**The Book of Daniel
Chapters 7-12**

**Lesson 2**
*"The Lord changes the time and the epochs...
and gives wisdom to the wise."*

Bible Timeline

1450 – 1350 BC Joshua (theocracy + priests)

1350 – 1040 BC Judges (theocracy + judges)

1040 - 1010 BC starting with King Saul (kings + prophets)

 Continuing until 586 BC to King Zedekiah, the last king of Judah

I Sam. 8:4-5; 7

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now *appoint a king*to leadus, such as all the other nations have..."And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king."

Ps. 146:3, 5

Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save...Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

I Tim. 2:1-2

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered for

everyone—for kings and all those in authority—so that we may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity.

586 BC – Jesus (governors, dictators + the Sanhedrin)

Church age: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, elders, deacons govern the church under the direction of the Holy Spirit

970 - 930 BC: King Solomon

930 BC: The division of Israel into:

 North kingdom *(Samaria, Ephraim, Israel)*

 King Jeroboam

South Kingdom *(Judah)*

King Rehoboam

722 BC: The North Kingdom *(Samaria)* fell to the Assyrians Around the time of Judah's King Hezekiah

609 BC: King Josiah died

609-598 BC: Jehoiakim reigned as king of Judah

605 BC: Jehoia*kim* was forced to give tribute money to Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king

First deportation occurred: Daniel was taken captive to Babylon – 605 BC

597 BC: Jehoia*chin* becomes king: Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem and it fell; Nebuchadnezzar took the temple furnishing back to Babylon *(but did not yet destroy the Temple)*

The second deportation occurred: Ezekiel was taken captive to Babylon

II Kings 24:10-16

At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon marched up to Jerusalem, and the

city came under siege...Jehoiac*hin* King of Judah, his mother, his servants, his commanders, and his officials all surrendered to the King of Babylon...

II Kings 24:10-16 (cont.)

...Nebuchadnezzar also carried off all the treasures from the house of the LORD and the royal palace... He carried into exile all Jerusalem—all the commanders and mighty men of valor, all the craftsmen and metalsmiths—ten thousand captives in all. *Only the poorest people of the land remained.*

597 BC Zedekiah was made king over Judah by Nebuchadnezzar

592-4 BC: King Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon *(contrary to Jeremiah's prophetic counsel)*

587 BC: Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem; Solomon's temple was destroyed

The third deportation occurred

II Kings 25:8-12

On the seventh day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign over

Babylon, Nebuzaradan captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem. He burned down the house of the LORD, the royal palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem...(and) broke down the walls around Jerusalem...

II Kings 25:8-12 (cont.)

...Then Nebuzaradan captain of the guard carried into exile the people who remained in

the city, along with the deserters who had defected to the king of Babylon and the rest of the population. But the captain of the guard *left behind some of the poorest of the*

*land* to tend the vineyards and fields.

584 BC: Many Jews fled to Egypt *(including a kidnapped Jeremiah)*

Jeremiah prophesied the judgment of God on Judah

 Resulting in a 70-year Babylonian captivity

 This was God's judgment and plan

 The Jews were asked to go along with

Jeremiah's tough pronouncement:

Jeremiah 29:4-10

This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says to all the exiles who were carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: “Build houses and settle down. Plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters. Take wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Multiply there; do not decrease. Seek the prosperity of the city ...Pray to the LORD on its behalf, for if it prospers, you too will prosper...for this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: “Do not be deceived by the prophets and diviners among you...For this is what the LORD says: “When Babylon’s seventy years are \complete, I will attend to you and confirm My promise to restore you to this place."

The fate of poor Jeremiah:

Jer. 43:5-7

But Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces *took all the remnant of*

*Judah* who had returned to live in the land of Judah...the men, the women, the children, the princesses, and every person whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left... *also Jeremiah* the prophet and Baruch the son of Neriah. And they came into the land of Egypt, for they did not obey the voice of the Lord.

Jeremiah was taken to Egypt after Jerusalem's destruction and after the third deportation

Ezekiel was taken to Babylon during the second deportation

Daniel went into exile as a young man during the first deportation (605 BC)

Daniel was living in Babylon through the second and third deportations

 And all the way to the end of the 70-year captivity predicted by Jeremiah

In Babylon, near the end of his life, Daniel actually read Jeremiah's prophecies

Daniel 9:1-2

In the first year of Darius…I, Daniel, understood from the sacred books, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.

Ezekiel was aware of Daniel *(at least of his good reputation)*

Ezek. 14:14

Then even if these three men—Noah, Daniel, and Job—were in it, their righteousness could

deliver only themselves, declares the Lord GOD. Because of Daniel's faithfulness to God and

as a servant to his Babylonian captors he was raised up by God to become a counselor of

the king of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar) and the first among the three of the highest officers

of the Medo-Persian empire that replaced Babylon.

The Timeline continued

539 BC: The Medo-Persians conquered Babylon

 Overthrowing Belshazzar, ruler over Babylon

 Belshazzar was slain

 Cyrus, a Persian, was the king who conquered Babylon, but…

The Bible teaches that it was Darius *the Mede* who entered Babylon the day of its conquest

Darius was probably a general or provincial governor, and a Mede. He was 62 years old

 He most likely was Gobryas or Ugbaru, or Cyaxares (II)

 —A viceroy of Cyrus, chosen to rule in Babylon

 ---Darius reigned from 539-529 BC

 Darius may also be a title in Persian; a "Maintainer or Restrainer"

A later Darius, Darius I the Great (*a Persian)* began to rule in 520 BC 19 years later

 We will meet the Persian emperor Darius I, a Persian, later in the book of Ezra

The historical event of the conquest of Babylon by Medo-Persia was told in Daniel chapter 5 when King Belshazzar saw the "writing on the wall."

The 70 years of captivity that Jeremiah prophesied was nearly over when Babylon

was conquered (*67 years into it)*

The main lessons from the book of Daniel for us:

It is possible to live a faithful life in "exile" surrounded by pagan influences and power

God will support us in front of pagan rulers, helping us excel and thrive as we serve

God will judge lost empires that persecute believers

God humbles the proud and blesses the humble

God alone deserves our worship and glorifying

Our "exile" is temporary

God and his followers will overcome and reign in the end

Earthly events are a reflection of a heavenly conflict that is going on between God and Satan, holy angels and demons

538 BC: A decree from Cyrus allowed Jews to return to Jerusalem *(Ezra 1:1-4; cf. Isa. 45:1)*

About 50,000 Jews returned to Jerusalem in the years following Cyrus' decree. and

immediately began to rebuild the temple

 Zerubbabel was their governor

 Joshua was their high priest

536 BC: The work to rebuild the temple began in the second year of the return -- About 70 years after the first deportation of Jews to Babylon

534 BC: Arabs near Jerusalem began to hinder the temple work and complained to the Persian emperor The temple work then slowed down. *(this account is found in the book of Ezra 6)*

530 BC +/- King Cyrus died

530+/- BC: Artaxerxes *(Cambyses II or Smerdis)* officially ordered the temple work stopped

530 – 520 BC: the Jerusalem returnees, having given up on the temple, concentrated on building their own homes and community *(the complaint of the prophet Haggai)*

520 BC: Darius I (the Great) reaffirmed and reinstated the order of Cyrus to rebuild the temple (Ezra 6:1-12).

This rebuked Tattenai, a local Palestinian leader who opposed the Jews

Zechariah and Haggai's prophecies occur at this time

Darius I the Persian died in 486 BC

Darius I's son Xerxes *(Ahasuerus in Hebrew, and in the book of Esther)* reigned from 486 to 465 BC

In some versions of the Old Testament Xerxes is referred to as "Artaxerxes"

 Artaxerxes in Persian means "king of kings."

 Artaxerxes is a title, like Caesar, Emperor…not a name

Historical note:

Darius I was the Persian king who invaded Greece and was defeated at the Battle of Marathon

The first marathon runner, Pheidippides, ran from the town of Marathon to Athens with the news *(25+/- miles):*

480 BC Xerxes famously attacked Greece

 Winning the land battle of Thermopylae *(the movie "300")* against a small band of Spartans

 But then losing the naval battle of Salamis to the Athenians