



CLEOPAS BIBLE STUDY

WHERE TWO OR MORE GATHER IN HIS NAME


Topical Study of Daniel: KINGDOM OF GOD & THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD

KINGDOM OF GOD & THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD

a study of the Book of Daniel

Introduction

You will notice that Cleopas Bible Studies are broken down into separate days to help methodically introduce you to a rhythm for your progression in your studies so as not to be or feel overwhelmed and just as well, some of the Bible Studies are not broken down. The reason for this is some studies may be short and can be done in a few days. I try to keep the number of days around 10, give or take.

We at Cleopas believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and is its own Authority to serves as its own commentary. Scripture will always interpret Scripture.  Cleopas Bible Study teaches that Scripture ultimately interprets Scripture where "Context is king" and "a text without a context is a pretext". The context of a given passage begins in the immediate context of the phrase or sentence then moves to the paragraph, then the chapter, then the book. The Bible is One Book – not separate books. The New Testament is connected with the Old Testament just as the Book of Genesis is connected to the Book of Revelation -perfectly! There isn't mysticism in the Bible, but when God uses a principle, it is perfect and consistent throughout the Old into the New Testament. The entire Bible is God Breathed, just as God gave Adam "the breath of life" (Genesis 2:7). God breathed out the entire Bible, giving it life. 2 Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living". Hebrews 4:12a Amplified Bible: "For the word of God is living and active *and* full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. "

Tools for this Study: NASB Bible Version or other Word for Word translation is recommended; Nave's Topical Bible



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Observation Worksheets

Not all studies have observation worksheets, but when we do, these are available for you to “mark” and “observe” scripture as we go through our study. This is a useful tool for you to slow down and look at the scriptures word by word and phrase by phrase. You can “mark” key words and phrases which will help you in your study. If the workbook is long, then the observation worksheets will be in a separate file. Shorter studies, if observation worksheets are used, they will be in the context of the lesson or located at back or end of the file.



Beginning of Study – Day 1 – GOD’S KINGDOM

RULE OVER BIRDS OF THE SKY AND BEASTS OF THE FIELD

Do you like going to museums and looking at the exhibits? Whether it's dinosaurs, precious jewels or art – a whole host of things can be exhibited in museums. Museums and galleries give us a glimpse of our past, our creativity and our purpose. Museums contain visual representations that we can see. It could host exhibits of our possible future to view where we can marvel at the possibility of flying automobiles or personal service robots and the like. Museums also give us a glimpse into past kingdoms with medieval armor and weapons and stories that seem to spiral us into flights of imagination of cavalier princes whisking away damsels of distress. Museums give us insight of current kingdoms with public displays of civil unrest and wicked dictators.

We will be focusing on the kingdoms that are in the Bible – specifically the kingdoms found in the Book of Daniel. To speak of, you can find museums that have exhibits for the Babylonian empire, Media-Persian empire and the Greek Empire – as well as Roman empire as well. There is one Kingdom we will never find in a museum – the Kingdom of Almighty God. Wouldn't you love to have a peek into the Throne Room of God? To visit and take in the grandeur and splendor of this glorious place!

Of course, it's not possible to go to a museum to see an exhibit like this, but scripture does give us the opportunity to know what the Throne Room of God is and exactly what the Kingdom of God is about, at least, as humanly possible.

The Book of Daniel is an amazing resource of knowledge that leads to the learning of the Kingdom of God. This is also a prophetic book where God gives Daniel the ability to interpret prophetic dreams of kingdoms, current and future kingdoms with the ultimate climax of God's Kingdom to Come. What does this mean to you and me? He is Coming and He Will Reign, His Kingdom is Assured and we will reign with Him! An awe-inspiring thought!

The Book of Daniel is best described as a political mystery story. It's also a book in the Bible where we challenge the attention of our young children with the stories of 3 brave Hebrews - Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego standing in the fiery furnace as a fiery faced king has them placed there and a loyal servant, Daniel, staying the night in a den of hungry lions. But the Book of Daniel holds the keys to a special Kingdom, and we are going to unlock it, one lock at a time as we go through the scriptures.

Our goal is to answer these questions

- 1 What is the significance of prophecy?
- 2 What is the Kingdom of God?
- 3 What does the Throne Room of God entail?

We will not study the Book of Daniel in its entirety. Below is a summary leading up to where we will start our observing text and applying truths to our lives.

The nation of Israel has been divided into 2 kingdoms after the reign of King Solomon – the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Because of the entire nation of Israel's abominations/sin, the Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity first to Assyria followed by its sister nation, the Southern Kingdom of Judah which was soon taken into captivity into Babylon.


Read Habakkuk 1:5-11 for context on the armies of Babylon. The Babylonian political prisoners were marched into exile a thousand miles from Judah. The forced exile is a Babylonian policy of intimidation, intended to show weaker countries just who's boss. Because of the Kingdom of Judah's worship of idols and evil kings' acts, they would not heed God's warnings through the prophet Jeremiah – the Southern Kingdom of Judah, whose capital was Jerusalem was taken into captivity. Almost a hundred years before the events in Daniel occurred, God's prophet Isaiah foretold of the coming captivity of Judah to

the Babylonians, even pointing out that some of King Hezekiah's descendants would become eunuchs in the palace of the King of Babylon (2 Kings 20:12-19).


There were 3 sieges of Jerusalem. In the first siege- Daniel among the Nobles and the treasures in the temple were taken to Babylon. There are 2 more sieges – the 2nd siege included taking the Prophet Ezekiel and the 3rd siege, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon burned down the house of the Lord (Temple) and the entire city, including the walls that surrounded Jerusalem.

We will start our observation with Daniel 2. Included in each study if I ask you to observe the text, I include all the scripture using the NASB version of the Bible for you to use for observation. These may be located at the very end of your lesson if it's a short lesson. Longer lessons, the Observation sheets will be located as a separate document.


To help you to observe your text, I drew what I used to mark using the Draw feature in Word – so please be gentle with me about my artistry 😊. These are only suggestions – please mark the text as you would like.


Mark all mention of time: 


Mark all references of King Nebuchadnezzar: 


Mark all occurrences of dream/vision & mystery: 



Mark all occurrences of interpret/explain/this is the meaning: 

Mark all occurrences of tell: 

Mark all Magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, etc.: 


Mark all consequences (ex: cut into pieces...): 


Mark all occurrences of earth: 


Mark all occurrences of angry/furious: 


Mark all occurrences of execution/death/die/kill:


Mark Daniel: 


Mark Arioch/commander of the king's guard/king's officer: 


Mark all occurrences of God: 


Underline all locations: 


Mark all occurrences of wisdom/knowledge/power: 


Mark all occurrences of days to come: 

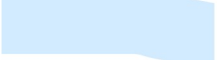
Mark all occurrences of statue: 

Underline all the descriptions of the statue: 

Mark all occurrences of rock: 

Mark all occurrences of mountain: 

Mark all occurrences of kingdom (make each kingdom its own color): 

Mark all occurrences of dominion/power/might/glory/ruler over them all/rule over: 

Mark the description of the kingdom God of heaven will set up: 

Let's delve into Daniel Chapter 2 and let's study the scriptures together.

In this chapter, how long was King Nebuchadnezzar been king?

King Nebuchadnezzar took the throne after his father's death in 605 BC at the age of 29 years old and ruled for 43 years. In the short 2 year period. In Jewish history, Nebuchadnezzar as a prince, rose to power with the ferocity of a roaring lion and struck fear into the hearts of men. As a chief military officer for his father, King Nabopolassar, he was no stranger to the art of war and savagery.

How many times did the word "dream(s)" occur in this chapter (NASB)?

The dream chapter. The Hebrew word for dream is **hălôm** which means...well.... "dream".

In Daniel 2:1, King Nebuchadnezzar "had dreams" as the NASB version has it. In Assyria and Babylonia, as in Egypt, and other countries of the ancient world, dreams were regarded as significant, and as portending future events. The Assyrian inscriptions furnish several instances of deities appearing in dreams with words of encouragement or advice. (Dictionary of the Bible).

Today, dreams seem to serve no purpose. I know many who disagree and study dreams, but dreams do not seem to hold the same purpose as it seemed to serve these ancient kingdoms. Today, many people interpret their dreams on Freudian theory – kind of a self-reflection instead of predicting future events.

The command of the king to tell him the dream, was it a realistic request? Please explain your answer?

After Daniel 2:17, Daniel refers to the dream as a mystery. (Mystery should be marked in the scripture the same as you marked dreams for this study). He receives a vision from God at night – not a dream. What is the difference between a vision and a dream?

Visions are basically the same as dreams, except that dreams happen while a person is in a state of sleep and visions will happen while the person is fully awake. Daniel may have been fully awake during the night, pleading for mercy from God concerning the mystery.

Who can interpret the king's dream according to Daniel?

According to Daniel, what was King Nebuchadnezzar contemplating as he was lying in bed that induced the dream sequence from revealer of mysteries? Also, who is the revealer of mysteries?

He had conquered greatly and enlarged his territory vastly. King Nebuchadnezzar was contemplating the future of his kingdom if it could be conquered just as he had done to other kingdoms.

A dream or series of dreams are given to the king as an answer. God has given King Nebuchadnezzar dominion and power and might and glory according to Daniel 2:37-38. God has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky – and made him ruler over them all (Jeremiah 28:14). Does this happen to ordinary kings? I think not. God puts King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom in place for His purpose. Read Jeremiah 27:6-7

Why do you think God would emphasis this point before explaining his dream?

Could King Nebuchadnezzar really rule over all mankind and all the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky? What are your thoughts?



GOD'S KINGDOM: In Genesis 1:26-28, In Creation, the 6th day, God gives dominion of all beasts of the field, birds in the air and fish in the sea to created man made in His own image – in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

The charge of dominion for Adam is better understood as a position or right, passed from God to man to care for creation just as God does. Animals were companions – not food for God gave mankind every plant and tree yielding seed as food and for animals every green plant for food. After the fall in the garden and the great flood, it is clear that mankind lost their special relationship with animals; as well as the authority they once had over them.

Having dominion over the beasts of the field, birds in the air and fish in the sea will be again, be a part of the Kingdom of God.

As we see in scripture, we can see God's interaction with animals and their relationship with humans. We will recognize these again as we are restored to glory with God. We can fathom what it would mean to have full dominion over the animal kingdom by looking at Scripture:

1. The very nature of wild animals will be changed to predator and prey peaceably coexist with each other (Isaiah 11:6-10) (Hosea 2:18)
2. A vegetarian comeback for all animals after the Fall? (Genesis 1:30) (Isaiah 65:25)
3. Humans will not be on the menu (Ezekiel 34:25, 28)
4. Communication and fellowship with animals restored (Genesis 3) (Numbers 22:28-30)
5. Animals bring glory and praise to God (Psalm 148:7, 10) (Psalm 150:6)
6. Animals belong to God (Psalm 24:1; Job 41:11; Psalm 50:10-11)
7. Perhaps extinct animals will again be part of God's kingdom? Just a thought – no scripture references



Let us end today's study by praying for animals in need with this lovely supplication authored by Bob Hostetler with a slight addition added by me in ():

*Lord God,
You have made the heavens and the earth by your great power.*

*You created all things for your glory,
yet there are those in your Creation who languish in pain and suffering.
Please look kindly upon those animals who are in need this day,
whether they are in the wild, on the streets, in captivity, or elsewhere.
Deliver those who are hurt, abused, hungry, and forgotten.
Please grant that they may be treated with the loving care and respect all your Creation
deserves,
(We look forward to the restoration of that which was lost to us in the garden of Eden, prior
to the Fall of Man the fellowship of mankind with animal kind)
in the name of Jesus, AMEN.*



Day 2 – GOD’S KINGDOM

A KINGDOM THAT WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED

The dream of Nebuchadnezzar is prophetic (Daniel 2:38). God revealing current and future kingdoms through his servant, the king of Babylon who God had given dominion and power and might and glory.

King Nebuchadnezzar is told that he is the “king of kings”. He is a very notable character having enlarging Babylon into a mighty empire. God would grant him illimitable dominion in whatever direction his ambition would lead him if he so desired – Egypt, Judah, Assyria, Syria, Tyre. By Daniel 2:38, God placed all of mankind...and made him ruler over them all. The use in this verse of “king of kings” in Daniel 2:37 is a boastful title the monarchs used in the Middle East and is a title used in a number of different kingdoms and empires, including Persia. I would expect the title here is Daniel speaking to his king as the king would expect his subjects to address him rather than how God has addressing him.

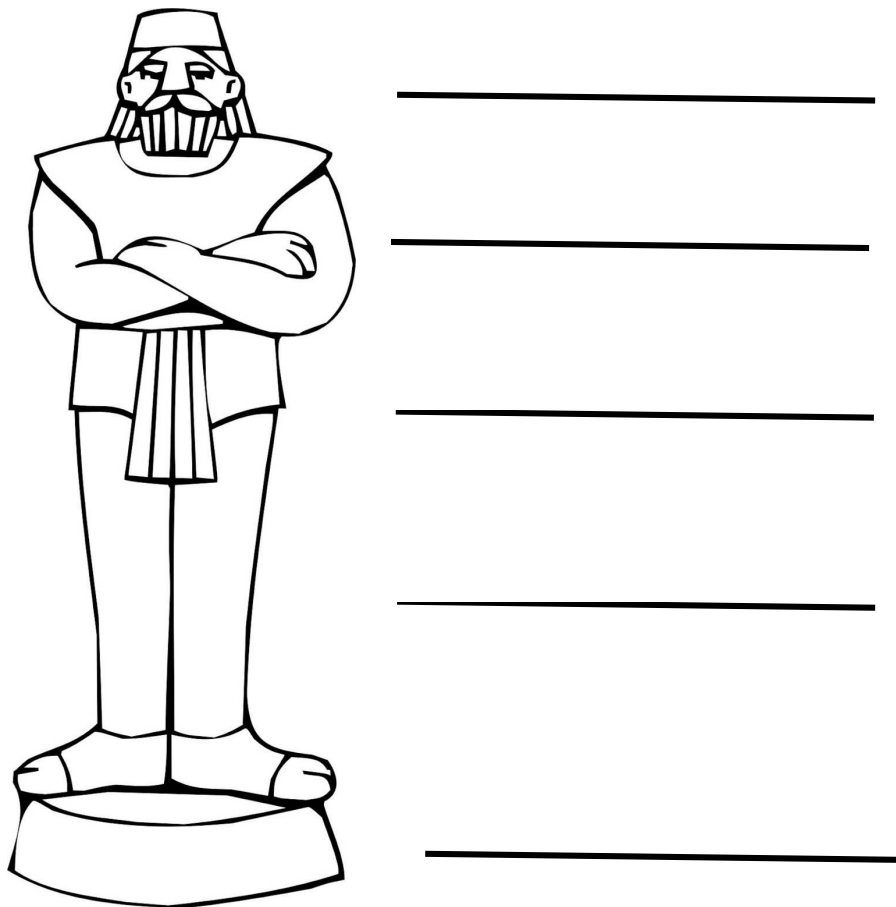
We will soon discover who the true King of kings and Lord of lords is later in our study. Hold tight and enjoy the ride!

Back to our observation sheets of Daniel 2, let's start to study the statue in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Daniel states before the king stood a large, enormous, dazzling statue awesome in appearance. The word awesome in Hebrew is **dēchal** which has to do with fear – so the statue was dazzling and enormous – but it was quite formidable – “to make afraid, dreadful, fear and terrible”. So we can start to see why King Nebuchadnezzar was so disturbed about his dream and seeking its meaning, thus following

this logic, demanding his subjects in his court to tell him his dream and interpret it. He was afraid of this statue and what it could mean for him.

People in the ancient Near East believed "dream-experiences were recorded on three differentiated planes: dreams as revelations of the deity which may or may not require interpretation; dreams which reflect, symptomatically, the state of mind, the spiritual and bodily "health" of the dreamer, which are only mentioned but never recorded and thirdly, mantic dreams in which forthcoming events are prognosticated." (Oppenheim, A. Leo. "The Interpretation of Dreams in the Ancient Near East. With a Translation of an Assyrian Dream-Book." Transactions of the American Philosophical Society 46, no. 3 (1956): 179-373.)





Daniel 2:28-45: Identify from the king's dream of the statue what the sections of the statue were made of and what each section symbolizes according to Daniel:




As I stated before, the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar is prophetic in nature. At the time of Daniel's interpretation, the following 3 kingdoms after Babylon are unknown. The only known fact in the interpretation of the statue at this time is the statue's head of gold is the king because we are told this in Daniel 2:38. There would be no way for the king to know that the head of gold was himself and the current kingdom of Babylon without interpretation .

To answer the king regarding his kingdom, he learns that his kingdom will not remain in power forever but yet another kingdom will arise, then another and following that, another kingdom will come into power and rule over the whole earth for a total of 4 kingdoms that are recorded in this dream.

Below is a “moving” chart that will move along and build on in study days as we explore the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in our study.

			
<p>PURE GOLD = HEAD</p> <p>Daniel 2:38 = Nebuchadnezzar</p>	<p>SILVER = CHEST & ARMS</p> <p>Daniel 2:39 = 2nd kingdom, inferior to Babylon</p>	<p>BRONZE = BELLY & THIGHS</p> <p>Daniel 2:39 = 3rd kingdom</p>	<p>IRON = LEGS PARTLY IRON & PARTLY CLAY = FEET & TOES</p> <p>Daniel 2:40 = 4th kingdom, strong as iron, iron breaks and smashes everything and as iron breaks things into pieces, so it will crush and break all the others (kingdom)</p> <p>Daniel 2:40 = 4th kingdom is a divided kingdom – will have some strength of iron. Kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle – the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay</p>

The dream reveals to the king that his kingdom will not be for ever and kingdoms will follow after his. As each of the kingdoms follow after his – it seems that the kingdoms of the world will depreciate – gold, then silver, then bronze and so on.....

 When observing text, it’s always a good idea to mark even the smallest detail of time – including words like “then, at this time, etc.” What is the time stamp in Daniel 2:44?

We will study this further as we get to the fourth kingdom. We can see following that timestamp that God of heaven will set up His kingdom. This is important to our study, but we don't have all the necessary information in this chapter of Daniel to come to any conclusions of exactly when this time period is – yet!

What is the rock and where does it come from in the king's dream according to Daniel 2:44-45



Look up these cross references regarding this rock:

Genesis 49:24b:

Deuteronomy 32:3-4, 15, 18:

2 Samuel 22:32, 47:

Psalms 18:2, 31, 46:

Psalms 19:14:

Psalms 42:9:

Psalms 89:26:

Psalms 92:15:

Isaiah 26:4:

Isaiah 30:29b:

Acts 4:11:

1 Corinthians 10:4:

1 Peter 2:4, 6:

By cross references in Scripture, we know Who the Rock is. Who is this rock in Daniel 2?

Below, write what is happening below the pictures according to Daniel 2:34-35, 44



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The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy (Daniel 2:45). The impossible made possible. A dream not only interpreted but described exactly – no man can do this feat but only the revealer of mysteries, God in heaven.

Look up 1 Corinthians 2:10-12 and write this verse below:

Let's end today's lesson in prayer.


Revealer of Mysteries, we praise You today for You know all things and all things are in Your sovereignty. We praise You for Your amazing love. Thank You for providing wisdom to those who ask and You make us wise in revealing the mysteries of our Lord Jesus Christ. You give us Your truth and provide us with understanding. Continue to be with us throughout our study of Your Kingdom and Your Throne Room. In Jesus' name. Amen.




Day 3 – GOD’S KINGDOM

DEDICATED SERVICE OF THE MOST HIGH GOD

Observe all of Daniel Chapter 3.

Mark all mention of time: 


Mark all references of King Nebuchadnezzar: 

Mark all occurrences of command/decreed/giving orders/ordered: 


Mark all occurrences of set up: 


Mark all of worship/fall down: 






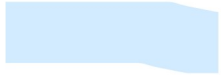

Mark all of do not worship/fall down/serve: 

Mark all occurrence of furnace of blazing fire: 

Mark all occurrences of wrath, anger: 

Mark Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego each: 

Mark as a group the assembly (ex, satraps, prefects, etc): 

- Mark all occurrences of God: 
- Mark all occurrences of Jews: 
- Mark all occurrences of hear: 
- Mark all occurrences of statue: 
- Mark all occurrences of musical instructions: 
- Mark all occurrences of rescue: 
- Mark all occurrences of kingdom (make each kingdom its own color): 
- Mark condition of the men (what they were wearing, no effect on the bodies, etc): 
- Mark the angel: 

Based on the interpretation provided to King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2, why would King Nebuchadnezzar set up a 90-foot-tall gold statue of himself?

Rebellion against God. Man vs. God. The book of Daniel is about revealing the God of impossibilities. Half of the book of Daniel is what man cannot do, but what is impossible for man - God can do (Matthew 19:26). For a deeper study of the God of impossibilities, I would invite you to do my Miracles study if you have not already done so. We have an amazing God.

God let the pensive king know the future of his kingdom through his dream and interpretation. The kingdom of Babylon was the head of gold. A powerful and majestic kingdom but, it will come to an end to be followed by another slightly less powerful and majestic kingdom.

Time would go by, and the king would let this gnaw him into action. "Who is this God that says that my kingdom will end? Who am I to listen to this God? My kingdom will last forever!" (Speculation, not actual Scripture). It beset the king the inference that his reign would never come to an end, building this majestic 90-foot-tall statue of gold was a way to demonstrate his kingdom will continue.

The personhood of the Head of Gold, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon deliberately erects a 9-story majestic head-to-toe statue of gold in direct opposition to the proclaimed God's revelation. Now, he demands worship of his statue. In Daniel 2, the dream interpretation, the king is told that the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. King Nebuchadnezzar "sets up" an idol for his kingdom to worship. The Scripture text does not specify whether it was a likeness of himself for the people to worship or to a god, such as Bel to establish one religion over the people – but the Scripture is clear of the king's intentions that this statue is to be worshiped by bowing down the very moment you hear the worship music played or the consequences is you're BBQ.



ARCHEOLOGY NOTE: *"On the plains of Dura there stands today, a rectilinear mound, about twenty feet high, an exact square of about forty-six feet at the base, resembling the pedestal of a colossal statue." (Heslop)*

The king decrees for the dedication of the statue he had set up for all to worship his statue. In what manner were the people to worship the statue?

What would happen if they didn't obey after hearing the worship music?



ARCHEOLOGY NOTE: *"Nebuchadnezzar was not a man who allowed lawbreakers to go unpunished. In an ancient cuneiform writing, Nebuchadnezzar was described as so devoted to justice that "he did not rest night or day." The document also tells of a criminal guilty of a second offense who was decapitated, and afterwards a stone image of his head was displayed as a warning.*

If you go back to Daniel 2, Daniel asked his 3 friends to fast and pray for the Revealer of mysteries to give to Daniel the dream and its interpretation so they might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Daniel's prayer was answered, and the king exalted him as a result. Who were these 3 men?

Go back to Daniel 1:5-7. Write the 4 Hebrew names of these sons of Judah, including Daniel and the names given to them by the chief eunuch:

Now, back to Daniel 3. There were certain Chaldeans who brought charges against certain Jews – why? Because the Chaldeans were unable to tell the king the dream and thus its

interpretation and the king was putting them to death because of this, but then a Hebrew, specifically Daniel was able to do so by revelation by God by prayer and fasting conducted faithfully by these 4 Hebrew men. What was the reward for Daniel and his 3 friends for interpreting the dream (Daniel 2:46-49):

It was fitting that Daniel's friends got to share in his advancement, because they accomplished much of the victory through their prayers, fasting and their faithfulness to God. Because of this, envious, green-eyed-monster Chaldeans made it a point to draw the king's attention to these "certain Jews whom you (King Nebbie) have appointed over the administration (in other words - us, the jealous Chaldeans) of Babylon, namely Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

It's interesting that the Chaldeans had to point this out to the king. The Hebrew men did not hide their devotion to God, nor did they comply or compromise with the political decree that goes against their beliefs of their One True God.

- a. They are under great pressure to comply with the threat of their own lives for disobedience
- b. This is a dedication of the statue so it may not even be a long lived decree – perhaps only one day they must fall down and worship the statue when music is heard. Even if that may have been the case, they did not compromise, not even if it was only 1 time
- c. They could have come up with a million excuses to give in to the decree, but none were given. They would not bow to this image.
- d. Their faith showed a good understanding of God's great power because they knew that God was able to save them (2 Corinthians 1:8-10) (Isaiah 43:2-3)
- e. They studied the scriptures and knew their God!
- f. They understood the submission to God – they must do what is right, even unto death. "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15).
- g. These men stood firm when challenged to eat impure foods and they saw God bless their obedience and give them strength and health (Daniel 1).
- h. They practiced their faith habitually so when time comes for opposition to their faith, they were ready. (Daniel 1) (Daniel 6)
- i. They do not partake of other religious practices

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego surrendered themselves *completely* to God – body, soul, and spirit as “Living and Holy Sacrifices” Write Romans 12:1-2:

Daniel 3:13. The king was furious at the Chaldeans report and had the 3 Hebrew men brought before him. As a king, I am surprised that he asked the 3 men if the Chaldeans claim was true and did accept the accusation on hearsay. As high-ranking servants in his court, I like the fact that he was offering them refutation to a possible false claim to disobedience to his decree of worshiping the statue. He also provides them with the opportunity to avoid the punishment if they worship his statue at the sound of the worship music.

“What god is there who can rescue you from my hands?”. What God - The 3 Hebrew men reveal their God to King Nebuchadnezzar:

- a. Serve God alone and will not bow down to an idol
- b. They are confident their God is able to rescue them, even from a blazing fiery furnace
- c. Faithful to their service and cannot be dissuaded
- d. If God will not rescue them, they were willing to be martyred for their faith and obedience to God

Cleopas Bible Study principal: God will use people and place names to add to His story. Below is the 3 young men’s Hebrew names (found in Daniel 2) and their meanings:

Hananiah (God protects)
Mishael (Who is like God?)
Azariah (Helped by God)

So paraphrasing their response to the king by using the meaning of their Hebrew names – matches Daniel 3:16-18: **“God protects us, we are helped by God and who is like God?”**. Pretty AWESOME! Praise God!

The king flies off the handle, hits the roof and has a total melt down. What are his orders concerning the 3 Hebrew men?

What happens to the king's valiant men?

The Septuagint (Greek Old Testament, earliest extant Greek translation of books from the Hebrew Bible) says in Daniel 3:24 that Nebuchadnezzar's attention was caught when he heard the men singing praises in the furnace. We can imagine that the king had them cast into the furnace and didn't intend to look twice, believing they would be immediately consumed. As he walked away with a satisfied look on his face, he was immediately stopped by the sound of singing coming from the furnace. At a safe distance from the raging heat, he peered inside – and saw four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire.

If this singing in the furnace is true, it reminds us of Paul and Silas singing in the Philippian jail (Acts 16:25). (Enduring Word, Daniel 3)

The king witnesses 4 men in the furnace. Provide the description of the 4th man (Daniel 3:25 & 28):

The king and all his servants witness that the fire had no effect on the bodies of Shadrach, Meschach and Abed-nego – not even the smell of fire was on them. The fire seems to only burn the ropes that bound them.

We all know that fire is all consuming. Fire can consume a house as little as 2.5 seconds. Fire does not pick and choose what it will burn, it just burns. You cannot appeal to the fire to not burn you. No one can walk in or walk out of a burning furnace and not get severely burned at the least, most of all consumed but these 3 men did. They walked around, talked, sang songs to God Most High and their party grew from 3 men to a 4th man walking around with them. Who is this 4th man? Perhaps the angel of the LORD that appeared to Moses in the burning bush, a bush that was not consumed by the fire. A strong argument for this because of Daniel 3's context following Daniel 2 describing the 4 kingdoms and the final kingdom, the Rock that becomes a mountain – the Rock we know through our study of scriptures on Day 2 from the Old Testament to the New Testament points to the preincarnate manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ or a Christophany before He was born to the virgin Mary (appearance of Christ referred to the angel of the LORD or angel of God – showing that he was God).

Christophany – angel of the LORD/God: *There is a difference between an **angel** and the **Angel of the Lord**, The Angel of the Lord is the only angel appearing continually throughout*

the Old Testament referring to himself as the Lord and God in the first person, while the other angels mentioned in the scripture reference to the Lord God as a hallowed third person always humbling themselves and not accepting any type of glory. (Preceptaustin.org from a “secular source Wikipedia).

When approaching the Bible, you start by accepting the entire Bible as the Word of God, not separate literary pieces chronicled together but as “Breathed Out” by God making the entirety of Scripture as God’s own words, emitting His own substance into it. *God himself breathed upon men who wrote as he moved in and upon them, and the Scriptures took form. Just as Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us, or took form, so God’s life took form in Scripture and will do the same in us. (www.shortdailydevotions.com/breathed-out-by-god/)*

The Old Testament is not separate from the New Testament – think of the New Testament as a magnifying glass that focuses with pinpoint accuracy on the preincarnate Christ now appearing in body in human form as Jesus to establish His Kingdom and prophesied in the Old Testament, including the Book of Daniel. (We have already established that the Rock that grows into a mountain is Jesus and the Kingdom of God – timelines are coming soon in this study).

We cannot go into real depth of this concept of the Angel of LORD. This would make too much of a sideline from our study as you can see as I introduced this concept to you. This can be its own bible study 😊 – just a tasty morsel for now.

The impossible was only possible for God. The 3 men of faith, by nature’s rules, should have been consumed by the fire just as the king’s valiant men that were ordered to bind them and throw them into the furnace in haste to the king’s enraged decree. Yet, God revealed His power to a gentile king who knew nothing about Him. So, would the king’s 9 story tall statue save like this? The answer: No. A lifeless statue/god cannot save or even speak for that matter. It’s made by human hands out of materials in the ground or fashioned from a piece of wood or rock. Its amazing that it was a source for worship at all.

Let’s take a look at idol worship. We know that Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego would not bow down and worship the king’s idol. Why does God forbid the worship of idol(s)? (Exodus 20:4–5:)

“God was “jealous” in the sense that He expected full devotion, not merely a partial, lukewarm commitment. Worship belongs to God, and He is right to be “jealous” of it. (www.compellingtruth.org/jealous-God.html)

Idols makes us and all who trust in them to conform to be just like them. See how the psalmist of 115:4-8 gives us this critique on idol worship:

*Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.*

They have mouths, but do not speak;
eyes, but do not see,
They have ears, but do not hear;
noses, but do not smell.
They have hands, but do not feel;
feet, but do not walk;
and they do not make a sound in their throat.
Those who make them become like them;
so do all who trust in them. (Psalm 115:4–8)

In our future, in the book of Revelation, idol worship: Revelation 9:20 : But those who were left of mankind, who had not perished through these Curses, did not repent and turn away from what their own hands had made; they would not abandon the worship of 'demons, and of idols made of gold or silver or brass or stone or wood, which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk

Idols are mindless.
Idols are dumb/mute.
Idols cannot hear.
Idols are blind.
Idols cannot move on their own.
But idols are:
=to man's desires of money and sex
=to man's heart of sin
=to justify man's depraved nature



The Scripture has its own commentary on the Foolishness of Idolatry. See Isaiah 44:9-20 below. I really like this Bible Version: The VOICE (VOICE):


⁹ But whoever does make an idol is not *improved or enriched*. On the contrary, their passing fancies contribute nothing of value or *purpose*. Those who look on at such *misplaced attention* don't understand what they're seeing, and the idol-makers will end up embarrassed at best. ¹⁰ It's easy to say, "*What pathetic idiocy! Who would do such a thing—make gods that are by definition worthless?*" ¹¹ The people who worship them will be *shamed and humiliated*. After all, people made those gods. Yet it happens all the time. So, let's put these *images, these figurines* all together; stand them up—they will tremble with terror and be ashamed.

¹² A metalworker shapes the raw materials into tools and then uses them to make little gods by hammering, bending, heating, and *cooling the materials*. And in the process, he gets tired and hungry; without water he soon grows faint. ¹³ Likewise, the woodworker measures and marks the wood, chisels and planes it down, marks it with a compass, and carves it until it looks a bit like a human—lovely, maybe—in order to put it in a house. ¹⁴ To take it back a bit

further, perhaps he cuts down cedars or he carefully selects the cypress or oak himself, watches it, nurtures it until it is ready for his purpose. Perhaps he plants a pine; with sun and rain, it grows tall. ¹⁵ *When it's time to harvest, he uses some of the wood for fuel to stay warm, some to heat the oven and bake bread, and some to craft a god. Then the woodworker bows down and worships before the image he just made.* ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ *Do you see the irony?* He sits around, warming himself and roasting dinner with wood from the same tree from which he crafted a god to which he bows and worships and prays—one time saying, “I am warmed by the wood fire”; another time saying, “O dear god, save me.”

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ *So we see again how it is that they're blind—their eyes shut to the truth in front of them, their hearts and minds refusing to think and really understand what's going on. So without stopping to think about it, the fool says, “Gosh, I used half of the wood to build a fire, and baked the bread and roasted the meat over its hot coals. After I eat, I think I'll use the rest of it to make a repulsive god. Maybe I'll bow down to this leftover lumber.”* ²⁰ *A fool like this is feeding on ashes—his addled mind and deceived heart lead him nowhere. He can't figure out how to save himself, much less see the error of his ways and say, “Is this idol in my right hand just a lie?”*

In our society today, we believe we don't have idol worship but let's look at money.

Replace the steps listed above and think about how it relates to . Its made with wood, made by our hands, it cannot do anything on its own. We bow down to it and seem to put ourselves at its mercy. Hoping it will bless us abundantly. We do have modern day idols. Let's take worship of selves – our physical appearance, our social status, our entertainment, sex and yes, even family can be a source of idol worship because idol worship is in itself a worship of self – anything that stands in place of God Almighty. God has designed us to worship Him. If we are not worshipping our Creator, we must fill that desire of worship which can come in a myriad of forms. These “forms” cannot and will not fill the God-size whole in your heart. You may have a momentary fill but, it cannot satisfy. A quote from **Pascal** – “*There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made know through Jesus Christ.*”

Write Romans 1:21-23, meditate on this scripture, and write what the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart. Idol worship is more than bowing down to a carved image, my friends, but a worship of self and where your heart is.

God of Heaven, may we honor You only and give You all our thanksgiving, praise and worship. May we not become futile in our thinking, or let our foolish hearts become darkened. Do not let us become fools and exchange Your glory for an idol of ourselves. You God, alone, are worthy of praise! May we praise Your Holy Name. In Jesus, our Savior's name, we pray. Amen.

Till tomorrow, my friends!



Day 4 – GOD’S KINGDOM

THE DOMINION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Observe all of Daniel Chapter 4.

Mark all mention of time/including everlasting & seven periods, at that time....:



Mark all references of King Nebuchadnezzar:



Mark all occurrences of command/decreed/giving orders/ordered:



Mark all occurrences of set up:



Mark the word sign:



Mark all occurrences of dream/vision & mystery/secret:



Mark all occurrences of house/palace:



Mark Daniel/Balteshazzar each:



Mark as a group the assembly (ex, satraps, prefects, etc):



Mark all occurrences of God:



Mark all occurrences of Holy Spirit:



Mark all occurrences of interpret/explain/made known:



Mark all occurrences of see/seen/looking:



Mark all occurrences of earth:



Underline the description of the dream:



Underline the description of what the angelic watcher says:



Mark all occurrences of tree:



Mark sin/wrongdoings/pride:



Mark the angel:



Daniel 4 opens with King Nebuchadnezzar's proclamation in recognition of the Most High God's kingdom, a far cry from the previous chapter Daniel 3 of the 90 foot all gold Nebuchadnezzar idol. From Daniel 2, scripture progresses with Nebuchadnezzar given a dream regarding his kingdom (the Gold Kingdom/Babylon) and ultimately through a series of kingdoms, to the ultimate fulfillment of the unique ultimate Kingdom of God (represented as the Rock crushing all the kingdoms to dust to signify no more kingdoms to grow in a mountain that fills the earth).

From a dream of a gigantic statue of future kingdoms, to a dream of an enormous tree of the future of the current king. A dream to drill down to the nitty gritty of just who really is King on no uncertain terms.

Let's study the head-of-gold king's humble start to this chapter. Did the king ultimately repent? Does the king change his mind regarding his kingdom, change the course of his conduct on account of regret or dissatisfaction? Is he sorry for his sin and seek forgiveness? Repentance is a change of heart and attitude or viewpoint, to be sorry for your sin, to believe God, to do an about face, to turn around 180 degrees change – turning to God.

Repentance:

1. Absolutely necessary to enter the Kingdom of God/Salvation (Matthew 3:2, 4:17) (Mark 1:15)



2. Forgiveness of sins = by humbling yourself, prayer, seeking God's face and repentance (2 Chronicles 7:14); (Acts 3:19)
3. Confession of sins (1 John 1:9)
4. Repentance bears fruit that proves it! (Matthew 3:8)
5. Leads to life (Acts 11:18)
6. Rejoicing in heaven (Luke 15:7, 10)
7. Leads to salvation without regret (2 Corinthians 7:10)
8. Restoration (Hosea 6:1)
9. It's an action – not a feeling
10. Changes the way we think and act (Jeremiah 31:19)
11. Regret for past sins (Jeremiah 31:19)

Unrepentance:

1. Unrighteous (1 Corinthians 6:9)
2. Will not inherit the kingdom of God/Salvation (1 Corinthians 6:9, Galatians 5:19-21))
3. Reject truth, do not believe biblical teaching/accumulate teaching that suit their own passions (2 Timothy 4:3-4)
4. Hard and impenitent heart (Romans 2:5)
5. Estranged from God (Isaiah 1)

Dreams/Visions. Just as in Chapter 2 of the book of Daniel, the dream of the king were of things to come. The head of gold kingdom to the chest/arms silver kingdom and so on until the Rock/Mountain kingdom of God. In Chapter 4 the king has a different dream. The king is described as at ease in his house (security) and happy (contentment) in his palace when he has the dream/visions in his mind which disturbed him. He feared it was a vision of coming events just as his vision in Chapter 2.

Compare the vision with the king's current state:

 <p>Daniel 4:4</p>	 <p>Daniel 4:11-12</p>
Security	
Contentment	

Prosperity	



The kingdom is enjoying freedom, prosperity, abundance, free from war and famine. Absolutely nothing is wrong with feeling secure and content as long as it is in the LORD as we will soon see as Daniel interprets this vision to the king.

Cosmic Tree–In the ancient world they often imagined a tree at the center of the world that had its top branches in the heavens and its roots in the netherworld. It was the source of provision and protection for the creatures of the world. This is like the tree in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in chapter 4.

From Daniel 4:23 we are privy that this magnificent tree is King Nebuchadnezzar himself and his kingdom. The head of gold is the Great tree whose kingdom has security and contentment and prosperity provided by God Almighty. In Ezekiel 31, God is speaking about King Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom in language very similar to what the king describes in his dream in Daniel 4. **Read Ezekiel 31.**

What will happen to the King/Tree if he fails to heed the advice from Daniel 4:27?

What happens to the tree in the vision? Describe Daniel 4:13-17:

 <p>Daniel 4:23-27</p>	 <p>Daniel 4:20-27</p>
	Driven from mankind
	The kingdom will remain his

	Dwelling place is with the animals and eats like the animals of the field and drenched with dew of heaven
--	---

The tree is no longer in its glory. It is reduced to a stump. This great Cedar Tree of Lebanon kingdom of prosperity, peace and glory is progressively shaved. Its branches are cut off, then its foliage is shaken, and its fruit becomes scattered. The animals flee its shade and security the tree supplied, and the birds scoot never to land in the safety and security of the tree's magnificent branches. This represents the state of the kingdom and its people – cut off, shaken, scattered, and fleeing. What happens to the king is instant, but with the kingdom, a determined succession away from glory and security and lack of food, or at least, not as plentiful as previous.

Only the stump and its roots remain. So, the tree/kingdom may be felled, and its structure disjointed, however, the king himself is the stump with a band of iron and bronze around it. The king is either confined or protected – or perhaps both. He will be confined to a purgatory of living as a beast in the field – not even a noble beast as a lion or leopard but like an ox or a goat or a sheep. His mind no longer human, pondering and deliberating on kingdom matters, but given that of a beast, to whatever beasts think about. Gone are the delicacies of Babylonian gastronomy, exchanged to a very meadowlike vegetarian diet. Driven outside to reside in jeopardies of grazeland with beasts away from the security and luxury of his own opulent palace, now into the unforgiving elements, drenched continuously in dampness. Away from his subjects who serve him, his military and advisors, the king unable to even conceive of his own estrangement with his kingdom because he's just a "manimal" (my made-up word).

But his kingdom is protected as there is no other ruler that would overtake the kingdom at this most vulnerable time as the king has literally "lost" his mind as he serves out his sentence. The king is protected in his vulnerable state, as it would be easy for him to be marked as a target for assassination. Maybe I read too many fictions, but many a conspirator would dream that this would happen to those they wish to dispose and make their effort much, much easier. The king is protected because this is not permanent. It may be long-lasting, but it will end at the designated time and his restoration is assured.

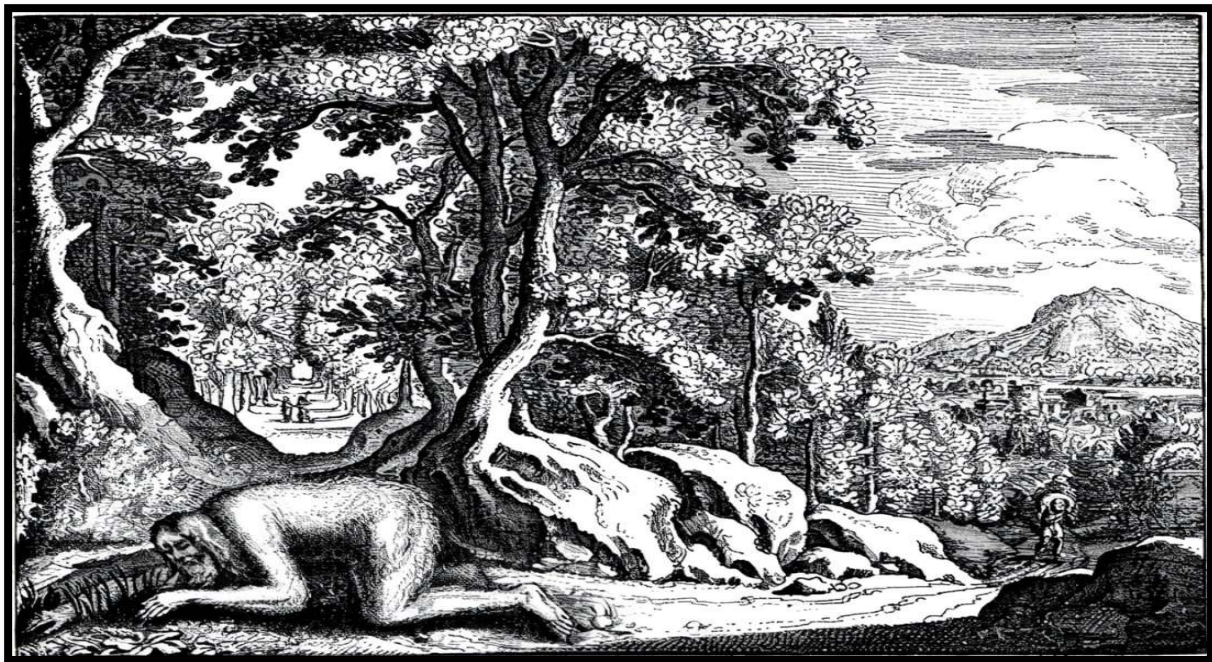


Food for thought... isn't it interesting that the king and his kingdom are described as a great tree – something that can ultimately come down, be destroyed by axe or fire or by some other means whether nature or by man, but not referred to as a

great mountain or rock which is difficult to destroy as we see referenced in the king's first dream with the statue destroyed by a rock that becomes the mountain = GOD's KINGDOM which cannot be destroyed.

The interpretation of the dream should have been easy for the king to interpret himself. In his dream, the word of the angelic watcher tells all and in itself explains it plainly for the king. For what purpose will this take place to the tree/king according to the angelic watcher?

An image to ponder:



What will release the king from the madness?

This means to repent – see Daniel's advice to the king – Daniel 4:27 – wipe away sin by doing righteousness and wrongdoings by showing mercy – a turning away from sin and follow God's ways.




GOD'S KINGDOM: Poor in spirit vs haughty pride. The problem with haughtiness and pride is that the proud are so consumed with themselves in that their thoughts are far from God: "In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God." (Psalm 10:4).

Pride is destructive and cause us to fall away from God: "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)

Why, because pride is worship of self.... **I** did this. It was **my** ability. I did this

myself – it's all about me me **me**! There is no room for God whatsoever in pride for you try to usurp self the throne of Almighty God.

HUMILITY is  to the Kingdom of God: Matthew 18:3 AMP: "...unless you repent [that is, change your inner self—your old way of thinking, live changed lives] and become like children [trusting, humble, and forgiving], you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Humility is essential. We must be like children.

What is it like to be "like children"?

God gives us his favor when we humble ourselves: "Toward the scornful he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor." (Proverbs 3:34); "Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (1 Peter 5:5)

God exalts those who humble themselves and haughty pride will be humbled: "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 14:11)



NOTICE ALL THE I'S AND MY'S!

How many times does the king give glory to himself by the use of either I, my or myself (v28-31)? **4 x**

Who else was puffed up with pride? Look at Isaiah 14:13-14, do you know who this is describing? Look up Isaiah 14:13-14 and write the verse down. Highlight the references of I, my and myself – Notice that he said it in his heart – his inner self:

Isaiah 14 begins with a prophetic taunt the Israelites will take up against the king of Babylon when He gives rest to a believing Israel. Babylon is symbolic of the antichrist's kingdom in the Last Days (see Revelation). Notice, then the verses change to who the spiritual power behind the king of Babylon is – none other than Satan/Lucifer himself. Making himself out to be like the Most High.

A year goes by since the dream according to the Scripture. The king did not take Daniel's counsel. He did not let the warning take root in his heart and the king fluffs himself up with his pride as he venerates himself in what he believed was his own might of power and the honor of himself that brought about Babylon to be a great kingdom. No sooner did he speak the words he was warned about in his own dream come true – instantly – with the sounding of the voice in heaven – the great Cedar of Lebanon cut down to a simple stump with single swing of the loose of his tongue.



ARCHEOLOGY NOTE: *Archeology, can it shine any light on the madness of King Nebuchadnezzar? Remarkably, a rare find at the British Museum seems to corroborate Nebuchadnezzar's illness! The Babylonian cuneiform tablet was first published in 1975 by A.K. Grayson. The tablet is broken and so the text is not as complete as what me might wish for. But for a Bible student, the text that remains is very exciting indeed! (Biblereadingarcheology.com)*

Abydenus, a Greek historian, wrote in 268 B.C. that Nebuchadnezzar was "possessed by some god" and that he had "immediately disappeared." (Wood)
i. Some dismiss this account of Nebuchadnezzar's madness as unhistorical, but there is no historical record of his governmental activity between 582 B.C. and 575 B.C. This silence is deafening, especially when we keep in mind how Near Eastern leaders liked to egotistically trumpet their achievements – and hide their embarrassments.
ii. "Although critics have imagined a series of incredible objections to accepting this chapter as authentic and reasonably accurate, the narrative actually reads very sensibly and the objections seem trivial and unsupported." (Walvoord)
(<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/Daniel-4>)

For 7 periods of time the king will be cursed as a "manimal". A period is a year according to Scripture (remember – always let Scripture interpret Scripture) – in Daniel, the Aramaic word **'iddan** appears several times: Daniel 2:8,9,21; 3:5,15; 4:16, 23, 25, 32; 7:12, 25. The word means time or a year, depending on the context. When it is used with

a definite article or a fixed amount, it refers to years. Thus, *"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'" (Daniel 4:23)*, it is speaking of seven years since seven is a fixed amount.

The "manimal" could not make himself human again. Only at the end of the designated time of the sentence was fulfilled, could he come out of the madness and become the king of Babylon again. The "manimal" looked to heaven and all his reasoning returned to him and he immediately worshipped God Most High (Daniel 4:34).

How does the king describe God's kingdom (v34-35, & include v37)?

How does God restore the Head of Gold kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar (v36)?

If you are familiar to the story of Job, the restoration is very similar as compared to the Book of Job if you know how this humble man (Job) was double blessed as he was restored by God. *"After Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored Job's prosperity and gave him twice as much as he had before." Then all his brothers and sisters and everyone who had previously known him came to him. They ate with him at his house, sympathized with him, and comforted him for all the evil the Lord had brought to him. Each one gave him some money and a gold ring. The Lord blessed the latter years of Job's life more than the earlier years. He had 14,000 sheep and goats, 6,000 camels, 2,000 oxen, and 1,000 donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. (Job 42:10-13 GW)*

My friends, today was a long study but so worth it and thank you for sticking with it! This chapter was about God Most High that sits on the throne, be rest assured of that and be joyful that the Kingdom of God is everlasting; who can fend off His hand?

Let's pray together to the King of Heaven the "Lord's prayer" taught to us by The Rock of our salvation:

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN
MAY YOUR NAME BE KEPT HOLY
MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME
AND YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
GIVE US TODAY THE FOOD WE NEED
AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS
AS WE HAVE FORGIVEN THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US
AND DON'T LET US YIELD TO TEMPATION
BUT RESCUE US FROM THE EVIL ONE
FOR THE KINGDOM
THE POWER AND THE GLORY
ARE YOURS NOW AND FOREVER

Thank you, friends. I'm excited in what the Good Lord has in store for us in our next Day's study!



Day 5 – GOD’S KINGDOM

THE PROTECTION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Observe all of Daniel Chapter 5.

Mark all mention of time/including everlasting & seven periods, at that time....:



Mark all references of King Belshazzar & his kingdom:



Mark all references of the queen:



Mark all occurrences of command/decreed/giving orders/ordered:



Mark all occurrences of wine/drinking wine:



Mark all occurrences of dreams/difficult problems:



Mark all occurrences of temple/House of God:



Mark Daniel/Balteshazzar each:




Mark as a group the assembly (sorcerers, Chaldeans, etc):





Mark all occurrences of God:




Mark all occurrences of hand: 


Mark all occurrences of interpret/explain/made known/inscription: 


Mark all occurrences of writing: 

Mark all scaled/weighed/divided: 

Underline the description of the Daniel in its occurrences in Daniel 5: 

Underline the Daniel 5:19-21 

Mark all occurrences of face: 

Mark humbled/you have not glorified: 

I am going to start from the end of this chapter as we begin today's chapter because we touched on humility in yesterday's study and its only appropriate to touch on it now as we progress through mankind's kingdom.

Rewrite the last words of King Nebuchadnezzar Daniel 4:37:

Advancing 23 years after Chapter 4, Nebuchadnezzar ruled as king for 43 years. The last words of Nebuchadnezzar and the beginning of Daniel 5 is very telling and discerning from the last words recorded in scripture from the king. Daniel Chapter 5 segue from the King Nebuchadnezzar (head of Gold) to a new co-regent ruler, Belshazzar. *Belshazzar was the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar and the son of Nabonidus as discovered from Archeological discoveries of ancient cuneiform texts which indicates that Nabonidus lived in Tema, North Arabia, for approximately ten years. During that decade, Belshazzar ruled Babylon as his father's regent. Belshazzar ruled, in his father's stead, without restriction; however, he governed under the ultimate authority of Nabonidus. Perhaps this explains why Belshazzar promised Daniel to elevate the prophet to the third in command in the kingdom (See Daniel 5:16) (Stand Firm in the Faith.)*



ARCHEOLOGY NOTE: in 1854, four clay cylinders with identical inscriptions were excavated from Ur.⁷ These Nabonidus Cylinders contained Nabonidus' prayer to the moon god for "Belshazzar, the eldest son—my offspring."⁸ Thus, Belshazzar's existence was confirmed—as Nabonidus' firstborn son and heir to his throne. Then, in 1882, a translation of another ancient cuneiform text, the Nabonidus Chronicle, was published. According to this document, Nabonidus was a mostly absentee king, spending 10 years of his 17-year reign living in Tema, Arabia (725 km / 450 miles away from Babylon). The king left Belshazzar, whom the text calls "the crown prince", to take care of affairs in Babylon during that time.⁹ Also, the Chronicle explained that Nabonidus was away from Babylon when it fell. Two days earlier he had fled from the Persians when they defeated him at Sippar, so Belshazzar was the highest authority



in Babylon at the time of its capture.

ChrisO / Wikimedia Commons Nabonidus Chronicle tablet. Next, the Persian Verse Account of Nabonidus, published in 1924, stated that, as "he started out for a long journey", Nabonidus "entrusted the kingship" to "his oldest (son), the firstborn."¹⁰ So Belshazzar clearly functioned in the role of a king for years while his father was away. <https://creation.com/archaeology-belshazzar>

Write, in your own words Daniel 5:1-4:

We are introduced into the theme of this Chapter quite abruptly. Brazen dramatic irony from the last verse of Chapter 4 to the first 5 verses of Chapter 5. The Head of Gold king had learned that God can humble those who walk in pride but his grandson who is only 2nd in command ruler of Babylon conducts blatant debauchery by throwing a great feast for 1,000 of his nobles and ladies by demanding that the Holy gold and silver vessels that were sacked from the Temple of God in Jerusalem used for service to the Holy God of Israel, now impiously used for wine glasses by pagans for a pagan party. For almost 70 years God's Holy vessels had been stored away (never used by Nebuchadnezzar). Instead of reverence and regard for the Holy One of Israel, only blasphemed Him by giving praise to their idols/false gods (remember our study of idols in Day 3 of this study).

Babylon, at the time leading up to this chapter was considered unconquerable. Concurrently at the beginning of this chapter, there was a siege taking place against this seemingly impenetrable city. *The Medo-Persian army led by Cyrus had undertaken a siege against Babylon and some sources report that it had been in effect for 4 months. Belshazzar foolishly thought no one could touch him. He was going to party. After all Babylon is reported to have enough grain to feed them for 20 years and the Euphrates River provided a reliable water supply. They had a false sense of security. (Donald Campbell).* The walls were more than 350 feet high with hundreds of watchtowers that rose another 100 feet above the walls.



The Medes and Persians had united against Babylon and were winning victories against Babylon. They laid siege to the great city of Babylon. This siege of Babylon may be why so many nobles were at the party – they may have been seeking refuge within this impenetrable city to escape the Medes and Persians.



Belshazzar was all too cavalier and easily ignored the war that was waging outside his city, so sure of Babylon's strength. Can you see the parallel between the previous chapter and this chapter, between Nebuchadnezzar and his grandson?

We can all become a bit self-deceived when things are going well. We become deceived in believing what we have or who we are is from our own strength or our own efforts and become complacent in our beliefs. Can you relate to a time you had a false sense of security, trusting in something impregnable, unbreakable, invincible, unshakeable – anything that was not God Himself? What was it and how did it turn out?

Perhaps you trust in yourself or something impregnable and not God, perhaps your wealth or job, and you continue to trust or be secure in that. Learn what ultimately came about to Belshazzar. Repent and put all our trust in God alone. *Now I, _____, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything He does is right, and all His ways are just. And those who walk in pride He is able to humble! (Daniel 4:37)*

GOD IS OUR SAFETY/REFUGE! Write each of the scriptures below.

<p>TOWER</p>  <p>Proverbs 18:10 Psalm 46:1; 7 & 11 Psalm 61:3 Psalm 91:2</p>	
<p>SHIELD</p>  <p>Isaiah 43:2 Psalm 94:22</p>	

<p>Psalm 144:2 Ephesians 6:16</p>	
<p>SWORD</p>  <p>Psalm 23:4 Jeremiah 47:6-7 Hebrews 4:12</p>	
<p>ARROW</p>  <p>Zechariah 9:14</p>	

armor




Ephesians 6:10-17

king



Psalm 47:6-7
Zechariah 14:9
Luke 22:29
Matthew 25:34
Revelation 19:16

 <p>1 Kings 19:19 2 Timothy 2:3-4 Revelation 19:19</p>	
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A quote from peacefulwife.com ***If you try to find security in anything or anyone other than Jesus – you are going to be full of fear, anxiety and insecurity constantly!***

What gets Belshazzar's knees knocking? (Daniel 5-6)

The prophet Jeremiah records a prophecy that relates to this chapter - "*And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and I have given him also the wild animals of the field to serve him. And all the nations shall serve him, and his son, and his grandson, **UNTIL** the time of his own land comes; **THEN** many nations and great kings will make him their servant.*" (Jeremiah 27:7)

Jeremiah prophesied this very event, this very moment in time! Until the very time of his land come - the very time of its subjugation, or its being "visited" in wrath ("MENE: God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it") (www.bibliaplus.org)

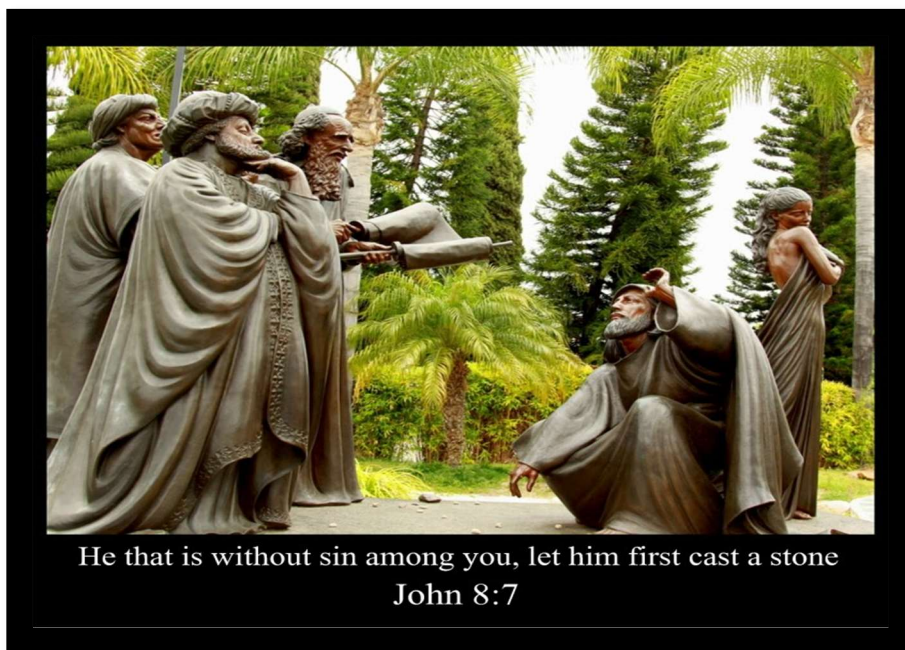
MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN



Imagine you are Belshazzar. Riding on your ancestors' laurels, kicked back, smug, drunk, reckless, jovial, show-offy. You blatantly call for God Almighty's sacred vessels and praise lifeless idols. Then, unexpectedly a hand appears and writes words you don't understand on the plaster of the wall.

Summarize what happened to Belshazzar? (Daniel 6-9)

I'm pretty sure I would have the same reaction – though my security is in our Triune God. I trust this is God handwriting the message on the wall and not an angel (just my view). Remember, the finger of God wrote the Ten Commandments 2 times? Who was it that appeared in the Burning Bush to Moses (Exodus 3:2)? And Jesus writing in the dirt 2XS (John 7:53–8:11) as the crowd wanted to stone an adulterous woman – testing Him on the Law of Moses (which includes the Ten Commandments) – testing the One who wrote the same Commandments they're testing Him on. The Scripture account does not specify what Jesus was writing in the dirt, but would it stand to reason that He who wrote the original 10 Commandments was the one possibly writing the 10 Commandments in front of the crowd, reminding them they all have sinned – **“He who is without sin can cast the first stone”?**



See Acts 7:35 & 37, Stephen's testimony as he is about to stoned to death (martyred) "This Moses whom they (those that questioned Moses authority) disowned, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one whom God sent to be both a ruler and a deliverer with the help of the angel (Angel of the LORD) who appeared to him in the thorn bush. (For Angel of the LORD, remember our study on Day 3). This is the Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people.'³⁸ He was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words (10 Commandments) to pass on to us.

God, you are utterly amazing! Can I get an AMEN!


Just like his grandpop, Balshazzar also calls for wisemen to interpret the writing on the wall. The words are not in a language he or the wisemen are able to comprehend. Because the wisemen were unable to read the inscription or make known its interpretation, he was more alarmed. But he doesn't think to call upon Daniel. Apparently, he has lost touch with his grandfather's experiences with Daniel.

A woman tells of Daniel to Belshazzar. The Queen is likely to be Belshazzar's mother, Nebuchadnezzar's daughter. Growing up in the court, she would have heard the stories of Daniel's exploits from her father's servants and as the king's mother, she would have had much greater license to speak up and to advise the king. As well, she also uses the same "words" as King Nebuchadnezzar referring to Daniel.




Daniel enters onto the scene. He is likely near 80 years of age so his entrance was probably not like a hero's fanciful entrance but of a shuffling, elderly, humble man. Belshazzar repeats the queen's description to Daniel and offers the same reward he offered to the "illiterate" wisemen.

Daniel doesn't waste time. He tells it straight and socks Belshazzar between the eyes with the Truth. Please indulge me. I'm going to borrow from comic book heroes for Daniel, a hero of Scripture...



God granted greatness for Nebuchadnezzar.  Nebuchadnezzar was humbled in heart by recognizing God Most High is ruler of the kingdom of man and He puts in place whomever He wishes and  You (Belshazzar) messed up royally, buddy!



1. Risen up against the Lord of Heaven
2. Brought the vessels of His house before you to drink wine out them 
3. Praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze, iron, wood and stone – (Daniel makes a commentary here – "which do NOT SEE, do NOT HEAR, do NOT UNDERSTAND!") 
4. Did not glorify the God who gave him life 

What life applications can you take from Daniel's admonition to Belshazzar? From 1-4 above, give yourself insight from Daniel's sermon on areas for you to contend with:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Daniel proves that he can actually “read” the words on the wall. These words are in Aramaic – easily read by the wisemen. Why would they not have the ability to read or interpret? It seems there is somewhat of a mystery involved here. The Aramaic meaning of these words are various weights or measures of value. Daniel changed the words slightly in meaning – sort of how we have 1 = first, 2 = second. In this fashion he understood or was given divine understanding:

MENE - mena, but used different vowels to turn the word into menah, which is Aramaic for numbered. Likewise, he changed tekem to tekem and uparsin into peras

- Tekem means “weighed”
- And peras means “divided”
- Putting all three words together, the phrase changes from “mina, mina, shekel, half-shekel” to “numbered, numbered, weighed, divided” (versebyverseministry.org)

MENE – God has numbered your kingdom and ended it



TEKEL – You (Belshazzar) have been weighed on the scales and found deficient

PERES – Your kingdom (BABYLON – GOLD) has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians

That same night – Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. Scripture being fulfilled. As we can see, the Gold kingdom (Babylon) conquered becomes part of the Silver kingdom (MEDO-PERSIAN)

Belshazzar’s story is a great reminder that people—regardless of their rank—who insult God or try to render God irrelevant are doomed to fall. They may not fall as quickly as Belshazzar, but they will fall. (The Voice Daniel 6)

REMEMBER DANIEL 2: NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S PROPHETIC DREAM/STATUE:

	
<p>PURE GOLD = HEAD</p> <p>Daniel 2:38 = Nebuchadnezzar = BABYLON</p>	<p>SILVER = CHEST & ARMS</p> <p>Daniel 2:39 = 2nd kingdom, inferior to</p>

Ends with Nebuchadnezzar's grandson Belshazzar	Babylon = MEDO PERSIAN
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Weighed and found wanting, my Friend? Search your heart? Do not be rejected at Heaven's Door. Take a moment and meditate on this Hymn in your heart:

WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE

Weighed in the balance of justice true,
Sinful the path thou hast trod;
Weighed and found wanting—will it be
you?
Weighed by the word of God.

Weighed and found wanting,
Weighed and found wanting,
Rejected at heaven's door.

There it will hurt like a wounding dart
When this dread answer shall fall:
"Weighed and found wanting"; 'twill pierce
thy heart
At the last judgment call.

Weighed and found wanting,
Weighed and found wanting,
Rejected at heaven's door.

Weighed by the word which is given now,
Search it and know thou art pure;
Unto its mandates in meekness bow,
Then thou shalt be secure.

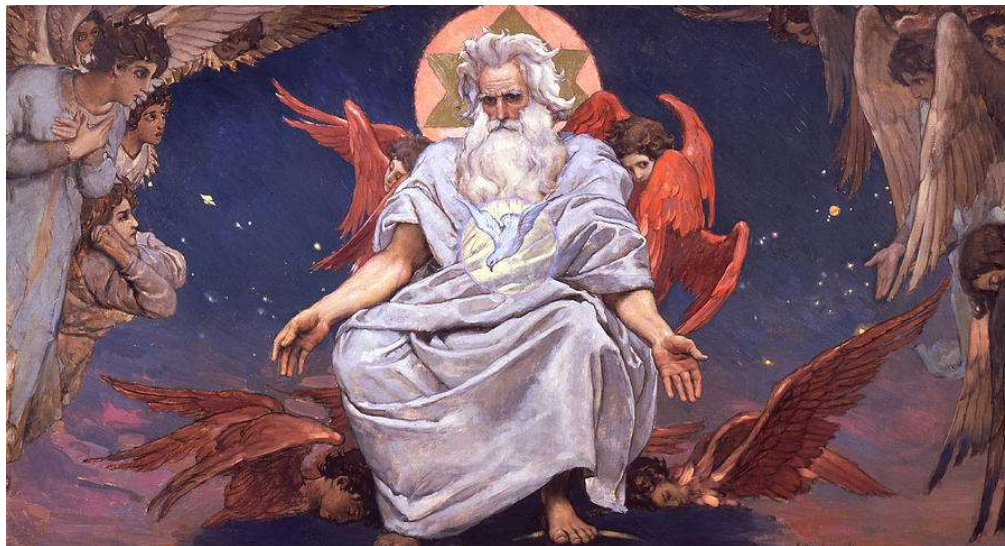
Weighed and found wanting,
Weighed and found wanting,
Rejected at heaven's door.

At the tribunal where Christ is judge,
Where every deed is made known,
"Weighed and found wanting" each guilty
soul
Stands there before His throne.

Weighed and found wanting,
Weighed and found wanting,
Rejected at heaven's door.

If you believe you will be rejected at heaven's door, at the end of every bible study I write is a prayer that assurance in Christ as your salvation and become heaven bound and in the Kingdom of God.

Friends let's pray. *Dear LORD, we thank You for the providence of Your Word. It is alive. It is active. It is sharper than any two-edged sword. May the conviction of Your Word be the first visible sign of the Gospel at work in our life so that true repentance can take place. Please welcome us into Your Kingdom, LORD. In Jesus Name with thanks in prayer. AMEN!*



Day 6 – GOD’S KINGDOM

THE PROTECTION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Observe all of Daniel Chapter 6.

Mark all mention of time/including everlasting & seven periods, at that time....:



Mark all references of Darius the Mede & his kingdom:



Mark all references of prayer:



Mark all occurrences of command/decreed/giving orders/ordered/injunction/statue:



Mark all occurrences of accusation:



Mark all occurrences of lions/den:



Mark all occurrences of agreement/consulted together:



Mark all occurrences of Daniel:



Mark as a group the satraps & commissioners, etc):



Mark all occurrences of God:



Mark all occurrences of will not be changed/revoked:



Mark all occurrences of interpret/explain/made known/inscription:



Underline the all of Daniel 6:14, 18-20:



Underline the Daniel 6:4-5



Mark all occurrences of rescue:



Mark the angel:



Underline the Daniel 6:26-27

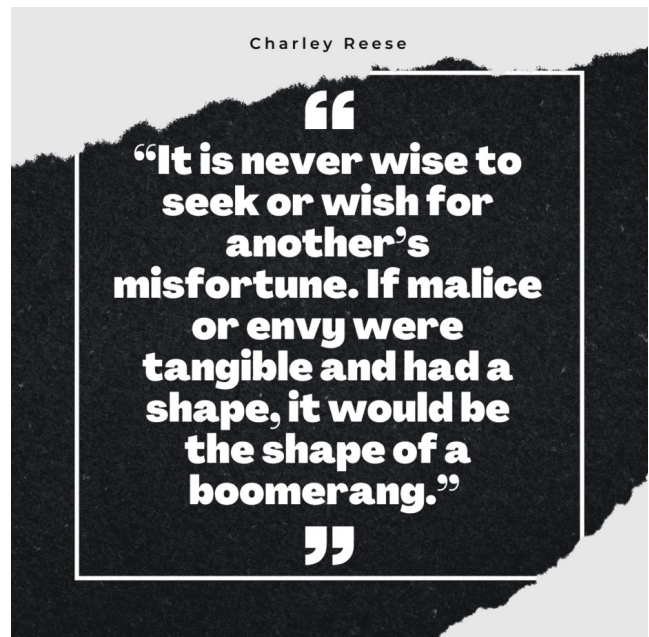


The green eyed monster, envy, covetous, resentful, grudging, spiteful, greedy – all words we can recognize in this chapter without even mentioning any of these words. Isn't that interesting. Just by the introduction, we all can recognize what's going on here.

Record James 3:16:

As every chapter progresses through the Book of Daniel, I become even more impressed with Daniel's character.

Jealousy is irrational and absurd. It's destructive to relationships with others and to ourselves. When you *feel* jealous, it can be hard to think straight or act logically. Jealousy is often based on unfounded fears and can lead to a lot of negative emotions and destructive behavior.



The success of Daniel is utterly amazing to me. Extremely on in his years, yet he is one of 3 commissioners over 120 satraps. He is described as so distinguished from the satraps and commissioners because of his extraordinary spirit. Darius recognized this and intended to appoint Daniel over the entire kingdom! Belshazzar offered Daniel to be the 3rd ruler in his

kingdom – Daniel was quite unimpressed – but here in the SILVER KINGDOM, Daniel is about to be a ruler in the Medo-Persian kingdom just by who and how he is!

In Day 3 of our study of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, we learn how to be extraordinary in our faith to God. Daniel far exceeds!

The commissioners and satraps conspiring for a way to make Daniel look pretty bad and present it to Darius to discredit him from consideration of making Daniel head over all the satraps and commissioners. What did they find:

Government affairs: Nothing
Corruption: Nothing
Negligence: Nothing

Can we say that about ourselves? Would the satraps and commissioners have a way to to discredit us by our behavior? Be honest with yourself. How are you with:

Work: gossip? Always late? Doing the minimum? Disrespecting boss/coworkers?

Corruption: Bribes? Steal? Lie (including on your taxes)? Swearing/Foul/Filthy language? Cheat?

Negligence: Slacking? Procrastinating? Treatment of others?

Friends, our testimony is not just words – just like Daniel, our testimony is in our actions by obedience and faithfulness in our LORD and Savior.

Isn't it amazing that all these satraps and commissioners, each could not find a solitary ground for charges against Daniel to present to King Darius. Daniel was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent – truly exceptional!

What was their plan? (Daniel 5):

I had you mark the occurrences of agreement and consulted together. Who really knows how many men were conspiring against Daniel. A conspiracy is a secret plot put into place to initiate harm – in this case, to actually have Daniel killed via the lions' den through the vehicle of a king that deems Daniel highly and so personally that when the plot thickened and went as planned, and Daniel was doomed by the king's own decree, that the king was beside himself....couldn't eat, sleep, be entertained.... Also, recall that in Chapter 2 of Daniel, the Chaldeans sought to denounce the 3 Hebrew Men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego by bringing charges against them based on their God – using the King as the for a favorable outcome for themselves, so they assumed....

Consider Psalm 64:2-6 (VOICE) how this relates to the plotting against Daniel:


- ²*Hide me from the sinful circle that conspires against me,
from the band of rebels out to make trouble,*
- ³*Who sharpen their tongues into swords,
who take aim with poisonous words like arrows.*
- ⁴*They hide in the shadows and shoot at the innocent;
they shoot at them without warning and without any fear.*
- ⁵*They persist in their evil purpose
and plan in secret to lay their traps.
And they say, "Who will see them?"*
- ⁶*They plot their offense with precision and say,
"Now we have the perfect crime."
The human heart and mind are deep and complex.*

We studied in Chapter 2 of Daniel (Day 3 of our study) the Godly behaviors of the 3 Hebrew Men, so here in Chapter 6, we see that Daniel has a Godly behavior. List what Daniel does 3xs/day: (Daniel 6:10 NASB)

Daniel was in prayer with God 3x per day which was his usual, dependable practice. My Friends, what do you do to meet with God each day? I am sure I am not alone in my attempts to habitually sit with God and have quiet moments with Him which seem to be pretty lacking. But, my Friends, don't be discouraged but keep trying. Here are some ways of coming together with God that may not have even thought about which can help you to focus on Him:

1. Listen to worship music and sing along if you like. Are you creative? Sing God a new song from your heart!
2. Read/Listen to Scripture. Reading the bible or listening to the bible. There are so many versions of the bible – just pick your fav. Also, now listening to the bible is available on Spotify and Youtube, so just listen in. Some of the recordings even have sound effects.
3. Prayer closet. I will be honest that being quiet before the LORD makes me fall asleep. I do pray, so I set aside my mornings, with a cup of coffee and I use apps on my phone to help guide me through devotionals and prayer lists.
4. Journaling. This is a great way to organize your thoughts, prayers/petitions and thanksgivings/gratitude to God and to recognize answered prayers.

5. Devotionals are a great start to get the prayer juices flowing. Get your family involved! Perhaps a nighttime routine for your little ones or husbands/wives starting a morning devotional together.
6. Prayer group. Invite your family or coworkers or friends to a small prayer group and take turns praying for each other.
7. Art/Crafting. I've seen some people make wonderful art inside their bibles. Or just be creative, whatever your medium is! I'm not artsy – but craft away! Perhaps cross stitch a verse and frame it or knit/crochet a prayer blanket.....the sky's the limit!
8. Bible study – see, this counts with time with God!
9. How about a spiritual retreat? Commune with nature and thank God for His wonderful creation. God created this world for us to enjoy – so ENJOY!
10. Mentoring – take someone under your wing and be salt and light to that person to help them grow in their faith.
11. Confessing your sins. ALWAYS confess your sins before God. Why? Because sin keeps us away from God. Sin acts like a dark screen which keeps us from seeing God Who is right there with us! Clear away that screen!
12. Talk with God. Just talk – wherever, whenever. Send a quick thought to God.
13. Fasting. Fast for a meal occasionally and spend that time in prayer or in God's word.
14. Memorize Scripture. Memorizing Scripture keeps His word in our heart. Jesus knew Scripture by heart and quoted it often
15. Seek daily opportunities to do good to others. Return evil with good.
16. Count your blessings. A great way to increase your faith by realizing how good God has been to you and your family.
17. Write your own Psalm – Scripture is full of poetry. Whatever you think/feel, direct it to God

Danielcising  !! My friends, take this moment, right now, and pick 3 things above to stick to or mix and commit to meeting with the LORD, every day. “*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you!*” (James 4:8). Perhaps, save this list somewhere convenient for a reference.



Have you noticed that the Bible often repeats itself? There are several instances in which the Bible repeats small and large chunks of text –phrases, ideas, stories, whole collections of stories, themes, and sometimes even whole books (ex – 4 gospels). Why? **The use of repetition in the Bible usually emphasizes the importance of a person, theme, or events.** We see in Chapter 2 and Chapter 6 reiteration like a double testimony or a double witness. The stories are so fantastically similar. Their outcomes are lessons for us, so, take notice and let's investigate together. Add the verses in Chapter 2 and Chapter 6 that correspond with each section:



1. FAITHFULNESS TO GOD & KINGDOM

Godly character

VERSES:



2. PERSECUTION – ENVY JEALOUSY FROM OTHERS

Desire to destroy character

VERSES:



3. VEHICLE/METHOD – via King by declaration/unchangeable law

Using kingly pride/arrogance – both kings never thought about how their act affects those important to them

VERSES:



4. SENTENCED TO DESTRUCTION

The stories differ here, but are essentially the same responses – one king recognizes a 4th man in the fire – king in Daniel 6 tried to save his friend Daniel

VERSES:



5. PROTECTION/DELIVERANCE

God's Protection/Deliverance

VERSES:



6. WICKED PUNISHED

Chapter 2 – Death and houses made to rubbish heap

Chapter 6 – guilty party and their families thrown into the lion's den

VERSES:



7. GLORY TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Chapter 2, 3 & 6, kings praise and give glory to God and God's kingdom

VERSES:

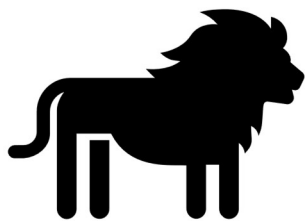
The king seems devastated that he was tricked into sending his most indispensable servant Daniel to the Lion's Den. I had you underline or highlight the king's activities after Daniel was thrown in the Lion's Den. Please list or rewrite his movements/actions (Daniel 19:18-20).

Daniel states why he is alive. Write the reasons: (Daniel 6:22)

There were no injuries to Daniel whatsoever. In the Lions Den, he stood no chance against hungry lions just as Shadrach, Meshach and Aged-nego had no chance against a 7x hotter furnace. From an earthly perspective, Daniel's situation looked hopeless. He trusted God and was spared.

Daniel's name means **God is my judge**. Very appropriate. The meaning of Daniel's name is very appropriate for one who chose to please God rather than man. His attitude is like that of the apostle Paul who said: *"For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ"* (Galatians 1:6).

WORD STUDY. Daniel 6:24. The word for "maliciously" here refers to their treatment of Daniel by accusing him to the point of destroying him to the point of finality – removing him from the face of the earth. The word is **'ākal** which means to devour – literally to "eat the pieces of Daniel."



Caution, my friends, of "malicious" envy and jealousy. It can rear its ugly head and secretly wish to destroy its victim - the target of this sin. It's a devourer like a lion. Hungrily - it prowls and looks for a way to "eat the pieces" of their victim – malicious – like a hungry lion with no mercy. *"Your enemy, the Devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.."* (1 Peter 5:8.) Just like the warning to Cain before he sinned because of his "malicious" jealousy of his brother Abel. God warns Cain of this jealousy... *"sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."* (Genesis 4:7b). I pray, my Friends, if you know you have "malicious envy or jealousy" for someone(s), take control over this sin and confess it to the KING of Heaven. Ask for forgiveness and rule over this beast.

Darius, just like Nebuchadnezzar writes to all his kingdom a decree that acknowledges the God of Daniel and God's Kingdom.

For further study, I would encourage you to study the miracle of Shadrach, Meshach and Aged-nego in the furnace and Daniel in the Lion's den which is covered in some detail in my MIRACLES study.

These end the stories of the earthly kingdoms (Chapters 2-6) starting with the HEAD OF GOLD BABYLON and then the CHEST/ARMS OF SILVER MEDO-PERSIAN just as predicted by the prophet Daniel in the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Chapter 2. As we delve into the following chapters of Daniel, these chapters are very symbolic and worthy of a study of its own in END TIMES/REVELATION STUDY. We will only tiptoe around it for this study but still get nitty-gritty wisdom and knowledge so we can apply scriptures to our lives and help in our understanding of the KINGDOM OF GOD.

Let's end our study today by acknowledging and praying the edict of King Darius of the SILVER KINGDOM. *God, you are the living God, enduring forever. Your kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, and Your dominion will be forever. God, You rescue. LORD, You save. You, O God, perform signs and miracles in heaven and on earth. Praise be to You and You only, Our King and Savior Jesus. May Your Kingdom come soon, LORD. AMEN!*



Day 7 – GOD’S KINGDOM

THE KINGDOM OF GOD and THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD

Observe all of Daniel Chapter 7.

Mark all mention of time/including everlasting & seven periods, at that time....:



Mark all references of Darius the Mede & his kingdom:



Mark all occurrences of dream/vision:



Mark all occurrences of beasts:

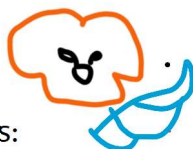


Number them 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th each occurrence

Number each number (example three)

3

Mark all occurrences of lion:



Mark all occurrences of wings:



Mark all occurrences of Daniel:



Mark all occurrences of bear:



Mark all occurrences of leopard:



Mark all occurrences of 4th beast:



Mark all occurrences of God:



Mark all occurrences of horn (mark **little horn** a different color):



Mark all occurrences of eyes:



Mark all occurrences of mouth uttering great boasts:



DO NOT MARK DANIEL 7:9-10 & 13-14 – we will mark this text for the Kingdom study – but read it because we will be using this text for context.

Mark the angel:



Mark all occurrences of judgment:



Mark all occurrences of saints:



Isn't this spectacular? We are going to study the Throne Room of God in this chapter as well as continue with the study of the kingdoms leading up to God's Kingdom.

The remaining chapters in the book of Daniel are prophetic in nature and serves as the commentary to interpreting the New Testament prophetic book of Revelation. The Old Testament Book of Daniel is the introduction, and the New Testament Book of Revelation is the full out, unedited unveiling of the Kingdom of God.

These remaining chapters contain the symbolic representations of the kingdoms in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar of the statue including the Kingdom of God which we will study in context. End Time prophecy studies is its own study so please understand that we cannot do a full-fledged study of that intense and amazing study at this moment but staying within the boundaries of this study.

As you read through Daniel 7, the first beast's description may have a familiar ring to it as it should. The first beast is the HEAD OF GOLD kingdom of Babylon. How is this? By the description of the Beast. Let's go over it together. Remember, let Scripture interpret Scripture!

These visions began for Daniel when Belshazzar was "king" of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar's grandson through his daughter) so this vision is towards the end of the 1st Kingdom.

There are a total of 4 beasts, each different than the others. Each beast represents the first 4 kingdoms of the 5 prophetic kingdoms (5th kingdom being the Kingdom of God) . In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the parts of the statue described a sort of timeline of kingdoms, each one replacing the prior one. As the statue gave "timelines", it didn't provide much description of the actual kingdom themselves. God is giving Daniel (& us) more information regarding the identity of the kingdoms. In Daniel's vision, Daniel would instantly recognize the first beast as Babylon.



Note the term "beasts" in this chapter shows us the depraved and lawless nature of these four kingdoms – a lion, a bear, a 4 headed cheetah & an extremely frightful iron teeth beast. They are wild animals fulfilling their own passions in the way they instinctively comprehend. They have no desire to seek after God and only live impulsively to satisfy the flesh.

The four beasts are the four kingdoms as I said above. In verse 17, the angel tells Daniel that the four beasts are four kings who shall arise one after the other. Each of these kings will establish a new and powerful empire.

BEAST #1 LION WITH WINGS LIKE AN EAGLE – Nebuchadnezzar is compared (Jeremiah 49:19) to a lion and to an eagle (Jeremiah 4:7; also Ezekiel 17:3). Eagles and lions are both considered to be majestic animals. Eagles are lord of the air and lions are the king of beasts on the earth. This beast represents Babylon. Note that its wings were cut off and this beast is the only beast that was made to be a man. The humble ending of Nebuchadnezzar as he acknowledged God and His Kingdom. He started as being proud like an eagle, but God humbled him – the plucking of its wings, repeatedly, reminding him that he was merely a man, and not a god.





ARCHEOLOGY NOTE: "Archaeology has revealed that a lion with eagle's wings was a common symbol in Babylonian designs and sculptures." (Amazingdiscoveries.org). A winged lion statue taken from Babylon is displayed at the British museum.

	 <p>In this column, write the description of the 1st beast (Daniel 7:4)</p>
<p>PURE GOLD KINGDOM = HEAD = BABYLON EMPIRE = LION WITH EAGLES WINGS</p> <p>Daniel 2:38 = Nebuchadnezzar = BABYLON</p>	

Ends with Nebuchadnezzar's grandson Belshazzar	
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BEAST #2 BEAR, RAISED UP ON ONE SIDE AND 3 RIBS WERE IN ITS MOUTH BETWEEN ITS TEETH

- This beast appears more carnal than the first. It is pictured as in the very act of devouring flesh. Three ribs protrude from its mouth and it is commanded, "arise, devour much flesh." These "ribs" probably represented Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt, three other great kingdoms conquered by Medo-Persian Empire. Just as the bear was told to devour even more, the Medo-Persia was noted for its insatiable desire to conquer more, and it even tried to conquer Greece in Europe. The bear is also a most fearsome land predator, its known for overpowering its pray by its weight and strength. The Medo-Persian empire amassed in huge armies and destroyed their enemies with a vengeance. The biggest section of Neb's statue is the chest with 2 arms. Just like the 2 arms, the empire was a union of 2 peoples, the Medes and the Persians, but as Daniel's bear was leaning to one side, the union of this empire was not of equals because the Persians were far more powerful than the Medes. This empire ruled for 208 years.

	 <p><u>In this column, write the description of the 2nd beast (Daniel 7:5)</u></p>
<p>SILVER = CHEST & (2) ARMS = MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE = BEAR W/3 RIBS</p> <p>Daniel 2:39 = 2nd kingdom, inferior to Babylon Ends with Nebuchadnezzar's grandson Belshazzar</p>	


BEAST #3 LEOPARD WITH 4 WINGS OF A BIRD AND FOUR HEADS

- The leopard is swift – swifter yet with wings. Daniel was not alive to see the 3rd kingdom would be. By this side of time, our history determined that this kingdom is the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great, which conquered the Medo-Persian Empire. Alexander's armies were swift and conquered from West to East in record time. By the young age of 28, he had already conquered most of the known world. His 4 battle tactics (4 wings) were brilliant, and his quick strikes were difficult to repel. The four heads represent

the division of his empire after his death. Since he had no heirs, the empire was divided among four generals in four geographical locations.

	 <div data-bbox="995 310 1450 443"> <p><u>In this column, write the description of the 3rd beast (Daniel 7:6)</u></p> </div>
<div data-bbox="203 499 738 611"> <p>BRONZE = BELLY & THIGHS = GREEK EMPIRE- LEOPARD W/4 HEADS & 4 WINGS</p> </div>	

BEAST #4 UNKNOWN BEAST, DREADFUL & TERRIBLE, WITH LARGE IRON TEETH WITH 10 HORNS AND A LITTLE HORN - This kingdom will be the one that ushers in the Kingdom of Christ one day. In Daniel’s description of the fourth beast is his inability to compare it to any living creature today. This beast was unlike anything known to man, dreadful and terrifying. This creature was very strong, with iron teeth, and it trampled and crushed all the prior kingdoms. This beast has iron teeth, which reminds us of the iron legs of the fourth kingdom of the statue. It has 10 horns just like the 10 toes of the statue. An 11th horn erupts suddenly on the beast and the horn has human features of human eyes and a mouth speaking boasts about itself. The 11th horn plucks out 3 of the horns already on the beast. The fourth beast represents the Roman empire, which will come in two parts. The first Roman empire was represented by the legs of iron and historically rose to prominence in 27 BC. And the revived Roman empire is represented by the feet of clay and iron and **it is as yet a still future kingdom**. The hallmarks of this beast are its strength and ruthlessness. It breaks into pieces and tramples everything that stands in its way.

	
<div data-bbox="203 1780 660 1854"> <p>IRON = LEGS & PARTLY IRON & PARTLY CLAY = FEET & TOES =</p> </div>	

ROMAN EMPIRE BEAST W/IRON TEETH, 10 HORNS & A LITTLE HORN

Daniel 2:40 = 4th kingdom, strong as iron, iron breaks and smashes everything and as iron breaks things into pieces, so it will crush and break all the others (kingdom)

Daniel 2:40 = 4th kingdom is a divided kingdom – will have some strength of iron. Kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle – the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay

The question is, how do we know that these 4 kingdoms in our tables above are the actual prophetic kingdoms in the book of Daniel? What are the criteria to determine these kingdoms? The criteria boils down to one common denominator – they had to have conquered Jerusalem to usher in the last and final Kingdom of God. More to come on this so let's continue for now.

THE CREATURES WHICH ARE USED AS SYMBOLS OF THE WORLD KINGDOMS. "Four beasts." The characteristics of these kingdoms were animal rather than human. There is no true humanity where there is no divinity. These kingdoms of the parabolic vision are symbolized by beasts of prey noted for their strength, and cruelty, and treachery; no animal of a gentle, peaceful nature is found among them; denoting the entire absence of these characteristics in kingdoms without godliness. (The Bible Illustrator)

Daniel 7:9-10 reveals God on His Throne. He was, He is and forever will be on His throne. "The Son of man came with the clouds of heaven." (Daniel 7:13) The head of every kingdom except Christ's Kingdom has been a mere man.



This final kingdom exhibits none of the characteristics set forth by the beasts. The Throne Room provides to us the Rock that comes out from a mountain and crushes all of the 4 kingdoms. The rock that expands to the whole earth = the Everlasting KINGDOM OF GOD

After the description of the 4th beast, we have a brief but extremely exciting interlude – the prevision of the FINAL KINGDOM with God in His Throne Room convening court

and the books were opened. Simultaneously the sound of the little horn speaking boastful words drew Daniel's focus from the Throne Room and back onto the 4th beast. What happens to the 4th beast according to Daniel (Daniel 7:11-12).

What happens to the remaining 3 beasts at this time (Daniel 7:12):

A sense of these kingdoms remains though their power/dominion was removed from them; They were superseded, or they no longer exercised power whereas the 4th beast becomes utterly destroyed.

Describe Who is sitting on His Throne, including His Name (Daniel 7:9):

Describe His Throne: (Daniel 7:9-10)

Who is standing before Him and serving Him?

What is taking place at this moment?

How does the One like a son of man come up to the Ancient of Days?

Here in Daniel's vision, we are introduced to the Rock just like in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Take notice that each beast that arose from the stirred-up, unruly sea represents each kingdom ordinal as Nebuchadnezzar's statue/dream. The remaining chapters of Daniel are like microscopes, zeroing in on more detail of each kingdom as introduced in the same order as in Neb's dream. How can we know this is the same Rock that breaks the statue of

kingdoms? Because the same verbiage described to the Rock in Daniel 2:44 is used to describe the One like a son of man that was presented before Him, the Ancient of Days.

FIRST: God is on His Throne. In Daniel 7:9 a majestic panorama unfolds of not only God on His Throne, but of the Throne Room as well.



He is the Ancient of Days. God reveals Himself through names given in Scripture. If it helps for you to understand, it is similar to the roles describing one person as being a Mother, Sister, Daughter, Wife or Father, Brother, Son and Husband. Each name reveals a character that God wants us to know....in a way like a beautiful gemstone with many facets, yet, still all these facets reflect the same diamond.

For the moment, there is a temporary timeout for the 4 kingdoms, and we will continue our study in more detail each of the kingdoms as we progress. Let's concentrate on the study of God's Throne Room and try to explore the unfathomable God and His Throne Room. We'll make this a two-part study so for now, this will end today's study and tomorrow we will continue as we come before the Ancient of Days in court in the Throne Room of God.

Friends, let's pray Hebrews 4:16 & 12:2 to close today's study and start afresh tomorrow!

Ancient of Days, thank You, that we can come boldly to Your throne where we will receive Your mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most! Praise to our Savior, the Son of Man, our LORD Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the Throne of God. Praise be to our God! In Jesus Name. Amen!



Day 8 – GOD’S KINGDOM

THE KINGDOM OF GOD and THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD Continued

Ancient of Days occurs 3xs times in the entire Bible. All these occurrences show up in the book of Daniel, the seventh chapter, in verses 9, 13 and 22. Notice that in verse 13 refers to two distinct Beings – the Ancient of Days and One like a son of man Who is presented before Him. *In contrast to the kingdoms in our study, Ancient of Days has the sense of eternal. In contrast with all early kings, his days are past reckoning (Quick Reference Bible Dictionary).*

For the study of the Throne Room of God, we are going to follow the event in Daniel 7: 9, 10, 13 and 14. God allows us a glimpse into His incredible Throne Room where the vision opens where court is session. If I have said this before, I will continue to say that Daniel and Revelation are pieces of the same puzzle – complimentary books to each other. You cannot understand the one without the other. The following are scriptures from Daniel and Revelation and other scriptures that gives us insight/descriptions of God Himself, His Throne and Throne Room. The visions of Daniel and John may seem different events but they are reporting on the same event...let me give you an example of what I mean..



Illustration: So...you and I are sitting in our favorite restaurant, talking together when we notice a table of 5 people who are seated near us. It's not unusual, except this group is a little noisy, perhaps many conversations going on at the same time. The group is wearing printed T Shirts, different colors but the same emblem is consistent on all their shirts. The emblem is an oversized metallic W. The group is 3 men and 2 women. The women are the same age, around their mid 20s and the men are different ages, ranging from their 20s to 80s. They appear to be of pacific

islander skin tone. One man leaves the group, but 2 more men appear and sit down with the group, but they are not wearing the same shirts as the rest of the group.

From the event above, you and I are asked to describe what we saw. What are the odds that we both would describe all the elements exactly as is described in the paragraph above. We both may have some matching descriptions, but chances are, you may notice something different in the group then I would and vice versa although we are both correct because we are witnessing the same event. Perhaps I say that were 3 men, but you say there were 5. Am I wrong – not necessarily because the 2 other men may have joined them, but they weren't exactly part of the first group since they wore different shirts. This is the same principle for Daniel (Book of Daniel) and John (Book of Revelation).

Following the event in Daniel 7

ANCIENT OF DAYS – GOD THE FATHER

Psalms 90:2 describes God as everlasting to everlasting: *“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever He had formed the earth and the world from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”*

APPEARANCE: Daniel 7:9 presents God the Father as taking His seat on His throne. He is described as wearing a garment that was white as snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. In Daniel 7:10 a river of fire seems to be coming out from before Him. God's appearance is vague because He cannot be seen (Exodus 33:20, John 1:18). He “dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see” (1 Tim 6:16). Him who is, who was and who is to come from John's vision in Revelation 1:4b is the Ancient of Days who was like a jasper stone and sardius in appearance (Revelation 4:3). It's interesting to note that the sardius stone is the first stone represented in the Ephod Breast Plate worn by the high priest which have 12 stones inset representing the 12 Tribes of Israel, starting with first born Reuben represented by sardius and jasper representing Jacob's/Israel's last-born son Benjamin as the last stone in the Ephod (Exodus 24).



GOD'S GLORY/SHEKINAH: God's train of his robe fills the temple (Isaiah 6:1), but also a few verses down (Isaiah 6:4 and Revelation 15:8), the temple was filling with smoke. Smoke/Cloud and fire are associated with God's Shekinah glory as in the Pillar of Fire and the Pillar of Cloud in Exodus as a protective canopy for the Israelites in the Wilderness as well as the Shekinah glory presence for the covenant with Abraham as a smoking oven and a flaming torch (Genesis 15) on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:18 & 20:18) and in His Temple built by Solomon (1 Kings 8).

ABOVE THE THRONE: He sits lofty and exalted and angels Seraphim (there are 2 types of angels, Seraphim and Cherubim – which, by the way, are not cute little rosy-cheeked winged naked baby boys) stand above. More on these beings below.

VOICE: God's voice shakes the foundations of the thresholds. (Isaiah 6:1). His voice sounds like a tumult of waters, like a raging waterfall (Ezekiel 1:24, 43:2, Jeremiah 10:13 and can be heard to the very ends of His outer court (Ezekiel 10:5). Ezekiel 10:24 described the Almighty's voice like a sound of tumult like the sound of an army camp.

The Ancient of Days took his seat on His throne:

GOD'S THRONE:

APPEARANCE: In Daniel 7, God's Throne is described as being ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire with a river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him. From Revelation 4:3b, there is an emerald rainbow around the Throne, perhaps this is referencing the emerald for the tribe of Judah, the tribe which Jesus is descendent. Flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. Before the throne was something like a sea of glass, like crystal, and in the center and around the throne were four living creatures (Seraphim). In Exodus 24:9-11 the sea of glass is described also something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. Also described as a great white throne in Revelation 20:11.

The throne resides high up over the heads of the angels, like lapis lazuli in appearance with a figure sitting upon it with the appearance of a man. From the appearance of His loins and downward, he saw something like fire and there was a radiance around Him – like the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day was the appearance of the surrounding radiance – such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. (Ezekiel 10:26-28).

The throne has burning wheels of fire, the same as the 4 living creatures. Refer to the description included in Angels for insight to this part of the throne.

Around the Ancient of Days Throne were 24 Thrones.

24 THRONES

APPEARANCE: Daniel 7:9 thrones were set up. Just like in my illustration, Daniel does not comment too much on the thrones, but John does several times in his vision in Revelation.

THE 24: These twenty-four elders sat on lesser thrones around God's throne. According to Revelation 20:4, those that sit upon these thrones are given authority to judge – judging the 12 tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28). In addition, from Matthew 19:28, Jesus tells us to some extent who are the 12 of the 24 thrones– those who have followed him = the 12 apostles. Who would be the remaining 12 thrones?



Food for thought... Could it be they are the 12 sons of Israel (12 tribes) from the Old Testament and 12 apostles from the New Testament – bridging the 2 Testaments? This may be a witness to this thought – The names of BOTH “the twelve tribes ... of Israel” and “of the twelve apostles” are written on the New Jerusalem—the eternal city of God's people (Revelation 21:12, 14).

Twelve: Denotes Governmental perfection. It is the number of factor of all numbers connected with government: whether by Tribes or Apostles, or in measurements of time, or in things which have to do with government in the heavens and the earth. “Found 187 times in the Bible, the number 12 makes a special appearance in Revelation, showing the authority and perfection of God's kingdom at last.” “God uses the number 12 in past governments and future governments at the end of time.” (Crosswalk.com).

John says they are elders – they are not angels -Angels also do not sit on thrones, nor are they awarded crowns. They are separate from the 1000s of 1000s or myriads (10,000) by myriads (10,000) and they are sitting as court convenes.

APPEARANCE: They are wearing white garments and wearing gold crowns (Revelation 4:4). To be dressed in white, especially a white robe, is symbolic of being clothed in the righteousness of Christ. The only ones who will ever be clothed in his righteousness are those who have been redeemed. (Revelation 3:4-5). There are 5 heavenly crowns awarded to believers:



Imperishable crown (1 Corinthians 9:24-25, Matthew 6:19, 1 Peter 1:4)



the crown of rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19; Philippians 4:4, Luke 15:7)



the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8, Philippians 3:2)



the crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4; Acts 7:55-56, Isaiah 42:8, 48:11; Galatians 1:5, Romans 8:18)



the crown of life (Revelation 2:10; John 10:10, John 4:10, 6:35; 1 John 2:25, James 1:12; 1 John 5:3, Hebrews 12:2).

The Greek meaning of the word for crown is not the crown of royalty but that of a wreath or garland of leaves placed on a victor's head as a reward for winning.

ACTIONS: They are constantly in worship. They fall down before the Ancient of Days when the Seraphim (4 living creatures) give glory, honor and thanks to Him Who sits on the Throne and worship Him Who Lives Forever and Ever and cast their crowns before the Throne and say:

“You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.”

They fall down and worship before the Son of Man as He takes the scroll out of the right hand of the One sitting on the throne. Each elder holds a harp and gold bowls filled with pieces of incense which are the prayers of God's people, and they sing a new song. (Revelation 5:6-10).

7 SPIRITS BEFORE THE THRONE – GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – not in Daniel 7 but is represented through the Book of Revelation.

In Revelation 4:5, the Seven Spirits of God are symbolized as seven lamps of fire burning before the throne: The Holy Spirit (the seven Spirits of God, as referred to in Revelation 1:4 and Isaiah 11:2) is represented by seven burning lamps. In other passages He is represented as a dove (Matthew 3:16) or a flame of fire (Acts 2:3).

The lamps of fire are important because the Holy Spirit is not ordinarily visible. To become visible, He represents Himself in a physical form like a dove or a tongue of fire. (Enduring Word/Revelation 4)

Isaiah 11:2 provides details of what the 7 Spirits of the LORD is (Note, that these are attributed to the prophecy of Jesus as the Branch From Jesse (Isaiah 11:1). The prophecy is

that the Messiah would be empowered not by seven individual spirits but by the One Spirit...the sevenfold ministry of the Spirit is:

The Spirit of the LORD

The Spirit of wisdom

The Spirit of understanding

The Spirit of counsel

The Spirit of might

The Spirit of Knowledge

The Spirit of the fear of the LORD

The “seven spirits of God” in the book of Revelation are a reference to the Holy Spirit in the perfection of His manifold ministry. Why are there “seven” of Him? The Bible, and especially the book of Revelation, uses the number seven to refer to perfection and completion. John’s vision includes a picture of the perfect and complete Holy Spirit.

In the Book of Zechariah, the seven spirits are the “seven eyes” of the Lamb (see Son of Man)

SON OF MAN – GOD THE SON

APPEARANCE: Luke 9:28-36 the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain. As He was praying, the appearance of His face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. Peter and those who were with him saw Jesus’ glory. In verse 34 a cloud came and overshadowed them as they became very afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came out of the cloud, God the Father saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” Revelation 1:13 describes the Son of Man as wearing a long robe with a golden sash around His chest. The hairs of His head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, His feet were like burnished bronze as refined in a furnace and His voice was like the roar of many waters, holding in his right hand seven stars, and from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword (the Word of God) and His face was like the sun shining in full strength.

Revelation 1:17, Jesus describes Himself as being the First and the Last, the Living One Who died and alive forevermore, having the keys of Death and Hades.

Revelation 5 homes in on Jesus, the Son of Man. In the Throne Room of God. An elder comforts John for no one in heaven or earth could open the scroll sealed with seven seals. He tells John the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has conquered so He can open the scroll.

Daniel 7:13 the Son of Man is presented before the Ancient of Days in the Throne Room and is given dominion, glory and a kingdom. Revelation 5 tells us it is a Lamb, standing, as

though it had been slain. He is the One we see in Daniel 7:13, as he takes the scroll from the right hand of Him Who was seated on the throne. The Living creatures and the elders and the angels (see Thousands upon Thousands, Myriads...) all continually worship the Son of Man/Lamb for the Lamb Who was slain is to receive power and wealth and might and honor and glory and blessing. Revelation 1:7 “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him.”

In Revelation 5:6 the seven spirits are the “seven eyes” of the Lamb, and they are “sent out into all the earth.” The seven eyes speak of the Spirit’s (and the Lamb’s) omniscience, and the fact that He is sent into all the earth speaks of His omnipresence. In John’s vision of the warning to the Church of Sardis in Revelation 3:1, Jesus describes Himself as the He Who has the seven spirits of God. The Lamb also has seven horns. **“Horns suggest power. This Lamb has knowledge, wisdom, and power fulfilled perfectly: seven horns and seven eyes.”** (EnduringWord.com)

THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS, MYRIADS (10,000) UPON MYRIADS (10,000):

In Daniel 7 we are given that there is an immense attendance in the Throne Room, and we are not privy to the identity of this congregation only that this is a massive, immense audience in this revelation from Daniel. We find the identity of the congregation to be Angels, an innumerable company of angels, standing before God and serving Him, subjects to do His will and worship Him in Revelation 5:11.

1 Kings 19:19, the prophet Micaiah witnesses the entire army of heaven standing near the LORD sitting on His throne, on His right and His left.



There are different types of angels, none of which are beautiful women with stork like wings – sorry, Friends. But no need to throw out the Christmas tree topper because of this study. When we come to scripture, one of the most difficult challenges is having preconceived notions, so we try to stuff it into our preconceived theology like we’re stuffing a turkey at Thanksgiving to make it “fit” in what we think or believe we know or how it should be. I challenge you, Friend, to drop preconceived notion(s), at least put it on the back burner, and renew your mind with the precepts/truths of Scripture challenged to what you believe you already “know”.

There are 4 classes of angels in the bible. Cherubim, Seraphim, Archangels and demons/Satan – which before the fall belonged to 1 of the 2 first categories. It is unclear if an Archangel is its own class or there is a hierarchy appearing to have a rank and order.

Michael is called an “archangel” in Jude 9 which indicate that he rules or has authority over other angels. We will see him mentioned as we continue our study in Daniel. He’s also called “one of the chief princes” in Daniel 10:13, and appears to lead God’s angelic army in Revelation 12. The angel Gabriel is also mentioned in Daniel so we’ll see him as well to deliver God’s message to deliberate recipients as well as in Luke 1:19, he stands in the presence of God.

FOUR LIVING CREATURES: What are these Incredible creatures? 4 Living Creatures Cherubim and 4 Living Creatures Seraphim. The number 4 indicates completeness & is frequent in prophetic visions – such as the 4 beasts in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream? Are these the same or do they represent 4 of each type of angel? *The 4 living creatures that John saw were perhaps another kind of special angel. (A ‘creature’ means an animal, but that word does not appear in the original language). Their 6 wings are like the seraphim (Isaiah 6:2); but the eyes on their bodies are like the cherubim (Ezekiel 10:12). The faces in verse 7 are like the cherubim, but the cherubim each have 4 faces (Ezekiel 1:10).* (WWW.usefulbible.com/revelation) . Study the chart below.

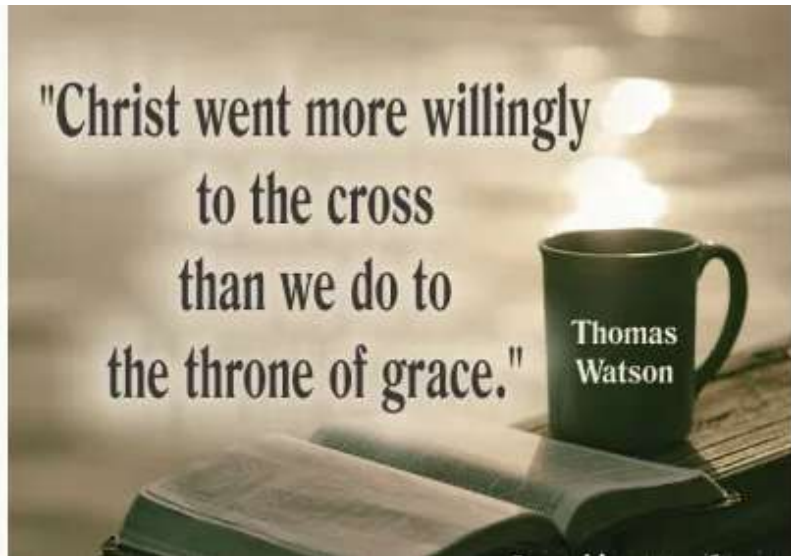
The Four Living Creatures?			
Revelation 4 † In the Midst of the Throne † 4 Living Creatures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lion • Calf • Face like a Man • Flying Eagle † Six Wings † Full of Eyes	Ezekiel 1 † Cherubim † Under the Throne † 4 Living Creatures † Likeness of a Man † 4 Faces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face of a Man • Lion (right) • Ox (left) • Eagle † Four Wings † Straight legs, calves feet (hooves) † Sparkled, burnished bronze † Human hands under wings † Touched other by pair of wings † Covered with pair of wings. † Did not turn. † Like burning coals † Had burning fire, like torches † Darted like lightning † Accompanied by “wheel” † Directed by the Spirit		Ezekiel 10 † Cherubim , like Ezekiel 1 † Under the Throne † God’s glory above them † Human hands under wings † Have fire † Covered with eyes † 4 Faces like Ezekiel 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherub • Man • Lion • Eagle † Four wings † Accompanied by “wheel” † Directed by the Spirit
Exo. 25:17; 1 Sam. 4:4; Psa. 89:9-11 † Cherubim , cover mercy seat. † Wings † God’s glory above, between them † God rides upon flying cherub Genesis 3:24 – Guarded Eden			Isaiah 6:1-7 † Seraphim † Above the throne † Six wings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered Face • Covered Feet • Flew † Cleansed Isaiah with live coal.
Ezekiel 41:18-20 † Cherubim † Carved into temple walls † Two faces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man • Lion 			

GOD on His Throne, in his Temple, holds court and judgement but His mercies as well.

FURNISHINGS: The Hope of Heaven: The Tabernacle, A Taste of Heaven (Exodus 25:40; 32-35; Hebrews 8-10) --I love this title from Bible.org – It doesn't state who came up with this but I really believe this encompasses the feel for the stuff/furniture of heaven. This revelation comes to Moses who after pleading with God to go with His people. God directed Moses twice to make sure that he built the Tabernacle after the pattern God had shown him on the Mt. Sinai. The tabernacle on earth cannot be equally the same as the one in Heaven but it reflected all the important aspects of the Temple in Heaven. The chart copied below is the furnishings of the Tabernacle, so I would like to encourage you to take a moment and read the through this wonderfully designed table by www.essential40.com with symbolic meanings of each wonderful specific furnishing in the Tabernacle.

<u>FURNITURE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SYMBOLIC MEANING*</u>	<u>TYPICAL MEANING**</u>
Brazen Altar	Outer Court	Atonement for sin (Lev. 17:11)	Jesus Christ's sacrifice (Heb. 7:27, 10:10-12)
Brazen Laver	Outer Court	Cleansing from sin (Numb. 8:6-7)	Cleansing through the blood of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:5) Also, cleansing through the new birth (Tit. 3:5) and the word (Eph. 5:26)
Table of Showbread	Holy Place	Spiritual food (Deut. 8:31; I Cor. 10:3)	Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life—God's provision for all of our spiritual needs (Jn. 6:31-33, 53-58)
Candlestick	Holy Place	Spiritual illumination (II Cor. 4:6; Isa. 49:6)	Jesus Christ, the Light of the world (Jn. 8:12, 9:5)
Altar of Incense	Holy Place	Access to God through prayer (Ps. 141:2)	Prayer in Jesus' name (Jn. 14:13)
Veil	Between Holy Place and Holy of Holies	Man's separation from God and His holy presence	Christ's body broken for us (Heb. 10:20; Matt. 26:26, 27:50-51)
The Ark	Holy of Holies	Access to God—His covenant (Ex. 19:4-6)	Access to God through Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:15-16)
Mercy Seat	Top of Ark	Acceptable atonement*** (Lev. 16:15-17)	Propitiation**** for sin through the blood of Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:25; Heb. 9:11-14, 23-26)
Shekinah Glory	Above Mercy Seat	God's presence (Ex. 25:22)	God's presence in heaven on the Throne of Grace (Heb. 4:16, 8:1-2)
Ten Commandments	Inside Ark	God's requirement to be acceptable to Him (Lev. 19:2; Matt. 5:48)	Jesus Christ fulfilled God's requirements (Heb. 7:26-27) and took our curse on Himself (Gal. 3:13-14)
Aaron's rod	Inside Ark	God's chosen High Priest	Jesus Christ, God's chosen High Priest (Heb. 4:14, 5:10, 7:26, 8:6, 9:11-12)
Manna	Inside Ark	God, the Provider of Spiritual food (Ex. 16:32-33; Deut. 8:3; I Cor. 10:2)	God, the Provider of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life (Jn. 6:32)

Friend, are you overwhelmed like I am? Extremely intimidated like I feel? The extreme majesty of God's Throne room takes my breath away. Man tries to give words to the indescribable visions of heaven for there is nothing on earth like it that we can even try to associate to it. Friend, if you have not already accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, please consider now, for Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12) For the Ancient of Days is our Abba, Father (*Abba signifies the close, intimate relationship of a father and his child*) for we have received the Spirit of adoption as sons into His Kingdom (Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6). We can approach God's throne of grace confidently, so that we can receive mercy and grace (Hebrews 4:16), through the blood of Jesus we have access in one Spirit to the Father (Ephesians 2:18, Hebrews 10:19). We should have fear of the LORD, yes, but, Child of God, welcome into your Father's arms. If you have not accepted Jesus as your LORD and Savior, I invite you to go to the very end of this study where there are steps for you to take to accept salvation.



Friends, it was a lot of reading for this study. I spared having you to look up scriptures since there was so many! The study of God's Throne Room is interminable. For more study, I would suggest an End Times study.

We studied briefly about the crowns that the elders are wearing. Though we do not know exactly what crowns, go back to where we studied the elders .

Do you remember in this day's study in the Book of Revelation, the Bible describes golden bowls full of incense which are the prayers of the saints (Revelation 5:8)? Prayer of God's people fill heavenly bowls with sweet aroma and as these bowls fill, the prayers are mingled with incense creating a pleasing aroma to God. Let's rejoice now, my Friends, and add our prayers to the golden bowls of incense before the Lamb of God for when God's people pray earnestly, the "effective, fervent prayer of the righteous" avails much (James 5:16).

So, be a Prayer Warrior, Friends and PRAY! Fill golden bowls!



LORD JESUS, let us rejoice before You now, with the elders and all the angels of heaven. Worthy are You, Jesus, the Lion of Judah, the Root of David, the Lamb slain for the ransom of many, to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and one day will reign with you upon the earth. In Jesus name, we Praise you. AMEN!

The study of the Throne Room of God is not exhaustible. I pray visiting the Throne Room of God blessed you as much as it has blessed me.

On to Day 9, my Friends. We will continue our study of God's Kingdom tomorrow.



Day 9 – GOD’S KINGDOM

2ND AND 3RD KINGDOMS

Observe all of Daniel Chapter 8.

Mark all mention of time/including everlasting & seven periods, at that time....:



Mark all mention of end times (etc., to the time of the end; final period of indignation, etc.):



Mark all references of Belshazzar the king & kings of Media and Persia:



Mark all occurrences of /vision:



Mark all occurrences of see/seen/looking/observing:



Underline all locations (including Westward, Northward, west., etc):



Mark all occurrences of ram:



Mark all occurrences of male goat:



Mark all occurrences of Daniel:



Mark all occurrences of power:



Mark all occurrences of violent verbs/adj/nouns (etc., wrath, smashed..):



Mark all occurrences of made great & successful:



Mark all occurrences of God:



Mark all occurrences of horn (mark **small/broken horn** a different color):



Mark all occurrences of eyes:



Mark all occurrences of secret:



Mark all references of Kingdom of Greece:



Mark nor was there anyone to rescue from his power



Underline Daniel 8:23-25:



Mark all occurrences of Gabriel:



Daniel receives a 2nd vision during the 3rd year of the reign of Belshazzar the king of the Medes. In Daniel's vision he is at the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam – the Persian empire. I wonder why this vision is in Susa in Persia since Daniel is in the Mede Kingdom during the time of this vision. Perhaps because the first part of the vision relates to the Medo-Persian empire. It also has an intriguing connection to Esther, about 70 years later & Susa. *The decline of this ancient city dates from its capture by Alexander the Great, or from its later conquest by Antigonus, B. C. 315. The site, nearly due east from Babylon and north of the Persian Gulf, is marked by ruins, some three miles in circumference, in the midst of which have been found the remains of the great palace of Darius, scene of the events narrated in the book of Esther. (Boyd's Bible Dictionary).*

GOLD KINGDOM **SILVER KINGDOM**

The 1st Kingdom – the Gold Kingdom – Babylonian Kingdom has, as prophesied in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's vision in Chapter 7, has been conquered and is moving along in the prophecy the Silver Kingdom. Now that Daniel is in the Silver Kingdom era, this chapter, the focus is on the 2nd kingdom – the Silver Kingdom – Medo-Persian Kingdom.

(Bible.org) Toward the end of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, the Persians began to become a powerful force and under Cyrus II Media was conquered in 549 b.c. and was combined with the empire of the Persians to form Medo-Persia. The combined strength of the Persians and the Medes led to conquest of Babylon in 539 b.c., with the resulting extension of their empire over much of the Middle East until the conquest of Alexander the Great in 331 b.c.. (Whoopsie – spoiler alert!)

What does Daniel see in his vision? (Daniel 8:3)

Since the horns are mentioned first in describing this beast, let's focus there for a moment.

1. This beast has 2 horns.
2. Both horns are long.
3. But one horn is longer than the other
4. The longer horn coming up last.

We do not really have enough clues to interpret what these horns mean. When interpreting scripture, we let scripture interpret scripture. Systematically, you search the context of the passage you are currently reviewing. If the meaning is not in the current context then the current chapter. If the meaning is not the current chapter, then the current book. If the meaning is not in the current book then in the entire scope of scripture – cross references are key! And, my Friends, sometimes we are not given all the answers.

In interpreting the scripture, the answer to this beast is in the context of this chapter. What is the beast with the 2 horns? (Daniel 8:20).

As mentioned in the Throne Room of God – Son of Man – horns signify power. Both horns on this beast are long signifying that both of the kings – the king of Media and the King of Persia are powerful.

What is the significance of one horn being longer than the other and why is the longer horn coming up last? If we go back to Daniel's vision in Daniel 7:5, the description of the 2nd empire – the bear – do you remember that it has a very strange description? Write the description that relates to why one horn seems to be longer than the other.

What is the meaning of the longer horn coming up last?

Daniel 8:4. The ram with 2 horns is butting in 3 directions – what are the directions and how is this related to Daniel 7:5:

Daniel 7:5	Daniel 8:4

(www.IsraelmyGlory.com) The ram butted toward the west, north, and south, overpowering other animals at will and exalting itself. Coming from the east, Medo-Persia conquered primarily toward the west (Babylon, Syria, Asia Minor), north (Armenia, regions around the Caspian Sea), and south (Egypt, Ethiopia).¹⁴ Its massive army overwhelmed many kingdoms until it became the largest kingdom up to that point in time.

	 
<p>SILVER = CHEST & (2) ARMS = MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE = BEAR W/3 RIBS – RAM W/2 HORNS, ONE LONGER THAN THE OTHER</p> <p>Daniel 2:39 = 2nd kingdom, inferior to Babylon</p>	<p>(Daniel 7:5)_____</p>

Ends with Nebuchadnezzar's grandson Belshazzar

The kingdom of the Medes and the Persians is described as a bear which raises itself on one side (referring to Persia being greater than Media)

The longer horn that came up later is the kingdom of Persia, which dominated Media

(Matthew Henry Commentary) The kingdom of Persia, which rose last, in Cyrus, became more eminent than that of the Medes . He saw this ram pushing all about him with his horns (v. 4), westward (towards Babylon, Syria, Greece, and Asia the less), northward (towards the Lydians, Armenians, and Scythians), and southward (towards Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt), for all these nations did the Persian empire, one time or other, make attempts upon for the enlarging of their dominion. And at last he became so powerful that no beasts might stand before him. This ram, though of a species of animal often preyed upon, became formidable even to the beasts of prey themselves, so that there was no standing before him, no escaping him, none that could deliver out of his hand, but all must yield to him: the kings of Persia did according to their will, prospered in all their ways abroad, had an uncontrollable power at home, and became great. He thought himself great because he did what he would; but to do good is that which makes men truly great.

Write Daniel 8:3-4 below:
(Daniel 8:3-4)

Write Daniel 8:20 below:
(Daniel 8:20)



ARCHEOLOGY NOTE: “It wasn’t a stretch to use a **ram** to represent the Medo-Persian Empire. “Ammianus Marcellinus, a fourth century historian, states that the Persian ruler bore the head of a ram as he stood at the head of his army.” (Wood)
“The ram was the national emblem of Persia, a ram being stamped on Persian coins as well as on the headdress of Persian emperors.” (Strauss)

This ram was powerful – a beast of prey (a male sheep) which overpowered the predator Lion with wings – the Babylonian empire.

Daniel 8:5, we see another scene unfolding as the 2 horned ram is literally sideswiped by a male goat coming from the west without touching the ground. What is this describing?
(Daniel 7:6)

Daniel 7:6	Daniel 8:5-7

A leopard's hunting technique is to ambush its prey or to stalk it. The leopard makes a brief explosive charge, pouncing on its pray. Goats are not known for speed, but the description of this male goat is he is covering the earth quickly enough it is not touching the ground as if it was flying – like the four wings of the leopard?

Letting scripture interpret scripture, in the same chapter we are given the answer – who is the shaggy goat (better translation would be rough goat) according to Daniel 8:21?

How many horns does this male goat have?

Why is this significant? 1 horn –

The first king in Daniel 8:21 = Alexander the Great.

With swiftness, Alexander ran over the world, and made his conquests: in six or eight years time he conquered the kingdom of the Medes and Persians, Babylon, Egypt, and all the neighboring nations. Possibly represented here by the four wings of the leopard.

Starting with a little background of the upcoming Bronze Kingdom/3rd Kingdom: King Phillip of Macedonia united the Greek city-states which were previously divided. King Phillip had in his sights to defeat the Persian empire which threatened the Greek way of life. Phillip was assassinated before he could pursue this goal. His son, Alexander took the throne and vowed to complete his father's plans. From his father, he inherited a versatile, well-trained army unlike anything that had ever existed. United in a single purpose, they fought as one. Alexander gained a reputation of leading his men to battle with impressive speed, allowing smaller forces to reach and break the enemy lines before his foes were ready.

What aggression does this male goat do to the ram? (Daniel 8:5-7)

From the description in Daniel 8:5-7, I suspect that the goat was not expecting this attack or perhaps, the ram never stood a chance against the rough goat, so it doesn't mention a response from the ram whatsoever.

In v. 8:6, The ram is standing in front of the canal, the Ulai canal where Daniel is in his vision. **Ulai** means strength, fool, senseless in Hebrew. The ram stands, strong yet senseless, a fool as the male goat rushes, strikes, smashes, hurls and tramples it.

SILVER KINGDOM BRONZE KINGDOM

The Bronze Kingdom = Alexander the Great retaliated for Persia's = Silver Kingdom's failed attempt at invading the Greek mainland a century earlier. This invasion is the famous Battle of the 300 Spartan warriors heroic last stand against the Persian invaders. Alexander's invasion of Persia was to punish the Persians for their attempt to even dare to even invade Greece.

Alexander the Great was very powerful for a short window of time due to his death at a young age. He was the large horn in v. 8. The single, prominent horn which is the first king (according to 8:21 is broken and 4 prominent horns come up in place of the single broken horn in all four directions (four winds of heaven) – north, south, east and west.

	 
<p>BRONZE = BELLY & THIGHS = GREEK EMPIRE- LEOPARD W/4 HEADS & 4 WINGS – ROUGH/SHAGGY GOAT WITH 1 HORN</p> <p>the Greek Empire rose from the west of previous empires.</p> <p>·(EnduringWord.com) <i>"The Greek Empire rose with great speed (suddenly... without touching the ground).</i></p> <p>· <i>The Greek Empire had a notable ruler, Alexander the Great (a notable horn).</i></p>	<p><u>(Daniel 7:6)</u></p>

· The Greek Empire had a famous war with the Medo-Persian Empire (I saw him confronting the ram).

· The Greek Empire and the Medo-Persian Empire greatly hated each other (with furious power... moved with rage). Some of the greatest, fiercest battles of ancient history were fought between the Greeks and the Persians.

· The Greek Empire conquered the Medo-Persian Empire (no one that could deliver the ram from his hand).

· The reign of the notable leader of the Greek Empire was suddenly cut short (the large horn was broken).

· After the end of Alexander the Great's reign, the Greek Empire was divided among four rulers (in place of it four notable ones came up)." 4 horns = 4 rulers. Alexander did not divide the empire among his four generals himself. His four leading generals divided it among themselves by force after his death.

Write Daniel 8:5-8 below:

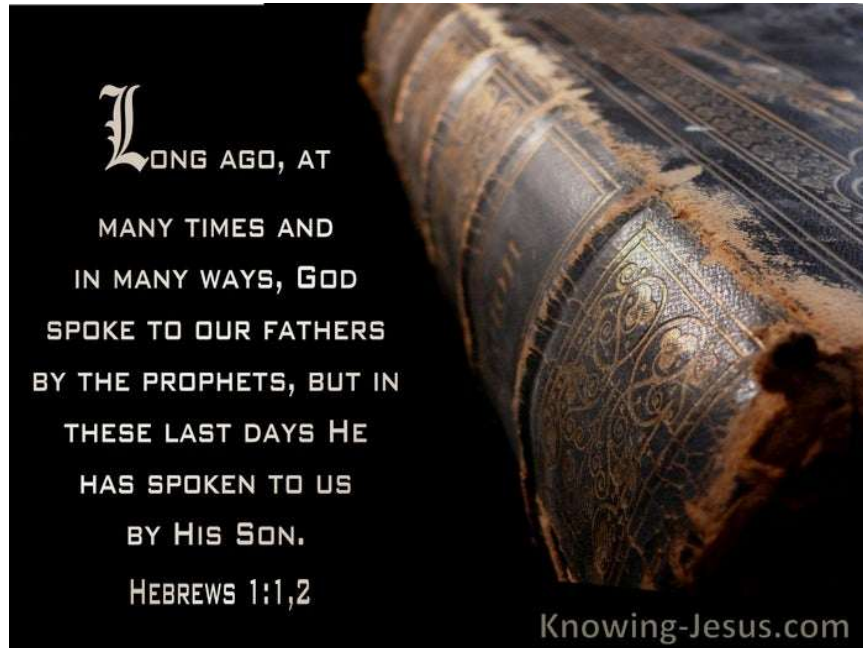


ARCHEOLOGY NOTE: "From ancient history we know this wasn't a strange symbol. The goat was a common representation of the Greek Empire. "Newton very properly observes that, two hundred years before the time of Daniel, they were called, the goats' people." (Clarke)

Friends, there was a 4th beast in Daniel's vision, but here, in the 2nd vision (Daniel 8), we do not have another "beast" but a horn – the horn represented in Daniel's 1st vision of the ferocious beast with no earthly designation in the animal kingdom. This is not an End Times study, but we will be running parallel to an End Times study because they are deeply interconnected. Perhaps we will continue this study as a Part 2 in the future. I am stating

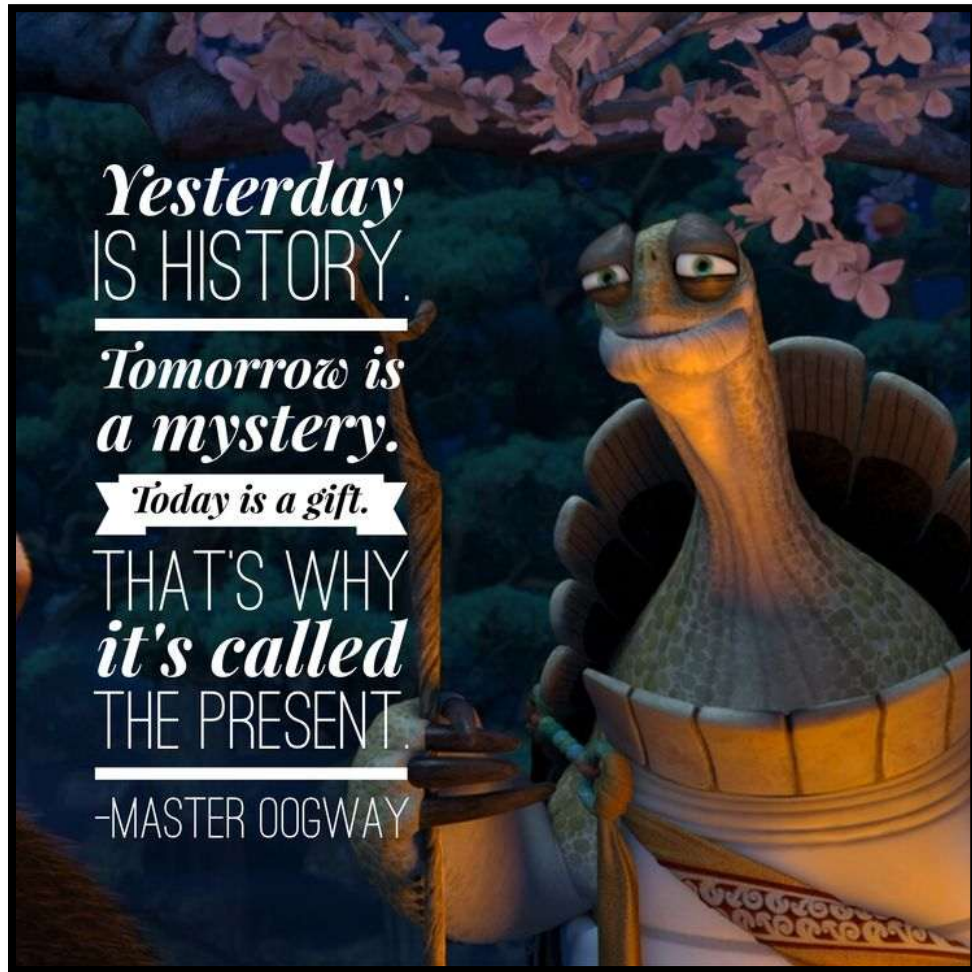
this for you now because this 4th kingdom is past but future and introduces the Final Kingdom – God’s Kingdom. I need to navigate you through some deep waters, my Friends, so bear with me.

Read through the remaining Chapters of Daniel, Chapters 9-12 and we will pick up again on Day 10 to wrap up our study. You do not need to mark the text.



God spoke to Daniel, a testimony to us, to recognize the Coming of His Kingdom. Every aspect of the prophetic dreams/visions given to King Nebuchadnezzar and to Daniel have been fulfilled and are being fulfilled as each day passes through time. The Bible accurately foretells specific events-in detail-many years, sometimes centuries, before they occur. Approximately 2,500 prophecies appear in the pages of the Bible, about 2,000 of which already have been fulfilled to the letter—no errors. (The remaining 500 or so reach into the future and may be seen unfolding as days go by.) The odds for all these prophecies having been fulfilled by chance without error is less than one in 10^{2000} (that is 1 with 2,000 zeros written after it)!

God is an awesome God. He is giving you a gift to know the future and the future is bright, my Friends. This recalls wise words of a famous quote from Master Oogway in Kung Fu Panda.



Father God, we thank you for giving us the entire scope of Your Word. Tomorrow we will be studying on Prophecy and in Your Word, 1 Corinthians 14:22, tells us that prophecy is for believers, not for unbelievers so we praise You, Father, for the richness of the completeness of 100% fulfilled prophecies so we can bank on and be secure that the prophecies that are still to be accomplished will be 100% fulfilled as well. This gives us hope. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith and rejoice we will for the happy ending of being forever with You, Jesus. AMEN!



Day 10 – GOD’S KINGDOM

4TH KINGDOM & PROPHECY

No observation required today, my Friends. I hope that you read through the rest of the Book of Daniel. Let me summarize Daniel 9 for you and we will progress into our study for the day. From Matthew Henry’s Bible Commentary the overview of Daniel 9: **Chapter Contents:** Daniel considers the time of the captivity. (1-3) His confession of sin, and prayer. (4-19) The revelation concerning the coming of the Messiah. (20-27).. We have, in verses 24-27, one of the most remarkable prophecies of Christ, of his coming and his salvation. It shows that the Jews are guilty of most obstinate unbelief, in expecting another Messiah. Each time the Bible mentions the first coming of the Messiah, it mentions His second coming eight times. For each time the Bible mentions the atonement, it mentions His second coming two times. Jesus referred to His return twenty-one times and over fifty times in the New Testament we are told to be ready for His return. (John MacArthur, from the sermon “Worshipping the Worthy Lamb,”)



The Stone, Messiah has arrived at the appointed time, fulfilling scriptures. There is still more prophecies to be fulfilled from the Book of Daniel and Revelation where the Rock fills the entire Earth.



BRONZE KINGDOM
GOD’S KINGDOM



IRON/CLAY KINGDOM



After the Greek Kingdom of the winged Leopard with 4 heads, the 4th beast in Daniel 7 represents Rome. Why or how do we come to this conclusion is part of the navigating. Daniel 10-11 is fulfilled scripture but as we move into Daniel 11, Daniel 11:36, a leap is made to the end time, this chapter has remnants of prophecy to be fulfilled – the time of the end. Daniel 11 continues with events that are yet to come – events just before Jesus Christ’s return – still in our future.....

IRON/CLAY KINGDOM Also, the horn in Daniel 7 & 8 is a “type”. The “type” is of the Antichrist. We’re heading into what is called “biblical typology”. Please don’t spin your heads. Biblical Typology is what adds to the uniqueness of perfection of scripture. A “type” or typology is a special kind of symbolism (a symbol is something representing something else). From www.gotquestions.com “We can define a type as a “prophetic symbol” because all types are representations of something yet future. More specifically, a type in Scripture is a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament. For example, the flood of Noah’s day (Genesis 6–7) is used as a type of baptism in 1 Peter 3:20–21. The word for “type” that Peter uses is figure.”

We will focus on the final element of this kingdom – the “Antichrist type” in Antiochus Epiphanes as he is a picture of the future character of the Antichrist in Revelation. “Antiochus Epiphanes is important, but mostly as a historical preview or a “type” of the Antichrist. This is why so much space is given to describing the career of one evil man – because he prefigures the ultimate evil man. Antiochus Epiphanes is the “trailer” released well before the Antichrist, who is like the “feature.” (www.EnduringWord.com)



IRON = LEGS & PARTLY IRON & PARTLY CLAY = FEET & TOES = ROMAN EMPIRE BEAST W/IRON TEETH, 10 HORNS & A LITTLE HORN

Daniel 2:40 = 4th kingdom, strong as iron, iron breaks and smashes everything and as iron breaks things into pieces, so it will crush and break all the others (kingdom)



In this column, write the description of the 4th beast (Daniel 7:7-8)

Daniel 2:40 = 4th kingdom is a divided kingdom – will have some strength of iron. Kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle – the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay. The fourth kingdom is different from the others. The fourth kingdom will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it, the whole earth.

THE LITTLE HORN - ANTICHRIST

(1) He has eyes and mouth, larger in appearance than others,

(2) He wages war against the saints and overpowers them, until the Ancient of Days comes and the saints take possession of the Kingdom,


(3) He arises after the ten (this is very important) and when he arises he is different from the others and subdues three of the ten.

(4) He speaks out against the Most High.

(5) He will wear down the saints of the Highest One.

(6) He intends to make alterations in times and in law. What does this mean? He may say this is no longer A.D. this is such and such; we're starting the calendar again. Or he may make alterations in times other ways.

(7) The saints are given into his hands for time, times and half a time which is 42 months, 1260 days, 3½ years. A 'time' = 1 year, times = 2 years and then a half.



The kingdom of God does not come with observation;
nor will they say, Behold, here it is! or, There! For
behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.

LUKE 17:21

www.agodman.com

As Daniel explained to the king: "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a *kingdom which shall never be destroyed*; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (Daniel 2:44) – no more kingdoms of sin and darkness - pain, tears, fears, greed, death – but we are transferred to the Kingdom of God's Beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). In John 18:36, In contrast to the kingdoms of this world, the kingdom of Jesus *originates* in heaven. We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe (Hebrews 12:27-28). Little flock, fear not, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom (Luke 12:32).

In Daniel 9:20, Gabriel arrived to correct Daniel's misunderstanding concerning when the messianic kingdom (Jesus) would come. Daniel had been thinking in terms of years—specifically the 70 years of captivity. *Daniel had assumed that the captivity would end after 70 years and that the kingdom would be established after 70 years. But here Gabriel was using a play upon words in the Hebrew text, pointing out that insofar as Messiah's kingdom was concerned, it was not "70 years," but "70 sevens of years," a total of 490 years (70 times seven) (Jews for Jesus).* The countdown – by Gabriel's timetable – at the decree from Cyrus to rebuild the Temple by the year 444 B.C.E., of Jesus Coming has begun.

Isaiah 9:6-7:

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called

Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of *His* government and peace
There will beno end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Mark 1:14-15

..... Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Jesus taught us about the Kingdom of God through parables. Each parable, he would explain to the disciples, for no one seemed to understand these parables on their own. I didn't see any instance where a disciple said I totally get what you're saying, Jesus, no need to explain. Truthfully, I find myself in this group, maybe you do as well. Jesus relates earthly subjects to make a point of what the Kingdom of God is like. These parables are to teach – 1. There are those who do not believe thus, they will be forever separated and those who do believe to eternal reward; 2. It is easy but not easy to enter the Kingdom of heaven for there is invitation, but the invite is rejected; 3. Jesus points to His love for us by His ultimate sacrifice; 4. There is no stopping the Kingdom of God. It can seem beaten, at times, but it will take over; 5. There is no room for unforgiveness, for such have we been forgiven; 6. Wonderful rewards await us in heaven; 6. Jesus is returning to receive us to Himself! Hallelujah and AMEN!

JESUS' PARABLES – "THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE":



Matthew 13:36-43. **WHEAT & TARES.** Angels will separate the true from false believers. We are not to take it upon ourselves to uproot unbelievers because the difference between true and false believers isn't always obvious. Tares, especially in the early stages of growth, resemble wheat.

Likewise, a false believer may resemble a true believer. Each person should examine his own relationship with Christ (2 Corinthians 13:5). First John is an excellent test of salvation.



Matthew 13:31. **MUSTARD SEED.** The amazing growth of the kingdom of heaven. What seemed inconsequential at first grew into a movement of worldwide influence, and no one could stop it.



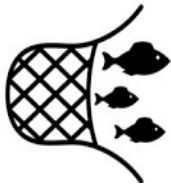
Matthew 13:33. **LEAVEN.** The power of yeast to permeate the whole dough over time. Even a little yeast will affect the dough and is transformative – affects change. Yeast is invisible but affective as we are changed from the inside out.



Matthew 13:44. **HIDDEN TREASURE.** Only one man gave all so could buy this field. We are treasured by our Savior, Little Flock.



Matthew 13:45. **PEARL OF GREAT PRICE.** The Sacrifice. We are so valued by Jesus that he would happily give all He has just for you.



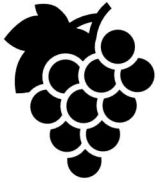
Matthew 13:47. **DRAGNET.** Believers and unbelievers are collected but Judgment for unbelievers.



Matthew 13:52. **HOUSEHOLDER.** Everyone who really knows God's Word both will know the old and learn the new of the kingdom.



Matthew 18:23-35. **KING.** We have been forgiven so much, we have no right to withhold forgiveness from others.



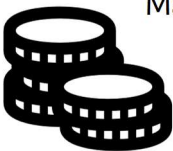
Matthew 20:1-15. **VINEYARD.** God rewards on the principle of grace, and we should therefore expect surprises. He will never be *less* than fair but reserves the right to be *more* than fair as pleases Him.



Matthew 22:1-10. **WEDDING.** Some are not willing to come to this special event; there is no *logical* reason God's good gifts are refused.



Matthew 25:2-13 **VIRGINS.** Jesus Christ will return at an unknown hour and that His people must be ready, by looking forward with eagerness to the coming of Christ by being prepared. We must be doing it in such a way that we don't have to "make things right" (get more oil) when He comes.



Matthew 25:14-30. **TALENTS.** we are a blessing to others and the value of what we do multiplies. We are accountable to the Lord for the use of His resources.

We will receive rewards revealed with fire, for the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. (1 Corinthians 3:11-14). For our reward is great. (Matthew 5:12).

We will be seated with Jesus in heaven. (Ephesians 2:6).

The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. No evil in heaven. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

We will receive crowns. (Note study on Day 8's study)

We cannot fathom what God has prepared for us (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Jesus prepares a place for us. (John 14:3)

Imperishable body (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

Clothed in fine linen – the righteous acts of saints (Revelation 19:7-9)

Eat from the tree of life (Revelation 2:7)

No hunger, no thirst (Revelation 7:13-17); no tears, no death, no pain (Revelation 21:4)

Receive a stone with a new name written on it – known only to the one who receives it (Revelation 2:17).

Receive hidden manna (Revelation 2:17)

Rule with Jesus (Revelation 2:26)

Worship God (Revelation)

Will the Kingdom of God/Heaven be boring? Will we be sitting on white fluffy clouds, plucking harps? I dare say, not even!

Heaven is Paradise (Luke 23:43). Little Flock, the Kingdom is paradise, everything you will love and nothing that you hate.

A glimpse of paradise:

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Remember, Little Flock, that prophecy is for the believers. There is more coming, rest assured, and Jesus will establish His Kingdom throughout the whole earth! Thank you for joining me in this journey of discovery. This is not an exhaustible study – there is more to learn, but I hope this study whets your appetite for more.

A prayer to end our study and let me leave you with the most beautiful lyrics I have ever heard when I first accepted the invitation to come to the Kingdom of God through Jesus, our Savior. If you have not accepted your invitation to the Kingdom of God, please go the very end of this lesson. Each Bible Study, I include God's Invitation. I pray you will accept.



I CAN ONLY IMAGINE (Song by MercyMe)

I can only imagine
What it will be like
When I walk by Your side
I can only imagine
What my eyes would see
When Your face is before me
I can only imagine

Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You Jesus
Or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in Your presence
Or to my knees, will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah?
Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine
I can only imagine
I can only imagine
When that day comes
And I find myself
Standing in the Son
I can only imagine
When all I will do
Is forever, forever worship You
I can only imagine

INVITATION TO JESUS AND SALVATION PRAYER

Dear God, I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen

Commit yourself to a relationship with God. <https://salvationcall.com>

Study the bible daily: The Bible is God's word or God's voice. You only begin to hear God's voice when you begin to read the Bible and you would hear God's voice even more and more as you commit yourself to study the Bible more and more.

Obey the bible: you should obey the teaching of the Bible, which results in leading a holy life like Christ Jesus. Your obedience to the word of God is your only evidence that identifies you with Christ Jesus that you are a proud follower of His. Obedience also verifies your faith. It verifies that you mean to walk with God, that you meant the prayer you prayed to accept Jesus into your life, and that you were not lying to yourself when you confessed Jesus as your Lord and Savior. In short, a life of obedience verifies that you are a Christian.

Build a daily prayer life: Communicate with God, your Father. God, your Father, highly regards your prayer. He loves to hear your voice in prayer so much that He even rewards you for having spent time praying.

Join a Bible-and-Holy Spirit-believing Church. Having believed to receive salvation, you have been grafted, absorbed into the family of God. You now belong with all saved people in one big God-family. Jesus never intended for any Christian to remain an island, isolated. We are to fellowship together, loving and being of service to one another, for no single person is self-sufficient.

I would love if you'd like to share with me your commitment. If you have a moment, let me know all about it on Cleopas face book page! And, welcome to the family of Christ, my brother/sister in Christ!