Daniel

Part 2

Gaining Understanding of the Time of the End
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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE
How to Study Your Bible

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELEIN, FRANK E.
The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Volume 7

MILLER, STEPHEN R.
New American Commentary, Daniel

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B.
The Bible Knowledge Commentary Old Testament

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software
Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources
(commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do
simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together
for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on
English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FIRST-TIMERS

Welcome to Precept Upon Precept Inductive Bible studies. We’re excited that you’ll be studying with us! Inductive Bible study draws you into personal interaction with God through His Word so that your beliefs are based on a prayerful observation and understanding of the Scriptures—truth that will transform your life. Studying this way is summed up in the words of the psalmist: “for You Yourself have taught me” (Psalm 119:102). May the Lord bless you richly as you delve into the treasures of His Word.

The following will be helpful to you as you begin your studies:

OBSERVING THE TEXT

In the lessons that follow, you’ll be asked to mark key words or phrases on a particular passage using Observation Worksheets.

- Key words or phrases unlock your understanding of the text. Marking them distinctively with colors or symbols helps you quickly locate the word or phrase, see how it’s used and how often.
- It’s advantageous to keep markings simple; colors and color combinations are easiest and least cluttering.
- You’ll find suggestions on the back cover of your Precept book; however, colors and symbols are your choice.
- When you have several words or phrases to mark, it’s helpful to read the chapter more than once, marking a couple of words each time.
- It’s also helpful to make a bookmark (e.g., an index card) and list all the key words, marking them the way you want to mark them in the text.

FILLING IN THE AT A GLANCE CHART

As you finish observing a chapter, you’ll be asked to record its theme (main subject) on an At a Glance chart specifically designed for the book you’re studying. This chart provides space to list each chapter’s theme and places for recording other pertinent information on the book. When completed, this chart provides a synopsis of the book at a glance.

We have three sources that will show you how to do the above and more (all available at www.precept.org or by calling 800-763-8280):

How to Study Your Bible: Chapter 2, “Getting the Big Picture.”

The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB). See “How to Use the Inductive Study Approach” and “A System for Marking Key Words . . . Throughout Your Bible.”

Discover the Bible for Yourself by Kay Arthur, “Observation.”
WORD STUDIES

You’ll find out how to do word studies by reading the chapter, “It’s All Greek to Me,” in How to Study Your Bible.

There are many helpful computer programs. We highly recommend Logos Bible Software’s wide range of products.

We’re so thankful you’ve joined us. You’re about to join hundreds of thousands in an exciting adventure that will help you discover truth for yourself in a way you’ve never done before. Your life will be transformed and strengthened through the Word of God.

However, we want you to remember that it takes time and practice to make these study skills “second nature.” And it does not come without spiritual warfare. The only offensive weapon the child of God has is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. You need to sharpen this sword and not let anyone or anything discourage you. Precept is not difficult; it simply takes time and discipline, but that’s what discipleship is about!

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, call your Precept Leader for help. We are sure he/she will help you or connect you with another student who can. We also want to urge you to take our training workshops. They will teach you basic inductive study skills and give you an opportunity to practice them. There are also workshops to help prepare you to lead Precept should God so direct. You can find out more about the training workshops by going online to www.precept.org.

Blessings, Beloved. Welcome to the Precept family.

Remember, you too can say with the psalmist, “I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, for You Yourself have taught me.”
LESSON ONE
Chapter Seven

The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Daniel 1–7
“Daniel’s Time Chart”
“What I Learned about God from the Book of Daniel”
“What I Learned about Daniel”
“Dream and Vision of Daniel 2 and 7”
“The Visions of Daniel 2, 7, and 8”
“Daniel at a Glance”

O Beloved, if you want to know for yourself what the future holds prophetically, you could not begin with a better study. Daniel is God’s general blueprint for all of prophecy. Every single event will find its place in the overall scheme of events laid out for us in Daniel 7–12. In fact, Daniel chapters 7 through 12 add flesh to the bones of the vision of the statue and the stone that crushes it as recorded in Daniel 2.

You are about to do a study which will pay great dividends on your investment of time as you discover truth for yourself. You will find yourself, “Gaining Understanding of the Time of the End” and thus being aware of Jesus’ mandate to redeem the time as you ready yourself to meet your God. Jesus is coming—you only have this life to prepare for that glorious day. Press on so you will hear His “Well done.”

Living in anticipation of the coming of the Lord was the secret to the power of the early church. May you know that power, the power of Truth.

DAY ONE

If you studied Daniel Part 1 less than a month ago, go to Day Two and Day Three and take three days to do the Assignment.

If you are a new student or if your class is beginning Daniel Part 2 after a break of a month or more, complete the following assignments. This will take more time than usual but it will be so worth it. Just make sure you treat the following assignment as cursory observations. Don’t get bogged down in details. Get the main idea and move on.

1. Read Daniel 1. If you see a time reference telling when the chapter is written, mark it. You might want to use a green clock like this:
2. Record the main event of chapter 1 on the “Daniel at a Glance” chart located in the Appendix.

3. Now read Daniel 2 through 6 as you did chapter 1.
   a. Don’t forget to mark references to when the chapter is written.
   b. Record the main event of each chapter on your “Daniel at a Glance” chart.

4. From what you have read of Daniel, what kind of literature do you think it is? Biography? History? Prophecy? Epistle (letter)? Poetry? Or a combination of any of the above?

If you studied Daniel Part 1, go directly to number 2 below.

If you did not study Daniel Part 1, we want to familiarize you with a chart you’ll be using throughout the course, the “Daniel's Time Chart” found in the Appendix.

1. Yesterday you noted the kind of literature that Daniel is. From what you read, you saw that Daniel is not only prophetical but historical literature. Therefore, if you are going to correctly understand Daniel, you must put it into its historical context.

As you read the first six chapters, you saw that Daniel was very careful to let us know when certain events and/or visions occurred. As a matter of fact, this is what you recorded as you read each chapter. Now we are going to use that information and see where these events and/or visions fit into history.

Take a few minutes and familiarize yourself with the information and layout of “Daniel's Time Chart” before you go to the next assignment. Don’t be dismayed by it. We’ll walk you through it step-by-step, a section at a time.

a. At the top of the chart you’ll find a **time line with 5-year increments** (near the bottom you’ll find the same). Note that the numbers of the years decrease as time progresses (B.C., before Christ years go from greater to lesser [e.g., 4,000 B.C. to 1 B.C.]).

   This is important to remember so you don’t get confused.

   You’ll also note faint vertical lines that run from the top of the page to the bottom. These will help you keep each event in the proper time frame.
b. Under the time line at the top of the chart, you’ll see the names of some contemporary Old Testament prophets and their relationships to Daniel the prophet. This gives you the historical context of the times of Daniel. It will become more valuable later in the study.

c. On the bottom line of Daniel’s block you’ll see another block showing the “3 Stages of Captivity.” We will study this more later.

d. Immediately below and to the right of this, you’ll see three names in boxes: Zerubbabel, Zechariah, and Haggai. Zechariah and Haggai were prophets; Zerubbabel was governor of Judah after the Babylonian Captivity (Haggai 1:1). These men have nothing to do with Daniel, but knowing about them is simply good information.

e. Under all of this, you will find a line with the date of Daniel’s birth. The words on the left describe what goes on this line: “Times of Events in Daniel.” We have recorded times (or approximate times) for Daniel chapters 1–6.

f. Immediately below this is a time line of Daniel’s approximate age in relationship to other events on the chart (educated guess—so question marks are at the beginning and the end).

g. Under all this, you will find a line showing the reigns of Judah’s (the Southern Kingdom of Israel’s) last five kings.

h. Then you’ll see a parallel time line connecting the top of the page with the bottom.

i. Finally, the bottom of the chart lists rulers of the neo-Babylonian (Chaldean) and Medo-Persian Empires and the times of their reigns. These will help you record the times of various chapters in Daniel.

2. We are going to spend three weeks on Daniel 7. Because of this, you need to follow the instructions very carefully. We’ll consult commentaries later—please wait until we advise you. It is vital that you discover truth for yourself. It then becomes your “plumb line” to measure all you read and/or hear from others.

a. Observe Daniel 7. Mark the following, each in its own distinctive color or symbol. Colors (and color combinations) are preferred as too many symbols make it hard to read the text.

   1) God, including pronouns and synonyms
   2) Daniel
   3) One like a Son of Man
   4) dominion
   5) kingdom
   6) time phrases
b. In the Appendix, you’ll find a chart entitled, “What I Learned about God from the Book of Daniel” and another entitled, “What I Learned about Daniel.” Look at the places where you marked God and Daniel in chapter 7 and record what you learned. We’ll continue to do this as we study each chapter of Daniel.

c. Chapter 7 marks a major segment division in the book of Daniel, so you need to watch carefully for indications of the time Daniel received this vision. In the space provided below, note the timing of Daniel 7. Check out “Daniel’s Time Chart” so that you can see when this occurred in his lifetime. Record the chapter number (7) in the appropriate place on the chart and record his approximate age below.

d. Now record the main event or subject of Daniel 7 on your “Daniel at a Glance” chart.

How are you doing, Beloved? Stick with us. It will be so worth it, because you have seen it for yourself. Really the key to understanding Daniel is simply taking it chapter by chapter, carefully observing what God says and waiting for Him to reveal it as one vision builds on another. This is why we want you to lay aside the commentaries and simply listen to God. Give Him time to reveal His Word to you, precept upon precept. One truth at a time. Remember one vision builds on another.

**DAY FOUR**

1. Read Daniel 7 again. Picture in your mind exactly what God is saying. (Don’t panic; this is not “new age” visualization. Simply think about what God is describing as if you were going to sketch a picture from the description given.)

2. A storyboard is a block-by-block drawing that shows the events of a story or an action. In Daniel 7 God has given us a verbal storyboard of something. What is it? Answer as briefly as possible from Daniel 7.
3. Now, hang on—let’s see if you are ready for this one. If you do the following, you’ll make Daniel 7 unforgettable.

Sketch a storyboard of Daniel’s vision recorded in Daniel 7:2-14 and another of Daniel 7:19-27. If you’re nervous because you can’t draw, there’s an alternative. “Bear” with us. How do you like that? We’re already using Daniel’s images!

To do a storyboard, first write out what you want to show in each frame.

This is where you’ll begin. Move through Daniel’s vision step-by-step. Make a block for each and write in it what you would draw. (Even if you can’t draw, you can write!) See the example.

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Picture of four different beasts standing in waves of sea.  
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Use many or few blocks, according to your need.

When you finish writing out your storyboard, if you have time be a sport and try to draw it even if you have to use stick figures. If you have children, why not make it a family project. Kids really get into “beasts” like these!

1. Now, let’s compare Daniel’s vision in chapter 7 with King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in chapter 2. This will be enlightening and thrilling. Thank you, Beloved, for being willing to discipline your life so that you’ll not be ashamed when you see your Lord face-to-face. It seems that day could come much sooner than we think!

Read Daniel 2:25-45. Using the chart “Dream and Vision of Daniel 2 and 7,” located in the Appendix, list the main points of the statue dream and its interpretation. Then list the main points from Daniel’s vision in chapter 7, noting parallels and/or differences between his dream and Nebuchadnezzar’s. As you do this, keep in mind the interpretation of the statue, the stone, the beasts, and the Son of Man given in their respective chapters.
2. According to Daniel 7, what brings the fourth kingdom to an end? Who or what rules after that? To what extent and for how long? What is the rulership like?

3. If you carefully observed Daniel 7:19-25, you saw that the text explains the ten horns.

   b. Read Revelation 17:3 and 12 and see what horns represent.

4. Read Daniel 7:8,24 and list the first, second, and third number of kings as they occur in these verses. You will appreciate this later—especially if you get the right answer! (The answer is in the text; this is to get you started.)

   FIRST. . . . . . . . THEN . . . . . . . . . . . . FINAL NUMBER
   10 KINGS ______ KINGS ______ KINGS

5. Your final assignment this week is a cut-and-paste job. On the next page you will find renditions of the four beasts mentioned in Daniel 7. Also, in the Appendix you’ll find the chart, “The Visions of Daniel 2, 7, and 8.” Using this chart, cut out and tape or paste the pictures of the beasts opposite the part of the statue they parallel. Use the column marked “Daniel 7.”

Well, dear friend, if you’ve done your study as unto the Lord, you know you accomplished a good thing this week. Thank you for disciplining your time—for redeeming it as God tells us to do in Ephesians 5.
IN the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

2 The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles,

4 youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king’s court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

5 The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king’s choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king’s personal service.

6 Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

7 Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego.

8 But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king’s choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.
9 Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials,

10 and the commander of the officials said to Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink; for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age? Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king.”

11 But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,

12 “Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink.

13 “Then let our appearance be observed in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king’s choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see.”

14 So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days.

15 At the end of ten days their appearance seemed better and they were fatter than all the youths who had been eating the king’s choice food.

16 So the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink, and kept giving them vegetables.

17 As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.

18 Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar.

19 The king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s personal service.

20 As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm.

21 And Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king.
NOW in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him.

2 Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king.

3 The king said to them, “I had a dream and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream.”

4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: “O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation.”

5 The king replied to the Chaldeans, “The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be made a rubbish heap.

6 “But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation.”

7 They answered a second time and said, “Let the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will declare the interpretation.”

8 The king replied, “I know for certain that you are bargaining for time, inasmuch as you have seen that the command from me is firm,

9 that if you do not make the dream known to me, there is only one decree for you. For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation is changed; therefore tell me the dream, that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation.”

10 The Chaldeans answered the king and said, “There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king, inasmuch as no great
king or ruler has *ever* asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean.

11 “Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with *mortal* flesh.”

12 Because of this the king became indignant and very furious and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

13 So the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill *them*.

14 Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king’s bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon;

15 he said to Arioch, the king’s commander, “For what reason is the decree from the king *so* urgent?” Then Arioch informed Daniel about the matter.

16 So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king.

17 Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter,

18 so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven;

20 Daniel said,

  “Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,  
  For wisdom and power belong to Him.

21 “It is He who changes the times and the epochs;  
  He removes kings and establishes kings;  
  He gives wisdom to wise men  
  And knowledge to men of understanding.
22 “It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things;
   He knows what is in the darkness,
   And the light dwells with Him.
23 “To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise,
   For You have given me wisdom and power;
   Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You,
   For You have made known to us the king’s matter.”
24 Therefore, Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to
   destroy the wise men of Babylon; he went and spoke to him as follows:
   “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon! Take me into the king’s
   presence, and I will declare the interpretation to the king.”
25 Then Arioch hurriedly brought Daniel into the king’s presence and
   spoke to him as follows: “I have found a man among the exiles from
   Judah who can make the interpretation known to the king!”
26 The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able
   to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its
   interpretation?”
27 Daniel answered before the king and said, “As for the mystery about
   which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor
   diviners are able to declare it to the king.
28 “However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has
   made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter
   days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your
   bed.
29 “As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what
   would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made
   known to you what will take place.
30 “But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me for any
   wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man, but for the
   purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you
   may understand the thoughts of your mind.
31 “You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome.

32 “The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,

33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

34 “You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

35 “Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 “This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king.

37 “You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory;

38 and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.

39 “After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

40 “Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.

41 “In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay.

42 “As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle.

43 “And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.
44 “In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

45 “Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense.

47 The king answered Daniel and said, “Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery.”

48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

49 And Daniel made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel was at the king’s court.
NEBUCHADNEZZAR the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent word to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

3 Then the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces were assembled for the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed: “To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language,

5 that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up.

6 “But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.”

7 Therefore at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshiped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

8 For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews.

9 They responded and said to Nebuchadnezzar the king: “O king, live forever!
10 “You, O king, have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, and bagpipe and all kinds of music, is to fall down and worship the golden image.

11 “But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.

12 “There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, namely Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.”

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?

15 “Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?”

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.

17 “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

18 “But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial expression was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.
20 He commanded certain valiant warriors who were in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-negō in order to cast them into the furnace of blazing fire.

21 Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their other clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire.

22 For this reason, because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-negō.

23 But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-negō, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire still tied up.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he said to his high officials, “Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?” They replied to the king, “Certainly, O king.”

25 He said, “Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!”

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-negō, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-negō came out of the midst of the fire.

27 The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king’s high officials gathered around and saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them.

28 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-negō, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.
29 “Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.”

30 Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.
DANIEL 4
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _________________________________________________________________

NEBUCHADNEZZAR the king to all the peoples, nations, and men of every language that live in all the earth: “May your peace abound!

2 “It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me.

3 “How great are His signs
And how mighty are His wonders!
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom
And His dominion is from generation to generation.

4 “I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and flourishing in my palace.

5 “I saw a dream and it made me fearful; and these fantasies as I lay on my bed and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.

6 “So I gave orders to bring into my presence all the wise men of Babylon, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream.

7 “Then the magicians, the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners came in and I related the dream to them, but they could not make its interpretation known to me.

8 “But finally Daniel came in before me, whose name is Belteshazzar according to the name of my god, and in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and I related the dream to him, saying,

9 ‘O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, since I know that a spirit of the holy gods is in you and no mystery baffles you, tell me the visions of my dream which I have seen, along with its interpretation.

10 ‘Now these were the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed: I was looking, and behold, there was a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great.
11 ‘The tree grew large and became strong
   And its height reached to the sky,
   And it was visible to the end of the whole earth.
12 ‘Its foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant,
   And in it was food for all.
   The beasts of the field found shade under it,
   And the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches,
   And all living creatures fed themselves from it.
13 ‘I was looking in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed, and
   behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven.
14 ‘He shouted out and spoke as follows:
   “Chop down the tree and cut off its branches,
   Strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit;
   Let the beasts flee from under it
   And the birds from its branches.
15 “Yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground,
   But with a band of iron and bronze around it
   In the new grass of the field;
   And let him be drenched with the dew of heaven,
   And let him share with the beasts in the grass of the earth.
16 “Let his mind be changed from that of a man
   And let a beast’s mind be given to him,
   And let seven periods of time pass over him.
17 “This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers
   And the decision is a command of the holy ones,
   In order that the living may know
   That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind,
   And bestows it on whom He wishes
   And sets over it the lowliest of men.”
18 ‘This is the dream which I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you,
   Belteshazzar, tell me its interpretation, inasmuch as none of the wise
   men of my kingdom is able to make known to me the interpretation; but
   you are able, for a spirit of the holy gods is in you.’
“Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him. The king responded and said, ‘Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you.’ Belteshazzar replied, ‘My lord, if only the dream applied to those who hate you and its interpretation to your adversaries!

‘The tree that you saw, which became large and grew strong, whose height reached to the sky and was visible to all the earth and whose foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt and in whose branches the birds of the sky lodged—
it is you, O king; for you have become great and grown strong, and your majesty has become great and reached to the sky and your dominion to the end of the earth.

‘In that the king saw an angelic watcher, a holy one, descending from heaven and saying, “Chop down the tree and destroy it; yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field, and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him,”

this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:

that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.

‘And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, your kingdom will be assured to you after you recognize that it is Heaven that rules.

‘Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.’

“All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king.
29 “Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon.

30 “The king reflected and said, ‘Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?’

31 “While the word was in the king’s mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.’

33 “Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws.

34 “But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever;

For His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.

35 “All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
But He does according to His will in the host of heaven
And among the inhabitants of earth;
And no one can ward off His hand
Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

36 “At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.

37 “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”
BELSHAZZAR the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.

2 When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.

3 Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which was in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.

4 They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

5 Suddenly the fingers of a man’s hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing.

6 Then the king’s face grew pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and his hip joints went slack and his knees began knocking together.

7 The king called aloud to bring in the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners. The king spoke and said to the wise men of Babylon, “Any man who can read this inscription and explain its interpretation to me shall be clothed with purple and have a necklace of gold around his neck, and have authority as third ruler in the kingdom.”

8 Then all the king’s wise men came in, but they could not read the inscription or make known its interpretation to the king.

9 Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, his face grew even paler, and his nobles were perplexed.

10 The queen entered the banquet hall because of the words of the king and his nobles; the queen spoke and said, “O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts alarm you or your face be pale.
“There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans and diviners.

“This was because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation.”

Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king spoke and said to Daniel, “Are you that Daniel who is one of the exiles from Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah?

“Now I have heard about you that a spirit of the gods is in you, and that illumination, insight and extraordinary wisdom have been found in you.

“Just now the wise men and the conjurers were brought in before me that they might read this inscription and make its interpretation known to me, but they could not declare the interpretation of the message.

“But I personally have heard about you, that you are able to give interpretations and solve difficult problems. Now if you are able to read the inscription and make its interpretation known to me, you will be clothed with purple and wear a necklace of gold around your neck, and you will have authority as the third ruler in the kingdom.”

Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him.

“O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father.

“Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations and men of every language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled.
20 “But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him.

21 “He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and that He sets over it whomever He wishes.

22 “Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this,

23 but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified.

24 “Then the hand was sent from Him and this inscription was written out.

25 “Now this is the inscription that was written out: ‘MENĒ, MENĒ, TEKĒL, UPHARSIN.’

26 “This is the interpretation of the message: ‘MENĒ’—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.

27 “‘TEKĒL’—you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.

28 “‘PERĒS’—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians.”

29 Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he now had authority as the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain.

31 So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.
IT seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, that they would be in charge of the whole kingdom,

2 and over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), that these satraps might be accountable to them, and that the king might not suffer loss.

3 Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

4 Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.

5 Then these men said, “We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God.”

6 Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: “King Darius, live forever!

7 “All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions’ den.

8 “Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.”

9 Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.
Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.

Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king’s injunction, “Did you not sign an injunction that any man who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be cast into the lions’ den?” The king replied, “The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.”

Then they answered and spoke before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps making his petition three times a day.”

Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed and set his mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him.

Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed.”

Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions’ den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, “Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you.”

A stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed in regard to Daniel.

Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.
19 Then the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions’ den.

20 When he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?”

21 Then Daniel spoke to the king, “O king, live forever!

22 “My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.”

23 Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

24 The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children and their wives into the lions’ den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

25 Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language who were living in all the land: “May your peace abound!

26 “I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel;

For He is the living God and enduring forever,
And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed,
And His dominion will be forever.

27 “He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders

In heaven and on earth,

Who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

28 So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.
IN the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it.

2 Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.

3 “And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.

4 “The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

5 “And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, ‘Arise, devour much meat!’

6 “After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

7 “After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

8 “While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.
9 “I kept looking
Until thrones were set up,
And the Ancient of Days took His seat;
His vesture was like white snow
And the hair of His head like pure wool.
His throne was ablaze with flames,
Its wheels were a burning fire.
10 “A river of fire was flowing
And coming out from before Him;
Thousands upon thousands were attending Him,
And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him;
The court sat,
And the books were opened.
11 “Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which
the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its
body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.
12 “As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an
extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.
13 “I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.
14 “And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and men of every language
Might serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed.
“As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.

“I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:

‘These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth.

‘But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’

‘Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet,

and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates.

“I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them

until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

‘Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

‘As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

‘He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.
26 ‘But the court will sit *for judgment*, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.

27 ‘Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’

28 “At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”
# DANIEL AT A GLANCE

**Book Theme:**

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WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT GOD FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL
# Dream and Vision of Daniel 2 and 7

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# The Visions of Daniel 2, 7, and 8

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