



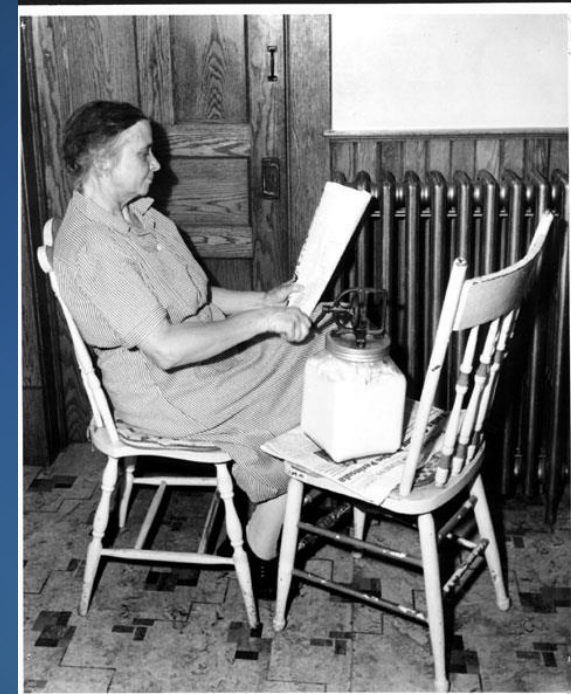
# DANIEL



## Overview

# Disclaimer

- No claims of absolute originality are made for this material.
- As someone said, "I milk a lot of cows, but I churn my own butter."



A close-up photograph of a single, ripe red apple with a small stem, set against a vibrant green background. The apple is the central focus, with its surface reflecting light. A dark green, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing a quote in white serif font. Below the quote, the name 'ISAAC NEWTON' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

“If I have seen further  
it is by standing on  
the shoulders of giants.”

**ISAAC NEWTON**

# Setting of the Book of Daniel

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The book starts right after Babylon's **1<sup>st</sup> attack** on Jerusalem in 605 BC.

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In this attack, 4 members of David's royal Family were taken:

Daniel (Belteshazzar)

Hananiah (Shadrach)

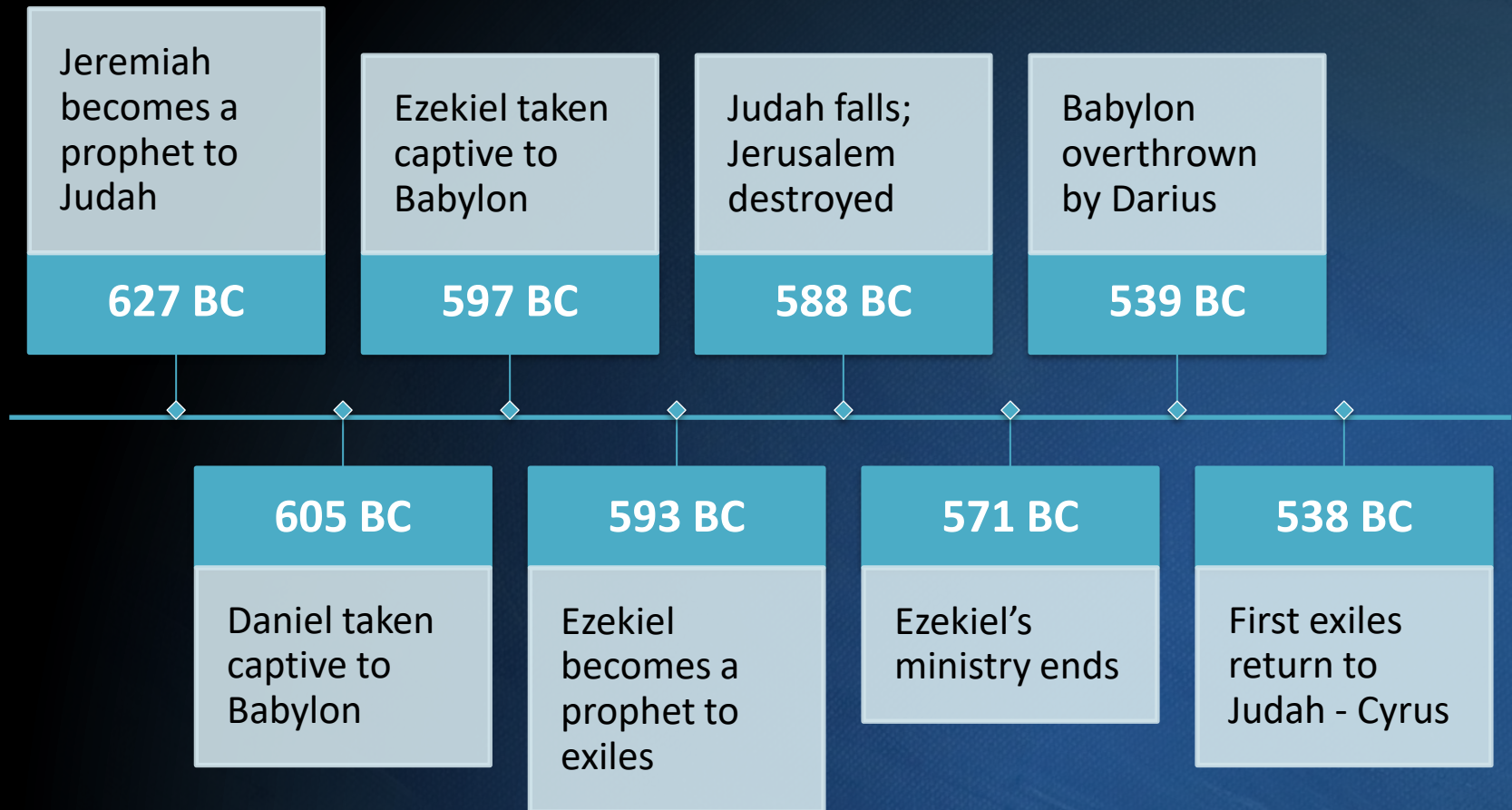
Michael (Meshach)

Azariah (Abed-Nego)

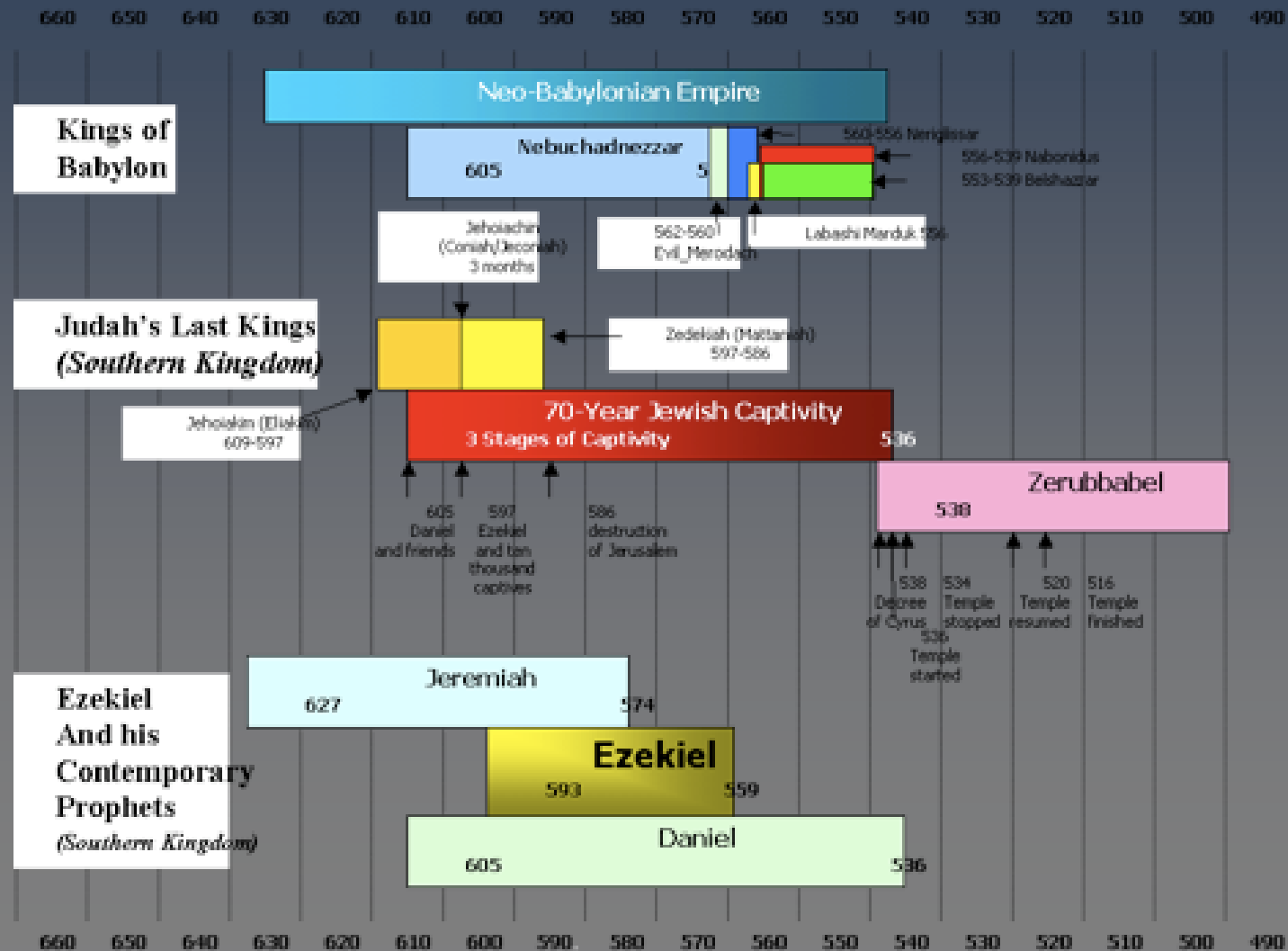
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Ezekiel was taken during the 2<sup>nd</sup> attack in 597 BC.

# Daniel's Place in History



# Daniel's Place in History



# 3 Key Prophets in this time period

Jeremiah (627-586 BC) – prophet mainly to the Jews before the city fell (call to repent; warning of doom)

Daniel (605-533 BC) – prophet mainly to the court of King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon.

Ezekiel (593-571 BC) – prophet mainly to the exiles in Babylon, before & after the fall of Jerusalem.

# Design of Daniel - Content



**CHAPTERS 1-6**

STORIES ABOUT DANIEL AND HIS  
FRIENDS

**3<sup>rd</sup> Person**



**CHAPTERS 7-12**

VISIONS OF DANIEL

**1<sup>st</sup> Person**



# Design of Daniel - Language

Chapter 1

**Hebrew**

Chapters 2-7

**Aramaic**

Chapters 8-12

**Hebrew**

# Aramaic

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From the time of the Babylonian captivity, Aramaic spread as the vernacular language in Palestine. Other Aramaic passages are Ezra 4:8 - 6:18 & 7:12-26; and Jer. 10:11.

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It melded with “*Classic Hebrew*”; this combined language became the language of the people - often simply referred to as the “*Hebrew tongue*”.

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This was the most spoken language among Jews in New Testament times, probably more so than even Greek.

# Importance of Language

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Paul heard the risen Christ speaking to him in the “Hebrew Tongue”.

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*“I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew tongue, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’”* Acts 26:14 and again, in Acts 22, Paul recounts this event in the “Hebrew Tongue”.

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But why does the Word of God include which language the Lord spoke to Paul in?

Not once, but twice?

# Importance of Language

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*“And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew tongue, they became even more quiet.” Acts 22:2*

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The people, hearing Paul in Jerusalem, had their interest peaked by the mere language Paul spoke.

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Paul sought to speak to the heart of the people in their common tongue, as he had been spoken to.



## Chap. 1 – Capitulate or Conquer

- The key theme of the first half of the book is introduced via a simple story.
- Key being they stood on the Word of God in the face of worldly pressure.
- Daniel and his friends are recruited to serve in the high court, due to their abilities, but they are pressured to give up the laws of God (Torah) given only to the Hebrews.

## Chap. 2 – The King's Dream

- King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream about a **STATUE** with a Head of Gold/Feet of clay.
- This composite signifies a sequence of kingdoms – the head being Babylon.
- A **ROCK** will smash the statue – representing Christ and His Kingdom, greater than any, that will humble all others.
- The wickedness brought about by the kingdoms of this world will be supplanted by God's righteous reign.

## Chap. 3 – Bow or Burn

- Daniel's friends are persecuted for refusing to bow to an image (likely of the king) and worship it.
- So, they are cast into a fiery furnace.
- God delivered them – while in the furnace with them.
- Thus, king Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges God as the true God, not the idol he himself made.



## Chap. 4 – Nebuchadnezzar's Pride

- King Nebuchadnezzar is filled with pride due to his perceived Imperial Power.
- So, God warns him in a dream that only Daniel can interpret.
- The king is told to humble himself before God – and he arrogantly refuses.
- He is then stricken with madness (loses reason).
- But he then humbles himself and agrees with God and his humanity is restored.

# Man – Royal Image of God

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This concept is taken from Genesis 1&2 and Psalm 8. Man's authority is given to him by God and is **not innate**. Ultimately, God rules in the affairs of men.

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But when men forget this and make themselves god, (the original sin) ironically, they become less than human and become beasts themselves.

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"Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men." Lord Acton 1887

## Chap. 5 – Belshazzar's Pride

- Similarly, King Belshazzar is filled with pride due to his perceived Imperial Power.
- Unlike his grandfather, his arrogance rises to the level of blasphemy against God.
- So, God sends him a message of judgement that only Daniel can interpret.
- On the very night in which he performs his consummate blasphemous act, he is assassinated, and the kingdom is taken by the Mede's.

## Chap. 6 – Bow or be Bitten

- Daniel is persecuted for refusing to worship the king as a god.
- So, he is cast into a den of lions (not a lion's den).
- He is delivered by God – the “angel of the Lord” with him in the den.
- Thus, king Darius acknowledges God as the true God (not the idol he himself made).

## Chap. 7 – Daniel's Dream

- This is the center of the book where all its themes come together.
- Ironically, even Daniel can't interpret this dream until an angelic messenger explains it to him.
- 4 composite beasts are described, symbolizing arrogant kingdoms. The final one, a "super" beast has 10 horns (a symbol of kings in the OT); he exalts himself above God and persecutes His people.
- In the end God slays the beast and installs the Son of Man as the rightful ruler of all.

# Daniel – Aramaic Section

**Chap. 2**

The King's Dream



**Chap. 7**

Daniel's Dream

**Chap. 3**

Bow or Burn



**Chap. 6**

Bow or be Bitten

**Chap. 4**

Nebuchadnezzar's  
Pride



**Chap. 5**

Belshazzar's Pride

# Daniel – Aramaic Section

Chap. 2 The King's Dream

Chap. 3 Bow or Burn

Chap. 4 Nebuchadnezzar's  
Pride

Chap. 5 Belshazzar's Pride

Chap. 6 Bow or be Bitten

Chap. 7 Daniel's Dream



# Daniel – Aramaic Section

Chap. 2&7 – Truth Revealed

God's Sovereignty

Chap. 3&6 – Persecution

God's Salvation

Chap. 4&5 – Man's Pride

God's Judgement



## Chap. 8 – Daniel's 2<sup>nd</sup> Vision

- A continuation of the dream of Chapter 7.
  - Ram – Medo-Persian Empire.
  - Goat – Greek Empire.
- The large horn of chapter 7, the evil king will:
  - Attack Jerusalem.
  - Exalt himself.
  - Defile the temple with idols.
- In the end God again states he will slay the beast.

## Chap. 9 – Daniel's Prayer

- Daniel is perplexed so he consults the Word of God – Jeremiah 25.
- Here he sees that the time of exile, 70 years, is nearly over.
- He thus confesses the sins of his people and so pleads with the Lord to extend His mercy. Intercessory work – Christ in Jn. 17.
- Gabriel then comes to give further insight into God's plans for His people.
  - Daniel's, so called, 70 weeks.

## Chap. 10-12 – Daniel's 3<sup>rd</sup> Vision

- The same sequence of kingdoms are again revealed:
  - Persia, Greece, Alexander the Great and the lesser kings that follow.
- Finally, the King of the North appears. He will, as revealed in chapter 9:
  - Attack Jerusalem.
  - Exalt himself.
  - Defile the temple with idols.
- In the end God prevails and this king is brought to ruin.

# Daniel – Hebrew Section

## **Chap. 1**

God's people  
under persecution



## **Chap. 8-12**

God prevails for  
His people

# Daniel – Hebrew Section

**Chap. 1**

God's people under  
persecution



**Chap. 8-12**

God Prevails for His People

**God is Faithful**

**God's Faithfulness  
Fulfilled**

# Daniel – Summary

Hebrew

Chap. 1

God's Dealings with the  
Nation of Israel - Present

Chap. 8-12

God's Dealings for the  
Nation of Israel - Future

Aramaic

Chap. 2-7

God's Dealings with the  
Nations of the World

