

## IMMERSE: CHRONICLES

Week 7 - God Sovereignly Allowed....

August 11, 2024

Daniel means “God is my Judge.”

Daniel is the author of the book of Daniel (Dan. 8:15, 27; 9:2; 10:2, 7; 12:4-5). Daniel wrote in the autobiographical first person from Dan. 7:2 on.

Date of authorship: between 536 BC and 530 BC.

Daniel is written in Aramaic and in Hebrew. Aramaic portion: Daniel 2:4-Daniel 7:28.

Daniel lived in Jerusalem during the last days of the southern Kingdom of Judah before the Judeans were taken into exile by Babylon in 605 BC. Daniel is an historic figure. During the last days prior to Judah’s exile, Daniel’s life intersected a number of kings and prophets about which we read in Scripture. Therefore, we know that it was in 605 BC that Daniel and King Nebuchadnezzar met for the first time.

Daniel honored God throughout his life. The book of Daniel contains both powerful prophetic revelations as well as pertinent information regarding a life that pleases God...while living in a counterculture!!

As believers we should hold to a “two world view” which means living a life pleasing to God now because there is a clear focus on the world to come. II Pet. 3:10-11 - *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness.*

### The Purpose of the Book of Daniel:

- To encourage the nation of Israel. Through their captivity in Babylon, they very well might have wondered “is God finished with us?” Because of God’s promises to Israel and His faithfulness in delivering on those promises and through the prophecies in Daniel, they were told of an amazing future...they were told of restoration!
- It is through the nation of Israel that God will accomplish His purposes for the world. And the book of Daniel makes a major contribution to understanding the course of Israel’s history as it relates to Gentile nations.
  - The book of Daniel graphically lays out Gentile history which is known in Scripture as “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24) which continues on through to the end of the tribulation (Rev. 11:2) while Israel waits for God’s covenants to be fulfilled.

- The book of Daniel provides a prophetic framework that is crucial in understanding prophecies given before Daniel's time as well as prophecies given centuries later. (II Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-3; Isa. 44:21-28; Isa. 45:1-6; Jer. 25:11; Jer. 29:4-7, 10-14; Eze. Esp. 40-48; Hab. 1:5-11; Zephaniah chapters 1-3....) Daniel's 70 Week Prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27) has been labeled "The Backbone of Biblical Prophecy/of End Times Prophecy."

Prominent above every other theme in the book is God's sovereign control over the affairs of all rulers and all nations as He sets the stage for the arrival of the ultimate King - the true King, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords - JESUS! God's sure purposes will indeed come about (Isa. 14:24). God sovereignly allowed Gentiles to dominate Israel: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, (gap [Dan. 9:26-27]) Revived Roman Empire, antichrist's kingdom – all the way to the

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Second Coming of Jesus when He will rule the world in glory over all men (Daniel 2:35, 45; 7:13-14, 27).

No portion of the OT unlocks God's prophetic plan for Israel and the nations as much as the book of Daniel!!

Dan. 1:1-2 - In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand (Neb's hand), with some of the articles of the house of God, which he (Neb) carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his (Neb's) god; and he (Neb) brought the articles into the treasure house of his (Neb's) god.

Two superpowers were competing with each other for control of the Middle East: Egypt and Babylon. In 605 BC, the Babylonian army, under the leadership of Nebuchadnezzar attacked and defeated the Egyptian army on the upper Euphrates River. The Egyptians retreated to their homeland. This opened up the Kingdom of Judah to the control of the Babylonians.

Nebuchadnezzar took control of the city of Jerusalem along with some of the articles, the sacred vessels, within the Temple in Jerusalem. He carried the sacred vessels into the land of Shinar (another name for Babylon) into the house of his god which was the Temple of Marduk, the chief Babylonian god. It's thought that Nebuchadnezzar used the vessels from the Temple in Jerusalem as a thank offering to Marduk.

AND, Nebuchadnezzar wanted to exalt Marduk and humiliate Jehovah by asserting that Israel's God was subject to his god. The pagan way of thinking: no nation could conquer another unless its god was more powerful than the god of the other.

NOTE: Daniel 1:2 - it was the LORD God, Jehovah, the Most High God Who gave Jehoiakim, the King of Judah, and the sacred vessels from Almighty God's Temple into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. God sovereignly did this to present even a greater display of His

sovereignty! (Neb's salvation; Medo-Persian conquering Babylon which led to Israel's release after 70 years in exile [as specifically prophesied through the prophets]).

It is SO OF GOD that "Shinar" is mentioned in Daniel whose prophecies connect so intricately in the course of Israel's history as it relates to the Gentile nations!!

"Shinar"? "Shinar" means "country of two rivers" (Tigris and Euphrates). "Shinar" is the ancient name for the territory known as Babylon or Chaldea. WHY did God the Holy Spirit inspire Daniel to write "Shinar" – the ancient name?

Gen. 10 – lists the 70 nations that come from Noah's three sons...Ham, Shem, and Japheth. In Gen. 10:8-9 - from Ham's line we read about Nimrod. *Nimrod began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD.*

Nimrod's name means, "REBELLION", "let us rebel"!

Gen. 10:10 - *And the beginning of his kingdom (Nimrod's kingdom) was Babel...in the land of Shinar.* Nimrod ruled over Babel, which was the first organized rebellion of humans against God! The Tower of Babel is found in Gen. 11.

Babylon is mentioned from Genesis moving forward throughout the Prophets and into Revelation (Rev. 16:19; Rev. 17:5; Rev. 18:2) – rising from REBELLIOUS beginnings... Babylon is a literal city that has become a symbol of the entire anti-God system in the world. Babylon is the city where man first began to worship himself in organized rebellion against God in the land of Shinar at the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-11).

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The people, under Nimrod, said, *Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.*

*let us make a name for ourselves* – PRIDEFUL words.

*lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth...!???!* BUT what had God told Adam and Eve?

Gen. 1:28 - *Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth*

And God told Noah and his sons...

Gen. 9:1 - *Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.*

The people in Nimrod's kingdom, Babel, in the land of Shinar – opposed God!

"Babel," Nimrod's kingdom means "confusion"! We read of rebellion, opposition to God, and confusion.

We have a tale of two cities in Scripture: Babylon and Jerusalem.

We have a tale of two kingdoms!

The Bible mentions Babylon 280 times, second only to Jerusalem which is mentioned more than 800 times – 660 verses in the OT and 142 verses in the NT. AND – why do you think two cities are highlighted in the Bible?

We read of Jerusalem – of which God has said...

II Chron. 6:6 - *I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there,*

The Lord Who is Peace (Judges 6:24) YHWH Shalom/Jehovah Shalom tells us...*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem* (Psa. 122:6)

The city where God provides peace – HIS peace – in Hebrew: *Jireh-shalom* (peace is provided). *Jireh-shalom* – JERUSALEM.

Jer. 29:4-7 - *Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> Build houses...dwell in them; plant gardens...eat their fruit. <sup>6</sup> Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished. (God wasn't finished with them. God's intent was NOT to destroy the exiled Jews in Babylon) <sup>7</sup> And seek the peace of the city (Babylon) where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.* WHY???

God **caused** them to be in Babylon to be a blessing as God chose Israel to be an instrument of blessing to the world!

And...Babylon represents Satan's evil world system. II Cor. 4:4 – Satan is the god of this world. Eph. 2:2 – Satan is the prince of the power of the air – the invisible realm above the earth.

Eph. 6:12 – we wrestle against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Jesus told His disciples that Satan is the ruler of this world (John 12:31).

In the unfolding of God's plan of redemption – for the world – Scripture lays out for us the world system that is opposed to GOD – ruled by Satan.

In your study time, check out Isa. 14 which speaks of the Satanic power behind Babylon!

Ancient records indicate that Nimrod had a wife named Semiramis who was the founder and first high priestess of the Babylonian mystery religion. She gave birth to a son named Tammuz, whom she claimed was conceived miraculously. This son was considered savior of his people and in effect was the first false Messiah. The son was to have been killed by a wild beast, but

brought back to life. The religious system of Semiramis had many secret rites in the worship of its idols. These were called mysteries (secrets) into which new members had to be initiated. These rites which involved male and female prostitution were carried out in connection with its idolatrous worship (Rev. 17:2-5).

In the book of Daniel we read of the Persian Empire conquering Babylon. Much of the Babylonian culture, however...its pagan religions and its ideology were continued in the kingdoms which followed. Greece conquered Persia, and Rome conquered Greece...and Babylonian influence has been carried down through the centuries esp. in pagan religions.

There are OT prophecies about the literal city of Babylon that have not yet been fulfilled. It appears that the antichrist may very well rule the world from his headquarters at the literal rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates River in modern day Iraq (Rev. 17 & 18; Jer. 50:11-27; Jer. 51). Babylon as an influence for evil politically and religiously will not be terminated until Jesus returns in power and glory to reign (Rev. 17, 18). We read of a rebuilt Babylon in Jer. 51:59ff, Zech. 5:5-11. It will then sink, never to rise again (Jer. 51:64).

In the book of Zechariah, the Prophet speaks repeatedly of the Messiah's Second Coming. In his vision of the woman in the basket, (Zech. 5:5-11), the woman represents wickedness. The basket with the woman is lifted up and taken to SHINAR where a house will be built for the woman/wickedness in the land of SHINAR when it is ready. This is speaking of Babylon's final destruction at the Second Coming of the Messiah Jesus!

In Revelation 17 and Revelation 18 the final form of the literal city of Babylon – the rebuilt Babylon – representing the “world system” over which Satan rules we see the religious character of the world system...MYSTERY BABYLON...THE GREAT...the Mother of Harlots...all false religions in the world since Babel!!!

The battle has been raging since sin entered the world. In the unfolding of God's plan of redemption, God called Abram to move from Ur of the Chaldeas in BABYLON – to the land of Canaan – where God would make of him a GREAT new nation. AND who should appear in the land of Canaan while Abram first lived in Canaan? The king of Shinar – of Babylon! Of course he appeared!

Gen. 14:1 - *And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, that four Mesopotamian kings of the east* came against five subservient kings in the area south of the Dead Sea to the Jordan Valley to Moab to Mt. Seir. AND...in Gen. 14 – in Abram's day, we're told that Lot found himself caught in the middle of a power struggle between two opposing coalitions of kingdoms.

Canaan where God led Abram was on the highway between the Euphrates Valley and Egypt, the two principal centers of population in the ancient world. It's important for us to realize that we are reading about the geographic center and meeting place of Egyptian, Babylonian, Assyrian, Persian, Greek, and Roman cultures (moving through world history).

...and HERE, Israel was planted, to represent GOD among the nations – because God would use Abram and his descendants to bless the world...

...AND, the Messiah would come from Israel and bless all the families of the earth.

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Abram, with his 318 trained servants whom he armed, staged a surprise nighttime attack against the 5 kings of the east including the King of Shinar. Abram pursued them as far as Dan (the future far northern border of the land of promise) and to Hobah, 100 miles north of Dan.

And Abram recovered all that had been taken, including Lot.

Of course he did!

And, here in the first two verses of Daniel chapter 1, we see a young faithful Jewish boy carried off into exile – to the land of Shinar!