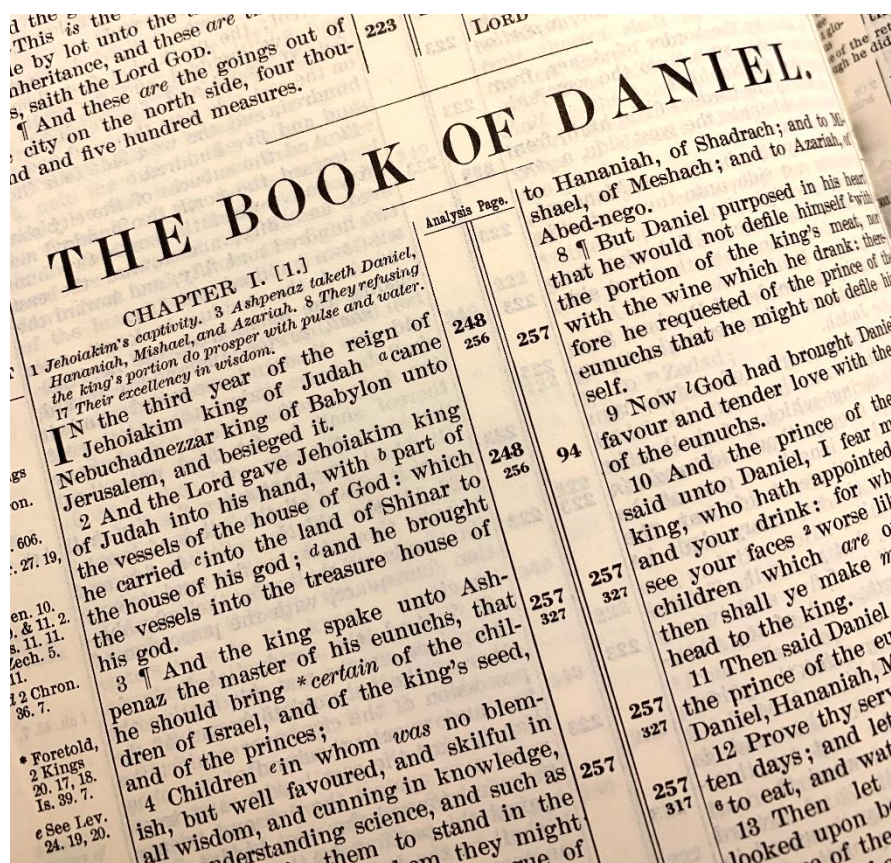


# Ichthus Bible School

2020/2021



## DANIEL

May – July 2021

Notes by Roger Forster

**DANIEL**  
**Roger Forster**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

National disaster, spiritual crisis, Jerusalem captured, nation exiled, essence of Daniel's message - 'Kingdom of God' and 'Son of Man'

**2. HISTORICAL SETTING**

BABYLON	612	Fall of Nineveh ie. Assyria
	605	Nebuchadnezzar (605-562) deports Daniel And others (Dan 1:1) Battle of Carchemish, Nebuchadnezzar defeats Egypt, ascends throne (605-562)
	597	Jerusalem taken – many Jews exiled
MEDIA*	587/6	Jerusalem destroyed
	562	Death of Nebuchadnezzar
	562-560	Amel-Marduk (evil Merodoch 2 Kings 25:27-30) King of Babylon
	560-556	Neriglissar
	556	Labashi-Marduk
	556-539	Nabonidus King (Belshazzar in charge in Babylon)
	539	Fall of Babylon (537 BC - chp 10!)

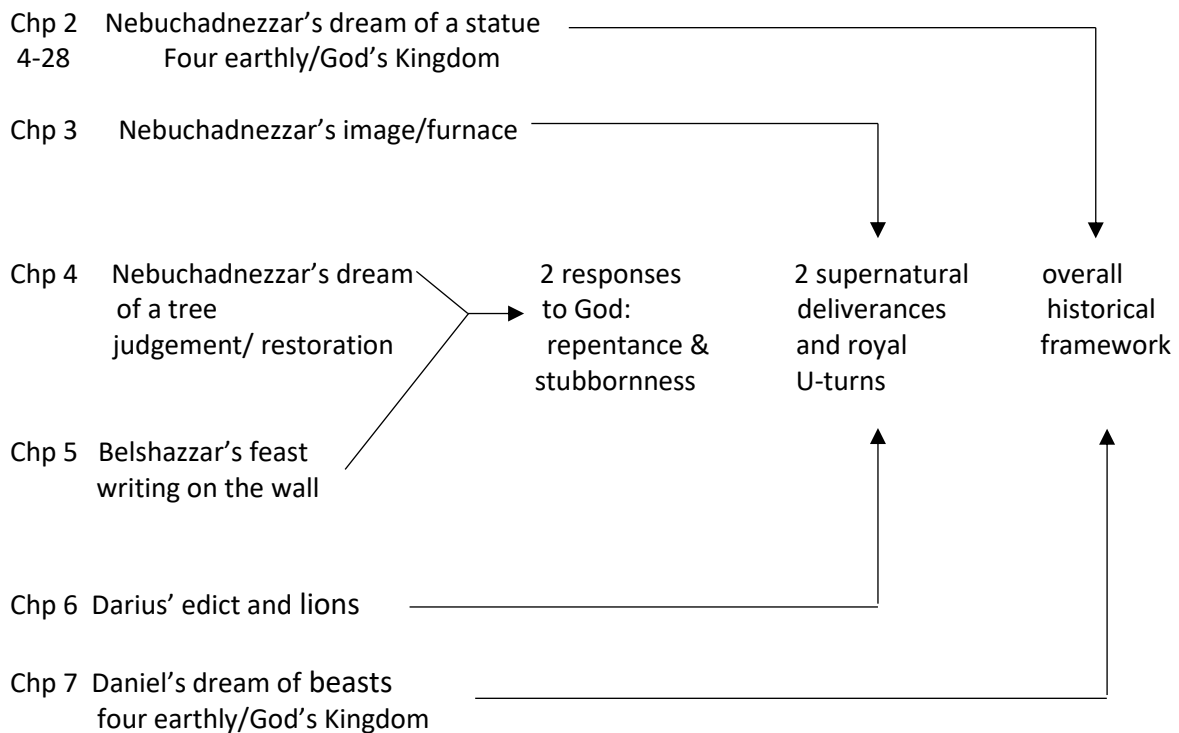
MEDO/PERSIA	539-530	Cyrus: the Achaemenid Dynasty
	530-522	Cambyses
	522-486	Darius 1
	486-465/4	Xerxes 1 (Ahasuerus)
	464-423	Artaxerxes
	444	Decree to rebuild Jerusalem Neh 2
	423-404	Darius 2
	404-359	Artaxerxes 2
	359/58-338/37	Artaxerxes 3
	338/37-336/35	Arses
	336/35-331	Darius 3

GREECE	334-323	Conquests of Alexander the Great
	323	Death of Alexander, empire split four ways

	<u>Notes</u>
(i) GREECE, (ii) ASIA MINOR, (iii) EGYPT (Ptolemics) 198 Syria takes Palestine from Egypt	
(iv) SYRIA (Seleucids) 175-164 Antiochus 4 (Epiphanes)	
(ROME)**	
by(Rome)**	168 Antiochus expelled from Egypt
	167 Desecration of Temple → 164
* Nb. the importance of the Medes Biblically re: the demise of Babylon	
Isaiah 13:17, 21:2,9; Jer 25:25, Jer 51:11, 51:28; Dan 5:31, 9:1, 11:1	
** Rome is not mentioned by name Biblically	
<b>3. ANALYSIS</b>	
(a) <u>Historical</u> - chapters 1-6 - Daniel and friends	
Chp 1 Daniel and others deported to Babylon and are trained for the civil service	
Chp 2 Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a four-part statue, and the rock that broke it. Daniel discovers and interprets	
Chp 3 Daniel's three companions refuse to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image and survive the furnace v.16-18 cf. Rev 12:11	
Chp 4 Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a tree – his judgement and restoration v.27 - definition of repentance	
Chp 5 Belshazzar does not learn from history and is judged for his pride	
Chp 6 Darius is tricked into disposing of Daniel, but is relieved to fail	
(b) <u>Visionary</u> - chapters 7-12 - Daniel's old age	
Chp 7 Daniel's dream of four beasts, the Heavenly Throne and a 'Son of Man' being given everlasting and all-embracing authority	
v.13 'Son of Man' - mortal man or Adam? (Psalm 8:4) title taken by Jesus, eg. Matt 26:64 'history is man-shaped' cf. 1 Tim 2:5	
v.14 'Son of Man' - given authority and power, as also are 'Saints of Most High' better 'Saints of the high places' v.18,22,27 cf. Luke 12:32	
Chp 8 Daniel's vision of a ram and a goat, and interpretation cf. John 14.29	

	<u>Notes</u>
Chp 9 Daniel's prayer of mercy and restoration – God's answer is far reaching. v.2 – 'Scriptures' – Jer 29:10ff v.24 – God's answer is to the real problem (sin/righteousness)	<hr/> <hr/>
Chp 10 Daniel's vision of a man (Jesus), and the spiritual conflict	<hr/>
Chp 11 Detailed revelation of south (Ptolemaic) and North (Seleucid) struggle and its impact on Israel	<hr/> <hr/>
Chp 12 Suffering of God's people that precedes resurrection and complete arrival of God's Kingdom	<hr/> <hr/>

**4. ARAMAIC PASSAGE\* (2:4 – 7:28)**



\*Aramaic = official language of Persian empire  
 This passage intended for wider circulation than Jews?  
 Style/content/presentation is dramatic, theatrical, full of suspense

## 5. PROPHECIES OF EARTHLY/DIVINE KINGDOMS

Chapter 2	Chapter 7	Interpretation	Chapter 8	Chapter 11	Interpretation
Nebuchadnezzar Statue of:	Daniel Vision of:		Daniel Vision of:	Daniel Vision of:	
Gold	Lion	Nebuchadnezzar 2:38	-	-	
Silver	Bear	Medes			
Bronze	Leopard	Persians	Ram	Persia (v.2)	Medes/ Persian (8:20)
Iron + clay	Indescribable beast	Greeks	Goat	Greece and Successors (v.3-35)	Greece and four successors (8:21)  Seleucids (Romans)
Supernatural stone demolished statue and tills the earth  decreasing material splendour	Heavenly Son of Man rules forever with Saints of the high places  increasing bestiality	2:44 Luke 20:17-18			Kingdom Of God

<b>6. DANIEL THE MAN</b>	<u>Notes</u>
a) Daniel – man of many facets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- statesman – integrity, excellent 6:3ff</li> <li>- historian - selects incidents - chps 1-6</li> <li>- blend of prophetic/apocalyptic/wisdom – 1:17,20</li> <li>- humility – 2:27–28a, 30</li> <li>- teachable – 2.21b – cf. 1 Cor 1:20</li> <li>- priestly intercessor - 9:1ff</li> </ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



	<u>Notes</u>
4) Israel Ps 80                      Gentiles Ps 8	
5) Heavenly v.13,18              Earthly v.21,25	
6) Ascension, Now v.13      Second Coming, Then v.14,26,27	
7) Calvary v.22                      Judgement v.22	
<b>9. <u>70 WEEKS</u> Ch. 9</b>	
v.24	
1) Finish transgression	
2) To seal up sin	
3) To make reconciliation (cover) iniquity	
4) Bring in righteousness	
5) To seal up vision and prophecy	
6) To anoint the Holy of Holies	
<u>Interpreting the 70 Weeks of Daniel 9:24-27</u>	
1) Daniel is praying about the 70 years of exile. Dan 9:2, Jer 25:12, 29:10.	
2) The 70 years of exile were literal years almost to the day. 586-516 when the temple was rebuilt + 70 years.	
3) The 70 years of exile were on the basis of the failure to keep the Sabbaths. 2 Chr 36:21.	
4) This means that there must have been at least 490 years of Israeli history in which they did not keep the Sabbath of Leviticus 25:1-7 and the super-Sabbath, namely the Jubilee of Leviticus 25:8-10.	
5) It was prophesied in Leviticus 26:2-34, 35, 43, that the land should enjoy its Sabbaths.	
6) Consequently the 70 years of Israel's exile were because of 490 years of sin and the 'seven Sabbaths of years' or 'seven times seven years' equalling 49 years (a number already contained in the Jubilee legislation of Leviticus 25:8). Now Daniel sees by the Scriptures and revelation, the logical development of the 70 years of exile into 70 times seven, in order to bring in righteousness. This is probably because Daniel is aware of the continuing unrighteousness of Israel. 490 year is, of course, 10 Jubilees and the years are seen to be literal since they are in Leviticus 25, in the 70 years of exile, and consequently, therefore here, since they also represent the number of years that literally would bring in a 'Jubilee of all Jubilees' or 'a Jubilee of Sabbaths.'	
7) Daniel 9:25 reminds us of the Sabbaths by the use of seven weeks (of sevens) and then 62 weeks (of sevens) and of the Jubilee since seven sevens equalling 49, are specific in the overall number. However, it is said that after 483 years, that is 69 sevens, the Messiah will be cut off (cf. Isaiah 53:8). The starting point of this 483 years is said to be from the Going forth of the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.	

	<u>Notes</u>
<p>8) There are a number of dates that might be raised as a starting point of the 483 years. However, none of them is so clearly to build Jerusalem as Nehemiah 2, which again is given the greatest prominence in the Bible itself. This is the year 444 BC.*</p>	<hr/> <hr/>
<p>9) However, the years referred to in Daniel 9 are almost certainly meant to be understood as Jewish Scriptural years (cf. Gen 7:11, 24; 8:3-4; Rev 12:6, 13:4), which, like all the calendars round that time, consisted of 360 days or 12 months of 30 days. So it is in the Genesis story of the flood and in the Book of Revelation 12:6, 11:2.</p>	<hr/> <hr/>
<p>10) If we change the number of years, namely 483, into days they are 173,880 days.</p>	<hr/> <hr/>
<p>11) If now, we divide the number of days by 365.25 approx etc., to find the number of Julian calendar years from 444 BC, then add them on, we come to the date of AD 33, in fact, comparing Nehemiah 2 we could bring it down exactly to March 30<sup>th</sup> of the Julian year AD 33. Jesus died Nisan 14 AD 33 = April 3<sup>rd</sup> AD 33 ie. after the 483 years 'The Messiah was cut off' 9:26. Now due to the date of the 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan, which is the full moon, there are only two years at which time Jesus could have been crucified – AD 30 or AD 33. On other grounds and for other considerations, AD 33 is the better date and the Daniel prophecy brings us up to the Monday of that week when the Passover lamb was presented to the people cf. Ex 12:3 and the 14<sup>th</sup> when it was slain as was Jesus. So, Daniel's prophecy is exact to a very high degree.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>* <u>Alternative suggested dates</u>  (1) Cyrus 539 BC Ezra 1:1-4  (2) Darius 529-518 BC Ezra 5:3-7  (3) Artaxerxes 457 BC Ezra 7:11-16  - but all are with respect to the Temple not the City</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>