the division of Israel into the Northern Kingdom of Israel, which will be ruled by nine different Israelite dynasties, and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, ruled by kings who are descendants of King David

-722: The Assyrians conquer the Northern Kingdom of Israel. The ten northern tribes are disbursed into the Gentile world. Five pagan tribes are brought in by the Assyrians to resettle the land of the Northern Kingdom. These people come to be known as the Samaritans.

-626-539: Rise of the Neo-Babylonian dynasty

-609: King Nabopolassar of Babylon repulses the army of Necho of Egypt, who was coming to the aid of Assyria, Babylon's enemy and Egypt's ally. The Egyptians kill Davidic King Josiah of Judah in his attempt to stop the Egyptian advance through his kingdom, at the battle of Megiddo.

-605: Nebuchadnezzar, the 29 year old son of King Nabopolassar of Babylon, defeats the Assyrians at the Battle of Carchemish, putting an end to the Assyrian Empire. Nabopolassar dies and Nebuchadnezzar becomes king of Babylon. The Babylonians take children from royal and noble families of the region's conquered nations as captives to Babylon. The prophet Daniel is one of those captive children.

-600: King Jehoiakim of Judah resists Babylonian domination.

-597: Nebuchadnezzar besieges Jerusalem and conquers the city, taking King Jehoiakim and his son Jehoiachin, captive. Nebuchadnezzar makes Zedekiah a vassal king of the Babylonians. It is the second deportation and the beginning of the exile of large numbers of the Judean population to Babylon. The priest-prophet Ezekiel is one of the deportees.

-589: King Zedekiah of Judah revolts against Babylonian rule, forming an alliance with Egypt.

-587/6: The Babylonian army of Nebuchadnezzar captures Jerusalem, burning the city and the Temple of Solomon on the 9th of Ab. Zedekiah, the last Davidic king, and thousands of Judahite citizens are sent as exiles to Babylon. It is the beginning of a seventy-year exile in the lands of Babylon for the covenant people.

-539: King Cyrus of Persia conquers Babylon.

-538: The Edict of Cyrus allows the return of the Jews from exile. However, they return as vassals of the Persian Empire.

-537: The returning exiles rebuild the altar of Yahweh on Mt. Moriah in Jerusalem, and reinstate the twice-daily worship service of the Tamid sacrifice. They lay foundations of the Second Temple.

-517/6: The exiles complete the rebuilding of the Second Temple in Jerusalem

-336: Alexander succeeds his father, Philip, as King of Macedonia. After conquering Greece, he begins the invasion of the Persian Empire the next year.

-332: The armies of Alexander the Great conquer the entire region of the Levant, including the nation of Judah.

-331: The Greeks defeat the Persian armies at the Battle of Arbela. It is the end of the Persian period and the beginning of the Hellenistic period.

-323: Alexander the Great dies in Babylon and his four most powerful generals divide his empire.

-323-200: The Ptolemaic Greeks of Egypt rule Judah as a vassal state.

-200-142: Greek Seleucids of Syria rule Judah.

-167-164: Known as the Great Persecution, the Greek Seleucid rulers of Syria attempt to force Hellenistic culture and the worship of the Greek gods upon the Judeans. The revolt against this oppression by the priest Mattathias and his sons is known as the Maccabean Revolt.

-141: The end of Seleucid occupation of Judah. Simon Maccabee forms an alliance with Rome. This is the beginning of the period of Judean independence known as the Hasmonean period. Hasmonean descendants of the Maccabees rule as high priests and kings of Judah.

-64: Roman general Pompey invades the region. He deposes Philip II, the last of the Seleucid kings, and makes Syria a Roman province.

-63: Rival Hasmonean princes appeal to Pompey to settle a dynastic succession dispute. Pompey settles the dispute by conquering Jerusalem, making Judah the Roman province of Judea, and naming Prince Hyrcanus as the High Priest.

-44: The assassination of Julius Caesar. Octavian (Julius Caesar's great-nephew), Marc Antony, and Cassius form a partnership to govern the Roman Empire.

-40: With Marc Antony's urging, the Roman Senate names Roman ally, Herod of Idumaea, the King of the Jews. The Jews of Judea protest. The rebels are crucified.

-37: Herod marries Mariamne I, the granddaughter of the last Hasmonean ruler, to give legitimacy to his rule.

-31: Octavian defeats Marc Antony and Cleopatra VII at the Battle of Actium.

-30: Suicide of Antony and Cleopatra. Egypt becomes a Roman province and Octavian becomes the leader of the Roman Empire.

-30: Herod swears loyalty to Octavian and executes the last claimants to the throne of Judah, Hyrcanus II and his son Aristobulus.

-29: The Roman Senate declares Octavian Imperator for life, ending the Roman Republic and beginning the period of the Roman Imperium.

-27: The Roman Senate names Octavian "Augustus" and he takes the title Augustus Caesar as the first Roman emperor.

3/2: The priest Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth give birth to a son they name John. The same year Mary of Nazareth gives birth to the Son of God in Bethlehem. This date is determined by the testimony in Luke 3:1, 23 that John the Baptist and Jesus began their ministries when they were thirty years old, in the fifteenth year of the reign of the Roman Emperor Tiberius. Tiberius succeeded Augustus on the nineteenth of August, 14 AD.

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