

# Reading the Book of Daniel

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## Capitalization

Section titles were capitalized according to the APA style given in <https://capitalizemytitle.com/>.

## Purpose

This study leads the reader through the text of the Book of Daniel from refusing Nebuchadnezzar's food to a promise of rest at the end of the days. Throughout the text, Daniel interprets dreams and visions of royalty. Daniel also has his own dreams and visions. This study does not include interpretations of these dreams and visions as many good and Godly persons have done so for several centuries. Instead, let's read from these amazing dreams and marvel at how God works in the lives for kings and captive slaves.

## Study Aids

Throughout this text are several study aids or "recaps" that point back to events found during the text. The reader may want to read these first and refer to them while reading the rest of the text from start to finish.

## Translations

Various English translation use various words. This study quotes from:

CSB: The Christian Standard Bible, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.

<https://csbible.com/>

NET: The New English Translation, Copyright © 1996 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C.,

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## The Beginning

### Chapter 1

This is the setting at the beginning of the book of Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon has conquered Judah and brought the prize possessions from the temple to Babylon.

In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon advanced against Jerusalem and laid it under siege. Now the Lord delivered King Jehoiakim of Judah into his power, along with some of the vessels of the temple of God. He brought them to the land of Babylonia to the temple of his god and put the vessels in the treasury of his god. — NET

## The Training Program

As was the custom of the time, in addition to prize possessions, the conquerors bring the best and brightest of the conquered to employ them as administrators. These captives are educated in the Babylonian language and law for three years.

Four of the captives of note are (native name : Babylonian name):

- Daniel: Belteshazzar
- Hananiah: Shadrach
- Mishael: Meshach
- Azariah: Abednego

Ashpenaz is the Babylonian responsible for the training, care, and feeding of the captives. Daniel and the others will not defile themselves by eating the Babylonian food that did not adhere to the Law of Moses. Daniel proposes a ten-day test where they eat only vegetables instead of the Babylonian food. Note how “God made the overseer of the court officials (Ashpenaz) sympathetic to Daniel.” (NET) Ashpenaz allows the test that Daniel and his three friends passed easily.

The four from Judah excel in everything. There are skilled in literature and wisdom. Daniel has special insight into visions and dreams.

At the end of the training years, King Nebuchadnezzar sees how the four men from Judah are so much better than everyone else in the training program.

In every matter of wisdom and insight the king asked them about, he found them to be ten times better than any of the magicians and astrologers that were in his entire empire. — NET

## The Impossible Request and Threat of Death

### Chapter 2

Troubling dreams plague Nebuchadnezzar. One famous dream comes in the second year of his reign. He summons the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and wise men to (1) tell him the

dream and (2) interpret what the dream means. Failure brings “you will be dismembered, and your homes reduced to rubble!” (NET)

This is impossible for the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and wise men. They truthfully tell Nebuchadnezzar

There is no man on earth who is able to disclose the king’s secret, for no king, regardless of his position and power, has ever requested such a thing from any magician, astrologer, or wise man. What the king is asking is too difficult, and no one exists who can disclose it to the king, except for the gods – but they don’t live among mortals! — NET

Nebuchadnezzar calls Arioch to execute the sentence on the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and wise men. Daniel convinces Arioch to pause. Daniel asks Nebuchadnezzar for time to interpret the dream. Nebuchadnezzar gives Daniel the time. Note, Nebuchadnezzar is not favorable when the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and wise men ask for more time. Again, God grants Daniel favor from the Babylonians.

Daniel and his three friends pray for mercy from God so that they will not be destroyed with the wise men of Babylon. In a night vision, the mystery of Nebuchadnezzar is revealed to Daniel.

Daniel praised God. His praises include,

O God of my fathers, I acknowledge and glorify you, for you have bestowed wisdom and power on me. — NET

Daniel again goes to Arioch the executioner. He tells Arioch to not destroy the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and wise men. Daniel did not have to do this. Daniel could have let those men die. Instead, he asks that their lives are spared.

Arioch believes that Daniel has the interpretation of the dream. He takes Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar. Note, if Daniel failed at this task, Arioch would have died as well. God gave Daniel the ability to exude confidence so that the Babylonians believe him in everything.

When talking to Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel first agrees with what the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and wise men have told Nebuchadnezzar. There is no man alive who can do what was asked. There was, however, a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.

## The Dream of the Great Statue

Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar his dream and what it means. The dream is about the future. Its first main character is a great statue. Its second main character is a stone that destroys the great statue.

Here are the parts of the great statue and their interpretations:

- Head of gold — Nebuchadnezzar, king of kings with sovereignty, power, strength, and honor
- Chest and arms of silver — a second kingdom

- Belly and thighs of bronze — a third kingdom
- Legs of iron — a fourth kingdom
- Feet of iron and clay — a divided kingdom

There is a stone cut from a mountain. The stone is not cut by human hands. That stone crushes the great statue and leaves only dust. That stone refers to,

In the days of those kings the God of heaven will raise up an everlasting kingdom that will not be destroyed and a kingdom that will not be left to another people. It will break in pieces and bring about the demise of all these kingdoms. But it will stand forever. — NET

Nebuchadnezzar is amazed at how Daniel knows the dream and its interpretation.

Nebuchadnezzar elevates Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to higher positions. Those higher positions, as the following text shows, are not always good to have.

## The Golden Statue

### Chapter 3

Perhaps inspired by the dream of the great statue, Nebuchadnezzar builds a golden statue that is ninety feet tall and ten feet wide at its base. The golden statue sits in the middle of a plain so that it was visible for miles. Nebuchadnezzar calls all the government administrators and officials to come to the dedication of this golden statue.

A herald proclaims,

When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, trigon, harp, pipes, and all kinds of music, you must bow down and pay homage to the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has erected. Whoever does not bow down and pay homage will immediately be thrown into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire! — NET

Bow or die in a furnace.

Some Chaldeans bring accusations against the Jews. These Jews do not bow to the golden statue. The Chaldeans mention Daniel's three friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego by name. Note, they do not mention Daniel who, no doubt, refuses to bow just as his three friends do. These Chaldeans know the favor that Daniel holds and are not foolish enough to press this case against Daniel.

## The Fiery Furnace

Nebuchadnezzar, "in a fit of rage," (NET) has the three brought to him. This is a test of power. Nebuchadnezzar claims to be more powerful than any and all gods. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow by saying,

We do not need to give you a reply concerning this. If our God whom we are serving exists, he is able to rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and he will rescue us, O king, from your power as well. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we don't

serve your gods, and we will not pay homage to the golden statue that you have erected. — NET

Nebuchadnezzar “was filled with rage.” (NET) While he had held the three in favor after Daniel interpreted the dream of the great status, his disposition toward them changed. Turn up the furnace seven times hotter than normal and throw them in.

Bound hand and foot, the three are carried to and thrown into the furnace. The furnace is so hot that the executioners die as they approach it.

Nebuchadnezzar stares into the furnace to see that the three are not dead. The first thing he mentions is seeing four people walking about in the fire. The fourth person in the furnace appears “like that of a god.” (NET) Nebuchadnezzar calls Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to come out of the furnace and they do. He calls them “servants of the most high God.” (NET)

Their accusers gather around as witnesses to the fact that the three are unharmed. Even the hair and clothing of the three is unaffected by the fire.

Nebuchadnezzar praises Jehovah the God of Israel. He also praises the faith and obedience of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego for refusing to bow to any god other than Jehovah.

Nebuchadnezzar completely changes his decrees with,

I hereby decree that any people, nation, or language group that blasphemes the god of Shadrach, Meshach, or Abednego will be dismembered, and his home reduced to rubble! — NET

He then promotes the three.

#### Chapter 4

Nebuchadnezzar continues his praise of Jehovah God of Israel by proclaiming it to all the peoples, nations, and languages that live in Babylon. Jehovah performed “signs and wonders” (NET) through Daniel’s interpretations of dreams and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being rescued from the fire of the furnace.

### The Dream of the Felled Tree

For the next portion of the book, Nebuchadnezzar himself is the writer or narrator. He is “living luxuriously in my palace” (NET) when he has another terrifying dream. This time, he tells the magicians, astrologers, wise men, and diviners the dream and asks for an interpretation. They are unable to interpret it.

Nebuchadnezzar asks Daniel to interpret the dream. Nebuchadnezzar describes Daniel with, “I know there to be a spirit of the holy gods and whom no mystery baffles.” (NET)

The purpose of this dream and its interpretation is,

“so that those who are alive may understand that the Most High has authority over human kingdoms” — NET

Nebuchadnezzar's dream is of a tall tree that is visible to all. The tree is bountiful and fruitful. All the wildlife gathers under it for shade and all the birds nest in it.

A "holy sentinel" comes from heaven to fell the tree and remove everything the tree possesses. The stump of the tree, however, remains with an iron band placed around the stump.

The tree is then described as a person, but the mind of the person changes to the mind of an animal.

Daniel is afraid to interpret the dream as it contains bad news for Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel asks Nebuchadnezzar to wait until the end of the interpretation before doing anything. The tree is Nebuchadnezzar with his magnificence. All will be taken from him, and he will become crazy to wander the fields like an animal for seven years. After those seven years, his mind and position will be restored.

This ordeal teaches Nebuchadnezzar "that the Most High (God) is ruler over human kingdoms and gives them to whomever he wishes." (NET) Daniel advises him to show mercy to the poor.

A year later, this all happens as in the dream. Nebuchadnezzar is driven from people to roam like an animal for seven years. He is insane from foolish pride.

When his insanity is over, Nebuchadnezzar praises God by proclaiming  
his (God's) authority is an everlasting authority, and his kingdom extends from one generation to the next. — NET

This is the last mention of Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel.

## Recap: Occasions When Nebuchadnezzar Praised Jehovah God

Quoting the chapter:verse

- 2:47
- 3:28
- 4:3
- 4:17
- 4:34
- 4:37

## The Writing on the Wall

### Chapter 5

The book now shifts to the time of King Belshazzar—the son of Nebuchadnezzar and the last of the kings of Babylon.

Belshazzar holds a long and opulent banquet. While in high spirits, Belshazzar brings in sacred items (gold and silver vessels) from God's Temple in Jerusalem. They are to use these sacred items to praise gods made of metal, wood, and stone.

A ghost-like hand appears and writes on a wall. When finished, the hand vanishes but the writing remains on the wall. They cannot read the mysterious writing on the wall.

Belshazzar summons the astrologers, wise men, and diviners of Babylon to come and interpret the writing on the wall. Despite promises of great wealth to whomever can read the writing, none can.

Belshazzar is terrified.

His mother appears, recalls Daniel, and the things Daniel did during the time of Nebuchadnezzar.

“Thus there was found in this man Daniel, whom the king renamed Belteshazzar, an extraordinary spirit, knowledge, and skill to interpret dreams, solve riddles, and decipher knotty problems. Now summon Daniel, and he will disclose the interpretation.” — NET

Daniel comes to Belshazzar. Daniel is known to have insight, discernment, and wisdom. Belshazzar states that Daniel is, “able to provide interpretations and to decipher knotty problems.” (NET)

Note: there is no mention of God at this point.

Daniel refuses any wealth or reward. Instead, he tells Belshazzar some history about his father Nebuchadnezzar and God. “...the most high God bestowed on your father Nebuchadnezzar a kingdom, greatness, honor, and majesty.” (NET) Nebuchadnezzar, however, became arrogant and proud, and God changed his mind to that of an animal “until he came to understand that the most high God rules over human kingdoms, and he appoints over them whomever he wishes.” (NET)

Belshazzar knew all this, but he is arrogant as well. He does not acknowledge God as Nebuchadnezzar had. Instead, Belshazzar uses sacred items from Jerusalem to praise gods made of metal, wood, and stone.

Daniel interprets the writing on the wall. With some editing, it reads,

“God has numbered your kingdom’s days and brought it to an end. You are weighed on the balances and found to be lacking. Your kingdom is divided and given over to the Medes and Persians.” (NET)

As promised, Daniel is rewarded. He is appointed to be the third highest person in the kingdom.

That night, Belshazzar is killed. It is not recorded that Belshazzar acknowledged God. Darius the Mede takes control of the kingdom at age sixty-two.

## Recap: Visions and Dreams Interpreted by Daniel

The great statue — Chapter 2

The tree that was felled — Chapter 4

The handwriting on the wall — Chapter 5

## The Lion's Den

### Chapter 6

Darius the Mede is the new ruler. Darius creates a new bureaucracy to administer the kingdom. There are 120 satraps in charge of the kingdom. Above these satraps are three supervisors. Daniel is one of these three.

Daniel distinguishes himself among the administrators. Darius was to appoint Daniel above everyone as God had given Daniel an “extraordinary spirit” (NET).

The other supervisors and the satraps want to oust Daniel. They try to find some pretext or lie against Daniel but could not. They rightly conclude, “We won’t find any pretext against this man Daniel unless it is in connection with the law of his God.” (NET)

Their solution is to outlaw Daniel’s good and righteous life. Daniel is guilty of righteousness. The supervisors and satraps convince Darius to issue an edict,

“For the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human other than you, O king, should be thrown into a den of lions.”—NET

Darius, like Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, has foolish human pride. He falls for the trick and issues the edict. Regardless, Daniel goes to his quarters, opens the windows for all to see, and,

“Three times daily he was kneeling and offering prayers and thanks to his God just as he had been accustomed to do previously.”—NET

The supervisors and satraps have succeeded in their plan.

“Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the edict that you issued. Three times daily he offers his prayer.”—NET

Darius wants to rescue Daniel from the consequences of his foolish edict. There is no legal way to do this. Darius orders that Daniel be put in the den of lions. Darius acknowledges Jehovah God,

“The king consoled Daniel by saying, ‘Your God whom you continually serve will rescue you!’”—NET

Daniel is sealed in the den of lions. Darius has a sleepless night.

At daybreak, Darius rushes to the den of lions and calls, “Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God whom you continually serve able to rescue you from the lions?” (NET) This is the second time Darius acknowledges Jehovah God.

Daniel is alive. He credits an angel sent by God with his safety. He justifies his safety with, “I was found to be innocent before him (God). Nor have I done any harm to you, O king.” (NET)

Darius has the accusers, their wives, and their children thrown into the lion’s den where the lions, “crushed all the bones.” (NET)

Darius issues an edict that,

“...throughout all the dominion of my kingdom people are to revere and fear the God of Daniel.



For he is the living God;  
 he endures forever.  
 His kingdom will not be destroyed;  
 his authority is forever.  
 He rescues and delivers  
 and performs signs and wonders  
 in the heavens and on the earth.  
 He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions!" —NET

This is the third time Darius acknowledges Jehovah God.

## Recap: Occasions When Daniel Finds Favor with Others

Ashpenaz the trainer — Chapter 1

Arioch the executioner — Chapter 2

Nebuchadnezzar — Chapter 2

Darius — Chapter 6

## Recap: Occasions When the Jews Challenged the Rules

Would not eat the food given them — Chapter 1

Would not bow to the golden statue — Chapter 3

Would not pray to Darius the Mede — Chapter 6

## Four Beasts from the Sea and the Eternal Kingdom

### Chapter 7

Daniel has a dream that he cannot interpret. This occurs during the first year of the reign of Darius. During the dream, Daniel turns to "one of those standing nearby" (NET) for an interpretation.

The dream shows the ultimate triumph of the Son of Man and the Most High. Nevertheless, the dream distresses Daniel, and he is alarmed.

Below are the characters and events in the dream and the interpretation from this "one standing nearby." (NET)

(1) A lion with the wings of an eagle comes from the sea. This represents one of four earthly kings.

(2) A bear with three ribs in its mouth between its teeth comes from the sea. This represents the second of four earthly kings.

(3) A leopard with four bird-like wings. This represents the third of four earthly kings.

(4) A fourth beast from the sea with two rows of iron teeth. It also has (a) ten horns and then an (b) eleventh horn that had eyes and a mouth that could speak. This represents the final of four earthly kings. The ten horns each represent an earthly king as does the eleventh horn.

(5) The Ancient of Days who sits on a throne in a throne room. This character wears white attire, and its head is like lamb's wool.

(6) The Son of Man.

(7) The Most High.

(8) The Holy Ones of the Most High.

Here are the actions in the dream and the interpretation of the actions.

The first three kings appear. They live at the same time, not one after the other.

The fourth kingdom appears.

The fourth kingdom devours all the earth.

Ten kings arise from the fourth kingdom.

The eleventh king of the fourth kingdom appears.

The eleventh king humiliates the first three kings (represented by the lion, bear, and leopard).

The first three earthly kings lose their power but continue to live for a while.

The Son of Man is escorted to the Ancient of Days.

The Son of Man receives "ruling authority, honor, and sovereignty." And "His authority is eternal and will not pass away. His kingdom will not be destroyed." (NET)

The eleventh king speaks words against the Most High.

The eleventh king wages war against the Holy Ones of the Most High.

The eleventh king is successful for three-and-a-half periods of time.

The Ancient of Days arrives and renders judgement in favor of the Holy Ones of the Most High.

The ruling authority of the eleventh king is removed. It is "destroyed and abolished forever!" (NET)

The "the kingdom, authority, and greatness of the kingdoms under all of heaven" (NET) are given to the Holy Ones of the Most High.

The kingdom of the Most High is "an eternal kingdom; all authorities will serve him and obey him." (NET)

## The Vision of the 2,300 Evenings and Mornings

### Chapter 8

Two years later, Daniel has another vision. Daniel is “in Susa the citadel, which is located in the province of Elam.” (NET) Daniel saw himself at the Ulai Canal.

Daniel first saw,

“a ram with two horns standing at the canal. Its two horns were both long, but one was longer than the other. The longer one was coming up after the shorter one. I saw that the ram was butting westward, northward, and southward. No animal was able to stand before it, and there was none who could deliver from its power. It did as it pleased and acted arrogantly.”—NET

Next, Daniel saw,

“a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of all the land without touching the ground. This goat had a conspicuous horn between its eyes.”—NET

The goat tramples the ram and breaks off its two horns. No one can help the ram.

Soon after its victory over the ram, the goat’s horn breaks off and spawns four horns which are not as powerful as the first horn.

Later comes one small horn to replace the four horns. The small horn becomes big. It reaches the army of heaven and tramples some of that army on the ground. This horn takes away the daily sacrifice from the Prince of the army of heaven and throws down the sanctuary of the army of heaven. This horn enjoys great success.

A holy one says that the period of time that the daily sacrifice is removed, the sanctuary thrown down, and the army of heaven trampled lasts 2,300 evenings and mornings. After that, things are put right.

Gabriel appears before Daniel and interprets the vision. This vision is about the “time of the end.” (NET)

The ram with two horns is the kings of Media and Persia.

The goat with the horn is the King of Greece. The King of Greece completely defeats the kings of Media and Persia.

After this first King of Greece come four kings. These four kings are not as powerful as the first one.

Later, another king comes in the line of these four. This king is powerful, but not by his own strength. This king is initially successful and brings great destruction. He destroys powerful people and for a while destroys the people of the holy ones.

This final king is arrogant. Through treachery and deceit, he succeeds over many who are unaware of his schemes.

This final king loses a conclusive battle with the Prince of princes. The victory is not by human agency.

Gabriel concludes with,

“The vision of the evenings and mornings that was told to you is correct. But you should seal up the vision, for it refers to a time many days from now.”—NET

Daniel awakes and is, “exhausted and sick for days.” (NET)

## Daniel Prays

### Chapter 9

In the middle of the visions of Daniel, we see Daniel praying. This prayer occurs during the reign of Darius, the ruler who foolishly sent Daniel to the den of lions.

According to the records of Jeremiah, the people are to be banished from Jerusalem for seventy years. That time is about to conclude.

Daniel praises God as “great and awesome.” (NET) Then there is confession of sin. The people have sinned, been wicked, and rebelled. The people are humiliated. That is a just punishment for their actions.

Yet, God is compassionate and forgiving.

At the end of the prayer, Daniel asks God to, “please turn your raging anger away from your city Jerusalem.” (NET) Daniel repeats this type of request several times. It is not a request for restoring the sinful people, but restoring the Sanctuary, the city, the place that bears the name of God.

Much of the coming visions of Daniel are about Jerusalem and the Sanctuary—not the people.

## Gabriel and the Vision of the Seventy Weeks

While Daniel is praying, another vision begins. The angel Gabriel appears to deliver a message and explain a vision. The vision concerns seventy weeks.

The summary of the seventy weeks is,

“Seventy weeks have been determined  
concerning your people and your holy city  
to put an end to rebellion  
to bring sin to completion  
to atone for iniquity  
to bring in perpetual righteousness  
to seal up the prophetic vision  
and to anoint a most holy place.” — NET

The first sixty-nine weeks comprise, “From the issuing of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until an anointed one, a prince arrives...” (NET) There are sixty-nine weeks until a prince or an anointed one arrives.

After the sixty-nine weeks, the anointed one is cut off. The holy city and the sanctuary are destroyed quickly as in a flash flood.

A new ruler arrives and makes a treaty that should last one week, i.e., the seventieth week. There shall be sacrifices and offerings in the sanctuary. The new ruler, however, breaks the treaty in the middle of the week. Now comes what many translations call the “abomination that causes desolation.” The New Living Translation uses the phrase, “a sacrilegious object that causes desolation.” This new ruler is destroyed as punishment for this desolation.

## The Vision of a Man Clothed in Linen with a Gold Belt

### Chapter 10

Now we are in the third year of King Cyrus of Persia.

A man with an amazing appearance comes to Daniel with a message. Daniel describes the man as,

“I looked up and saw a man clothed in linen; around his waist was a belt made of gold from Upaz. His body resembled yellow jasper, and his face had an appearance like lightning. His eyes were like blazing torches; his arms and feet had the gleam of polished bronze. His voice thundered forth like the sound of a large crowd.”—NET

There are others with Daniel, but they do not see this man. Those others are frightened and flee.

This man has a message that, “pertains to future days.” (NET) This helps Daniel “understand what will happen to your people in future days.” (NET)

Several things delay the man from delivering the message. First, Daniel’s, “strength was gone, he was breathless.” (NET) The man speaks to Daniel and strengthens him.

Second, the man was delayed in coming to Daniel. There are several beings mentioned that slowed the man’s journey. The “prince of the kingdom of Persia” (NET) opposed the man for twenty-one days. The man overcame this prince of Persia with the help of “Michael one of the leading princes.” (NET)

The man also mentions “the kings of Persia” (NET) as opposing him. The man says he is to return to battle with “the prince of Persia.” (NET) The man also mentions that a “prince of Greece” (NET) is coming.

## The King of the North and the King of the South

### Chapter 11

In the first year of Darius the Mede, the man gives this message to Daniel. There are kings of the north and kings of the south. Although there are several side characters, these kings are the main ones as they go back and forth in wars.

The message begins with three more kings of Persia. A fourth king of Persia comes along who is much richer than the others. This fourth king of Persia uses these riches to fight against the “kingdom of Greece.” A powerful king appears who does “as he pleases.” (NET) His kingdom is broken into four pieces. His descendants do not rule these four pieces.

Here is the first mention of a king of the south. This king of the south has a subordinate who will rise to power and be greater than the king of the south.

The king of the south and the king of the north form an alliance. The daughter of the king of the south is given to the king of the north. The alliance crumbles as the king of the south and his daughter lose influence.

A descendant of the daughter rises to power and becomes king of the south. This king of the south defeats the king of the north and takes treasures back to Egypt. The king of the north counterattacks but fails and returns home with nothing.

Sons of the king of the north raise a great army. They advance like the floodwaters of a river all the way to the fortress of the king of the south.

The king of the south defeats the king of the north. The king of the south becomes arrogant after his victory. The king of the south is, "responsible for the death of thousands and thousands of people." (NET) The king of the south does not prevail. The king of the north builds his largest army ever and advances southward.

Many oppose the king of the south. The people of the king of the south oppose him in vain. The king of the north captures a well-fortified city. The forces of the king of the south cannot stop those of the king of the north as the king of the north advances at will. The king of the north prevails "in the beautiful land." (NET) The annihilation of the beautiful land is within the power of the king of the north.

In an attempt to destroy the kingdom of the south, the king of the north gives his daughter in marriage to the king of the south. This plot fails. The king of the north captures many coastal cities. A commander finally stops the king of the north.

A successor to the king of the north sends "an extractor of tribute" to gather money and enhance the kingdom of the north. This extractor of tribute fails and is destroyed, but not in "anger or battle." (NET)

The place of the extractor of tribute is taken by "a despicable person." (NET) This despicable person is not a rightful heir to the kingdom of the north but takes that position via deceit. He defeats many armies and persons including "a covenant leader." (NET) The despicable person is treacherous and successful. He distributes "loot, spoils, and property." (NET) Via his treachery, the despicable person becomes the king of the north. He raises a large army against the king of the south.

The king of the south also raises a large army but loses the war with the king of the north. Supporters of the defeated king of the south attempt a coup but fail. The king of the north and king of the south trade lies with evil intentions. The king of the north returns home with much property. He sets his mind against "the holy covenant." (NET) The king of the north invades the south and is defeated.

Indignant, the king of the north turns against the holy covenant. The king of the north profanes the holy sanctuary, stops the daily sacrifice, and sets up “the abomination that causes desolation.” (NET)

There are people who are still loyal to God,

“These who are wise among the people will teach the masses. However, they will fall by the sword and by the flame, and they will be imprisoned and plundered for some time.”

— NET

The king of the north puts himself above all gods. A foreign deity helps the king of the north. The king of the north promotes those who recognize this foreign deity.

Once again, the king of the south attacks the king of the north. The king of the north, however, invades lands and pushes through them like the waters of an overflowing river. Somehow, Edom, Moab, and the Ammonite leadership escape the king of the north. The king of the north controls “hidden stores of gold and silver.” (NET) Eventually, the king of the north comes to his end. No one helps him as he falls alone.

## Recap: The Dreams and Visions of Daniel

Four Beasts from the Sea and the Eternal Kingdom — Chapter 7

2,300 Evenings and Mornings — Chapter 8

Seventy Weeks — Chapter 9

A Great War — Chapter 10

The King of the North and the King of the South — Chapter 11

Michael, the great prince — Chapter 12

## Michael, the Great Prince

Chapter 12

Finished with the saga of the kings of the north and south, the man describes Michael, the great prince. Michael watches over Daniel’s people through an unprecedented time of distress. Daniel’s people escape the time of distress.

The man’s describes the time of Michael as,

“At that time Michael, the great prince who watches over your people, will arise.

There will be a time of distress unlike any other from the nation’s beginning up to that time.

But at that time your own people, all those whose names are found written in the book, will escape.

Many of those who sleep in the dusty ground will awake – some to everlasting life, and others to shame and everlasting abhorrence.

But the wise will shine like the brightness of the heavenly expanse. And those bringing many to righteousness will be like the stars forever and ever.” —NET

The man tells Daniel to “seal the book until the end of time.” (NET)

Daniel sees two others with one on each side of the Tigris River. They ask the man who has been speaking to Daniel, “When will the end of these wondrous events occur?” (NET)

The man tells them that it will be three-and-a-half periods of time. After these three-and-a-half periods, “the one who shatters the holy people” (NET) is exhausted and that will be the end.

## You Will Rest

Daniel does not understand these things. He asks, “what will happen after all these things occur?”

The man answers, “Many will be purified, made clean, and refined, but the wicked will go on being wicked.” (NET)

The man tells Daniel that 1,290 days are to pass, “From the time that the daily sacrifice is removed and the abomination that causes desolation is set in place.” (NET) The man blesses those who live through the 1,335 days.

The book of Daniel ends with the promise

“You will rest and then at the end of the days you will arise to receive what you have been allotted.” — NET

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