

CLASS PRESENTATION NOTES

Lecture 1 – Precursor to Exile and Introduction

Setting

- Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to the _____
- Southern Kingdom of Judah falls to the _____
- Daniel (and his friends) are taken into captivity in _____

The Babylonian Empire¹



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<p>Excursus 1</p>

<p>Precursor to Exile</p>

Why the Exile?

Former prophets, such as Isaiah, not only clearly predicted the exile, but the reasons why God was punishing them through the nations of Assyria and Babylon.

Even Moses, back in Deuteronomy, predicted the day when God would have to judge His people for their disobedience.

Today I call on heaven and earth as witnesses against you. If you break my covenant, you will quickly disappear from the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. You will live there only a short time; then you will be utterly destroyed.²⁷ For the LORD will scatter you among the nations, where only a few of you will survive.²⁸ There, in a foreign land, you will worship idols made from wood and stone-- gods that neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.²⁹ But from there you will search again for the LORD your God. And if you search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him.³⁰ "In the distant future, when you are suffering all these things, you will finally return to the LORD your God and listen to what he tells you.³¹ For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon you or destroy you or forget the solemn covenant he made with your ancestors. (Deuteronomy 4:26-31 NLT)

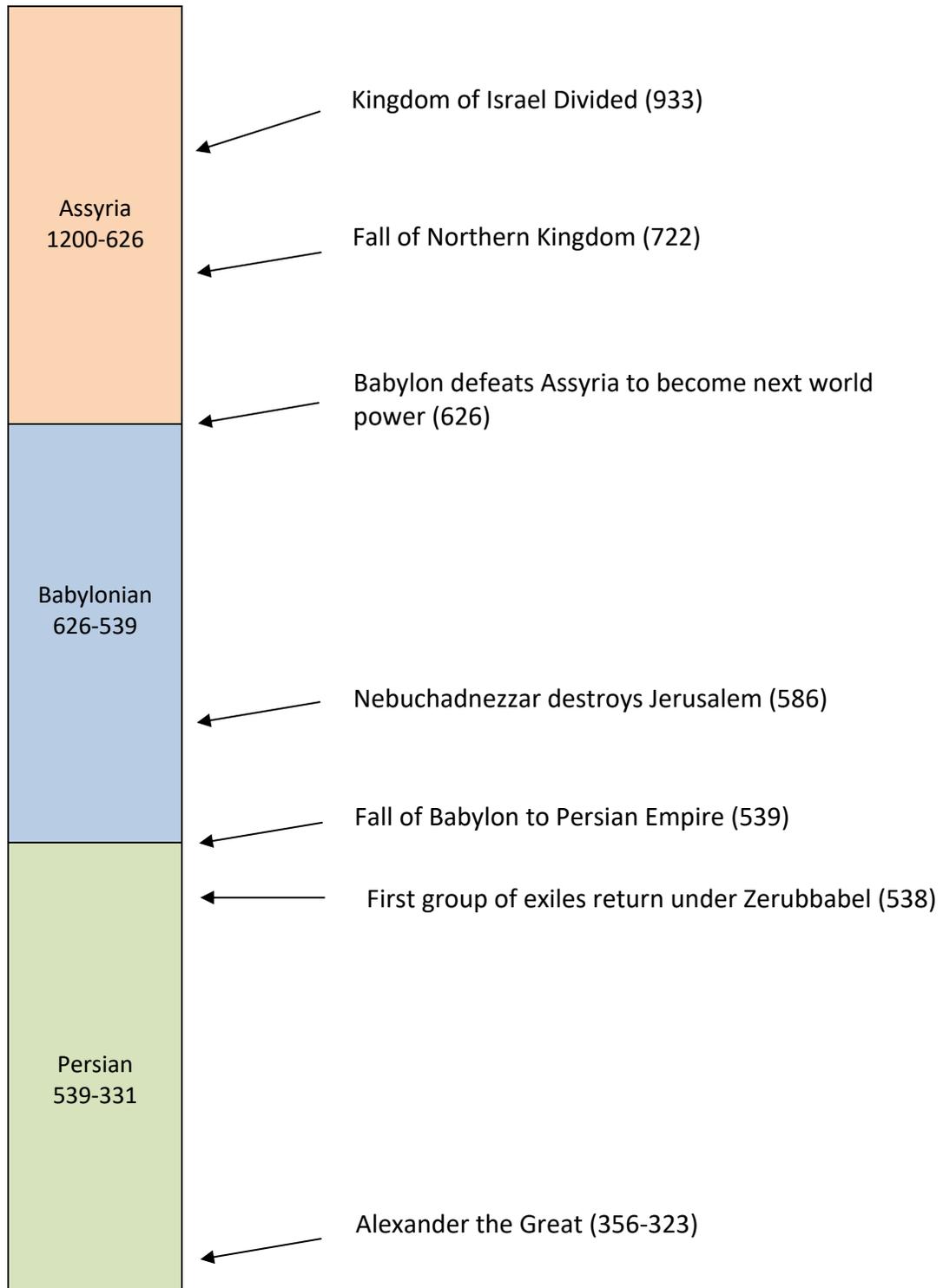
There are three primary reasons that God judged the nation:

1. _____

2. The _____ of _____

3. _____ in other _____

General Timetable of Events pertaining to the Exile.



Lecture 1 – Introduction (Continued)

Daniel – The Man

Daniel was among the first captives to be taken by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. This was the first of three deportations to Babylon. Sacred objects from the Temple are also taken to Babylon, and placed into the House of Marduk, the main Babylonian deity.

- He was taken along with his three friends. As part of their enculturation to Babylonian society they were renamed.
 - _____ becomes _____
 - _____ becomes _____
 - _____ becomes _____
 - _____ becomes _____

- The second one takes place in _____
(2 Kings 24:10-17; 2 Chron 36:10; Ezek 1:1)

- The third deportation is in _____
(2 Kings 24:18–25:24).

- Daniel’s ministry appears to have lasted _____. From the reigns of

Nebuchadnezzar to _____.

- Daniel (and his friends) personify what it means to live in the “_____”.

The central proverb of the _____.

Daniel – The Book

Authorship and Date

One of the most debated issues is dating. The book has the hallmarks of Jewish apocalyptic literature that typically dates to the second century BC. Because of this, liberals discount the predictive elements of Daniel as coming after the events and therefore not being predictive in any way.

Both internal and external evidence points to a 6th Century BC dating, and Daniel as the author.

- Internal: _____
- External: _____

A critical question to ask is whether we can believe that God can tell the future? Not only that, but can he determine the course of history?

As evangelicals, we should have no issue with predictive prophecy.

- Daniel, therefore, not only presents an authentic first person view of life during the exile, but a detailed account of the _____, and into the _____ period to the time of _____ and the _____.

Style, Nature, and Structure

The book is composed in two languages: _____

The book encompasses three major genres of literature:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Structure and Outline

		Chapter	Language	Focus
Historical Narratives	Messages of faith and hope for the exiles	1	Hebrew	Prologue
		2	Aramaic	Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the four kingdoms
		3		The valour and rescue of faithful servants
		4		The insanity and humiliation of Nebuchadnezzar
		5		The humiliation of Belshazzar
		6		The valour of Daniel
		7		Daniel's vision of the four beasts/kingdoms
Visions	Three final prophecies	8	Hebrew	Daniel's vision of the ram and goat
		9		Daniel's vision of the 70 weeks
		10		Daniel's vision of the end times
		11		
		12		

Notice the chiasmic structure found in the Aramaic section in chapters 2-7.

The Book of Daniel helps to answer four of the most difficult questions.

1. Is God _____?
2. Is God _____?
3. Why is _____?
4. How far do we _____?

I have intentionally not included sections for theology and purpose for writing. These questions, when answered through the writing of Daniel, serve as the heart of his theology and purpose.

This would have been evident to the exiles and post-exilic community, primarily because these questions would have been at the forefront of their situation.

Further, these questions in the centuries that have passed have not abated. Whether believer or non-believer, they continue to be foremost in the hearts of a humanity pondering life in all its complexity.

Daniel, therefore, speaks regardless of culture, age, and circumstance, because the questions are simply too important to ignore. As we move through the book chapter by chapter, we will be met time and again with these questions in one form or another, and become more aware of the God who is timeless and sovereign over all of history and its events.

Lecture 2 – Exposition of Daniel Chapters 1-2

Daniel – Chapter 1

As with most biblical books, the opening chapter sets the tone for the entire book. Chapter 1 is formed by a chiastic structure.²

A	Babylonia assumes supremacy over Israel (vv. 1-2)
B	Young men taken and subjected to pagan training (vv. 3-7)
C	Daniel seeks to remain faithful to God (vv. 8-14)
C'	Daniel remains faithful to God (vv. 15-16)
B'	Young men triumph in their pagan training (vv. 17-20)
A'	Daniel proves supreme over the Babylonians (v. 21)

The chapter introduces 5 themes.

1. God's _____, specifically as it relates to the _____

² John E. Goldingay, *Daniel in Word Biblical Commentary* (Dallas: Word Books, 1989), 8.

2. The _____ of the _____
3. The _____ and _____ contrasts between _____
4. The importance of _____ and the _____ we make
5. The role of _____ imparted _____

Daniel and his friends are described as:

1. From the _____ or _____ class
2. From the _____ of _____
3. Excellent _____
4. _____

Daniel's decision to not take the food and wine offered was essentially a desire to remain _____ pure.

The opening chapter places Daniel and his friends squarely in a dilemma. They are caught in the backwash of God's judgment. Victims of sins that were not exclusively their own, but suffering from the consequences nevertheless.

Here lies the great tension that is introduced from the outset:

How do you acknowledge the goodness of the sovereignty of God, yet remain fully committed to Him?

The degree of Daniel's faithfulness becomes more striking when contrasted with the circumstances he finds himself. Others, far less committed, would have shipwrecked their faith and shown it to be a counterfeit to the real thing.

The dietary decision of Daniel and his friends is the first of a pattern seen throughout the Book. The general outline is as follows:

1. A _____ or _____ arises
2. The situation or crisis forces a _____ – _____ or remain _____ to the Lord
3. _____ to the Lord brings _____ and potential _____
4. God is _____

Chapter 1 is framed by two significant dates.

- The year that Daniel goes Babylon – 605 BC
- The year his royal service ended – 538-539 BC

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Joyce Baldwin summarizes this well.

"Even a small act of self-discipline, taken out of loyalty to principle, sets God's servants in the line of His approval and blessing. In this way actions attest faith, and character is strengthened to face more difficult situations in the future."³

Daniel – Chapter 2

This chapter introduces a key theme of the book. God alone knows the future and His purposes will prevail in establishing the Kingdom of God.

The text from 2:4 to chapter 7 is written in Aramaic.

Aramaic is a Semitic language (as is Hebrew and Phoenician). It was the common language of the Assyrian and Babylonian Empires and it gradually replaced Hebrew as the language of the Jews in those areas.

Why Aramaic?

The prevailing view is that Aramaic is the lingua franca of the region and this section speaks to matters pertaining to the whole world.

The unique nature of Nebuchadnezzar's dream demand:

Nebuchadnezzar demands the _____ of his dream, without
_____ the _____ of his dream.

There are four important lessons given here concerning Daniel

1. Upon hearing of the king's order to kill the wise men, Daniel responds with _____,
_____ not _____ or _____.
2. He commits the matter to God through _____, enlisting his friends as well.

³ Joyce G Baldwin, *Daniel, An Introduction and Commentary in Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1978), 84.

3. He responds with _____ when the dream is revealed to him.

4. He credits _____ alone with the _____.

Key Thought:

It is easy to _____ like a _____, but Daniel teaches us how to _____ like one.

Excursus 2
Dream Interpretations

One of the sensitive topics surrounding Daniel concerns dreams and their role in prophetic literature.

Dreams have played a prominent role in much of the religious literature of ancient peoples. Of special importance were the dreams of kings and prophets (Num 12:6; Gen 31:10-13), especially as a means by which God conveyed messages.

In Job 33:14-15, Elihu stated his belief that God speaks through dreams.

In Scripture, there are two prominent figures that were given the ability to interpret dreams.

1. _____ (Gen 37:5-10)

2. _____ (Dan 2:14-45)

In both cases, the dreams pertained to events in the _____.

Despite the dramatic nature of dreams as vehicles for God's messages, they were not uniformly accepted uncritically. Jeremiah, especially, denounced false prophets who spoke lies. Therefore, dreams came under the same scrutiny as any other form of prophetic proclamations.

Moses gave instructions concerning dreams.

"Suppose there are prophets among you or those who dream dreams about the future, and they promise you signs or miracles,

² and the predicted signs or miracles occur. If they then say, 'Come, let us worship other gods'-- gods you have not known before--

³ do not listen to them. The LORD your God is testing you to see if you truly love him with all your heart and soul.

⁴ Serve only the LORD your God and fear him alone. Obey his commands, listen to his voice, and cling to him.

⁵ The false prophets or visionaries who try to lead you astray must be put to death, for they encourage rebellion against the LORD your God, who redeemed you from slavery and brought you out of the land of Egypt. Since they try to lead you astray from the way the LORD your God commanded you to live, you must put them to death. In this way you will purge the evil from among you. (Deuteronomy 13:1-5 NLT)

In the New Testament, dreams were one of the vehicles God used surrounding the birth of Jesus. In fact, imagine how these events may have played out had God not communicated his intent through dreams.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Key Thought:

Without the revelation of God through a dream, the _____

Do dreams have a place today?

<p>Excursus 3</p> <p>The 4 Kingdoms</p>

Another repeated scenario in Daniel revolves around the future kingdoms that become part of the book's prophetic vision. These panoramic views are meant to reinforce God's sovereignty over history.

The following chart depicts the two major views concerning the identities of these future kingdoms.

Chart of the 4 Kingdoms

Chapter 2	Chapter 7	Roman View	Greek View
Head of gold		Babylon	Babylon
Arms and chest of silver		Media-Persia	Medes
Belly and thighs of bronze		Greece	Persian
Legs of iron		Rome	Greece

Note: This chart will reappear in Chapter 7.

- The traditional interpretation typically holds the Roman view, while those who do not affirm predictive prophecy typically hold the Greek view.
- Interesting that Nebuchadnezzar appears to recognize the importance and significance of his dream as it affected his kingdom and its future (Dan 2:3).

There are two implications that come from this section beyond the recognition of God's sovereignty.

1. God has a _____ for the _____
2. God is ordering _____ to _____ his _____

Further, the section stresses the contrast between:

1. _____ kingdoms
2. _____ kingdom

Lecture 3 – Exposition of Daniel Chapter 3

Daniel – Chapter 3

In this chapter, a new crisis arises. This time the crisis is not political or military in nature it is religious. This may be one of the first examples of religious persecution.

The statue of gold described would be equivalent in height to a nine-story building.

The charge against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego was not just for disregarding the king's command to bow before the image. It also:

1. Constituted proof that they did not _____
2. They were then, by association, not _____

Religious non-conformity is almost always viewed as a _____ against the reigning authority and is one of the primary motivations behind _____.

Moses predicted the exile as well as the people falling for idols.

²⁶ "Today I call on heaven and earth as witnesses against you. If you break my covenant, you will quickly disappear from the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. You will live there only a short time; then you will be utterly destroyed.

²⁷ For the LORD will scatter you among the nations, where only a few of you will survive.

²⁸ There, in a foreign land, you will worship idols made from wood and stone-- gods that neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. (Deuteronomy 4:26-28 NLT)

Idolatry was a continual problem for the Israelites

Why are idols so dangerous?

1. They attempt to _____ what only _____ can

2. In time, you _____

The miracle appears to have a profound affect on Nebuchadnezzar. Not just for the unscathed survival of the three, but also due to the intervention of a fourth person.

Some Concluding Thoughts

- 1.

- 2.

- 3.

- 4.

What is the major takeaway from the story of the fiery furnace?

For Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, _____

<p>Excursus 4</p> <p>Defying Human Authority</p>
--

One of the contrasts evident in the Book is the tension between obedience to the current political power versus defying it. How do we know when we are to be subservient to the authorities that are placed above us, and when we need to stand against them?

Daniel and his friends have typically been compliant, respectful, and obedient. Because of their recognized wisdom, faith, and superior abilities, they stand out from other peer groups.

As believers there are two realities to acknowledge

1. Our responsibility to a higher _____ – _____
2. Our primary _____

This question is one that will be raised again (Chapter 6 especially). The key question that needs to be asked:

In Daniel, is there a _____
 _____?

The pattern laid out in Daniel is an important one, and is arguably repeated even into New Testament times.

Discussion Notes:

Lecture 4 – Exposition of Daniel Chapters 4-5

Daniel – Chapter 4

The chapter opens with a doxology and global proclamation for Nebuchadnezzar. Apparently, he is affected by the previous miracle and he is acknowledging his growing appreciation for Yahweh.

We are once again introduced to a dream sequence with Nebuchadnezzar. This time, the dream has profound personal implications for the king. Many commentators have seen in this sequence, an illustration of God's dealings with humanity in general.

Daniel is once again enlisted to decipher the message of the dream. Though God was going to judge Nebuchadnezzar, an important condition is given in 4:27.

"King Nebuchadnezzar, please accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right. Break from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper."
(Daniel 4:27 NLT)

The appeal to Nebuchadnezzar, especially with respect to the poor, is not only in keeping with the covenantal law of Israel, but of Babylon as well (See Exodus 23:6-11; Deuteronomy 15:10-11 and Code of Hammurabi)

The Judgment Upon Nebuchadnezzar:

1. It was meant to teach him that _____ is the ultimate _____ and _____.
2. It was a demonstration of God's _____. The judgment came _____ after the _____, giving time for Nebuchadnezzar to heed the _____ of Daniel and acknowledge _____.
3. It was also _____. Nebuchadnezzar took Israel into _____ and was now going to experience his own _____.

The chapter is essentially bracketed by two doxologies. The closing one leaves us pondering the state of Nebuchadnezzar's faith.

Most commentators, though cautious, see legitimacy to his repentance for the following reasons.

1. His public _____ (4:1b-3)
2. His _____ returned – something God stated would happen upon the king's _____ (4:25-26)
3. His public _____ of _____ to God (4:34-37)

Whether his confession is authentic is something we may never know, but a final observation needs to be put forward.

The role of Daniel in the life of Nebuchadnezzar cannot be ignored. Though we acknowledge God as the orchestrator of events, he nevertheless used Daniel as the instrument of his purposes. Daniel, as a faithful and willing servant, demonstrated the type of influence one can have when fully surrendered and available to God.

Daniel – Chapter 5

As implied throughout the first four chapters, God is the one who controls the fate of nations, whether bringing them to prominence, or bringing them to an end.

Chapter 5 opens approximately 36 years after Chapter 4 (and some 60 odd years from Chapter 1).

Back in Chapter 2 we were introduced to 4 kingdoms. This chapter presents the demise of the first kingdom recognized as the head of gold – Babylon.

Once again, a pagan king receives an omen from God. The scene presents a number of distinct lessons.

1. The _____ learned during the reign of _____ have long been _____.

2. Further, over time, _____ and _____ once again dominate _____
_____.
3. When a supposed _____ arises, _____ help is sought out.
4. Despite the _____ of the _____ and _____,
Belshazzar remained _____.
5. _____ will eventually come, despite the _____ of apparent _____
from God.

Excursus 5

Temple Defilement

This section ends with a reminder of the way the Babylonians defiled and disrespected the Temple in Jerusalem. Temple defilement was a serious matter, and one that evoked the notice of the Lord. Consequently, God brings judgment on the nation of Babylon.

The Defilement of Belshazzar

1. This is a case of open _____.
2. His _____ did not reach this _____ of _____ against God.
3. Belshazzar _____ God, in both _____ and _____ – he
_____ the _____ of an unwise _____.

4. Belshazzar, would have at the very least, acknowledged _____ as a _____ deity amongst the _____ of deities worshipped in _____.
5. The _____ of the _____ objects is a direct _____ on _____.
6. To couple _____ objects for the _____ of _____ was again, raising _____ above God and bringing the ultimate _____ to Him.

In Chapter 9 we are introduced to Daniel's vision of the "Seventy Sets of Seven." As part of this vision there is indication of defilement of that which is sacred. It seems the pattern found in the story of Belshazzar will affect future generations.

Discussion Question

Prophetically, Babylon is the personification of the nation/people/ideology that is in direct conflict with God and his purposes. Chapter 5 of Daniel illustrates the closing moments of the nations existence. How much does this chapter likely contribute to this portrait of Babylon?

Lecture 5 – Exposition of Daniel Chapter 6

Daniel – Chapter 6

At the conclusion of Chapter 5 and beginning in Chapter 6 we are introduced to Darius the Mede. The naming of this individual has presented a number of problems due to Cyrus being the Persian ruler at the time.

Below is a chart of the Persian Kings during the Exilic and Post Exilic Periods.

Persian Kings		
King	Reign	Related Scripture Passages
Cyrus	559-530	Ezra 1:1; 4:5; Dan. 5:31—6:28; 9:1; 11:1
Cambyses	530-522	
Smerdis	522	
Darius I	521-486	Ezra 5—6; Haggai; Zechariah
Xerxes (Ahasuerus)	486-464	Ezra 4:6; Esther
Artaxerxes I (Artashasta)	464-424	Ezra 4:7-23; Chs. 7—10; Nehemiah
Darius II	423-404	Neh. 12:22

The Darius mentioned in this chapter is not the same person as Darius I or Darius II who ruled the Persian Empire later. Most reconcile this anomaly with the name being representative of Cyrus himself or a ruling general. See the commentary for the various options and explanations.

Similar to the furnace miracle of Chapter 3, another crisis situation places Daniel in the crosshairs of the King.

Goldingay, in his commentary, presents this chapter as a chiasmic structure.⁴

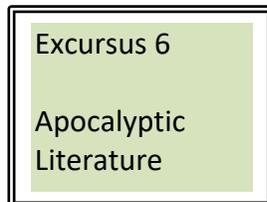
A	Introduction: Daniel's success vv. 1-3
B	Darius signs an injunction and Daniel takes his stand vv. 4-10
C	Daniel's colleagues plan his death vv. 11-15
D	Darius hopes for Daniel's deliverance vv. 16-18
D'	Darius witnesses Daniel's deliverance vv. 19-23
C'	Daniel's colleagues meet their death v. 24
B'	Darius signs a decree and takes his stand vv. 25-27
A'	Conclusion: Daniel's success v. 28

⁴ Goldingay, p. 124.

Key Observations

1. Daniel, under a new government, once again establishes himself in a place of _____.
2. Daniel becomes a _____, due to his _____, _____, and _____ character.
3. The _____ from the _____ is that Daniel's _____ conspire together to plan his _____, using _____ and enlisting an _____ king.
4. The central issue revolves against the _____ of _____ – i.e. the _____.
5. Daniel's _____ to the passing of the law is to _____ what he's always done - _____.
6. The ensuing _____ is _____ not only to _____, but to _____ himself.
7. Darius _____ during a _____ night. A sign of _____ and _____ that the king had _____ an _____ and _____ man.
8. A divine _____, is once again _____ to _____ Daniel, similar to the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
9. Daniel's _____ are _____ in the _____, not _____.
10. The _____ of the _____ is sealed, not unlike the Book of _____.

11. The chapter concludes with a _____ from _____, not unlike _____.



Chapter 6 concludes the narrative section of Daniel. From Chapter 7 onwards, the Book takes a dramatic turn, with visions, prophecies, and predictions that have entreated scholars and skeptics for centuries.

Before entering this next section we need to look at the genre known as Apocalyptic Literature, to help understand the nature of the material we are about to enter.

The word apocalyptic, comes from the Greek word apokalypsis, meaning _____
or _____

Key Biblical Texts

- 1 Daniel
- 2 Zechariah
- 3 Revelation

Other Prominent Apocalyptic Works

- 1 1, 2, 3 Enoch
- 2 4 Ezra
- 3 2 and 3 Baruch
- 4 Apocalypse of Zephaniah
- 5 Apocalypse of Abraham
- 6 Apocalypse of Peter
- 7 The Shepherd of Hermas

The Key Features of Apocalyptic Literature⁵

- 1 Prominent during _____ of _____.
- 2 Literature that lifts the _____ between _____ and _____ – where both exist as a _____ reality.
- 3 Characterized by dramatic _____ and _____.
- 4 Mediated by _____ and/or _____ figures.
- 5 Rich in _____ and _____.
- 6 Stresses God’s _____ over a _____ world-both _____ and in the _____-where God is _____ and his people _____.

Lecture 6 – Exposition of Daniel Chapter 7

Daniel – Chapter 7

The events of this chapter actually take place before Chapter 6 (During Belshazzar’s first year, around 556 BC).

It is interesting to note that this vision was “written down” by Daniel. Further, many commentators consider the latter half of Daniel as the most comprehensive and detailed prophecy of future events found in the Old Testament.

Though we change _____, the last _____ of Daniel _____
 the _____ of the _____ presented in the first _____

⁵ Gleaned from Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary Of Biblical Theology.

For many who have studied the book, the transition here is significant.

The first 6 chapters depict the world as seen from a physical standpoint, with all its power struggles and political posturing, while the remaining chapters unlock the spiritual realities, forces, and influences that move the physical world. Still, whether physical or spiritual, both are subject to and under the authority of, Yahweh.

The vision given here appears to reintroduce the four kingdoms of Chapter 2.

Chapter 2	Chapter 7	Roman View	Greek View
Head of gold	Lion with Eagle's Wings	Babylon	Babylon
Arms and chest of silver	Bear	Media-Persia	Medes
Belly and thighs of bronze	Leopard with 4 Heads and Wings	Greece	Persian
Legs of iron	Beast with Iron Teeth and Bronze Claws	Rome	Greece

The prominent feature of the initial vision experienced by Daniel is the attention he gives to the “Little Horn.” This is due for a number of reasons.

- 1 It is commonly interpreted to represent a _____ – likely a _____ or _____.
- 2 It's _____ characteristics like “_____” and “_____.”
- 3 It's _____ actions towards other _____ and _____.
- 4 It is likely an _____ of _____, potentially in a future _____, possibly the _____.

Culver's Comparison of Chapters 2 and 7⁶

Comparison of Chapters 2 and 7	
Chapter 2	Chapter 7
The Image of Nebuchadnezzar's	The Four Beasts
Dream Given to Nebuchadnezzar	Dream/Vision Given to Daniel
4 Kingdoms plus 1	4 Kingdoms plus 1
4 Part Image and a Rock	4 Beasts and the Son of Man
Imagery is General in Nature	Imagery is More Specific
Daniel as Interpreter	Angel as Interpreter
Humanity's Viewpoint	God's Viewpoint

In vs. 9-10 and 13-14 we are introduced to the "Ancient One" or "Ancient of Days", and "one like the Son of Man coming on the clouds of Heaven."

The interjection of these heavenly figures is interesting in their scope over the historical events otherwise being depicted.

Pertaining to the Ancient One:

- 1 In the midst of the _____ of ongoing human _____, is the introduction of a _____ with the Lord _____ over the world's _____.
- 2 The imagery is unmistakable in that his _____ depicts _____, the _____, _____, and _____.

⁶ Robert D Culver, *Daniel in The Wycliffe Bible Commentary* Eds. Charles F. Pfeiffer and Everett F. Harrison. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1962), 791.

- 3 The text in the NLT uses _____ to number the _____, which likely is meant to express the original idea of “_____.”
- 4 The imagery, in some ways, is reminiscent of _____.

Beyond the difficulty of identifying the 4 kingdoms and the “little horn” conclusively, another interpretive problem arises when the angel introduces “ten horns” on the fourth beast’s head.

Excursus 7

The Son of Man

One of the most significant inscriptions coming out of Chapter 7 is that of “Son of Man.” This is important to note because it was the phrase most commonly used by Jesus to identify himself. In other words it appears to be his favorite title (Matt 24:30; 25:11; 26:24; Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27; John 12:34).

The Book of Revelation identifies Jesus with the description given here in Daniel (Rev 1:7).

The Portrait of Jesus as the Son of Man

- 1 The term is used for a _____ person in Daniel, but was also used as a _____ for the prophet _____. Therefore, the term has both _____ and _____ connotations.
- 2 In Daniel, he is given the _____ to rule an _____, _____ kingdom that _____ all _____.

- 3 He serves as a _____ of all God's _____ people.
- 4 He comes on the " _____," depicting his _____ origin and _____.
- 5 His kingdom is _____ with _____ and _____, in contrast to the _____ and _____ of the " _____".

Lecture 7 – Exposition of Daniel Chapter 8

Daniel – Chapter 8

- The chapter returns the text to Hebrew (1:1-2:3) from Aramaic. Most attribute the change to the primary focus of the remaining visions being directed at the nation of Israel.
- The vision is set in the third year of Belshazzar's reign (approx. 554-551 BC). This sets it about two years after the vision in ch. 7, and over a decade before the fall of Babylon in 539 BC.
- The vision is of a Ram, a Goat, and a Small Horn. The vision is explained in vs. 19-25, through the angel Gabriel. The vision had a disturbing impact, a pattern we have seen in Daniel and will see again. Gabriel is the one to revive him and get him back on his feet.
- As Daniel pondered the vision of the Ram, a Goat crosses the earth from the west and attacks the Ram, trampling it and breaking its two horns. The Goat became powerful, but at the height of its power, the large horn is broken off. Four horns grew in its place.
- Verse 21 reveals the Goat as symbolizing Greece, and the large horn the king, which points to Alexander the Great. The little horn is commonly understood to be Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

- Something to note is the effect the vision has on Daniel. It troubles him deeply, even though he does not fully understand it, and is even told to keep it secret.

Excursus 8

The Coming
Greek Empire

Chapter 8 is striking in its specificity of prediction. Similar to Isaiah's naming of Cyrus, Daniel is given the historical pattern that unfolds concerning Greece and how it affects the Jewish nation.

The Greek Empire has a long and celebrated history, but most notable is the period of Alexander the Great.

1. Alexander was born in _____ BC, the son of _____, King of _____.
2. At 12, he tamed Bacephalus, a _____ that no one else was able to control. Alexander would _____ Bacephalus into every major _____ until the very end.
3. At _____, Philip hires the Greek philosopher, _____ to be Alexander's personal _____. He did this for 3 years, training Alexander in rhetoric, literature, science, medicine, and philosophy.
4. At _____, his father, while away in battle, left Alexander as _____, demonstrating Philip's _____ in Alexander at such a young age.
5. Philip's dream was to conquer _____, an _____ that was already set in motion in 336 BC. Philip, though, was _____ and the conquest of the _____ Empire now fell to Alexander.

6. The conquest into _____ saw Alexander pitted against many _____ who were often hired as mercenaries for other armies.
7. At the battle of Issus, Alexander faced _____, King of _____. Though greatly _____, Alexander was _____. _____ fled in panic, leaving behind and abandoning his mother, wife, and children. Alexander, due to their _____, treated them with respect.
8. On June 7, 323 BC, Alexander succumbed to _____ and _____ at the age of 33 without naming a _____.
9. Alexander's kingdom was eventually divided amongst _____ of his generals (symbolized by the four horns growing in place of the large one –vs. 22). After Alexander the great died, there was fighting among the people for who would reign. A single ruler did not arise--he was succeeded by his "diadochoi," or "successors." Four of his generals arose to take power over four main regions.
- a. _____ ruled Macedonia
 - b. _____ - Thrace and Asia Minor
 - c. _____ - Syria
 - d. _____ - Egypt
10. Alexander, recognized as a military genius, served as inspiration for later conquerors such as _____, _____, _____, and _____.

The Empire of Alexander the Great⁷



 *The Empire of Alexander the Great. Alexander's conquests united Eurasia from Greece to India into a cultural and, briefly, a political unity.*

Scholars, almost universally agree that the little horn in chapter 8 is Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who ruled the Seleucid kingdom from 175-163 BC. The prophetic vision of “abomination of desolation” is attributed to him, as well as giving further impetus to the Maccabean Revolt.

Some highlights:⁸

1. His contemporaries called him “_____.” A Greek wordplay on Epiphanes.
Rabbinical sources refer to him as “_____.”
2. Was known for his _____ and _____.
3. His _____ of the _____ (Egypt; see 1 Macc. 1:16-19).

⁷ Bos, Carole "Map Depicting the Empire of Alexander the Great" AwesomeStories.com. Date of Access, August 20, 2015.

⁸ Robert B. Chisholm Jr., *Handbook of the Prophets* (Grand Rapids MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 311-12.

4. Subjugation of _____ (1 Macc 1:20-28).
5. His desecration of the _____ – sacrificed _____ on the _____ (1 Macc 1:44-49, 54-59).
6. Encouraged disobedience of God's _____, _____ copies of it, and _____ anyone who kept _____ in their possession.
7. Second Macc. 9:10 describes him as one who “ _____ ” with his coins depicting a _____ above his head.
8. As foretold in Daniel 8:25b, he met his death by _____ agency. According to 1 Macc. 6:1-16, he died of _____ after hearing of the _____ victories over his forces.
9. 2 Macc. 9: 5-6 gives more detail, stating that the Lord “ _____ ” which caused severe _____ pains. He then fell out of his _____ and was severely _____ (7-8).
10. His wound became infested with _____ and his body began to _____. The _____ was so bad no one would go near him (2 Macc. 9:9-11).
11. He _____ his sins but was _____ by God and dies a broken _____ (2 Macc. 9:12-29)
12. After the Temple remained _____ for three years and ten days (1 Macc. 1:54 and 4:52), Judas Maccabeus ordered it to be ritually _____ and _____. This event is where the _____, or _____ (meaning

“dedication”) originated.

13. Most identify him as the _____ horn of the _____ in Daniel chapters 7-12.

Lecture 8 – Exposition of Daniel Chapter 9

Daniel – Chapter 9

This is one of the most provocative chapters in the Book of Daniel. Many contend that a proper understanding of the prophetic timeline presented here frames with greater clarity the ministry of Jesus Christ, as well as the Book of Revelation.

A significant thing to note is Daniel’s reading of Scripture and prayer generate the content of the chapter.

Again, the chapter opens with an historical referent, placing it in 539 BC.

The reading of Jeremiah is significant.

1. It validates _____ with _____.
2. For Daniel, it creates a sense of _____ that the present _____ is about to come to an _____.
3. It prompts Daniel to _____.

The Passages related to the exile from Jeremiah.

¹¹ This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighboring lands will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years.

¹² "Then, after the seventy years of captivity are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and his people for their sins," says the LORD. "I will make the country of the Babylonians a wasteland forever. (Jeremiah 25:11-12 NLT)

¹⁰ This is what the LORD says: "You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again.

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen.

¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

¹⁴ I will be found by you," says the LORD. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land." (Jeremiah 29:10-14 NLT)

The Prayer of Daniel (9:4-19)

We will focus a bit more on the nature of prayer in Daniel in the next section, but for now want to highlight some key questions that arise from the prayer.

1. Is _____ or _____ the motivation behind Daniel's _____?

Does the _____ of _____ give us any clue?

2. How does the prayer reflect the _____ _____?

3. How does Daniel's " _____ " shape his _____?

Excursus 9
The Seventy Sevens

The Seventy Sevens (Daniel 9:24-27)

Longman in his commentary presents six actions that will be completed as part of Gabriel’s interpretation of the Seventy Sevens.⁹

1. The _____ of _____
2. The end of _____
3. The _____ of the _____
4. The bringing in of everlasting _____
5. The sealing up of _____ and _____
6. The _____ of the most _____

These six resulting actions take place over the span of the entire “Seventy Sevens.” As Longman quotes Collins, these six form an “eschatological ideal.”¹⁰

Gabriel goes further to divide the Seventy Sevens into three segments, and gives brief insight into each.

	Period			
1	Seven “Sevens”		Total of Sixty-Nine “Sevens”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At end of sixty-nine “Sevens”, the Anointed One will be cut-off. • “People of the ruler” will destroy city and sanctuary. • A time of war and desolation
2	Sixty-Two “Sevens”			
3	“Seven”	First Half	“One Ruler”	• Confirms a covenant
		Second Half		• Cuts off sacrifices and offerings

The period of prophecy concludes with the end of the disruptive “ruler.”

⁹ Longman, *Daniel*, 226.

¹⁰ Ibid.

The Three Major Interpretive Scenarios for the Seventy “Sevens.”

Interpretive Scheme	Central Figure/Theme	Span	Rationale
Scenario A	Antiochus IV Epiphanes	From Cyrus II (539 BC) to Antiochus IV (175-163 BC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Anointed One” is High Priest Onias III • The “ruler” is Antiochus IV • Made a treaty with Judea giving them freedom to practice their faith (174 BC) • In 170 BC he attacks Jerusalem, kills many and loots Temple • In 167 BC, puts an end to sacrifices and offerings, putting to death anyone caught practicing their faith • Desecrates the Temple by placing a statue of Zeus and sacrificing pigs and other unclean animals
Scenario B	Jesus Christ	Option 1 (Future)	<p>Christ’s death came at the end of the 69th week. The last week has yet to be fulfilled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final week relates to the antichrist during the Tribulation and end of history
		Option 2 (Completed)	<p>Fulfilled with the coming of Christ and destruction of the Temple in 70 AD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ began ministry at end of 69th week • His ministry was approx. 3 ½ years, and killed in the middle of the 70th week • Remaining 3 ½ is a “ruler” (Roman) who destroyed the Temple in 70 AD
Scenario C	Symbolic	Until the Lord determines the time of deliverance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No scenario fully satisfies the historical record, making the prophecy symbolic of greater truths • This was not meant to give us an apocalyptic calendar • It is meant to affirm the definitive end to suffering and sin

Regardless of the scenario one leans towards, the Seventy “Sevens” point to a sovereign God, whose able to bring His plans for creation to fruition.

The number seven, in many passages throughout the Scriptures, denote completeness, a factor one cannot ignore when reflecting on the 70 years of captivity which brought to an end the period of chastisement for God’s people.

Lecture 9 – Exposition of Daniel Chapter 10

Daniel – Chapter 10

The chapter once again opens with an historical referent – the third year of Cyrus’ reign. With the decree of Cyrus, the exiles began to return to the Promised Land, as documented in Ezra-Nehemiah.

Below, is a proposed chronology for Ezra-Nehemiah¹¹

YEAR	MONTH	DAY	EVENT	REF.
539	Oct	12	Capture of Babylon	Dan 5:30
538 537	March to March		Cyrus's first year	Ez 1:1-4
537 (?)			Return under Sheshbazzar	Ez 1:11
537			Building of Altar	Ez 3:1
536			Work on Temple begins	Ez 3:8
536- 530			Opposition during Cyrus' reign	Ez 4:1-5
530- 520			Work on Temple ceased	Ez 4:24
520	Sept	21	Work on Temple renewed under Darius	Ez 5:2; Hag 1:14-15
516	March	12	Temple completed	Ez 6:15
458	April	8	Ezra departs from Babylon	Ez 7:6-9
	August	4	Ezra arrives in Jerusalem	Ez 7:8-9
	December	19	People assemble	Ez 10:9
	December	29	Committee begins investigation	Ez 10:16
457	March	27	Committee ends investigation	Ez 10:17
445 444	April to April		20 th year of Artaxerxes I	Neh 1:1
445	Mar/Apr		Nehemiah approaches king	Neh 2:1
	August		Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem	Neh 2:11
	Oct	2	Completion of wall	Neh 6:15
	Oct	8	Public assembly	Neh 7:73-8:2
	Oct	22-28	Feast of Tabernacles	Neh 8:14
	Oct	30	Fast	Neh 9:1
433			32 nd year of Artaxerxes	Neh 5:14
432			Nehemiah's recall and return	Neh 13:6

¹¹ Adapted from the NIV Study Bible, pg. 674-675.

The vision in Chapter 10, as well as Chapter 9, comes after a time of prayer and fasting. This vision is specifically dated to April 23, 536 BC.

Chapters 10 and 11 are one continuous vision.

We are introduced to “princes” as not only a human title but an angelic one as well. Here we are given a glimpse into the workings of the spiritual realm, where conflict and dissension amongst the heavenly host is a tangible reality, affecting the course of human affairs.

Some insights gleaned from the passage concerning the angelic realm.

1. The vision _____ Daniel, but is given _____ that he need not _____.
2. The angel was dispatched _____ with a _____ for Daniel, but met _____, which _____ him for _____ days. The same number of days Daniel was in _____.
3. A powerful enemy, “_____” blocked his way.
4. _____, “One of the _____” intervened which allowed the angel to complete his _____.
5. The angel is aware that his _____ will put him in _____ with not only the “_____”, but also the “_____.”
6. He refers to _____ as “_____” in referencing Daniel and his people.

This reinforces the New Testament teaching on spiritual warfare.

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 NLT)

Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels.
(Revelation 12:7 NLT)

Excursus 10

Daniel and
Prayer

Apart from the power of the vision presented, Chapter 10 is one of the most revealing passages concerning the spiritual realm and specifically how it relates to prayer.

Throughout the Book of Daniel, we have seen him as a man of prayer. Deeply embedded in the daily routines of his life is a dedicated regimen of prayer that reflects his dependence and submission to God.

In this section I want to ask some probing questions regarding prayer, firstly, to learn lessons from the patterns we've seen in Daniel, and secondly, from the patterns we witness today with respect to prayer.

Daniel and prayer - key observations and lessons.

1. Are there _____ to Daniel's prayers?
2. How do they reflect the concepts of _____ and _____?
3. How do our prayers _____ the spiritual _____?
4. How does the pattern of Daniels's prayers _____ or _____ from the pattern that _____ gave to his _____ in _____?
5. How does the pattern of prayer in Daniel differ from the _____?

Summary

One way to summarize is to say that whenever we pray we become armed and dangerous because we invite the potential for a battle. It has been stated that prayer is not preparation for the battle, prayer is the battle and that the battle belongs to the Lord. When we pray we open up the potential of another battlefield.

Here is one of the rubs in all of this. In our modern scientifically driven world we want measurable quantifiable statistics. The spirit realm for many of us is a reality we don't know what to do with, let alone how to manage. We may not understand it all, but the Bible is very clear that there is this ensuing and ongoing war. Prayer is the communication device across enemy lines and is very important that we at least acknowledge it.

The battle we see around us physically is just a snapshot of the greater war that is being waged in the spiritual realm. Sometimes, what seems very small and insignificant is very significant and dramatic in the spiritual world. Our prayers likely, then, need to embrace the larger arena and the larger perspective than just our immediate circumstances reveal.

One valid reason for encouraging this awareness is the potential to view elements of our life as not needing prayer. We may think of a particular issue as a small thing yet in reality, in the spiritual realm, it may be a much larger conflict.

Lecture 10 – Exposition of Daniel Chapter 11

Daniel – Chapter 11

As Longman notes in his commentary, Chapter 10 introduces the circumstances around the vision, while Chapter 11 gives the content, and the vision is unlike anything we've seen in Daniel thus far.¹²

The content of this chapter covers the Persian period to the time of Antiochus Epiphanes. The specificity of detail has caused many to doubt it as actual prophecy, but historical retelling.

¹² Longman, *Daniel*, 271

Most interpreters identify “the king of the north” and “the king of the south” with the Seleucid and Ptolemaic rulers. The following chart outlines the historical framework of the passage.¹³

Verse	King of the South	King of the North
5	Ptolemy I (322-285 BC)	Seleucus I (312-280 BC)
6	Ptolemy II (285-246 BC)	Antiochus marries Ptolemy's daughter Berenice (250 BC) Antiochus II (262-246 BC)
7-9	Ptolemy III (246-221 BC)	Seleucus II (246-226 BC)
10		Seleucus III (226-223 BC) Antiochus III (223-187 BC)
11-19		Antiochus III
(11-12)	Ptolemy IV (221-203 BC)	
(14-17)	Ptolemy V (203-180 BC)	
20		Seleucus IV (187-175 BC)
21-35		Antiochus IV (175-163 BC)
(25)	Ptolemy VI (180-145 BC)	
36-45		?
(40)	?	

Verses 36-45 are some of the most contested verses in Daniel, despite the many interpretive problems that the genre of prophecy raises.

In particular, is the issue of “who” is in view in these verses? The two major views are:

1. They continue the prophecy of Antiochus IV
2. They are in larger view, pointing to the Antichrist

¹³ Adapted from Chisholm, *Handbook of the Prophets*, 320 and *NLT Study Bible*, 1418-19.

Again, many commentators see a telescoping quality to the latter part of Chapter 11, a common prophetic technique that begins its referent in identifiable people or circumstances but explodes the imagery to express larger than life characteristics.

This becomes an anticipatory prophecy of what we can expect as history develops according to the prophetic timeline of God.

Before we enter in the final chapter of the book, here are the salient features of apocalyptic literature that we need to remind ourselves as we come to understand what it means for our present lives.

Apocalyptic literature reminds us:

1. We live in a _____ world
2. _____ and _____ are ever present realities
3. The _____ realm and the _____ realm are _____
4. _____ and _____ are in a constant _____
5. _____ matters
6. God is _____ over _____, though at times it can seem he is _____
7. God will bring _____ to its final _____
8. God's _____ will one day be _____

Lecture 11 – Exposition of Daniel Chapter 12

Daniel – Chapter 12

Chapter 12 begins as a conclusion to Chapter 11, that the “king” who exalted himself will come to ultimate ruin.

This chapter is ultimately an exposition of the 8 points given in the previous section concerning apocalyptic literature. Of special importance here is the reminder that God ultimately triumphs, and God’s people will themselves be resurrected to everlasting life.

The chapter in many ways clearly distinguishes between two paths - The path of the righteous and the path of the wicked. One leads to “everlasting life”, the other to “everlasting disgrace.”

It is interesting to note that this is common imagery found in the Biblical Wisdom literature. In that course, I have a common refrain that I teach which reflects this wisdom motif in a memorable way.

_____ determines _____
and
_____ determines _____

Daniel’s life illustrates this perfectly. His _____ was to be faithful to God, regardless of his circumstances. This led him in a _____ that honoured God in every facet of his life.

Such a life is rewarded by the _____ of everlasting life (In fact, those who will be resurrected are called “the wise” in verse 3).

As rudimentary as it sounds, the disposition that someone has towards anything is what sets him or her in a particular direction in life. This is an oft-repeated truth in the Wisdom Literature and is what lies at the heart of this closing chapter in Daniel.

Because of this, the book beckons us to follow in the footsteps of Daniel's faith, not to experience the miraculous, but to experience the wonder of life under the protective grace of God, something that will be fully realized when our physical life comes to an end.

Another issue of importance is the resulting "advice" given to Daniel from the two celestial beings. Essentially he is encouraged to continue to live out his life to the end faithfully, regardless of all that had been entrusted to him prophetically.

Excursus 11

Resurrection

In verses 1-3 and 13, we have probably the clearest teaching on resurrection in the Old Testament. Verse 13, as the conclusion of the book, actually refers to the resurrection that Daniel himself will experience with those of like faith, and the inheritance he will receive.

Here is what we can learn from this section concerning resurrection.

1. It will not be the _____ for _____.
2. It comprises _____ distinct _____ – _____ to new _____, the other to _____.
3. The _____ are distinguished by their _____, _____, and _____ characteristics.
4. It will _____ the true _____ of a _____.
5. The term " _____ " is found only here in the OT and refers more to the _____ of life than its _____.

6. For those who are _____, they will be _____ from _____, because their _____ are in the _____ (10:21; see Rev 20:12)

Resurrection is of course, an important part of the New Testament, especially as it relates to the ministry and life of Jesus Christ. In fact, what is revealed in Daniel, harmonizes in many ways with New Testament teaching.

Lecture 12 – Applying Daniel Today

Daniel – Contemporary Application

The Book of Daniel is a perfect case study of how to live in the midst of an antagonistic culture. Babylon, for all its historical, social, and military accomplishments is a nation in direct opposition to God.

Daniel, as well as his three friends, demonstrated consistent faith in an otherwise difficult cultural landscape. They had many opportunities to default on their commitment to Yahweh, yet despite the continual pressure, even to the point of death, they prosper and even climb the social echelons of the Empire that enslaved them.

Hence, a study in Daniel brings us full face into our own personal faith and convictions, and how they should direct us, regardless of the situational pressures we face.

Therefore, here are some key lessons that we can apply today.¹⁴

¹⁴ These have been adapted from Larry Osborne's, *Thriving in Babylon*, and Wayne Baxter's, *We've Lost, What Now?* and my own personal insights.

1. God's _____ was upon Daniel, but he never used that to _____.
He used whatever _____ God had _____ him with for God's _____.
2. He demonstrated the difference between living with _____ as opposed to living with _____.
3. He demonstrated two key characteristics beyond _____ – _____ and _____.
4. Daniel was a _____ of other's _____ and the _____ it created, yet he did not use that as an _____ to not live _____.
5. He demonstrated a _____ and _____ in _____, despite the _____ of the current _____.
6. He would rather face _____, than fall into _____. A by-product of _____ main motif, "_____."
7. He demonstrated true _____, as opposed to living a _____ that was _____.
8. He exercised the _____ of the "_____."
9. Daniel allowed _____, God's _____ and _____, and

his _____ with God to determine his _____.

10. _____ is easy when we _____ with God; it's another thing altogether when it's _____ in the midst of _____ and _____.

11. God does not always _____ the _____, but often works best in the _____ of _____.

12. A _____ and _____ life is not the same as a life of _____.

13. Daniel's _____ was rooted in God's _____ and _____, not in a _____ expectation of _____.

14. Daniel's "_____ " of choice, was _____.

15. Daniel's ultimate _____ in God's _____ and _____ was _____ than his _____ or _____.

16. He genuinely _____ the best _____ of his _____. His every _____ was done with _____, _____, and _____. He _____ being a _____ to _____.

17. He did not _____ the _____ roots or the presence of _____; he knew the _____ of God.

18. The key lesson is to live with _____, like Daniel, but realize the _____ may _____ be the _____ for _____.

19. Even in his older years, an angel encouraged Daniel to _____.

20. In a culture that is becoming more _____ towards Christian _____ and _____, there are five qualities we need to exemplify.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

Excursus 12

God as the
Central Figure

For centuries, the person of Daniel has served as a model of faith, especially in the midst of difficult and trying circumstances.

Though his life is one we should all seek to emulate, we should not do so simply from a moral or ethical perspective, but from a faith perspective.

Daniel is not the hero in the book that bears his name, God is. Every narrative and prophetic section in the book reflects the character and nature of God in His interactions with humanity, and ultimately, serves as the primary focus of the entire text.

A good question is, “What did Daniel do?” The far better question is, “What did God do?”

Below are some key points to remember concerning God as the central figure.

1. Every biblical story has a _____ element, and a _____ element. The _____ is the _____ component of the story; the _____ is _____.
2. Most _____ stories are either _____ of the _____ element, or leave it _____ and _____.
3. Biblical stories are primarily _____ on the _____ aspect.
4. The _____ element is the one we _____ to _____.

5. Because of this, the tendency to _____ a story is _____ and _____.
6. The dangers in _____ are many, but one to note is that even our _____ can become a _____, therefore _____ our best _____ and _____ intentions.
7. Without the _____, _____ will continue to _____, and _____ eventually _____.