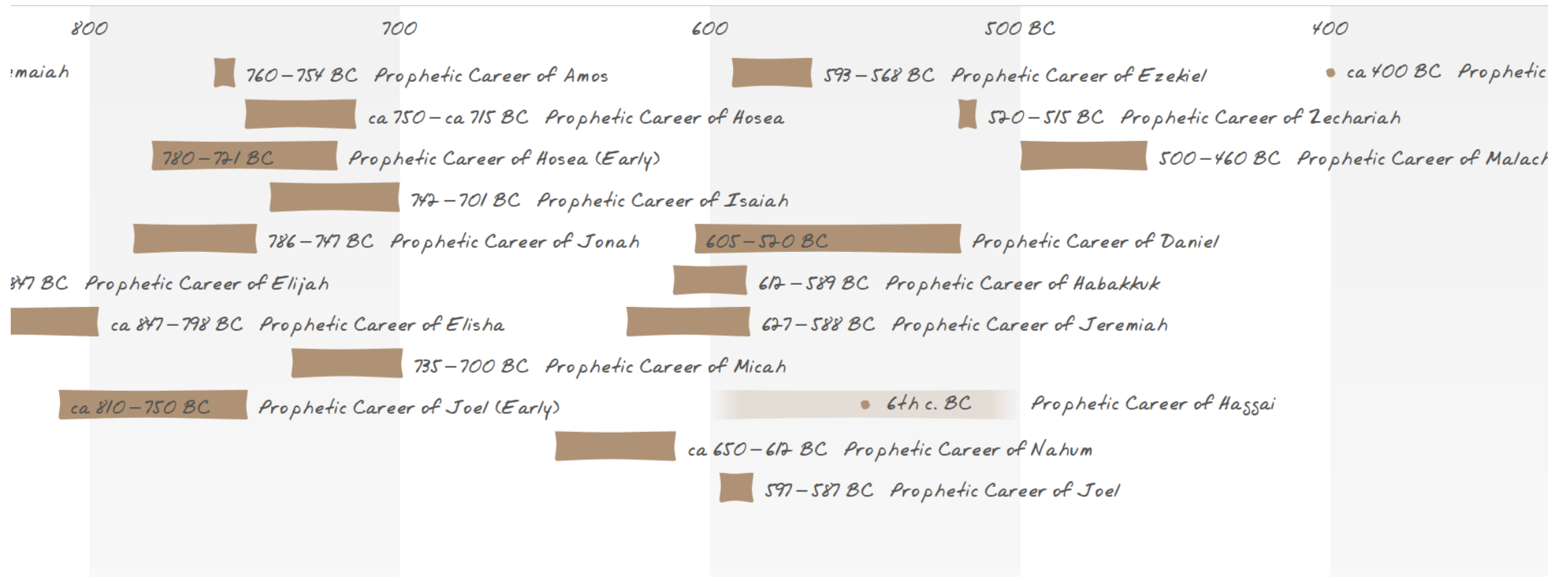



Daniel 4





- 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 prophesy
 - During Successive gentile domination until Messiah’s return
 - Display of Gods sovereignty
 - Major display of miracles



An aerial, sepia-toned illustration of an ancient city, likely Mesopotamia. The city is built on a riverbank, with a dense grid of rectangular buildings and courtyards. A prominent ziggurat stands out in the distance. The foreground shows a sandy area with some vegetation and a winding path. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds.

Opening Questions

- Who puts leaders in place?
- Why do national leaders always seem corrupt?

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king,

To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth:

Peace be multiplied to you.

2 I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me.

3 How great are His signs,

And how mighty His wonders!

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

And His dominion is from generation to generation.

4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace. 5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. 6 Therefore I issued a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. 7 Then the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers came in, and I told them the dream; but they did not make known to me its interpretation. 8 But at last Daniel came before me (his name is Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god; in him is the Spirit of the Holy God), and I told the dream before him, saying: 9 "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the Spirit of the Holy God is in you, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation.

Q: Why was Nebuchadnezzar troubled?

A: Bad dream about his future

Q: Why would Nebuchadnezzar trust the astrologers first?

A: Some only turn to God if all else fails...

Perhaps he wanted a soft spin on his dream.

Q: Who does Nebuchadnezzar declare is his god in verse 8?

A: Bel (or Marduk) was his god still...

Q: What?

A: church.

Q: What?"

A: earth.

Q: What?"

A: stone

10 These were the visions of my head while on my bed:

I was looking, and behold,
A tree in the midst of the earth,
And its height was great.

11 The tree grew and became strong;
Its height reached to the heavens,
And it could be seen to the ends of all the earth.

12 Its leaves were lovely,
Its fruit abundant,
And in it was food for all.
The beasts of the field found shade under it,
The birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches,
And all flesh was fed from it.

13 "I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed, and there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven. 14 He cried aloud and said thus:

Q: Who does this tree represent?

A: Nebuchadnezzar after 605 BC

Q: Trees are often metaphorically representative of power and strength in scripture. What are some other references to trees in the bible?

- Jesus (The True Vine); David (root of Jesse); Believers (good and evil trees bringing good or bad fruit)

Q: What is a watcher?

A: This is a term that means sentinel and is only referenced in the book of Daniel outside of extrabiblical texts

Q: Why a tree?

A: Babylon was built up and grew like a tree.

Q: What?"

A: earth.

Q: What?"

A: stone

'Chop down the tree and cut off its branches,
Strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit.

Let the beasts get out from under it,
And the birds from its branches.

15 Nevertheless leave the stump and roots in the earth,
Bound with a band of iron and bronze,
In the tender grass of the field.
Let it be wet with the dew of heaven,
And let him graze with the beasts
On the grass of the earth.

16 Let his heart be changed from that of a man,
Let him be given the heart of a beast,
And let seven times pass over him.

17 'This decision is by the decree of the watchers,
And the sentence by the word of the holy ones,
In order that the living may know
That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men,
Gives it to whomever He will,
And sets over it the lowest of men.'

18 "This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now
you, Belteshazzar, declare its interpretation, since all the wise
men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the
interpretation; but you are able, for the Spirit of the Holy God is
in you."

Q: Who sets up kingdoms and brings them down?

A: Daniel 2:21; Daniel 4:17 - God

Q: Who decides Nebuchadnezzar's fate?

A: Daniel 4:17; Note: Psalm 82

Q: What does it mean to leave the stump and roots?

A: Nebuchadnezzar would return

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for a time, and his thoughts troubled him. So the king spoke, and said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation trouble you."

Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream concern those who hate you, and its interpretation concern your enemies!"

20 "The tree that you saw, which grew and became strong, whose height reached to the heavens and which could be seen by all the earth, 21 whose leaves were lovely and its fruit abundant, in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the heaven had their home—22 it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth.

Q: Why did Daniel delay?

A: He knew it was bad news.

Q: What?

A: persecution

Q: What?

A: women

Q: What?

A: church.

Q: What?"

A: earth.

Q: What?"

A: stone

23 "And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him'; 24 this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: 25 They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.

26 "And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules. 27 Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity."

Q: Is this turning of Nebuchadnezzar physically possible?

A: There is a disease known as "Boanthropy" where the person believes they are an ox.

Q: What does the band of iron at the tree stump signify

A: The kingdom would remain intact while Nebuchadnezzar was "away." v 26

Q: How many years will Nebuchadnezzar be afflicted?

A: 7 (v25)

Q: What does Daniel advise Nebuchadnezzar?

A: Be humble, acknowledge the true ruler, God

Q: What?"

A: earth.

Q: What?"

A: stone

28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. 30 The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"

31 While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! 32 And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."

33 That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

Q: What was Nebuchadnezzar doing when this judgement occurred?

A: Nebuchadnezzar was walking around admiring 'his' kingdom

Q: What delayed God's judgment for 12 months?

A: Nebuchadnezzar put himself in the place of God at that time

Q: How did Nebuchadnezzar see himself as having built Babylon (the tree)?

A: v30; his mighty power for himself

Q: Who else does this sound like (think the fall, [Isaiah](#))?

A: Satan

Q: What?"

A: earth.

Q: What?"

A: stone

34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding 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 is from generation to generation.

35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing;

He does according to His will in the army of heaven
And among the inhabitants of the earth.

No one can restrain His hand

Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.

Q: Was Nebuchadnezzar saved now?

A: Appears to be

Q: What was Nebuchadnezzar's stumbling block?

A: Same as everyone's, pride

Q: What?

A: women

Q: What?

A: church.

Q: What?"

A: earth.

Isaiah 14

12 “How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!

13 For you have said in your heart:
‘I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of
God;

I will also sit on the mount of the
congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of
the clouds,

I will be like the Most High.’

15 Yet you shall be brought down to
Sheol,

To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Romans 1

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness

Next Up

The Fiery Furnace



Deportations of the Israelites and Returns

- 605 BC
- 597 BC
- 586 BC

