

# Daniel

God's Sovereignty Through All Time

# Daniel – God’s Sovereignty Through All Time

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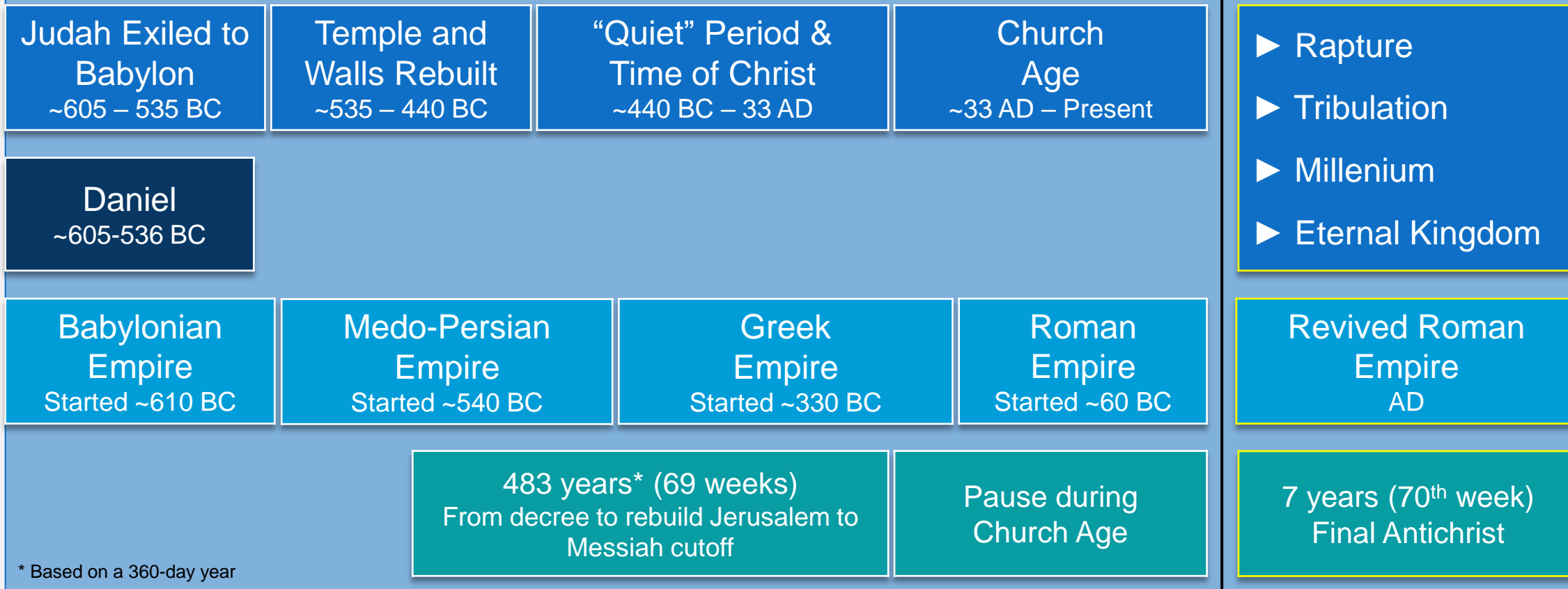
# Introduction

Context | Timeline | Themes

# Time Periods Covered in Daniel

605 BC

Rapture



\* Based on a 360-day year

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# Revived Roman Empire

**Babylon**

Monarchy

**Medo-Persia**

Monarchy with a centralized government

**Ancient Greece**

City-states could be a monarchy, tyranny, oligarchy, or democracy

## Revived Roman Empire – *Similarities to the Roman Republic*

### ✓ **Branches of Government Separates Power**

- US has the executive, legislative, and judicial branches

### ✓ **Representatives Make Key Decisions**

- Legislative bodies (e.g., Congress – Representatives & Senate)
- Made up of officials elected by the people

### ✓ **Rule of Law**

- Laws apply equally to all citizens regardless of status

### ✓ **Architectural Style**

- Important government buildings and sports stadiums
- Statue of Liberty is similar to ancient Roman goddesses

### ✓ **Romance Languages and Latin**

- French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian
- English alphabet based on the Latin alphabet

Governments over time have become more fragmented and today's world appears to resemble the revived Roman empire - statue's feet and beast's horns. The statue and beast are both destroyed by Jesus - stone that struck the statue's feet & one like a son of man given dominion by the Ancient of Days.

# God's Sovereignty

God is above all powers through all time, so none of His purposes & plans can be thwarted.

9 I am **God**, and there is **no other**; I am God, and there is **none like me**.

10 I **make known** the **end** from the **beginning**, from ancient times, what is **still to come**. I say, '**My purpose will stand**, and I will do all that I please.' *Isaiah 46:9-10*

16 For **in Him all things were created**: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been **created through Him and for Him**.

17 He is **before all things**, and **in Him all things hold together**. *Colossians 1:16-17*

33 The **lot is cast** into the lap, but its **every decision** is from the **LORD**. *Proverbs 16:33*

28 And we know that **in all things God works** for the **good** of **those who love Him**, who have been called according to **His purpose**. *Romans 8:28*

2 I know that **You can do all things**; **no purpose** of Yours can be **thwarted**. *Job 42:2*

1 ..in **perfect** faithfulness **You have done** wonderful things, **things planned long ago**. *Isaiah 25:1*

# God's Sovereignty Over People and Events

Chapters 1, 3, 6 | King's Service, Fiery Furnace, Lion's Den

# Daniel and His Friends in the King's Service

God, though He is sovereign over all, accomplishes His purposes and plans through the choices that people make, whether they are good or bad.

## Daniel **obeyed** God by not defiling himself with the king's portions | 1:8-9

- ❖ He did not want to defile himself by eating food that was unclean, based on the Law
- ❖ Food and drink sacrificed to idols could also be seen as honoring the idols

## God works on behalf of Daniel and his three friends | 1:17

- ❖ God **granted** Daniel favor and compassion with the commander of the officials
- ❖ God **allowed** the 10-day test to take place, providing proof to the commander
- ❖ God **gave** Daniel and his friends wisdom and intelligence abundantly
- ❖ God **gave** Daniel the ability understand visions and dreams

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# Daniel's Friends in the Fiery Furnace

Nebuchadnezzar sought worship and reverence **like a god** | 3:1, 4-6

- ❖ He made an image/statue, likely of himself
- ❖ He demanded that everyone worship the image when the music played or be cast into a furnace

Certain Chaldeans were **jealous** of Daniel's three friends | 3:8-13

- ❖ They told the king that Daniel's three friends did not worship the image when the music was played
- ❖ They reminded the king what the punishment was for not worshiping the image

Daniel's three friends **trust** in God, regardless of the outcome | 3:16-18

- ❖ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego honor God and demonstrate unwavering trust

God **delivered** the three men and caused them to prosper | 3:25-26, 28-30

- ❖ Deliverance, protection, and blessings helped the Jews prosper
- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar even calls God the Most High God

# Daniel in the Lion's Den

The leaders of the Medes and Persians were **jealous** of Daniel | 6:3-4, 7

- ❖ They were jealous that the king was going to appoint Daniel over the entire kingdom
- ❖ They tricked the king into signing an irrevocable decree that would kill Daniel

Daniel continued to faithfully **worship** God, despite the decree | 6:10

- ❖ He continued to pray and give thanks to God three times a day

Neither the leaders or the king can **thwart** God's plans | 6:11-16

- ❖ The leaders reminded the king what the punishment was for not worshiping the image
- ❖ The king is unable to override the laws of the Medes and Persians, but showed faith in God

God **delivered** Daniel from the lions in the den | 6:20-23, 26-28

- ❖ Deliverance, protection, and blessings helped the Jews prosper
- ❖ The king, like Nebuchadnezzar, calls God the Most High God

# God's Sovereignty Over Leaders and Nations

Chapters 4, 5, 2, 7, 8 | World Powers

# The Key to Truly Understanding God's Sovereignty

## Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel interprets the vision of the **great tree** 4:20-27

God's punishment for the king's **pride** 4:28-30

**Humbly** recognizing God's sovereignty 4:34-37

The king's understanding of God's sovereignty

- 1) God lives forever and is the King of heaven
- 2) His dominion is everlasting
- 3) Men are nothing before God
- 4) No one can stop God's purpose and plan
- 5) No one can question God
- 6) It is God that blesses man
- 7) All of God's works are true
- 8) All of God's ways are just
- 9) God will humble the proud

## Belshazzar

The king and his nobles praise **false gods** 5:1-4

The **writing** on the wall terrifies the king 5:5-6

Belshazzar did **not humble** his heart 5:17-23

The king's understanding of God's sovereignty

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- ~~7) All of God's works are true~~
- ~~8) All of God's ways are just~~
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# World Powers Destroyed by Jesus' Eternal Kingdom

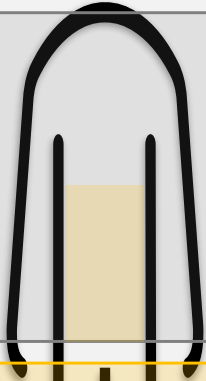
## Nebuchadnezzar's Vision of the Statue

2:19-23



### BABYLON

- Head of fine **gold** – Nebuchadnezzar
- God gave him the greatest kingdom
- God caused him to rule over all

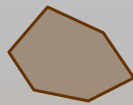


### MEDO-PERSIA

- Breast and arms of **silver**
- Inferior to Babylon

### GREECE

- Belly and thighs of **bronze**
- Inferior to Medo-Persia
- Ruled over all the earth (influence)

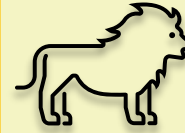


### ROME / REVIVED ROME

- Legs of **iron** and feet of **iron & clay**
- Powerful but divided in the feet & toes
- **Stone** not cut by hands strikes the feet

## Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts

7:13-27



- Like a **lion** with wings of an eagle
- Wings were plucked and stood on two feet
- A human mind was given to it



- Resembled a **bear**
- Raised up on one side (Persia was greater)
- Three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth
- It was told to, "arise, and devour much meat"



- Like a **leopard** with four wings and four heads
- Dominion was given to it
- Points to Alexander's 4 generals



- **Dreadful** and **terrifying** and **different**
- It had large iron teeth, and ten horns
- A little and boastful horn supplanted 3 others
- Little horn had eyes and a boastful mouth
- The **Son of Man** destroys the beast

# Medo-Persia Conquered by Greece

Leaders and nations will continue to be proud and magnify themselves, defying God's sovereignty, until the final antichrist gives way to God's eternal kingdom.

The **Medes and Persians** are pictured as a **ram** with two horns | 8:1-4

- ❖ One horn was longer than the other, showing how Persia was the dominant of the two
- ❖ They did as they pleased and **magnified themselves**

**Greece** is pictured as a **goat** with one horn then four horns | 8:8-12, 21-26

- ❖ The first conspicuous horn was **Alexander the Great**, who **magnified himself** exceedingly
- ❖ The four conspicuous horns that replaced the first horn are Alexander's four generals
- ❖ Out of one of the four horns came a small horn that became exceedingly great
- ❖ The small horn is **Antiochus Epiphanes**, an antichrist that mocked God and **magnified himself**