**The Book of Daniel**

**Chapters 7-12**

**Lesson 3**
*"The Lord changes the time and the epochs...*

*and gives wisdom to the wise."*

Summary of the kings who ruled over Israel:

The notable Babylonian and Persian kings from the time of Daniel to the rebuilding of the temple and wall in Jerusalem in the books of Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, Zechariah, Haggai, and Malachi were:

Nebuchadnezzar II: the Babylonian king at the beginning of the book of Daniel

 Ruled from about 605 BC to 562 BC

Belshazzar: the Babylonian king near the end of the narrative portion of Daniel who saw the

"writing on the wall" and was assassinated as his nation was overthrown by the Medo-Persians

 He was Bel-sharusur in secular inscriptions

 He is Nebuchadnezzar II's grandson

 Belshazzar ruled from 553 BC - 539 BC

Nabonidus was Nebuchadnezzar's son *(and Belshazzar's father)* who chose to rule Babylonia from Tema in Arabia

Nabonidus had made his son, Belshazzar, the ruler of Babylonia in Babylon

Daniel 5:29

Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the *third ruler* in the kingdom.

Why the third ruler, and not second?:

 1st Nabonidus *(Belshazzar's dad);* 2nd Belshazzar; 3rd Daniel

Daniel 5:31

And Darius the *Mede* *received* the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

  Qabbel: rendered "received" in most translations *(rendered "took" in KJV)*

Darius was most likely a Median general named Gobryas who was given the kingdom to

rule by Cyrus, the king of Persia

Daniel 6:28

So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius *and the* reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Cyrus the Great – the Persian king who gave permission for the Jews to return to

Jerusalem in 539.

He ruled from 560 BC to 530 BC

Cambyses II or Smerdis *(Called Artaxerxes in Ezra 4)–* the king who tried to stop the Jews'

temple building due to their Palestinian opponents' complaints

Darius I the Great – the *Persian* king who allowed the temple work to begin again

Xerxes – the king in the book of Esther

The book of Esther occurred during the time that the Jews in Jerusalem were rebuilding the Temple and city, just before Ezra and Nehemiah went to Jerusalem to help out

Xerxes' son Artaxerxes I *(Longimanus)* reigned from 465 BC to 424 BC

 In 458 BC: Artaxerxes I granted a decree to Ezra *(Ezra 7:12-26)* to reestablish the

 validity of the Jewish nation's claims to Jerusalem (*which was again facing opposition).*

444 BC: Artaxerxes I later gave permission for Nehemiah to help repair the wall around Jerusalem.

 Likely the same king as Ezra's benefactor

Nehemiah made two trips to Jerusalem from Susa *(the capital of Persia)*

 He was opposed by Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arab

Nehemiah served as governor from 444 BC to 432 BC

 Malachi prophesied during the time of Nehemiah

332 BC: Alexander the Great conquered Asia Minor, Palestine, and then Persia

168 BC: Antiochus Epiphanes IV *(a Seleucid ruler)* desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem

140 BC Hasmonean *(Maccabean)* rule over Judea

63 BC: Roman General Pompey conquered Judea

37 BC: Herod the Great *(an Idumean)* became ruler

3 BC – 30 AD or 0 - 33 AD: Jesus' lifetime

70 AD: The destruction of the Second Temple by the Roman general Titus

66-135 AD the second great exile and dispersion of the Jewish people

640 AD: The capture of Jerusalem by Islamic armies

1099 AD: The conquest of Jerusalem by the First Crusade *(Christian)*

1187 AD: Saladin the Kurd retakes Jerusalem *(Islamic)* -- defeats the 3rd crusaders in 1189 AD

1517 AD: The capture of Jerusalem by the Ottoman Turks *(Islamic)*

1918 AD: The conquest of Jerusalem by General Edmund Allenby *(British)*

1882 AD+: The Zionist Movement

1948 AD: The granting of the Israeli state by the U.N.

1967 AD: The capture of Jerusalem by the Israeli army

Daniel lived from about 620 BC to 530 BC

The book of Daniel is divided by scholars into two sections:

 Chapters 1-6: Narratives from the lives of Daniel and his friends serving their pagan masters

 These chapters are *historical*

Chapters 7-12: Apocalyptic *(unveiling)* visions designed to reassure God's people that despite

their present suffering, God is in control and will be victorious in the end.

 These chapters are *prophetic*

Most of the first part of the book is written in Aramaic *(Chaldee),* while most of the second

 half is written in Hebrew

 First half was written for Daniel's Gentiles handlers and for the plan of the Lord for

 the Gentile nations to come

  *(5th and 6th century Jews did not speak Aramaic [Chaldee])*

 Precisely, Daniel 1:1 – 2:3 is in Hebrew *(the background of the narrative)*

 Daniel: 2:4 – 7:28 is in Aramaic

In Daniel 2:27 Daniel spoke to the king in Aramaic *(Chaldee)*

The second and prophetic part of the book is written in Hebrew with more hidden meaning

Seems to be written for Israel, and for future New Testament believers at the end of the age --Hidden from the Gentile powers

 Precisely, Daniel 7:29 to the end of the book

Daniel is considered an *apocalyptic* writing

When wickedness seems supreme in the world, and evil powers are dominant, apocalyptic teachings show the real situation behind the scenes

These teachings predict difficult times and catastrophe, but indicate the eventual victory of righteousness and truth upon the earth

Apocalyptic writings are often symbolic to hide the meaning from those who do not receive revelation from the Holy Spirit—demons, evil men

II Corinth. 2:6-8

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

"Prophetic words are invariably so near as to give full warning, but so indeterminate as to give no satisfaction to mere curiosity."

 C. I. Schofield

The book of Daniel predicts increasingly powerful and ungodly Gentiles kingdoms that will oppress the Old Testament people of God *(the Jewish people)*

...And then New Testament people of God *(the spiritual, Spirit-indwelt church, the body and*

*bride of Christ)...*

...But not necessarily "Christendom" which will sit in power with the Gentile pagan rulers and will participate in the persecution of the mystical church until God's everlasting kingdom is set up.

State-enforced religions are always apostate *(even if "Christian")*

Nebuchadnezzar's image

 Roman emperor worship

 The Holy Roman Emperors

 Japanese and Chinese worship of their emperors

 Communist veneration of their leaders

Jesus refers to the period of pagan powers dominating the world as "the times of the Gentiles" *(Luke 21:24)*

The symbols of Gentile power are always beasts and war-like

 They rule by coercion, force, and domination

 Examples: The Roman and British empires

 The Nazi Third Reich

 Stalin's Russia

Even the United States is at risk of being symbolized as a "beast"

 The U.S. has been somewhat *less* beastlike because of its:

 1) Historical aid to other nations *(even our enemies)*

 2) Support for the "other" people of God: the Jewish nation which has been the "prey"

of the Gentile beast "predators"

 3) Commitment to world missions

But even the U.S. is not the "stone" that smites the statue

 The "stone "is Christ and the coming kingdom of heaven *(Dan. 2:44-45)*

The victory of the Lord over these powers will be sudden and eternal:

Daniel 2:34-35

As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces... and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth