

# Daniel 1





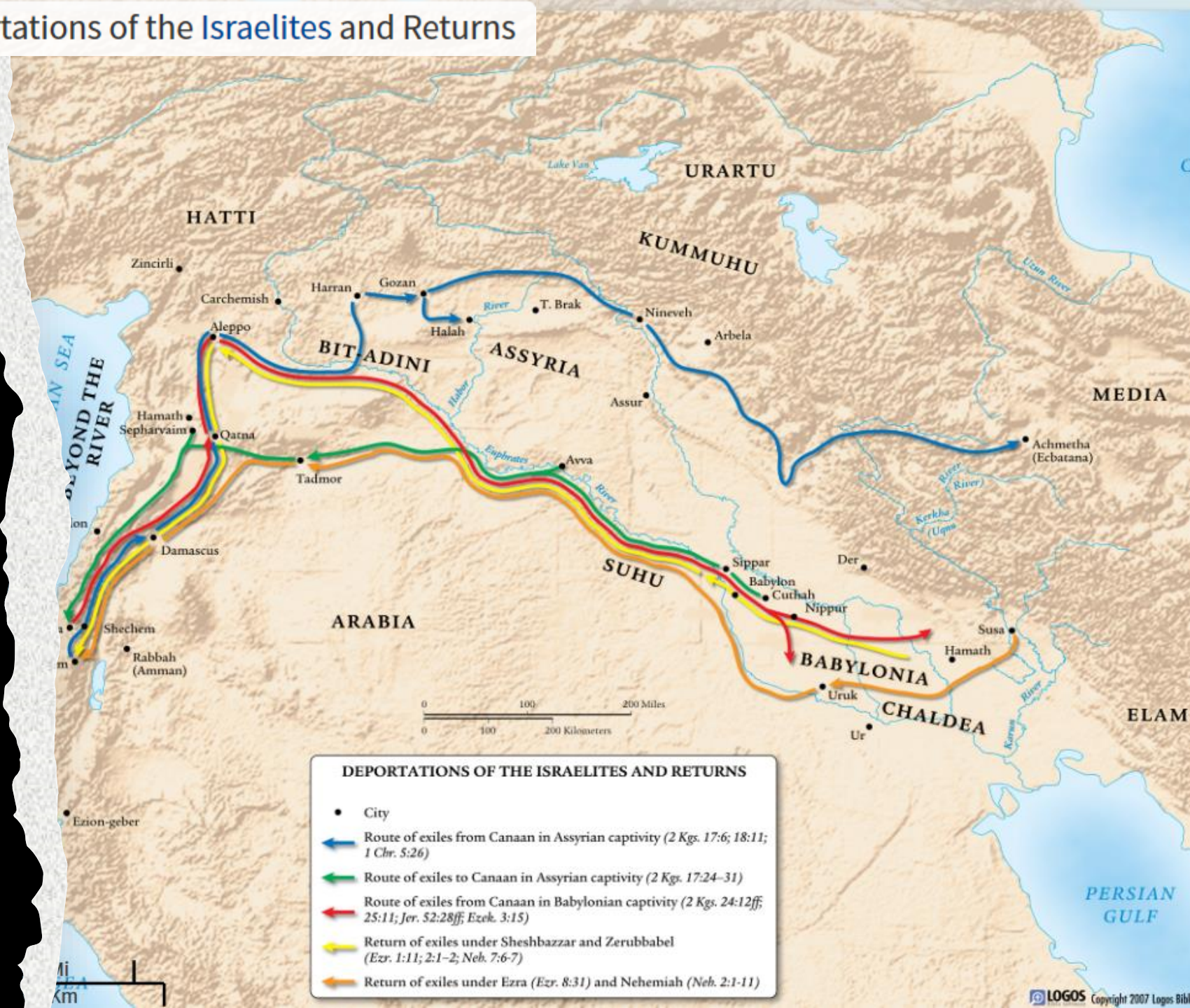


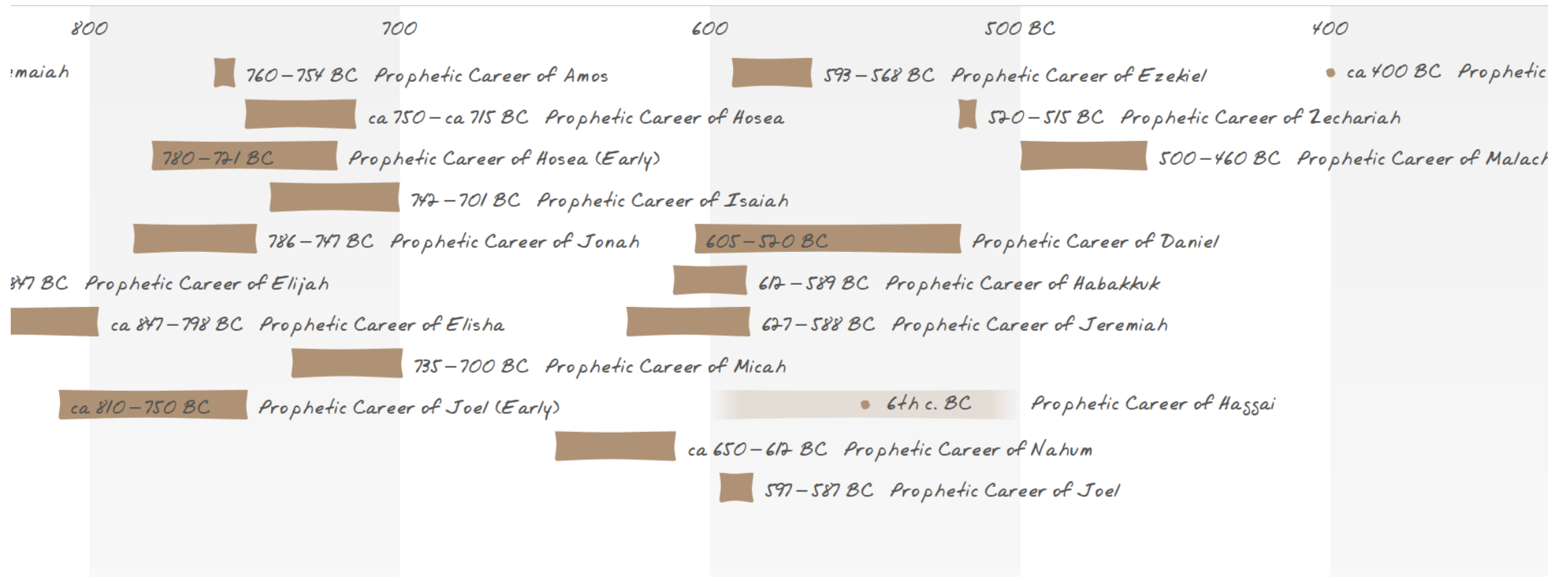
- Writer – “God is my Judge” (Daniel Himself)
- Historical Timeline
  - 605 BC – 535 BC
  - Daniel was in first set of 3 exile events
  - 605 (Daniel)
  - 597 (Ezekiel)
  - 586 BC
- When – Written between 536 and 530 BC
- Why Exile?
  - Judah’s ongoing sin
  - Israel had fallen to Assyria in 722 BC
  - **Isaiah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah warnings ignored**
- Language – 2:4 – 7:28 Aramaic, international language
- Purpose(s)
  - Encouragement and prophecy
  - During successive gentile domination until Messiah’s return
  - Display of God’s sovereignty
  - Major display of miracles




# Deportations of the Israelites and Returns

- 605 BC
- 597 BC
- 586 BC









# Opening Questions

- Is God's Sovereignty Ever Threatened?
- Are there time periods where God uses greater miracles? Why?
- How does God often display His will to us?
- Can God's protection be thwarted?
- Are there any prophecies that did not come true from the Book of Daniel?
- What does God expect from us?

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, 4 young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. 5 And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king. 6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 7 To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

**Q: Why did the Lord give Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar?"**

- Judah had once again turned from God. In this case Jehoiakim had relied on Egypt to protect them, rather than relying on God, and had ignored the command to observe sabbaths for the land.

**Q: Who is the God of the Babylonians?**

- They were a polytheistic society, primarily serving the false gods Bel or Markduk.

**Q: Where else was this conquering predicted?**

A. Isaiah 39:7

**Q: Why were young men inducted into service in Babylon?**

A: Indoctrination of the men to leave Jewish beliefs and customs and fold into Babylonian beliefs

**Q: Why was it important that the inductees eat the King's provisions for three years?**

A: They would grow accustomed to the "good life" and grow dependent on Nebuchadnezzar.

**Q: How old was Daniel and his friends?"**

A: Between 12 and 21, likely 15 years old

**Q: Why rename the boys?**

A: To further assimilate them into the culture



8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. 9 Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. 10 And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king."

11 So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants." 14 So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. 16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

**Q: What would it have been like to be Daniel or his friends?**

- Young men, ripped from their families
- Showered with the "good life"

**Q: What was the response by Daniel when asked to violate God's commandments?**

- Lev 1; Prov 4:23 – what does this mean? [Proverbs 4](#)

**Q: Were these only "vegetables?" Was Daniel a vegetarian?**

- No, this includes grains. He could not eat the meats associated to pagan gods. They were not choosing to be "vegetarians"

**Q: Why do you think the steward went along with Daniel?**

- Open discussion

**Q: What else did the young men disavow?"**

- Wine

17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm. 21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

**Q: How did God respond to the endurance of the young men?**

- 1 Sam 2:30 - "Therefore Yahweh, the God of Israel, declares, 'I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father should walk before Me forever'; but now Yahweh declares, 'Far be it from Me—for **those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be cursed.**'"

- [Greatly Honored](#)

**Q: How much time has transpired between the exile and verse 19?**

- 3 years (vs 5)

**Q: Was the group literally 10 times better?**

- This is figurative, for many, many times better

**Q: How long did Daniel serve until King Cyrus?**

A: from 605 BC until 539 BC (almost 70 years, making Daniel in his 80s)



# Next Up

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Nebuchadnezzar  
predicts the future



# Proverbs 4

23 Keep your heart with all diligence,  
For out of it spring the issues of life.

24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth,  
And put perverse lips far from you.

25 Let your eyes look straight ahead,  
And your eyelids look right before you.

26 Ponder the path of your feet,  
And let all your ways be established.

27 Do not turn to the right or the left;  
Remove your foot from evil.



# Daniels Kingdoms

## An Overview of Daniel's Kingdoms

### I. Daniel 2/Daniel 7

- A. Babylon 2:32, 37, 38; 7:4, 17
- B. Medo-Persia 2:32, 39; 7:5, 17
- C. Greece 2:32, 39; 7:6, 17
- D. Rome 2:33, 40; 7:7, 17, 23
- E. Revived Rome 2:33, 41-43; 7:7, 8, 11, 24, 25
- F. Millennium 2:34, 35, 44, 45; 7:13, 14, 26, 27

### II. Daniel 8/Daniel 11

- A. Medo-Persia 8:3-8, 20, 21; 10:20, 21, 11:2-35
- B. Greece 8:3-8, 20, 21; 10:20, 21, 11:2-35
- C. Revived Rome 8:9-12, 23-26; 11:36-45.