

Daniel



St. Rose Community Church EQUIP

# Historical Context

- Jerusalem is in ruins
- The temple of Solomon is torn down
- Judah is destroyed
- The sacred vessels are now in the hand of a heathen king
- God's people are now called "*not my people*"

# Redemptive Context

Out of the tragedy, unspeakable loss and sorrow of the conquest of Jerusalem, God began to reveal His great ultimate, consummating purposes that embrace the nations and people of the whole earth.

# Historical Context

- Daniel is the author and his name means “*God is my judge.*”
- Contemporary prophets are Ezekiel, Habakkuk, Jeremiah & Zephaniah.
- **Ezekiel 14** refers to Daniel as being “*righteous and wise*”.
- **Hebrews 11:32-33** refers to Daniel as one of, “*the prophets who through faith stopped the mouths of lions.*”

# Theme

## The Sovereignty and Power of God Over Heaven's Affairs

*“The Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he wills.”* Daniel 4:25

The God who directs the forces of history has not deserted His people. They must trust in Him, because his promises of preservation and ultimate restoration are as sure as the coming Messiah.

# Historical Context

- Book of Daniel spans the length of the entire Babylonian exile
- Daniel taken captive to Babylon in 605 BC
- Daniel lives through entire exile
- Babylonians later conquered by the Medes & Persians
- Chronology of the historical narrative: ch. 1-4, 7, 8, 5, 9, 6

# Historical Context

- Chapters 1-4, 7-8 occur during the reign of the Babylonians.
- Chapter 5 records the fall of the last Babylonian king & the takeover by the Medes.
- Chapters 9 & 6 record events that occurred during the reign of the new empire, called the Medo-Persian Empire.

# Redemptive-Historical Context

- The people of God captured by the Gentiles
- The people of God persecuted and afflicted by the Gentiles
- Who sovereignly rules the earth?



# Key Theme

The Most High, the God of Daniel, sovereignly rules and reigns supreme over all mankind. Therefore His people are brave in the face of persecution.

# Message

God is God over all peoples of the earth,  
not just the Jews.

A. Ch. 1 – Exile; People of God afflicted

B. Ch. 2 – Four empires brought low by God's king (type in history)

C. Ch. 3 – King sets himself up as god;  
People of God afflicted

D. Ch. 4 – Nebuchadnezzar brought low

D. Ch. 5 – Belshazzar brought low

C. Ch. 6 – King sets himself up as god;  
People of God afflicted

B. Ch. 7 – Four empires brought low by God's king (eschatological)

B. Ch. 8 – Four empires brought low

A. Ch. 9 – Return from Exile; Messiah afflicted

At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

Daniel 4:34-35

# Message

God has humbled even the great king  
Nebuchadnezzar, conqueror of Judah.

# Daniel 4 & 5

- 2 prideful kings who believe that they rule by their own might
1. Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Babylonians

# Daniel's Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules.

Daniel 4:24-26

While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you,

Daniel 4:31



“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.”

Daniel 4:37

# Daniel 4 & 5

- 2 prideful kings who believe that they rule by their own might
1. Nebuchadnezzar
  2. Belshazzar

## Daniel 4 & 5

5:26-28 “God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end...you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting...your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

5:23 The God in whose hands is your breath and whose are all your ways you have not honored.

# Daniel 4 & 5

The Most High Rules; All Others Are Humbled

God has humbled even the great king  
Nebuchadnezzar, conqueror of Judah.

# Daniel 3 & 6

“And who is the god who will deliver you  
out of my hands?”

Daniel 3:15

“O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Daniel 3:16

You shall have no other gods besides me.

You shall not make for yourselves a carved image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth, you shall not bow down to them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God.

Exodus 20:3-5

“O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. **But if not**, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Daniel 3:16



Who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?

Daniel 3:15

Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.”

Daniel 3:29

I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.

Daniel 6:26-27

Daniel 3 & 6

The Persecuted People of God Are Brave

# Daniel 2, 7 & 8

## The Kingdom of Christ

### - **2 Dreams**

1. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue crushed by a rock
2. Daniel's dream of four beasts and the Ancient of Days

## Daniel 2, 7 & 8

Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue crushed by a rock

“You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

Daniel 2:31-33

## Daniel 2, 7 & 8

Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue crushed by a rock

As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

Daniel 2:31-34

# Daniel 2, 7 & 8

Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue crushed by a rock

Each section of the statue represents four successive kingdoms

- Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom- the golden head
- Babylonians will be succeeded by 3 other kingdoms
- The last kingdom will be as strong as iron but fragile as clay because it will be divided

## Daniel 2, 7 & 8

Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue crushed by a rock

And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever.

Daniel 2:44



- The “silver chest and arms” - Babylonian Empire taken over by the Medo-Persian Empire in 539 BC
- The “legs of bronze” - Kingdom of Persia was conquered by Alexander the Great of Greece in around 332 BC
- The “feet of iron and clay” - The Roman Empire 2nd & 1st C. BC
- **The “rock cut out without hands” - The Kingdom of Heaven**

**2:35** Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. **But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**

**2:44** And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it **shall stand forever.**

## Daniel 7 & 8 - Daniel's Dream

“As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

Daniel 7:9-12

## Daniel 7 & 8 - Daniel's Dream

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:9-13-14

# Daniel 2, 7 & 8 - The Kingdom of Christ

“Again the high priest asked him,  
‘Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?’

And Jesus said, ‘I am, and you will see  
the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power,  
and coming with the clouds of heaven.’

Mark 14:61-62

# Daniel 2, 7 & 8 - The Kingdom of Christ

These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth.

But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.

Daniel 7:17-18

# Daniel 1 & 9 - Exile & Return

**Chapter 1** - God's people go into Exile

**Chapter 9** - God's people are ready to come out of Exile

## Daniel 1 & 9 - Exile & Return

In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived **in the books** the number of years that, **according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet**, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

Daniel 9 :2



## Daniel 1 & 9 - Exile & Return

Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks.

Daniel 9 :24-25

## Daniel 1 & 9 - Exile & Return

And after the sixty-two weeks, **an anointed one** shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of **the prince who is to come** shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.

Daniel 9:26

*Bearing shame and scoffing rude  
In my place condemned he stood  
Sealed my pardon with his blood  
Hallelujah, what a Savior!*

*Lifted up was He to die  
“It is finished” was his cry  
Then in heaven, exalted high,  
Hallelujah, what a Savior!*

*When he comes this glorious king  
All His ransomed home to bring  
Then anew, this song we'll sing  
Hallelujah, what a Savior!*

# Daniel 10-12

Predictive Prophecies about the  
**Future** of the People of God

# How does Daniel speak to our life as exiles in this world?

Chapters 4 & 5 - People who set themselves up against the Most High will be humbled, to their **everlasting** benefit or regret.

Chapters 3 & 6 - Remain steadfast as servants of a sovereign Lord even when you suffer **persecution** and opposition for your faith.

# How does Daniel speak to our life as exiles in this world?

Chapters 2, 7 & 8 - The earthly kingdoms/powers around us are passing away. Learn from Daniel's hope in God and thank God for the end of exile because of Christ.

Chapters 10-12 - Look to the eternal reward that is waiting for followers of the Most High when we arrive at our **final** home with God.

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!  
For he is our God, and we are  
the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of **his hand.**”

Psalm 95:6-7

For from Him and to Him be glory forever. Amen!

Romans 11:26



1. What are some of the images the world sets up and demands that we conform and bow down to?  
How do we keep the commandment “you shall have no other gods before me?”
2. In what ways are you acting in pride towards God? How could you humble yourself before him?
3. The physical exile of God’s people merely reflected an ongoing spiritual exile. Read 1 Peter 1:1. What does Peter mean by calling believers “*strangers in the world?*”  
What does it mean to live in the world as an exile—and yet still live in the world?

# To Do

Memorize 1 Chronicles 17:11

Watch the Bible Project Videos on Chronicles