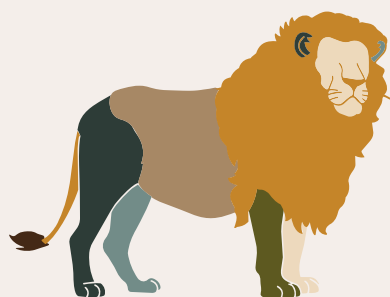


women's bible study

ELECT

Exiles

TRUSTING IN DANIEL'S GOD



EXILE: Introduction to Daniel

“Elect Exiles: Trusting in Daniel’s God”

various Scripture passages

Day 1 - Read Genesis 1:6 – 2:24

Ask the Lord to show you the usefulness of His Word in your life. Pray for the Spirit to teach you.

- 1) How would you describe the world in which the man and woman, created by God, lived?

- 2) How would you describe their relationship with God and each other?

- 3) What happens in Genesis 3:1 -6?

- 4) Read through Genesis 3: 8-21. How did the man and woman's world and relationships change?

- 5) According to Genesis 3:22-24, what is the outcome for Adam and Eve?

“Exile can be both a physical and/or spiritual reality. There are times when God’s people are physically in the land God has given them, but spiritually in exile because of their persistent rebellion against him. Conversely, even when God’s people are physically away from the place God has given them, they can be spiritually in a right relationship with him.”

“Throughout redemptive history, God works to restore His people from their exile into His glorious presence.”

(www.thegospelcoalition.org, *Exile*, an essay by Matthew Harmon)

- 6) What hope of restoration is given in Genesis 3:15?

Day 2 - Read Genesis 12:1-3

- 7) What did God call Abram to do?

What 3 things is Abram promised?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

For what reason is he blessed?

8) Read Galatians 3:29. What do we learn about those who put their faith in Jesus?

So, as believers, what is our promise?

How should that impact the way we live?

The Lord miraculously gives Abraham promised descendants, who later went down to Egypt, where they became enslaved and experienced a long period away from the land God had promised. It is during this exile that God's people grew and became a nation.

Through Moses, God delivered this nation, His people, from Egypt and brought them toward the promised land of Canaan. After settling in the promised land, God's people repeatedly turned away from Him through idolatry and disobedience. They did not heed the warnings from the prophets God sent. During this time, the kingdom divided, and Israel and Judah continued in rebellion, which eventually led to conquest and deportation. The northern kingdom, Israel, fell to Assyria, while Babylon conquered Judah.

The Babylonian exile became a defining moment in Israel's story. Jerusalem was destroyed, the temple was burned, and many of God's people were carried away from their homeland. This is where Daniel's story is inserted.

Exile represented more than physical displacement: it was spiritual - the consequence of covenant unfaithfulness. Yet amid the exile there was always hope that a covenant-keeping God would restore his people. Throughout Scripture, exile points to humanity's separation from God and to God's continuing promise to bring his people home.

(edited and adapted by Paula from a ChatGPT summary)

9) Read Leviticus 26:27-28. What does the Lord say He will do and why?

10) Read Hebrews 12:5-11. What do you learn about the Lord's discipline?

Day 3

11) Read 2 Kings 24:10-17 and list everything you observe about what happens to Judah.

If you were one of the young people taken from Jerusalem to Babylon, what might you have believed about God?

This is not the end of the story for God's people.

- 12) Jeremiah 29 is a letter from the heart of God through His prophet to the surviving exiles. Read the life-giving words in Jeremiah 29:4-14.

Who is speaking? What is significant about these references to who God is?

- 13) Summarize God's message in Jeremiah 29:5-9 about how the exiles should live.

14) In Jeremiah 29:10, what does the LORD say he will do for His people?

When will He do it?

15) How does the LORD expand on His promise in Jeremiah 29:11?

What do we learn about the heart of God for His people from this passage?

16) What does the LORD call His people to do in Jeremiah 29:12-13?

What does He promise in response? List the three "I will's."

I will _____

I will _____

I will _____

How are these promises comforting words to His people in exile?

Day 4

17) Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. What two identities does Peter put together to describe God's people?

Define these two words.

How does knowing this is your identity transform the way you think and live?

18) What four words or phrases are used to describe God's people in 1 Peter 2:9?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

What are God's people called to do in light of these truths?

19) What are God's people called to do in 1 Peter 2:11-12? Read these verses in several translations.

What might it look like to "keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable" or "live such good lives among the pagans?"

What two things can we expect to happen when our lives reflect the reality of our identity in Christ?

- 20) God sends the Serpent-crusher. He takes on the curses so that you and I can receive the blessings. His life, death, and resurrection bring redemption and restoration to His people. This was Daniel's hope, and this is our hope. How do the following verses remind us of what Jesus experienced so that we might be restored?

Scripture	What Jesus experienced for us
Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:37	
Jeremiah 25:15-16; Matthew 26:39	
Mark 15:34	
Galatians 3:13	
2 Corinthians 5:21	
Hebrews 13:11-12	

21) Read John 14:1-3. What does Jesus promise to those who follow Him?

Read Revelation 21:1-4 and 22:1-4. What will that home be like?

“Through a series of promises and covenants, God sends His Son to obey where His people failed and take upon Himself the curse of exile away from God’s presence and rise from the dead to restore His people from their sin-induced exile away from his presence. All who trust in Christ are spiritually restored from their exile away from god’s glory as they await their physical restoration through a resurrected body in a new heavens and new earth.”

(www.thegospelcoalition.org, *Exile*, an essay by Matthew Harmon)

Daniel - Lesson 1

"ELECT *Exiles*: Trusting in Daniel's God"

Daniel 1

Day 1 – Read Daniel 1

Pray: Ask God by His Spirit to teach you as you begin this study of Daniel. Thank Him for his Word.

Read Again: Daniel 1:1-4

- 1) Who is the king of Judah, and how long has he been reigning?

- 2) According to Daniel 1:1, who is the king of Babylon, and what does he do?

- 3) Reflect on the first four words of Daniel 1:2, "And the Lord gave."
Who is in charge?

What is your response to this?

What does this teach us about God?

- 4) What did Nebuchadnezzar take with him from the house of God, and where did he store them?

Why is this significant? What is being communicated?

- 5) What does the king command his chief eunuch to do?

List the qualifications of the people.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

- 6) Why would the king of Babylon want to take people from the royal family and nobility out of Judah and under his roof?

Day 2 – Read Daniel 1:5-9

7) According to Daniel 1:5, what two things did Nebuchadnezzar assign for the captured people of Israel?

8) How long would they be educated, and then what would happen?

9) Daniel and three other friends were listed in this deportation. Fill out the chart with their Hebrew and Babylonian names. Do a Google search to find the meaning of those names.

Hebrew Name	Meaning	Babylonian Name	Meaning

What is significant to note about the name change and meaning?

Application: In what ways do you feel the world is seeking to give you a new identity outside of Christ?

10) According to Daniel 1:8, what did Daniel do?

Write a definition of the following words:

Resolved –

Defile –

Why do you think Daniel did this?

11) What verb is used again in Daniel 1:9?

Write a definition for the following words:

Favor –

Compassion –

**Note again who gave.*

Day 3 – Read Daniel 1:8-17

12) What fear did the chief of the eunuchs have?

What was Daniel's response to that fear?

Why was the chief of the eunuchs willing to give it a try? (Daniel 1:9)

13) What happened at the end of the 10-day test?

14) What verb is repeated for the third time in Daniel 1:17, and who does it?

What was given?

What specifically was given to Daniel?

15) Consider the repetition of this word, “gave.” How is it a gospel word?

16) **Application:** How does the knowledge that the Lord gives, that His hand is behind all events for you personally and in the world, comfort you?

Application: How does this knowledge encourage you to be faithful to Him at any cost?

Day 4 – Read Daniel 1:18-21

17) What did King Nebuchadnezzar discover about these four youths when they were brought before Him?

18) How were Daniel and his friends faithful to God?

How was God faithful to them?

19) **Application:** The book of Daniel teaches us something about Christians and culture. Read John 17:3-19. What do you learn from Jesus' high priestly prayer?

Application: In what areas of your life are you struggling with what it looks like to live in your current culture?

Application: Has there been a time when your conscience urged you to follow a particularly difficult path? Explain.

Application: Daniel engaged but set limits. Prayerfully consider:

Where might you need to engage?

Where might you need to set limits?

20) According to Daniel 1:21, how long was Daniel there?

According to Jeremiah 29:10, how long was that? What does this mean for Daniel's own personal life in exile?

21) Read Isaiah 44:24-45:7.

What do you learn about Cyrus?

What do you learn about God?

Application: As you live in a community of elect exiles, how have you experienced these aspects of God's character?

Day 5 – Read Daniel 1

22) **Application:** What glimpses of God's presence and faithfulness in exile do you see in Daniel 1?

How have you experienced the Lord's nearness and faithfulness to you amid your hard seasons in exile?

23) Read Genesis 12:3. What is God's promise to Abraham?

What counsel was given to the exiles in Babylon in Jeremiah 29:7?

How do Daniel and his three friends embody a commitment to bless the nation of Babylon and partially fulfill God's promise to Abraham?

Application: How might you do that in the coming weeks?

24) **Application:** What stands out to you in Daniel 1 about living by faith in exile?

Daniel - Lesson 2

"ELECT *Exiles*: Trusting in Daniel's God"

Daniel 2

Day 1 – Read Daniel 2

Pray: All of God's Word is breathed out by Him. Thank Him that His Word brings us life.

Read Again: Daniel 2:1-14

1) What happened to Nebuchadnezzar in the second year of his reign? Note how it made him feel.

2) Whom does Nebuchadnezzar gather, and what does he request of them?

What is unique about this request?

Why might he make this particular ask?

- 3) What are the consequences of doing or not doing what Nebuchadnezzar requests?

Doing	Not Doing

- 4) Summarize the exchange of words in Daniel 2:7-9 between the king and the Chaldeans.

- 5) In Daniel 2:10-11, what is the response of the Chaldeans?

- 6) How does King Nebuchadnezzar respond?

What does he command?

Who was to carry out this command?

Day 2 – Read Daniel 2:1-18

- 7) **Application:** What dreams, thoughts, worries, and questions trouble you at night?

Where are you turning when your spirit is troubled?

- 8) What does Daniel do in Daniel 2:14-15?

- 9) What two words are used to describe the manner in which he acted? Write them below and define them.

1. _____ -

2. _____ -

10) After learning from Arioch the matter at hand, what does Daniel do?

11) Then what does he immediately do in Daniel 2:17-18?

12) In the flow of events in this passage, why are Daniel's actions so bold and faith-filled?

Day 3 – Read Daniel 2:17-30

13) In Daniel 2:19, what does God do?

What is Daniel's immediate response?

- 14) Read Daniel's blessing recorded in Daniel 2:20-23.
What is declared about God in Daniel 2:20-22?

According to Daniel 2:23, what specifically did He do for Daniel?

Application: How would you summarize the truths that are revealed about God in these four verses?

- 15) Before Daniel makes known to Nebuchadnezzar the dream and its interpretation, what does he intentionally do?

- 16) Read Proverbs 2:6. Who is the source of all wisdom and understanding?

What other insights do we gain from the following verses:

1 Kings 4:29 –

Proverbs 16:16 –

Matthew 7:24 –

James 1:5 –

1 Corinthians 1:22-24, 30 –

Colossians 2:2-3 -

- 17) **Application:** In crises and even mundane struggles, where do you find yourself turning most frequently for wisdom and understanding?

What are the roadblocks we put up that prevent us from turning to **the source** of wisdom and understanding?

Day 4 – Read Daniel 2:20-45

- 18) Daniel's responses to answered prayer and God's provision are recorded in 2:20-23 and 27-30. What do these responses reveal about Daniel's heart?

Application: How does this challenge you or reveal your own posture toward God?

- 19) How is the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream described in Daniel 2:31?

20) Fill out the chart below with the details of the dream.

Body Part:	Material:

What happens in the dream according to Daniel 2:34-35?

21) What do we learn about God from Daniel's words recorded in Daniel 2:37-38?

What verb is used once again in both of these verses?

22) Who and what does the head of gold represent?

What do the other body parts of the image in the dream represent?

23) Who/what is the stone representing?

What do we learn from the following verses concerning this stone?

Isaiah 28:16 –

Matthew 21:42-44; Luke 20:17-19 –

Mark 1:14-15 –

1 Peter 2:4-9 –

Revelation 11:15 –

Day 5 – Read Daniel 2:46-49

24) How does King Nebuchadnezzar, the most powerful king at the time, respond to the interpretation of his dream?

To whom does he pay homage?

What does he acknowledge about Daniel's God?

**Note this is an acknowledgement but not yet worship.*

25) What four things does Nebuchadnezzar do for Daniel?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

26) What request does Daniel make?

Where does Daniel stay?

Why is this significant?

27) How would an Israelite in exile in Babylon be encouraged by this story?

28) What does faith during exile look like in Daniel 2?

Application: How might this encourage you as an elect exile?

- 29) **Application:** Colossians 1:13 reads, “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.” This Kingdom is enduring, eternal, and unshakeable. As an elect exile, how are you encouraged by this truth?

“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.” Hebrews 12:28

Daniel - Lesson 3

"ELECT *Exiles*: Trusting in Daniel's God"

Daniel 3

Day 1 – Read Daniel 3

Pray: God's Word is active and living. Ask the Lord to use it to transform you through the work of the Spirit.

Read Again: Daniel 3:1-7

- 1) After Nebuchadnezzar's acknowledgement in Daniel 2:47 about Daniel's God, what does he build in Daniel 3:1?

Note what it is made of. Considering Daniel 2, why is this significant?

How is this image different than the one he saw in his dream?

What does all of this communicate about Nebuchadnezzar's view of himself and his kingdom?

- 2) What were the dimensions of this idol?

Dimensions	Cubits	Feet
Height		
Breadth		

- 3) Whom does Nebuchadnezzar gather? The list is recorded twice in Daniel 3:3-4.

Who would have been included in this group? Refer to Daniel 2:49.

- 4) What command was given to the gathering of these people?

According to Daniel 3:6, what was the cost of disobedience?

- 5) Notice the two words repeated in Daniel 3:1,3, &5 describing what Nebuchadnezzar did. Write them below.

What does that mean?

Day 2 – Read Daniel 3:1-15

- 6) Most Bible scholars believe the plain of Dura mentioned in Daniel 3:1 is the same plain mentioned in Genesis 11:2. Read Genesis 11:1-4. What was being built and for what purpose?

What:

Purpose:

- 7) What does our story in Daniel and this account in Genesis teach us about the tendency of man's heart? Read also Romans 1:18-23.

Application: Are there ways you identify with King Nebuchadnezzar or the people in Genesis?

- 8) **Application:** What images or idols are you feeling encouraged or pressured to worship? Consider the following categories:

Idols in Our Culture	Idols of Your Own Hearts	Idols of Your Own Image (making our name great, etc.)

Application: What are some costs you must weigh or risks you must take to worship God rather than these false gods?

*Spend some time in prayer and meditation. Is it worth it?

- 9) According to Daniel 3:7, who obeyed the king's command?

According to Daniel 3:12, who did not and why?

According to Daniel 3:8, how was the king made aware of the disobedience of some?

10) Define maliciously.

11) What was Nebuchadnezzar's response to this accusation?

What two questions does he ask in Daniel 3:14-15?

1.

2.

What does this second question insinuate about Nebuchadnezzar's heart?

Day 3 – Read Daniel 3:16-27

12) What proclamation do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego make about their God recorded in Daniel 3:16-18?

What is sure for them and what is uncertain?

Sure

Uncertain



13) What essentially are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego saying in Daniel 3:18?

Application: How does this strike, convict, challenge, and/or amaze you?

14) How does Nebuchadnezzar respond in Daniel 3:19-23?

15) What happened to the men who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace, and why?

What does this reveal about Nebuchadnezzar's power?

16) What does Nebuchadnezzar see that astonishes him?

How is the 4th man described?

Who is this 4th man?

17) In Daniel 3:27, what does it say those who gathered around the furnace saw?

What three specific things are mentioned?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Application: What do we learn from this about God's relationship and care for His people?

Day 4 – Read Daniel 3:24-30

18) Read Isaiah 43:1-7. What does God promise?

How do we see these promises kept in our Daniel passage?

What hope do we have?

19) Read 1 Peter 1:3-9. What else do we learn about the purpose of and the hope we have in these “fiery trials” in which we find ourselves?

20) What 3 things did Nebuchadnezzar do in response to all that he had witnessed?

1.

2.

3.

Day 5 – Daniel 3

21) These three men held God as their reference point and His Word as their authority. They knew His glory was their purpose and clung to the promise of His presence. This is key when we consider our relationship to governing political authorities. What do we learn from the following passages?

1 Peter 2:13-17 –

Acts 5:29 –

Application: How do we submit and respect while also having loyalty to God?

Application: How do we as Christians stand out?

22) Perhaps the biggest issue in this passage is worship. Write below the first commandment from Exodus 20:3.

What does Jesus say in Matthew 22:37?

Application: This is a big deal, and we often overlook or downplay the real worship of our hearts. Where have you broken the first commandment and need to come to God in repentance? Ask Him to help you.

23) When Nebuchadnezzar blessed God in Daniel 3:28, what does he say God did?

What 3 things does he say Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Application: How have you been encouraged as you consider what it looks like living by faith as an elect exile?

Daniel - Lesson 4

"ELECT *Exiles*: Trusting in Daniel's God"

Daniel 4

Day 1 – Read Daniel 4

Pray: Thank God for His Word. Ask the Spirit to teach you as you study the book of Daniel. Pray for transformation, not just information.

Read Again: Daniel 4:1-9

The literary shape of this passage will help us organize our thoughts around the long narrative. The introduction is a conclusion. The narrative is sandwiched between the testimony of Nebuchadnezzar's praise to God.

Opening testimony: proclamation, first person (1-3)

Report of content of dream, first person (4-18)

Report of interpretation of dream (19-27)

Report of fulfillment of dream (28-33)

Closing testimony: restoration, first person (34-37)

1) What do the first three verses of Daniel 4 reveal about what Nebuchadnezzar is going to learn in this story?

2) To whom is Nebuchadnezzar proclaiming in Daniel 4:1-3?

What exclamation does he give, recorded in Daniel 4:1?

Define peace.

¹ Dale Ralph Davis, *The Message of Daniel* (Intervarsity Press Academic, 2013), 51.

3) What happens to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:4-5? Note the change in his feelings/emotions.

4) Who does Nebuchadnezzar bring before him, and what does he ask them to do?

How does his request differ from the request he made in Daniel 2?

5) Who is the last one who comes before King Nebuchadnezzar?

What specifically does Nebuchadnezzar say about his name?

For what reason does he say Daniel can interpret his dream? (This is in Daniel 4:9 and repeated in 4:18)

Why are these comments about Daniel significant?

Day 2 – Read Daniel 4:10 - 19

- 6) Summarize Nebuchadnezzar's dream by answering the following questions:

According to Daniel 4:10, what does he see?

Describe it.

Read Genesis 11:4. What similar phrase do you see in Daniel 4:11?

According to Daniel 4:13, what does he see next?

What is proclaimed in the dream, recorded in Daniel 4:15-16?

7) Why leave the stump and its roots?

8) List the 5 “Lets” listed in Daniel 4:15-16.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

9) What purpose of the dream is given in Daniel 4:17?

**Note this will be repeated in Daniel 4:25 and 4:32.*

Why would it be so important for a king to understand this?

Application: Why is it important for you and me to grasp this as well?

10) What was Daniel's response to the dream?

Day 3 – Daniel 4:19 - 27

11) According to Daniel, who is the tree and where does the decree to chop it down come from?

12) Summarize Daniel's interpretation in Daniel 4:24-27.

13) What hope is offered to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:26-27?

14) Consider Daniel's response and words to his unbelieving king and friend. How does he show:

Love for the king?

Truth (honesty)?

Grace?

Glory (God's purpose in all this)?

Application: What can we learn about our own witness to unbelievers God has placed in our lives?

Day 4 – Read Daniel 4:28-37

15) What was King Nebuchadnezzar thinking, recorded in Daniel 4:29-30?

What does he hear and when?

What is the message?

According to Daniel 4:33, how quickly did this come to pass?

How is Nebuchadnezzar's appearance described in Daniel 4:33?

Whose words were more powerful and accurate, the king's or heaven's?

- 16) In Daniel 4:29, note the lapse of time between the interpretation of the dream and Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation?

What does this teach about God's ways with us? Consider the following verses:

Romans 2:4 – 8

2 Peter 3:9 -

Where do you see a need for repentance in your own life? Where are you currently seeing or have you seen in the past the Lord's patience with you in your own sin?

17) According to Nebuchadnezzar's personal testimony in Daniel 4:34, what 4 things happened at the end of the days?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Application: What do you think it means to lift your eyes to heaven?

18) What does Nebuchadnezzar proclaim about God?

19) Read 1 Peter 5:6. How is this truth reflected in Daniel 4:36?

20) What is particularly amazing about why Nebuchadnezzar says he praises, extols, and honors the King of heaven?

Application: “for all His works are right and His ways are just.” How do we see this in the cross?

Day 5 – Read Daniel 4

21) **Application:** Read Philippians 2:5-11. How is King Jesus different from King Nebuchadnezzar?

22) **Application:** Read James 4:6. What is the clear message about our pride?

What does God give and to whom?

23) What else do you learn about pride from the following verses?

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 –

Psalms 10:4 –

Psalms 75:4 –

Proverbs 16:5 & 18 –

Proverbs 18:10-12 –

Isaiah 2:11 –

Jeremiah 9:23-24 –

Romans 12:3 –

Galatians 6:3 –

1 John 2:16 –

Application: Where do you see pride in your own heart? (It can be subtle.)

Application: Where are you exalting yourself to the place of God?

Humble yourself, seek the Lord's forgiveness, and repent. He gives more grace!

24) **Application:** How might this story have been an encouragement to those who were exiled in Babylon?

How are you encouraged as you consider living as an exile?

Daniel - Lesson 5

“ELECT *Exiles*: Trusting in Daniel's God” Daniel 5

Day 1 – Read Daniel 5

Pray: All of God's Word is breathed out by Him. Thank Him that His Word brings us life.

Read Again: Daniel 5:1-6

- 1) Who is the reigning king recorded at the beginning of Daniel 5?

- 2) What is happening at the beginning of this narrative?

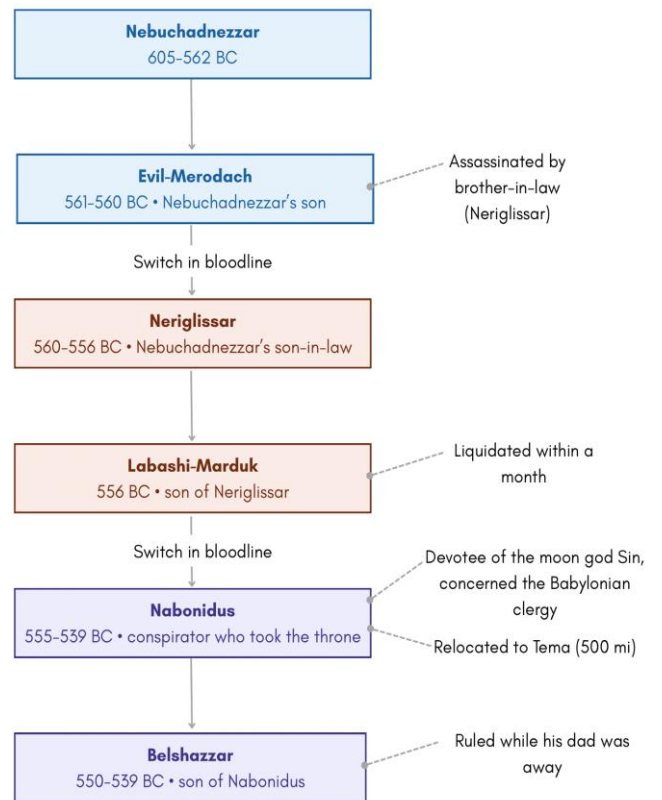
- 3) What does Belshazzar command to be brought to the feast, and where were they from?

What is everyone at the party doing with what was commanded to be brought?

What is Belshazzar trying to say with this gesture?

Who are they praising?

Babylonian Kings



- 4) Amid this feast, according to Daniel 5:5, what immediately happens?

What is the king's reaction?

Day 2 – Read Daniel 5:1-17

- 5) Who did King Belshazzar bring in to interpret the writing?

What would be the reward if they could interpret it?

Who could interpret it?

- 6) How did the king respond when no one could interpret the writing?

What about the lords?

7) Who comes on the scene in Daniel 5:10, and what does she reveal?

8) How does the queen describe Daniel in Daniel 5:11?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Application: What does excellent spirit mean?

9) What does the king promise Daniel if he can interpret the writing?

How does Daniel respond to this offer?

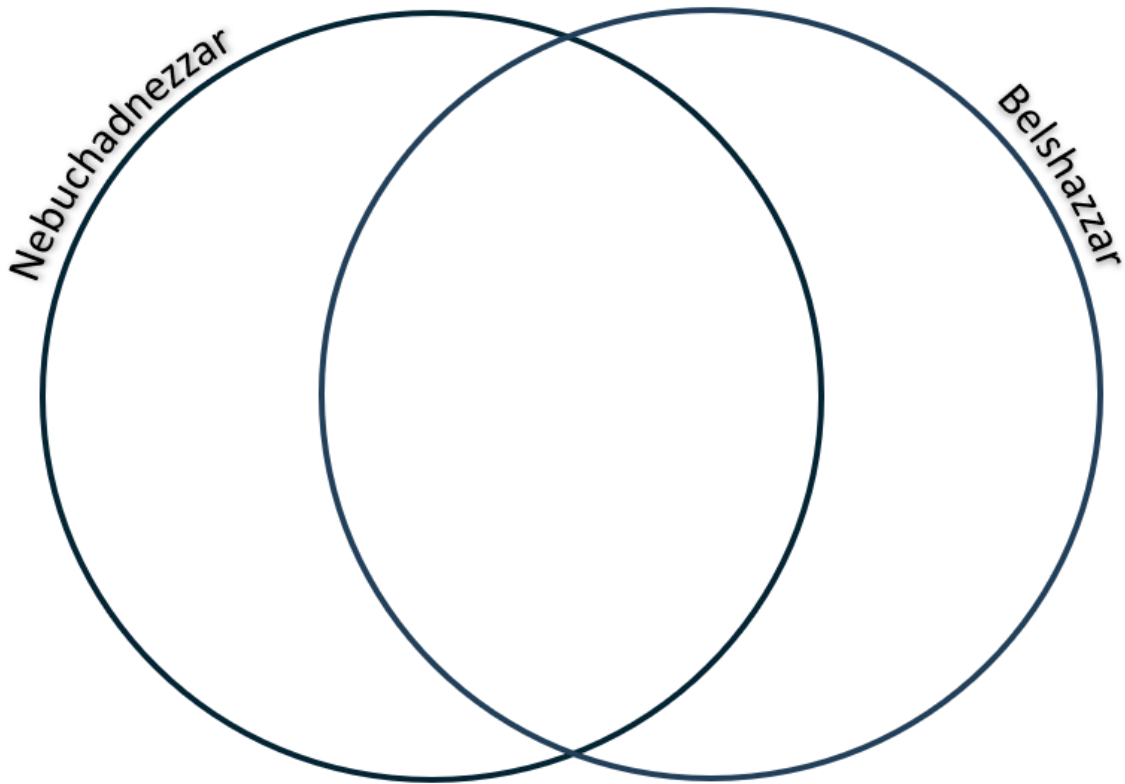
Day 3 – Read Daniel 5:18-23

10) What does Daniel recount to Belshazzar in Daniel 5:18-23?

Note how he begins in Daniel 5:18. Where does he turn the focus?

11) What does Daniel convict King Belshazzar of, recorded in Daniel 5:22-23?

12) Compare and contrast the stories of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4 and Belshazzar in Daniel 5.



What are some things that strike or stand out to you from this diagram?

Day 4- Read Daniel 5:22-30

13) **Application:** Prayerfully consider where you are like Belshazzar, ignoring God's warning to humble yourself.

How are you "lifting up yourself against the Lord of heaven?" Placing yourself on the throne.

Application: What idols that “do not see or hear or know” are you worshipping?

An idol is “anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, and anything you seek to give you what only God can give.” (Tim Keller)

Application: How have these idols failed you?

Application: In what areas are you not honoring God “in whose hand is your breath?”

**Take some time to humbly pray and repent of these ways.*

14) **Application:** What warning is given to us in Hebrews 10:26-29?

Day 5 – Read Daniel 5

15) What was the handwriting on the wall? Fill in the chart with the words and their meanings.

WORD	MEANING

16) How does Belshazzar respond to Daniel's interpretation?

17) What happened that very night?

18) Consider how the handwriting on the wall is also true for us.

MENE:

Job 14:5 –

Psalms 139:16 –

Hebrews 9:27 –

Summarize and Apply:

TEKEL:

Romans 3:23 –

Romans 6:23 –

Summarize and Apply:

What is our hope?

John 5:24 –

Romans 3:24-26 –

2 Corinthians 5:21 –

Hebrews 9:28 –

1 Peter 3:18 –

19) **Application:** How is this good news for us?

**"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Pray for the Lord to keep you in a humble posture before Him.*

20) **Application:** Spend some time reading and meditating over Psalm 130. Make any pertinent notes below.

Daniel - Lesson 6

“ELECT *Exiles*: Trusting in Daniel's God” **Daniel 6**

Day 1 – Read Daniel 6

Pray: God's Word is active and living. Ask the Lord to use it to transform you through the work of the Spirit.

Read Again: Daniel 6:1-5

- 1) What king is reigning at the beginning of Daniel 6?

- 2) What is the power structure, and where does Daniel fall in it?

- 3) Why had Daniel become distinguished?

What was the king planning to do with Daniel?

- 4) What were the officials and satraps trying to do?

Why was this difficult?

- 5) **Application:** Consider what was said about Daniel by his coworkers. The only complaint that could be found against him would be in connection with his worship of God. Is this true of your own life? Why or why not? What would this look like?

Day 2 – Read Daniel 6:6-14

- 6) What did the satraps and high officials encourage the king to do?

According to Daniel 6:8, what were they sure to include in this request?

Why might this have been important to them?

7) What did Daniel do, knowing that the document had been signed?

8) What kinds of pressure was Daniel facing?

Application: If you were in exile, what would you have to work through as you figured out how to respond?

How does Daniel's living by faith impact others in this account?¹

9) What accusation against Daniel was brought before the king?

¹ Question 8 was taken from *Daniel: Standing Firm in Adversity*, Paul S. Kim, p. 58.

10) How did the king respond to the accusations?

Day 3 – Read Daniel 6:15-23

11) According to Daniel 6:16, what did the king declare to Daniel?

Does anything strike you about his declaration?

12) What did the king do after the den was sealed?

13) What question does the king ask of Daniel as he came near to the den at the break of day?

What is Daniel's answer?

14) According to Daniel 6:23, why was no harm found on Daniel?

Application: How would you define what it means to trust in God?

What do you learn from the following verses about trust?

Proverbs 3:5-6 –

Jeremiah 17:7-8 –

- 15) **Application:** Faithful living in exile leads to persecution. This has been a theme of our study. How is this sitting with you?

What do we learn from the following verses?

John 15:20 (Jesus' own words) –

1 Peter 4:12-14 –

1 John 3:13 -

Day 4 – Read Daniel 6:24-28

- 16) At the end of Daniel 6, what does the king do?
Command:

Decree:

Proclaim about God:

17) What statement is made about Daniel in Daniel 6:28?

Daniel came to Babylon as a youth and is now an old man. As you reflect on Daniel 1-6, what does prosperity look like as an elect exile?

Application: How have you been challenged and encouraged as you live as an elect exile?

18) Read 1 Peter 2:19-23. How does Daniel point us to Jesus?

19) Read the following verses. Why is the mention of Cyrus significant?

2 Chronicles 36:22-23 –

Ezra 1:1-3 –

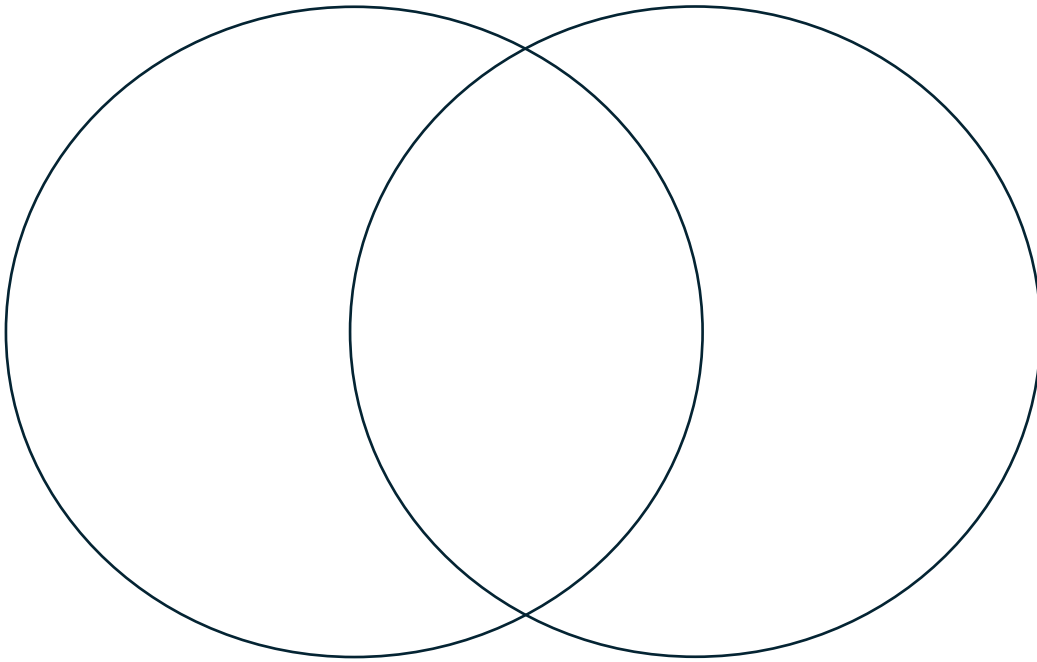
Application: As God's people are in exile, God stirs Cyrus' heart and he lets God's people return. We are in exile. When will we go home?

Day 5 – Read Daniel 6

20) Throughout the book of Daniel, but especially in Daniel 3 and 6, we read testimony of faithful servants of a faithful God. Even if – to the point of death – I will follow. Compare and contrast chapters 3 & 6 below.

Chapter 3

Chapter 6



Application: How does this challenge or encourage you as a faithful servant?

Application: In what ways are you being called to endure faith that is costly?

Read the following verses:

Matthew 16:24-26 –

Galatians 2:20 –

Philippians 3:7-12 –

Application: How do these verses encourage you to press on?

How is this life possible? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:24

- 21) **Application:** The message of Daniel is not be like Daniel; it is trust in his God. Where have you seen moralistic teaching being harmful in your life or to others around you?

22) **Application:** How have you experienced the faithfulness and deliverance of God in your own life?

Application: What might deliverance look like in a believer's life?

23) **Application:** Read Psalm 91 and let it wash over you. Journal your thoughts below.

Daniel - Lesson 7

“ELECT *Exiles*: Trusting in Daniel's God” Daniel 7

Day 1 – Read Daniel 7

Pray: All of God's Word is breathed out by Him. Thank Him that His Word brings us life.

Read Again: Daniel 7:1-8

“Daniel 7 marks a significant transition in the book. This and the subsequent chapters describe Daniel's visions of the future. Far from being mere apocalyptic speculation, however, these visions are intended to encourage God's people in exile. The overarching message of these chapters is that God is triumphantly in control of the unfolding of history, and thus has good purposes in store for his beleaguered and persecuted people. In this chapter, we are presented with Daniel's vision of four beasts (or kingdoms) and God's plan to vindicate his people and establish his everlasting kingdom (vv. 13-14).”

- 1) When did Daniel 7 take place, during whose reign?

- 2) What happens to Daniel?

- 3) Where does this vision of Daniel fit on the timeline of the narrative in Daniel 1-6?

- 4) What setting is created by night (darkness), winds, and a stirred-up sea?

¹(Todd Wilson, *Knowing the Bible: Daniel, a 12-week Study*, p. 59)

5) What came up out of the sea in Daniel's vision?

6) Fill out the chart below summarizing the dream.

Beast	Animal	Description
First		
Second		
Third		
Fourth		

What statement is made about the fourth beast in the last sentence of Daniel 7:7?

7) Describe what happens with the horns in Daniel 7:8?

Day 2 – Read Daniel 7:9-12

- 8) The setting abruptly shifts in Daniel 7:9. Where does Daniel find himself in this vision?

Who does Daniel see and what does he do?

Describe him and his throne.

What happens as recorded in Daniel 7:10?

- 9) What does the title, Ancient of Days, mean?

Why is this significant for us as His creatures?

10) **Application:** What do we learn about the character and purposes of God in Daniel 7:9-12?

11) What happened to the fourth beast?

What happened to the other three beasts?

Day 3 – Read Daniel 7:13-14

12) According to Daniel 7:13, what does Daniel see in his vision?

13) What is significant about coming with the clouds? Consider the following verses:

Psalms 104:1-3 –

Isaiah 19:1 –

14) How does Philippians 2:5-11 help us understand “like a son of man?”

15) “Son of Man” was Jesus’ most frequently used self-designation. What is He highlighting or communicating in the following verses?

Matthew 8:20	
Matthew 9:6	
Mark 10:45	
Mark 14:62	
John 3:13-14	

16) What does the Ancient of Days give to the Son of Man?

Application: What is different about His kingdom from all other kingdoms?

17) **Application:** The Son of Man, your Savior, is reigning at the right hand of the Father in heaven right now. In what area of your life do you most need to remember this truth?

Application: How will believing this truth transform your perspective, feelings, and/or actions?

Day 4 – Read Daniel 7:15-25

18) What was Daniel's response to his dream?

19) Who reveals to Daniel the interpretation of his dream?

20) According to Daniel 7:17, who are the four beasts?

21) What is the “but” in Daniel 7:18? This is recorded again in Daniel 7:27.

Read Luke 12:22-34. What are some of the implications of this truth?

Write Luke 12:32 below. Commit this verse to memory.

22) According to Daniel 7:21, what does the little horn do?

For how long?

How is this expounded upon in Daniel 7:25?

23) What do you learn about the fourth beast in Daniel 7:23-24?

Day 5 – Read Daniel 7:26-28

24) **Application:** What is our hope given in Daniel 7:26-27?

25) **Application:** When do you find it easiest to forget that the “court will one day sit in judgment?”

Application: How are you encouraged by this truth?

26) How did Daniel respond in the end?

Application: Why do you think he kept the matter in his heart?

27) How would this vision be painful yet helpful for God’s people?

28) Summarize this chapter in one sentence.

29) **Application:** In what ways does knowing that God will triumph give us courage to live by faith in exile?

Daniel - Lesson 8

“ELECT *Exiles*: Trusting in Daniel's God” Daniel 8

Day 1 – Read Daniel 8

Pray: God's Word is active and living. Ask the Lord to use it to transform you through the work of the Spirit.

Read Again: Daniel 8:1-7

1) When does Daniel 8 occur?

2) What happens to Daniel?

How long has it been since the last vision?

3) What is the first thing Daniel sees?

What did this animal have, and what was interesting about them?

What was he doing, and what was he like?

- 4) What was the second thing Daniel saw (vs. 5)?

What was interesting about him?

What was he doing?

- 5) What happened between the two animals?

Day 2 – Read Daniel 8:8-17

- 6) What happened in the end to the ram and the goat?

- 7) What happens in Daniel 8:9?

What does the little horn do?

8) What is “the glorious land” referencing?

9) What question is asked in Daniel 8:13?

What is the answer given?

Application: How are these hopeful words amid a disturbing vision?

10) Who came to interpret the dream for Daniel?

How did Daniel respond to his presence?

What words does he hear?

Day 3 – Read Daniel 8:18-25

11) In Daniel 8:18, what happened to Daniel?

How does Gabriel respond?

12) Note what all of these represent in Daniel's vision.

Ram _____

Goat _____

Great horn between his eyes _____

Broken horn, 4 others arose _____

13) List all the things, found in Daniel 8:23-25, the king who arises does. (These verses expand the identity and actions of the little horn introduced earlier in Daniel 8:19.)

- 14) **Application:** Notice the phrases “but not by his own power” (Daniel 8:24) and “but by no human hand” (Daniel 8:25). Who is in control? Who has all the power?

What do we learn about this from the following verses:

Psalms 22:28 –

Psalms 99:1 –

Proverbs 21:1 –

Isaiah 14:26-27 –

Daniel 2:21 –

Revelation 15:3 –

Application: How do we, as Christians in our world today, lose sight of this truth?

Day 4 – Read Daniel 8:18-27

- 15) **Application:** The Lord is showing and telling Daniel about things that will happen in the future, things written on the pages of our history books. What do you learn about God and His relation to history from Daniel's visions?

Application: How are you comforted and encouraged by that?

Application: How helpful and loving would this be to Daniel, even though he does not know all the details?

- 16) What instructions were given to Daniel according to Daniel 8:26 and for what reason?

- 17) According to Daniel 8:27, what was Daniel's initial response to the vision?

Why do you think he responded this way?

Application: Sinclair Ferguson writes that Daniel's "life was physically and emotionally bound up with the lasting prosperity of God's kingdom." Is that true of you? Why or why not?

- 18) Then, according to Daniel 8:27, what did Daniel do in the midst of his shock and confusion, not having all the answers?

Application: How are you challenged or encouraged by this?

Day 5 – Read 2 Corinthians 3:18-5:6

- 19) Spend some time today reading 2 Corinthians 3:18 – 5:6. Notice the “we do not lose heart” phrases. Make notes about why we should not lose heart.

Write Galatians 6:9-10 below.

Pray that we will be people of good courage, faithfully going about the King's business.

Daniel - Lesson 9

"ELECT *Exiles*: Trusting in Daniel's God"

Daniel 9

Day 1 – Read Daniel 9

Pray: Ask the Lord to teach you as you study His Word. Pray for the transforming work of the Spirit.

Read Again: Daniel 9:1-3

- 1) When does Daniel 9 occur?

Where does it fit in the narrative of Daniel 1-6?

- 2) What is Daniel reading?

- 3) Read Jeremiah 25:11-12 and 29:10-14. What is the message?

What does Daniel realize about their time as exiles?

According to Jeremiah 29:12-13, what have God's people been called to do?

How does this impact Daniel's heart and motivate him to pray?

4) What accompanies his prayers according to Daniel 9:3?

Why would this be appropriate?

Day 2 – Read Daniel 9:4-9

5) Who does Daniel pray to?

What is significant about these words, "LORD my God?"

How does Daniel continue to describe the One he prays to?

6) What does he confess for the people of God recorded in Daniel 9:5-6?

What does it mean to listen?

Notice the pronouns. What kind of confession is this?

7) According to Daniel 9:7-9, what belongs to God's people and what belongs to the Lord?

Belongs to God's People	Belongs to the Lord
_____ What does that mean?	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ Define 1 and 2

How is "what belongs to the Lord" good news for God's people?

What do we learn from the following verses?

Psalm 34:5 –

Romans 10:11 –

Hebrews 12:2 -

Day 3 – Daniel 9:10-16

- 8) According to Daniel 9:10, what have the people of God done?

Who is guilty? (Daniel 9:11)

What is the bad and good news according to Romans 6:23?

- 9) What is the curse and the oath that are written in the law of Moses?

Leviticus 26:14, 32-33 –

Deuteronomy 28: 1-2, 15, 58, 64-68 –

What is the hope for God's people then and for us today? Leviticus 26:40-45

Read Galatians 3:13. How is God able to do this?

10) What is said about the LORD our God in Daniel 9:14?

What does that mean?

Why is it amazing that Daniel says this?

Application: Where do you need to believe this?

Application: How might this transform the way you worship and live?

11) What request does Daniel make of the Lord in Daniel 9:16?

How can the Lord be righteous and at the same time turn away His wrath and anger from His sinful people?
Consider the following verses and then summarize an answer to this question:

Jeremiah 25:15 –

Matthew 26:39 –

Romans 6:23 –

Ephesians 2:3-5 –

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 –

Summarize from these verses an answer to this question:

Day 4 – Read Daniel 9:17-23

12) Make a list of all the things Daniel requests of the Lord in Daniel 9:17-18.

What four things does he succinctly ask at the beginning of Daniel 9:19?

13) Read carefully again Daniel 9:15, 17, and 19. On what basis and with what focus are all his pleas made?

14) According to Daniel 9:20, whose sins are being confessed by Daniel?

Why is this significant?

Application: Is personal and corporate confession a regular part of your relationship with Christ? Why or why not?

Application: How might you be shaped by this prayer recorded for us in Daniel 9?

15) Who came to Daniel while he was praying?

Why does he come?

What encouragement does he offer to Daniel? (Don't miss Daniel 9:23.)

You are heard at the beginning of your cries and greatly loved by your God. Ask the Lord to impress that truth upon your heart.

Day 5 – Read Daniel 9:24-27

In Daniel 9:24-27, the word translated “weeks” literally means “sevens” in Hebrew. Most biblical scholars interpret seventy weeks to mean **seventy sets of seven years** or **490 years**. We will unpack this more fully in our teaching time. You may want to do a deep dive on your own. This is one of the most debated passages in the Old Testament. Regardless of where we land on the timeline, do not miss the forest for the trees. These words are meant to encourage Daniel as an exile and also serve as a source of encouragement for us today.

16) What six things are decreed that will be done for God's people and holy city in Daniel 9:24?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Who accomplishes all of this?

17) How do the following verses help us understand the strong covenant made with God's people?

Jeremiah 31:31-34 –

Luke 22:20 –

2 Corinthians 3:6 –

Hebrews 8:10-12 –

18) Read Hebrews 9:19-28 and 10:11-14. How does Jesus put an end to sacrifice and offering?

- 19) **Application:** God's people are being told that even after leaving Babylon, they are going to continue to endure hard times, BUT God will be faithful to His promises (Jesus is coming - even though they only understood that in shadows). What would it look like for them to practice long obedience and faithfulness?

Application: We are exiles living on this side of the cross, longing for our real home when Christ will come again. What does it look like for us to practice long obedience and faithfulness?

What hard things have been happening for God's people who have returned home? Ezra 3:10-13, Ezra 4, and Nehemiah 4 may be helpful in your answer.

5) Describe the man Daniel saw.

6) Why was Daniel the only one who saw this vision?

7) Throughout this encounter, how does Daniel respond to the man in linen?

Verses 8-9 –

Verse 11 –

Verses 16-17 –

Day 2 – Read Daniel 10:10-21

- 8) How is Daniel identified in Daniel 10:11 & 19?

What evidence of that love do you see in Daniel 10?

- 9) What command is given to Daniel in Daniel 10:11 & 19?

Why is he not to fear? (verse 11)

What is offered to Daniel instead of fear? What immediately happens to him? (verse 19)

10) According to Daniel 10:13, why was the messenger delayed from coming?

Application: What does this reveal about the spiritual realities behind the scenes of our life?

Application: How does this glimpse into the unseen world humble you?

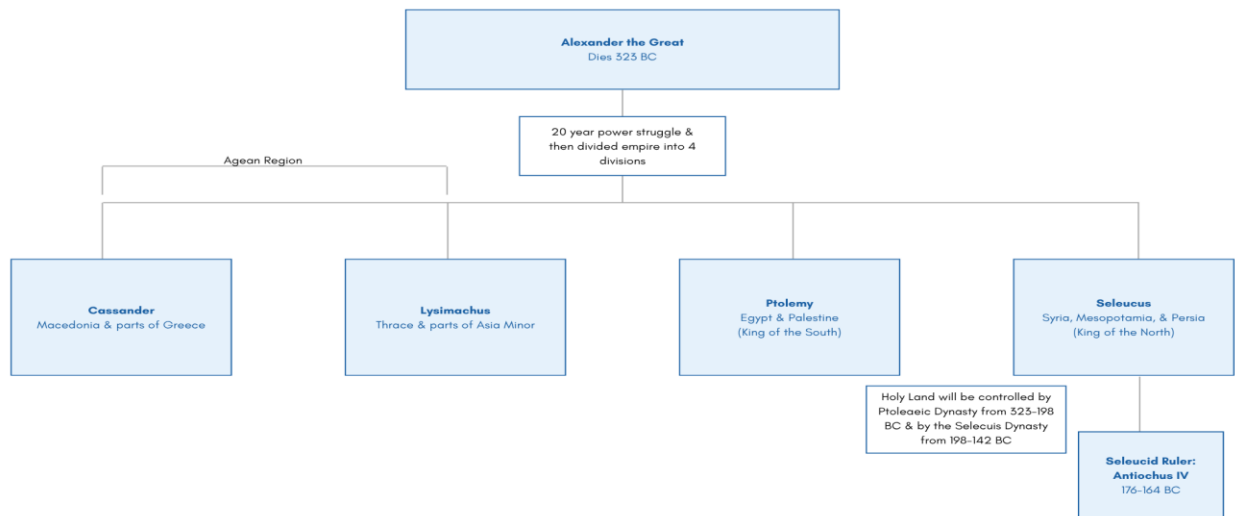
11) **Application:** Read Ephesians 6:10-20. What else do we learn about this unseen battle?

Application: What is our defense according to Ephesians 6?

12) **Application:** What does Daniel 10 teach us about prayer when an answer seems delayed?

Day 3 – Read Daniel 11

Daniel 10:1-11:1 offers us a look at the behind-the-scenes spiritual warfare of earthly events. Then Daniel 11:2-45 gives a highly detailed expansion of the historical content first referenced in the vision in Daniel 8. Daniel 12 offers a final resolution to it all, promising glory and resurrection for God's own, alongside shame and judgment for those who have never put their hope in Him.



As you read through Daniel 11, how would you characterize the kings and kingdoms that are mentioned?

What is repeated about the heart of these kings in Daniel 11:3, 16, 28, and 36?

What is revealed about the instability of earthly power?

13) In what ways will God's people be tempted during these difficult days according to Daniel 11:14, 30, and 32?

Application: What would it look like for us as God's people to succumb to those same temptations today?

14) According to Daniel 11:32, what do the people who know their God do?

What does it mean to know God?

Day 4 – Read Daniel 11:33-12:4

15) Read Daniel 11:33-35 again. What do the wise help many to understand?

What does it mean to be wise?

16) According to Daniel 12:2-3, what will happen when deliverance finally comes?

17) Who specifically will be delivered?

What else do we learn about this from the following verses?

Philippians 4:3 –

Revelation 3:5 –

Revelation 20:15 –

Revelation 21:22-27 –

Application: Read Luke 10:20. As believers, what should our response be?

Day 5 – Read Daniel 12

18) What question does Daniel ask in Daniel 12:6?

What answer is given, and how does Daniel respond?

19) Then, what question does Daniel ask, recorded in Daniel 12:8?

How would you summarize the answer he was given?

20) **Application:** How are you encouraged by these questions and answers recorded for us in Scripture?

21) Considering all that has been revealed, what succinct command is given to Daniel twice?
(Daniel 12:9 & 13)

Application: Spend some time prayerfully considering what it looks like for you to “go your way.” Jot down any notes or thoughts below.

Application: “And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.” How does this good news encourage you to faithfully go your way as an elect exile?