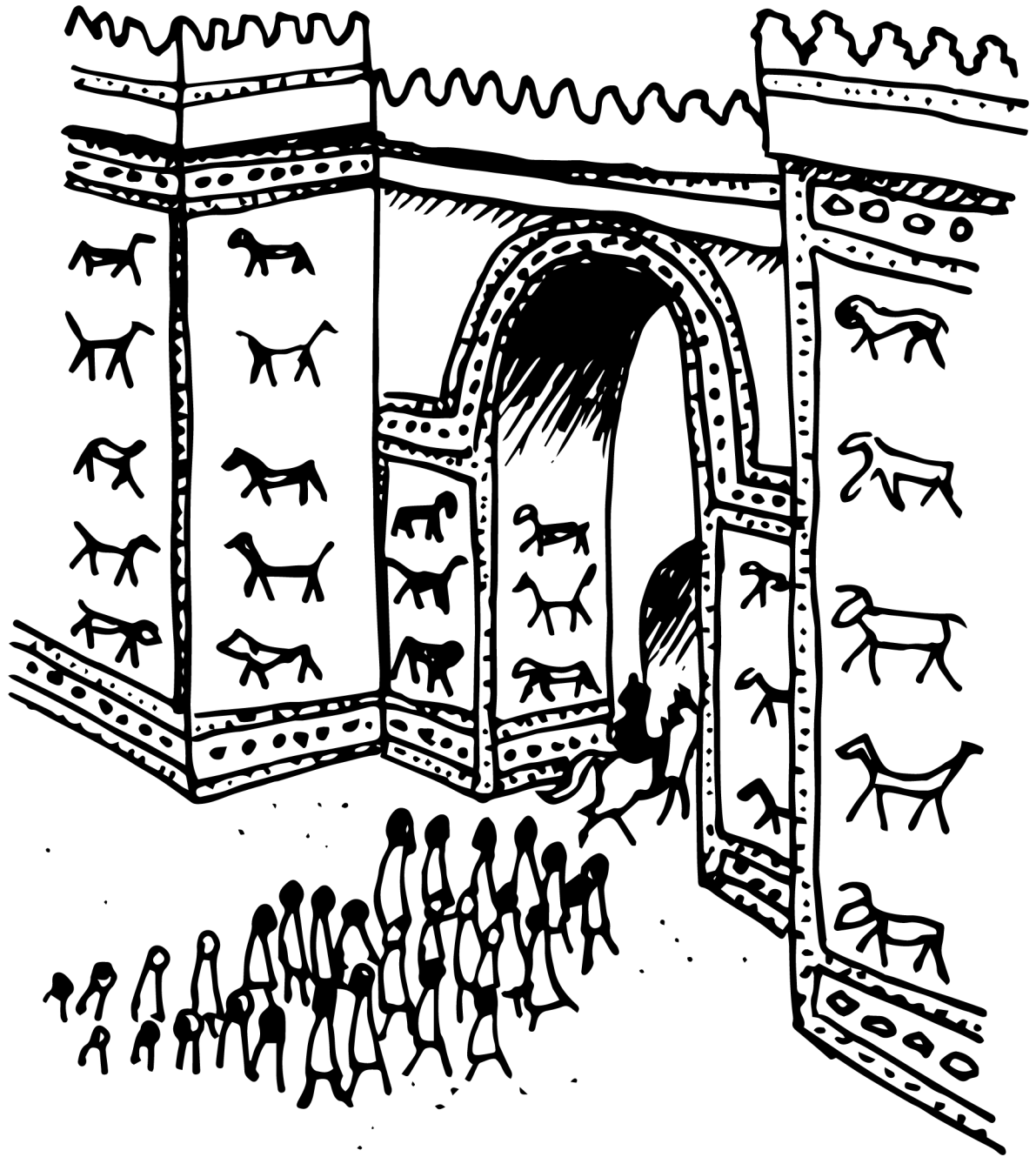


Daniel



Intermediate Workbook
Manitoulin Youth Camp 2024



Dear Camper,

We are excited to be studying the life of Daniel this year at Manitoulin Youth Camp from July 20-27, 2024, God willing. This workbook is for children born in 2012 and 2013. It will help you to prepare for our week of studies together.

We would recommend that you try to listen to or read all the Bible readings listed at least five times before camp. This will help in understanding the story better and in preparing for the morning quizzes.

There are a variety of ways to do this. Here are a few suggestions:

- Visit this link: <http://christadelphianmyc.com/workbooks/memory-verses>
- Read the Bible passages together as a family.
- Listen to a dramatized version of the Bible passages using Bible Gateway, Podcasts, etc.
- Play the Bible passages while you are driving in the car together.
- Print out the Bible passages and have the children highlight important words and phrases in the stories.

Color in a box every time you read/listen to all the Bible passages for the week.



There are four parts to your pre-camp assignment: 1) the workbook, 2) a minute meditation, 3) preparation for the morning quizzes and memory verses and 4) a special project. Try to get started as soon as possible and do your best work!

If you have any questions about the workbook, please don't hesitate to call or send a note to:

Aunt Julie Snobelen
(thesnobelens@hotmail.com) or 519-841-0512

Workbook Review

This page will be used by your Counselor who will review your workbook at Camp to ensure it has been completed.

Overall comments:

Minute Meditation completed

Project completed

The following questions were not completed or need more work. Please finish them, and return to your counselor. Let your teacher or counselor know if you need help.

Page No.	Comments	Done



To complete your workbook you will need:

- Bible
- sharp pencil
- eraser (just in case)
- coloured pencils
- Strong's Concordance or access to a Bible program such as E-Sword or Blue Letter Bible

Don't forget to pray before you begin. Ask God to help you understand His word.

- Use a **PENCIL** so that it is easier to correct mistakes.
- Read the verses in the heading before you try to do the questions.
- Read everything in the workbook. Some questions will be easier to answer if you have read the information given to you throughout the book.
- If you are having trouble with a question, put a star next to it and move on to the next question. When you have completed the section, go back and try again. If you still can't get it ask someone for help or email me.

Preparation for Morning Quizzes and Memory Verses

There will be Bible readings and a memory verse from the book of Daniel every day at camp. You will be quizzed on the verse and the readings each morning. Below is the list of readings and verses for the quizzes each day. We suggest that you memorize these verses and read over these readings before camp to help you in your preparation for the week.

Monday:

Memory Verse:

Daniel 1:8 - But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Readings: Daniel 1

Tuesday:

Memory Verse:

Daniel 2:44 - And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Readings: Daniel 2

Wednesday:

Memory Verse:

Daniel 3:17 - If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

Reading: Daniel 3

Thursday:

Memory Verse:

Daniel 4:17 - This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

Readings: Daniel 5

Friday:

Memory Verse:

Daniel 6:26 - I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

Readings: Daniel 6

Minute Meditations

We encourage you to prepare a Minute Meditation to present to your camp group and you can also volunteer to present it at one of the evening programs during the week.

You will need to choose one verse on which to base your Minute Meditation. A Minute Meditation is an opportunity for you to meditate or think about a verse from the study and share what you have learned in approximately one minute. You will read the verse and then tell what you have learned from the verse. You can share what you have learned about God and His character, or what you have learned about the people in the verse, or how this verse relates to other verses in the Bible, or how it relates to your life or a combination of these ideas.

The passages are divided up by the first letter of your last name. **Please find the first letter of your last name below and choose a verse from one of the passages listed next to that letter to use for your Minute Meditation.**

A-C: Daniel 1

D-K: Daniel 2

L-Q: Daniel 3

R-S: Daniel 5

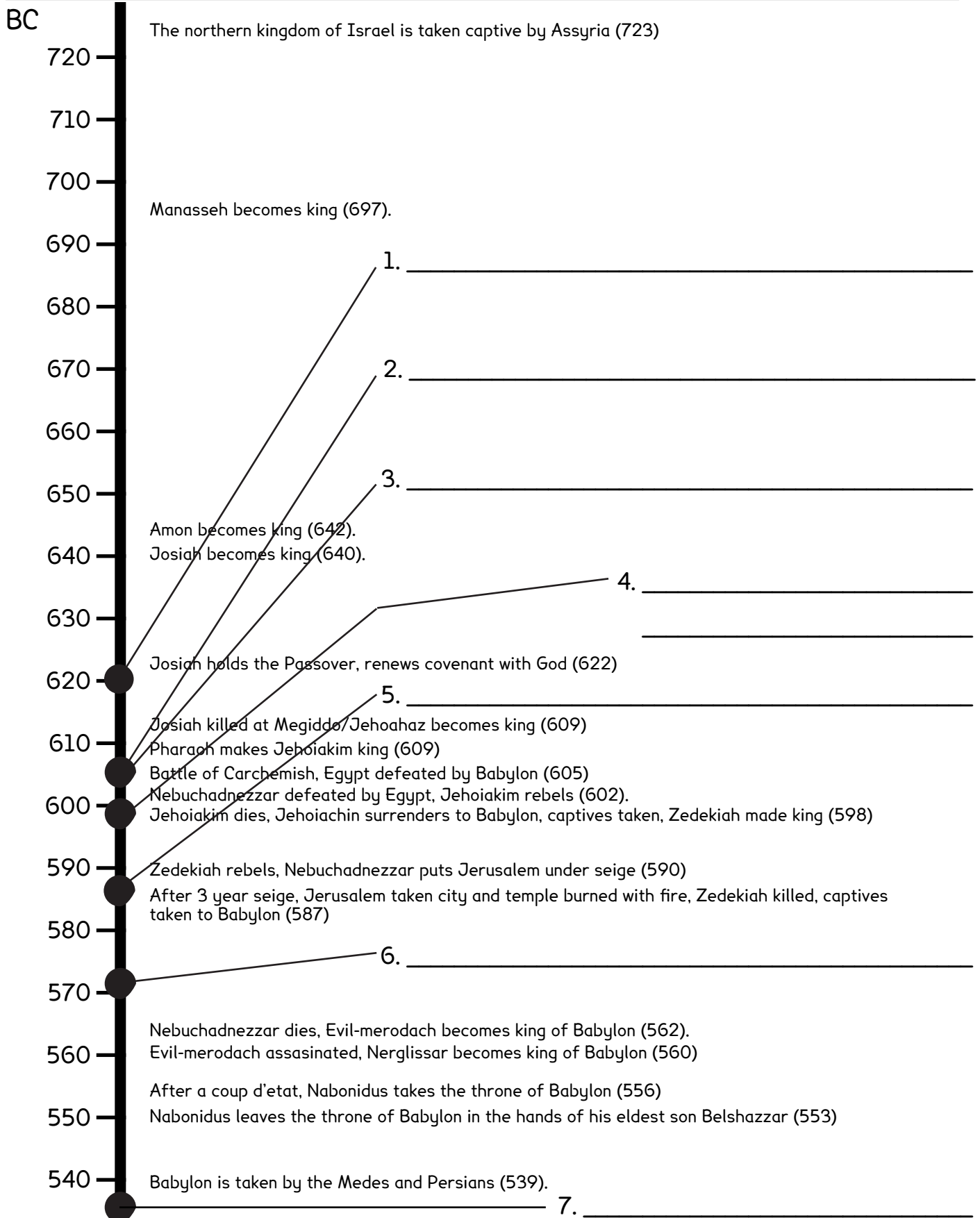
T-Z: Daniel 6

Special Project

Choose one of these to do either on your own or in pairs.

1. Create a model of the image in Daniel 2 and include a summary of each empire to go along with your model.
2. Create an illustrated report on chapters 1-6 of Daniel. Create at least one page on each chapter.
3. Create and follow a ten day “spiritual diet”. Include “worldly food” that you won’t be eating, and what will take its place. Make sure you eat more than just once a day, and include different types of spiritual food. Follow the plan for ten days and write about how you it affected you.
4. If you have your own idea for a project, check with Uncle Joe and Auntie Kate at joeandkate41203@yahoo.ca

Timeline



Daniel was born in the kingdom of Judah during the reign of Josiah. Josiah was a good king, in fact, it was said that there was no king before him that turned to the LORD with all his heart, soul, and might (2 Kings 23:25).

Add to timeline on page 6: 1. Daniel is born.

While much needed repairs were being carried out on the Temple, possibly just before Daniel was born or when he was very young, **a book was discovered**. The book that was found was most likely the book of Deuteronomy.

It had probably been lost during the wicked years of Manasseh's rule, or maybe even before then. King Josiah immediately had it read to him and was horrified.

What two things did Josiah do when the book of the Law was read to him? (2 Kings 22:11-13)

What was the people's part of the covenant made with God? (Deuteronomy 26:16-19)

What was God's part of the covenant?

Deuteronomy 28 is a chapter that contains terrible things that would happen to God's people if they chose to forsake Him and serve other gods.

What was foretold for God's people if they were unfaithful?

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 - _____

Deuteronomy 28:64-67 - _____

Many years previously, the northern kingdom of Israel had been destroyed and its people taken captive to Assyria because they had been unfaithful to God. At the time, the southern kingdom of Judah had survived under Hezekiah who attempted to lead the people in the right direction. However, all Hezekiah's work was brought to nothing under his son, Manasseh, whose long reign made Judah to sin with his idols (2 Kings 21:11).

Manasseh was Josiah's grandfather, and although we are told that at the end of his life Manasseh humbled himself, his wicked reign had done a lot of damage in Judah.

When Josiah heard of what would happen, he immediately wished to inquire of God about whether these terrible things could be averted.

What did Huldah tell him? (2 Kings 22:15-17)

What did God promise Josiah because his heart was tender? (2 Kings 22:20)

Josiah immediately set out to do what he could to bring the people back to God. He had the book of the Law read to all the people and renewed the covenant.

What was the covenant Josiah and the people made? (2 Kings 23:3)

Then Josiah commenced a reformation in the land, ridding it of the idols, high places, and anything related to false worship. When this was done he held a Passover feast in the land that was greater than any that had been held before.

Daniel would have been very young when this took place, but he would have lived for the next ten years under the rule of a king who very much loved God and did what he could to keep the people turned towards Him. He was probably about 11 when Josiah was killed in the battle of Megiddo by Pharaoh's army and from there things in Judah declined very rapidly. Judah was now subject to Egypt.

The people made Jehoahaz, son of Josiah, king when Josiah died, but what did Pharaoh do? (2 Kings 23:34)

Judah paid tribute to Egypt for a little over three years and then there was another big battle at Carchemish, and Egypt was defeated by the Babylonian army under Nebuchadnezzar,

putting Judah under his control. He came down to Jerusalem to assert his authority, and had Jehoiakim bound and was ready to take him to Babylon as was the usual practice when dominating a people. However, he received news that his father had died, and he rushed home to Babylon to be crowned king, leaving Jehoiakim in place. **This is where the book of Daniel starts.**

Add to timeline on page 6: 2. Judah comes under control of Babylon.

It can be hard to understand why God chose to bring suffering on His people and allow many of them to be taken captive to places like Babylon. So let's think about that for a little bit.

If God had allowed Israel and Judah to continue as they were, following the other nations in all their practices, forgetting to keep the practices God had asked of them, intermarrying with the other nations and worshiping their gods so that they could no longer teach their children what was true, would God really be their God? Could they even continue to exist as a distinct people?

Why does God chasten and correct His people? (Proverbs 3:11-12)

What is meant to be the end result of chastening and correction? (Proverbs 3:13)

Read Daniel 1:1-2.

What did Nebuchadnezzar bring with him from Judah? v.2

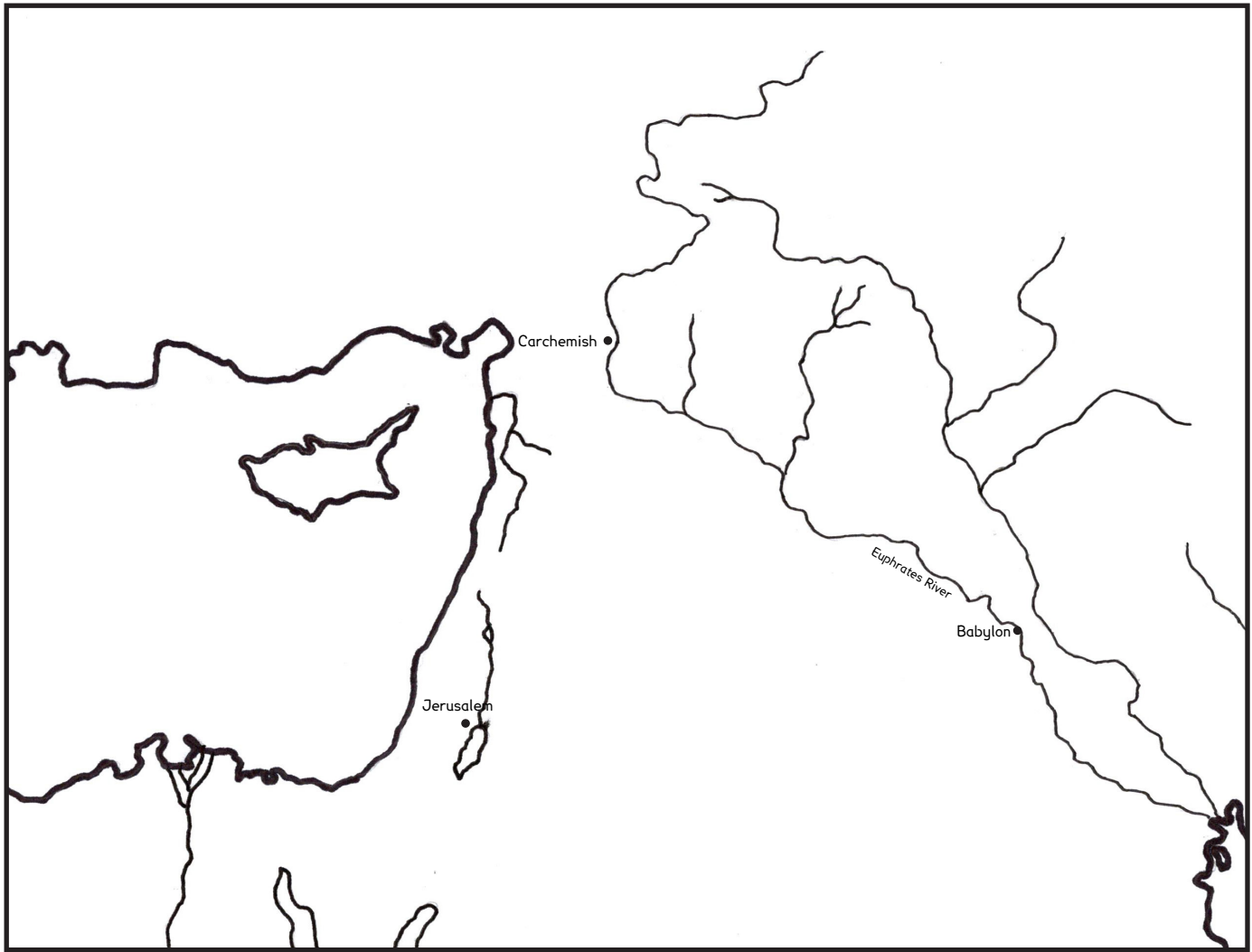
Although not mentioned directly, Nebuchadnezzar must have also brought some of the nobility of Judah back with him at this time including Daniel and his three friends.

Add to timeline on page 6: 3. Daniel taken to Babylon.



Let's talk a little bit about Babylon.

The distance in a straight line from Jerusalem to Babylon is around 1000 km (620 miles). However, the route likely taken by Nebuchadnezzar back to Babylon would have been north and then south-east along the river because in between there are mountains and desert that make traveling by foot very difficult. This would make the trip more like 2700 km (1700 miles). If you walked for 10 hours each day, it would take about two months to reach Babylon. Later on in history, when Ezra and his caravan returned from Babylon to Jerusalem it took them four months. It was a long ways away!



On the map, put a small circle around Jerusalem, then around Carchemish (although they may have not gone this far north), and then Babylon. Now draw a line that connects them together, keeping close to sources of fresh water (rivers).

Over 1000 years before the story of Daniel, Babylon controlled the area of Mesopotamia which is the land around the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers, also called the Fertile Crescent. Its king, Hammurabi, built temples, granaries, palaces, and a bridge over the Euphrates which allowed the city to expand on both sides of the river. He is famous for his code of Law which was engraved on a black stone pillar that was rediscovered in 1901.

After Hammurabi died, Babylon lost power and eventually came under the control of the Assyrians until Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar's father, rebelled and with the help of the Medes sacked Nineveh, the Assyrian capital.

The last Assyrian king fled to Carchemish and it was shortly after this that Josiah went to fight against the Egyptians, who were allies of Assyria, and were on their way to assist them. Josiah died in that fight and Judah came under the control of Egypt.

Do a little research on the city of Babylon using an Encyclopedia or Bible Dictionary. Try to find answers to the following questions: Does Babylon exist today? How big was the city? How was it constructed? What kinds of buildings were in it? Why was it included in the list of the seven wonders of the ancient world?

Read Daniel 1:2-7

Daniel was likely around 15 when he was taken to Babylon as a captive. Although his first 11 years had been spent under the good rule of Josiah, the years between 11 and 15 were ruled by two kings who did what was evil. Daniel would have had to make the choice of what to do in his own life.

We all make choices every day between good and evil although the choices may not seem to be clearly good or evil at the time. For example, Daniel had to make a decision about who he would trust, the God of Josiah or the gods of the other nations, or maybe even no god at all and therefore whether he would pray and who to, or not.

List three examples from your life where you have to make decisions of what to do that may have consequences for good or evil down the road.

What were the six qualities that Nebuchadnezzar was looking for in choosing from the captives? V4

What were they intending to do with these children? V4

What was their daily provision? V5

Although there would have been other young people involved in this education process, four are specifically mentioned. Names in the Bible often tell us a little bit about a person.

Find out the meanings of the Hebrew names of these four young people:

Daniel: _____

Hananiah: _____

Mishael: _____

Azariah: _____

What is something that is similar about the Hebrew names that these young people had?

Now find out the meanings of the names Nebuchadnezzar gave them:

Beltshazzar: _____

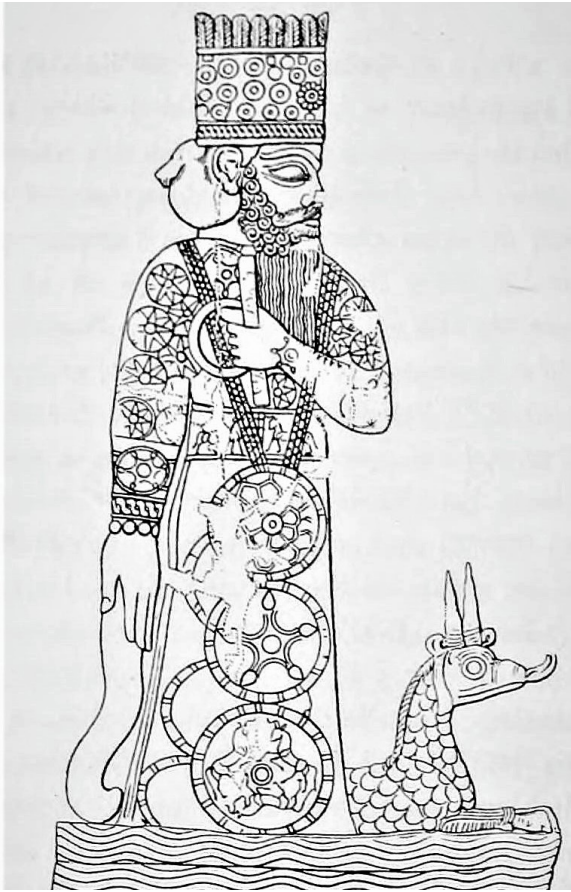
Shadrach: _____

Meshach: _____

Abednego: _____

What is missing in their new names? _____

What do you think Nebuchadnezzar is trying to do by taking these young people away from their home, giving them special delicious food to eat, changing their names, and teaching them his language and learning?



In the ancient world, the nations surrounding the people of Israel and Judah all had their own gods that they worshiped. These gods were part of stories that explained natural occurrences like the sun and moon, seasons, storms, famine, earthquakes, etc. It was a way that people, by doing something for the gods or communicating with them, could imagine they had some control over things that happened. There were elaborate stories to explain their existences and the gods could fight each other, sometimes be killed, and also give birth to new gods. There were sky gods who controlled things such as day and night, seasons, and storms and could look down at humans and observe their behavior. They were generally humored by promises and prayers. And there were earth gods who controlled things such as birth and death and were generally not very nice. They were satisfied by sacrifices and shows of respect.

The number one god of the Babylonians at the time of Daniel was called Marduk or Bel. The story was that Marduk killed the goddess Tiamat and the forces of chaos and from her body made the heavens and the earth, becoming lord of the gods of heaven and earth. This meant that all of nature was in his hands as well as the destiny of kingdoms and subjects (*Brittanica.com*, Marduk). There was a large temple complex and ziggurat dedicated to him in Babylon where his image was. There were also lesser gods of things like the sun and moon, wind, air, storms, wisdom, and goddesses of love, war, and mountains.

List a couple of ways you can think of how Yahweh, Daniel's God, is different from what the Babylonians were used to.

Read Daniel 1:8-16.

What did Daniel do with his heart (one word)? V8

Look up this word in a concordance and write out what it means.

What did Daniel think partaking of the king's delicacies would do to him (one word)? v8

Look up this word in a concordance and write out what it means.

It was not a problem with eating meat and drinking wine itself that Daniel rejected, but that the king's meat was most likely part of the daily sacrifices to the gods. During these rituals, an animal was killed, glorifying the human ability to take a life, its inedible parts burnt, creating a column of smoke that represented connection with the gods, and the meat roasted and shared along with wine because it was a way, they thought, that the gods could experience the pleasures of eating. The whole process was meant to suggest that humans could exert power over the gods by giving them what they wanted to get things in return.

What does Paul have to say about eating meat offered to idols? (1 Corinthians 10:27-28)

Daniel didn't cause a ruckus and demand different food. He didn't go on a hunger strike. He also didn't see it as God providing a rich diet for him after possibly having very little to eat during the long trek to Babylon.

What did he do instead? V8 Daniel 1

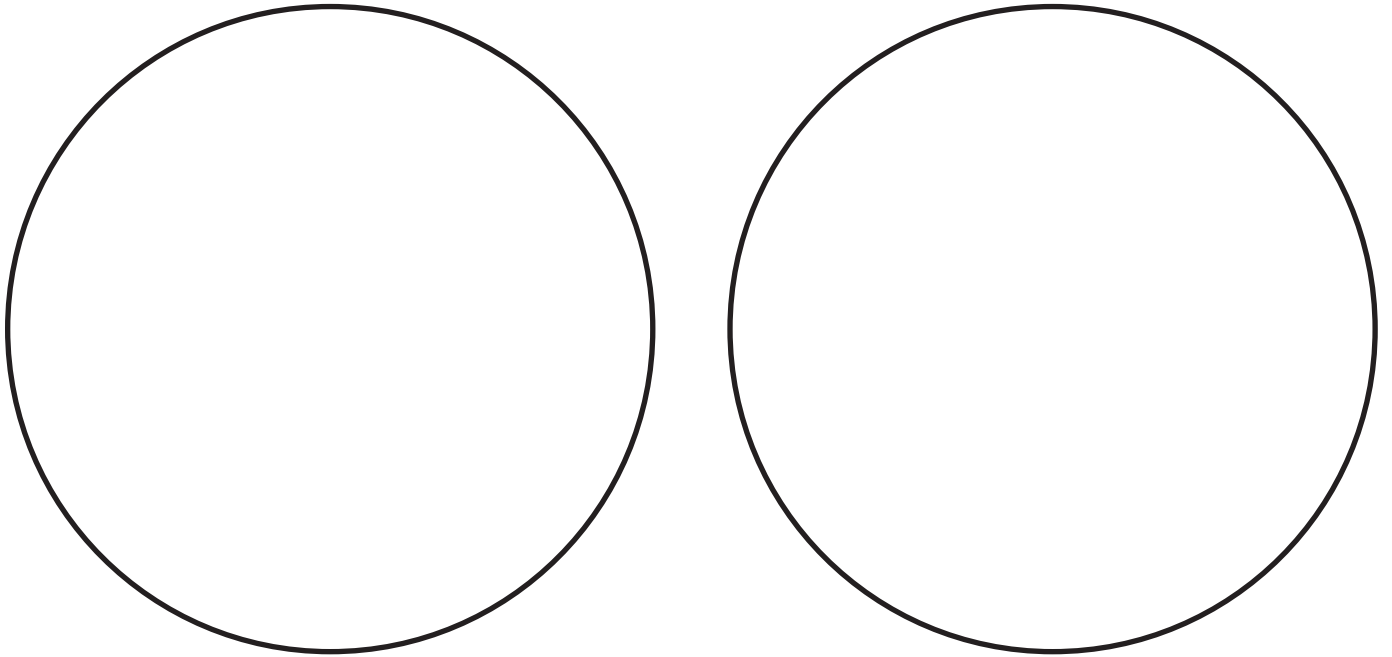
The prince of the eunuchs was not willing to take the risk. What was he worried would happen? V10

Who did Daniel ask next? V11

What was the experiment he suggested? V12

What is pulse? Look up the word in a concordance or using a Bible App.

Draw what might have been on the dinner plate of Daniel and his three friends, and the other children. (two plates)



What was the outcome of the experiment? V15

In the ancient world, a victory in battle was often seen as the victor's gods being more powerful. Since Nebuchadnezzar had defeated Egypt and Assyria, and now Judah also was under his control, there would have been little respect for Daniel's God. The God of Israel and Judah would not have been thought to have any power in Babylon. But Daniel trusted that Yahweh could be his God **anywhere**.

We are going to learn a few things about God from these stories in Daniel. Here is the first one:

GOD IS OMNI-PRESENT

What does omnipresent mean when used of God? Look it up in a dictionary.

Can you hide from God? (Jeremiah 23:23-24) _____

Write out Psalm 139:7-10: _____

What is the good part about God's omnipresence? (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Even though they had been taken away from their land and were captives, why was Daniel so unafraid? (Isaiah 43:1-2)

Read Daniel 1:17-21.

What did God give these four children? V17

What was Daniel's speciality? V17

How much better were Daniel and his three friends than all the magicians and astrologers in Nebuchadnezzar's realm? V20

Perhaps you might think the four boys should have failed all these Babylonian courses of learning. Why should they be diligent about the learning and the language of the Chaldeans? Instead they excelled, in fact, God gave them the knowledge and skill. Having a correct knowledge of other perspectives is actually a very useful thing.

A fun fact about Babylonian learning is that we still use their knowledge today. Ask your parents to help you find three things we make use of today that are Babylonian inventions.

Can you think of another person in the Bible that Daniel would have known about who was also taken from his people and place, had to learn a new culture, and became an interpreter of dreams?

How could knowing about him encourage Daniel?

What happened in the first year of Cyrus? (2 Chronicles 36:22-23)

How many years had gone by since Daniel first arrived in Babylon? (taken captive 605, first year of Cyrus 539 BC)

How long did Jeremiah say that the land would be subject to Babylon? (Jeremiah 25:10-11)

Read Daniel 2:1-6.



Note on verse 1: *It may look like the math doesn't work out but that is because of different ways of counting the years of a king's reign. The year Nebuchadnezzar became king was counted as his succession year (this was the year Daniel started his training), the first full year (counting from the first month of the year to the end) was counted as Nebuchadnezzar's first year as king, and then his second full year would have been while Daniel was finishing his third year of training.*

What had troubled Nebuchadnezzar's spirit? V1

Who did Nebuchadnezzar call to help him understand? V2

An intriguing thing happens with verse 4 of this chapter. Up until this point, the book of Daniel was written in Hebrew, but when the Chaldeans respond to the king, the language changes to Aramaic, and stays that way until the end of chapter 7. Aramaic was the common language of the people at this time throughout what became the Babylonian empire.

What did the Chaldeans want the king to do? V4

Read verse 5 in a few different Bible translations and then answer the question: Why did Nebuchadnezzar not tell them his dream?

What would be the outcome of them not doing what he asked? V5

What would be the outcome if they did what he asked? V6

Read Daniel 2:7-16.

This was a big test for the king's wise men. It would show for sure whether they could in fact interpret dreams.

What do the Chaldeans acknowledge to the king? V10

This is, of course, true. Despite all their learning, humans on their own are not able to tell someone else's dreams and interpret them. However, they did think that it was within the power of the "gods" although it seems they were unable to communicate with "them" directly. And of course, they did not know the only true God.

What is the king's reaction? V12

Who is to be included in the execution of the wise men? V13

Daniel doesn't panic when he hears the news. Instead he takes careful steps.

What does he ask from the king? V16

What does he promise the king? V16

Read Daniel 2:17-23.

Notice that at this point Daniel did not have any special knowledge of this or of the dream Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed. But he did have confidence in God.

Who did he get to join him in finding an answer for Nebuchadnezzar? V17

What were they desiring from God? V18

They understood that they were at the mercy of God and could not know this secret unless He gave it to them.

What was the answer to their prayers? V19

Daniel took the time to say thank you. This is important to remember. Even though it must have been a bit of a stressful time, and he would have been anxious to give the king his answer and not be killed, he recognized that a thank you was necessary.



Daniel mentions six things about God:

v20 _____

v21 _____

v21 _____

v21 _____

v22 _____

v22 _____

Read Daniel 2:24-30.

Who does Daniel make clear is the one who reveals secrets? V28

What had Nebuchadnezzar been thinking about? V29

Daniel wants the king to understand that it is not by his own wisdom that he is able to show the king the dream and its interpretation, but what is given to him by the God in heaven. Men cannot predict the future.

GOD IS OMNISCIANT

What does omniscient mean when it used of God? Look it up in a dictionary.

Write out Psalm 139:1-4

Do we need to know everything? (Deuteronomy 29:29)

If God created the ear and the eye, what do we know that he can do? (Psalm 94:8-11)

Can we know as much as God? (Isaiah 55:8,9)

Read Daniel 2:31-49.

What did Nebuchadnezzar see in his dream? V31 _____

It's brightness (splendor) was ... v31 _____

It's form or appearance was ... v31 _____

Label or colour the image with the metals it was composed of. V32,33

What was unusual about the stone? V34 _____

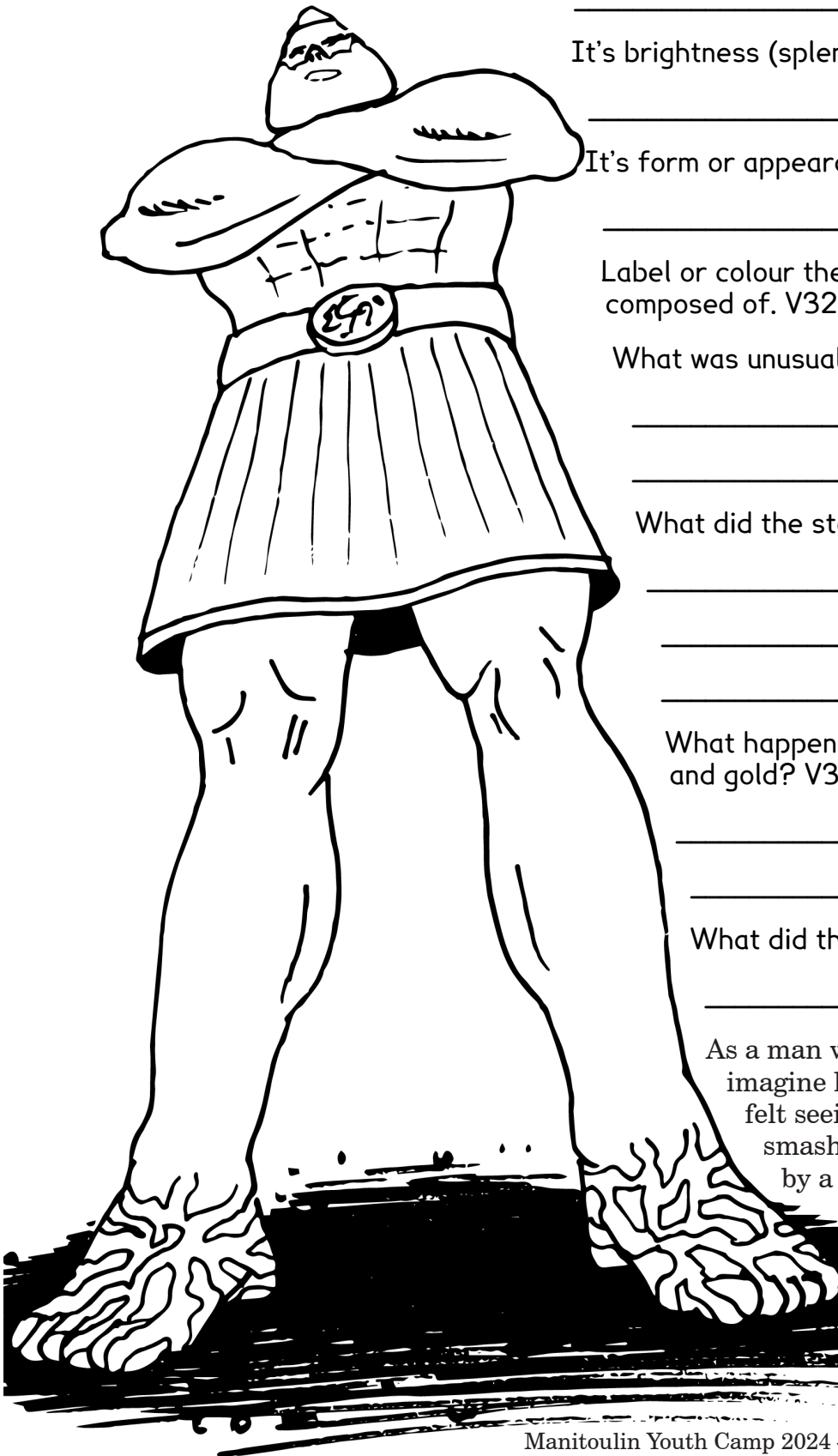
What did the stone do to the image? V34 _____

What happened to the iron, clay, brass, silver and gold? V35 _____

What did the stone become? V35 _____

As a man who worshiped images, can you imagine how Nebuchadnezzar would have felt seeing this huge imposing image smashed to pieces and utterly destroyed by a stone? It is no wonder it kept him up at night and made him anxious to have it properly explained to him.

Add to timeline on page 6: 4. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream.



GOLD:

Who was the head of gold? V37-38 _____

Who had given him his kingdom, power, strength, and glory? V37 _____

Here is a map of the empire of Babylon.



I think Nebuchadnezzar might have been a little pleased that he was the head of gold. Gold was an important metal - shiny and indestructible, and usually linked to wealth and royalty, and even the gods. And of course, the head is what controls the body.

There is another aspect of gold to think about though. Precious metals had to go through a refining process using very hot temperatures to become pure.

What does God do that is similar to this refining process? (Proverbs 17:3)

All of the kingdoms in this image were used to refine Israel, and get rid of the impurities.

And in the end the nations of the earth would also be judged for what they did to God's people.

When would Israel know when this was accomplished? (Ezekiel 39:23-24)

At the time of this dream, it was still in the future, but within a few years the Babylonians would destroy the city of Jerusalem and the Temple, and take many of the people who survived captive into Babylon. It would be a very sad time for them, but also a process of refining them - of helping them to turn back to their God.

Although Nebuchadnezzar may have wanted to think that his empire would last forever, it only lasted from 626 to 539 BC.

SILVER:

What was to come after Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom? V39

Look up the word "inferior" in a concordance. Write down what it means.

This word occurs in another place in this verse - how is it translated there?

(Some feel that this word means that the next kingdom to follow Babylon would be somehow not as good as the Babylonian empire. However, this word can be understood to mean that the following empire would come out of the land or earth of Babylon.)

The empire to follow Babylon was the Medo-Persian empire and included all the Babylonian empire and more.



This empire was represented by the silver chest and arms of the image. Silver was a more plentiful metal and therefore less valuable, but it was still used for many of the same royal

and religious purposes, and also used for money.

Like gold, silver is also refined by high temperatures.

What are some of the ways that God tries His people like silver? (Psalm 66:10-12)

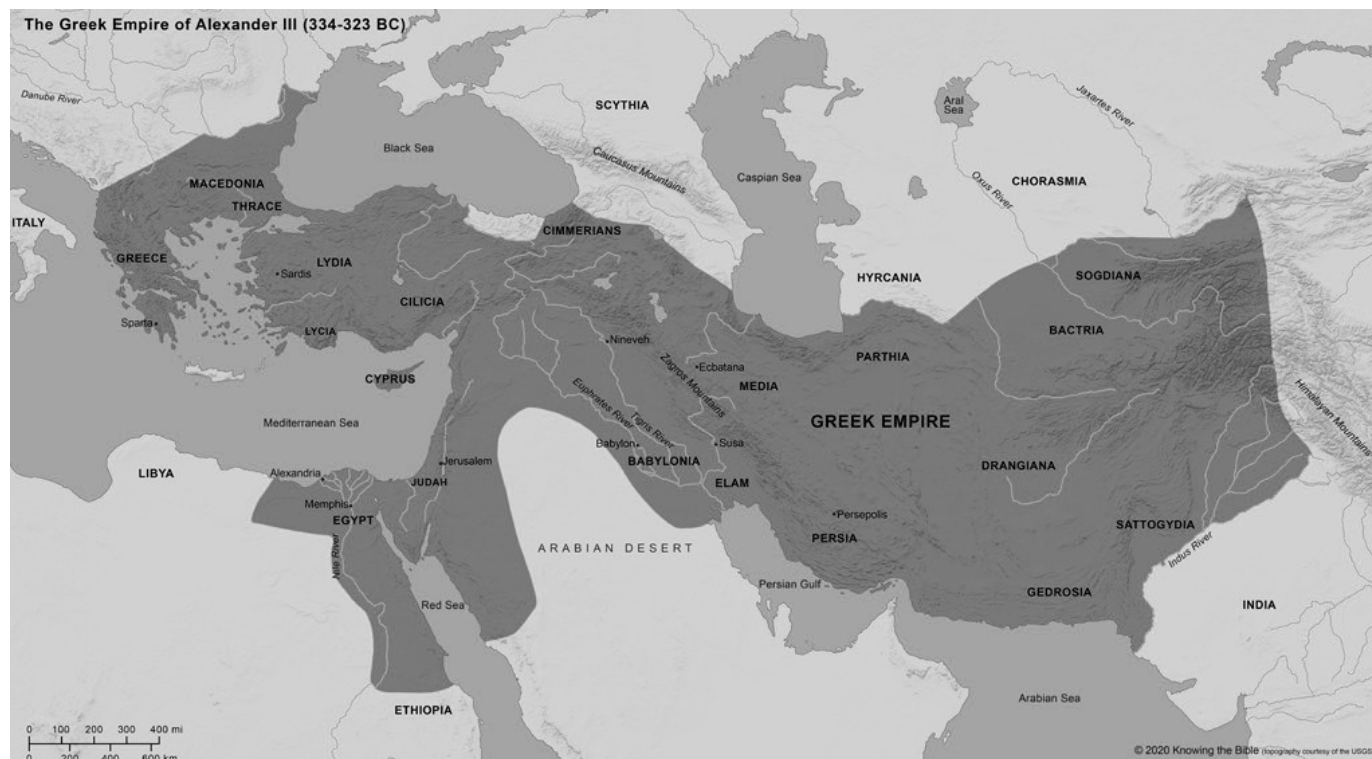
During the Persian empire the Jews were given permission and help to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city and the temple. Not everyone would return, but those who did returned as a people who had respect for their God and their heritage. The hardship and pressure of the exile had turned them into a unified nation, different from the nations around them and they no longer had a desire to worship the gods of other nations.

The Persian Empire lasted from 539 to 334 BC.

BRONZE:

What was said about the third kingdom? V39

Probably you have heard of Alexander the Great. He was a Greek and said to be one of the greatest military strategists and leaders in history. He quickly conquered the Persian Em-



pire and kept going on to India. However, in 323 BC he got sick and died and his empire was thrown into turmoil and eventually split between his four generals who fought each other for control.

The metal called brass in the King James Version is most likely bronze. This was a metal

made by combining two metals: copper and tin. Bronze is a much harder metal than gold or silver, but also semi-precious since tin had to be imported from other areas. It was used for tools, weapons and armour. The Greeks were known as the brassen coated Greeks for the bronze armour they wore.

Bronze or brass is also refined by high temperatures and in the Bible is linked to judgment.

What was bronze (brass in KJV) used for in the tabernacle/temple? (Exodus 38:1-8)

What was the altar and laver for? (Exodus 40:29-32)

Under the Greek empire, Jewish culture was mostly respected and allowed for the first hundred years. During this time the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) was translated into Greek which made the Hebrew scriptures available to all the Jews who no longer spoke Hebrew and to the entire Greek world at the time.

However, towards the end of the Greek empire, a man named Antiochus Epiphanes decided to outlaw the Jewish religion, assuming control of Jerusalem and attempting to make it a Greek city, and defiling the temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar and installing altars to Greek gods. It was a time of injustice and persecution leading to a Jewish revolt where the Jews took back control of Jerusalem and the Temple. Hanukkah is a memorial of the rededication of the Temple once it had been cleansed.

The final remnant of the Greek (Seleucid) Empire ended when the Roman general Pompey established Syria as a Roman province in 64 BC.

IRON:

What was said about the fourth kingdom? V40

What would it do? V40

Iron ore was taken out of the ground and then melted to help get rid of some of the impurities. The iron from this process was like a spongy mass with pockets of slag and very brittle. It was then heated again and hammered to squeeze out the slag and weld the iron crystals together.

Compared to gold, silver, and bronze, iron ore was easily found within the Roman empire.

This meant that it was less expensive and therefore more commonly used. The idea of “breaking in pieces” makes me think of an iron hammer. And indeed, Rome was a very oppressive empire in some ways.

Some of the things that happened under Roman rule were that the temple was renovated and enlarged by Herod. It was also during this time that Jesus lived and died, and was resurrected and Christianity began.

However, it was also under the Romans that Jerusalem was sacked and the temple finally destroyed and the Jews scattered. Jews were banned from residing near Jerusalem, and Christians were persecuted leading to the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman empire. But it was through this breaking up into pieces that a knowledge of God could spread throughout the world.



What was different about the feet and toes of the image? V41

What was the result of the feet being part of clay and part of iron? V42

What would be wrong with the kingdom? V42

Although iron is the strongest metal of the metals in this image, the feet were made weaker by it being mixed with clay. Iron was used for tools and weapons, and the Romans often wore armor made from iron. Clay on the other hand is easily broken. It was used for vessels and for building.

The problem with human kingdoms is that they do not have a strong foundation to stand on. It is impossible for humans to unite together for long. Eventually all human kingdoms break apart and come to an end.

STONE:

But there is one kingdom that would be different, and that is one set up by God.

What would be the difference in the kingdom the God of heaven set up? V44



What would it do to all other kingdoms? V44

How can a stone be cut out without hands? V45

This great stone, that would grow to fill the whole earth, would be God's kingdom. This mountain is spoken of in Isaiah 2.

What would happen at that mountain? (Isaiah 2:3)

Who else is a stone used as a figure for? (1 Peter 2:4-8)

Stone is very strong. It might not be much good for weapons or armour, but it is much more durable and strong when used in building, especially as a foundation. And building is a much more positive activity!

What did Nebuchadnezzar do when Daniel had finished telling the dream and the interpretation? V46

What did he acknowledge about Daniel's God? V47

How was Daniel honoured? V48

What position was he given? V48

Who did Daniel not forget about? V49

GOD IS SOVEREIGN:

What does sovereign mean when it is used of God? Look it up in a dictionary.

Write out Isaiah 46:9-10

Who is head over all kingdoms? (1 Chronicles 29:11-12)

Who can change God's purpose? (Isaiah 14:26-27, Job 42:2)

The only thing we can control is our response to God. What can we choose? (Psalm 119:30, Deuteronomy 30:19-20)

There were about 16 years between the time that Daniel showed Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of his dream, and the next chapter of Daniel. During that time, Nebuchadnezzar unsuccessfully tried to invade Egypt and lost the battle. He returned to Babylon to rebuild his army. Jehoiakim took advantage of the situation and rebelled against Babylon refusing to pay tribute. Three or so years later, Nebuchadnezzar returned to Jerusalem. Jehoiakim had died

three months previously, and Jehoiachin, his son, who had been placed on the throne, surrendered Jerusalem to Babylon.

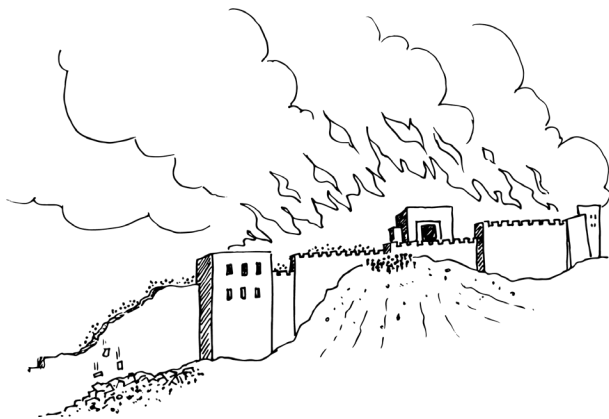
Add to timeline on page 6: 5. Jehoiachin surrenders, captives taken to Babylon.

Who did Nebuchadnezzar take back to Babylon with him this time? (2 Kings 24:13-17)

Who remained in Jerusalem? (2 Kings 24:14)

Zedekiah, son of Jehoiakim, was placed as king over what was left. All was well until Zedekiah rebelled in his ninth year. Zedekiah hoped for help from Egypt, but that did not happen. Nebuchadnezzar's armies marched to Jerusalem and put it under siege. After a year and a half, the city was overcome by famine and fell to the Babylonian army. This was in 586 BC, almost twenty years since Daniel and his friends were brought to Babylon. Daniel and his friends

were now probably in their thirties. They had seen the sad words Jeremiah spoke of fulfilled and knew that God does what He says.



What happened to the city of Jerusalem and the house of God? (2 Kings 25:8-10)

This Babylonian invasion put an end to kingship in Judea. Zedekiah and his sons were killed and a governor, Gedeliah, was put in place. Jehoiachin, however, was still alive in Babylon.

Read Daniel 3:1-7.

What did Nebuchadnezzar construct? V1

The size of this image is a little strange - very tall, but very skinny. It could have been an image of himself, or maybe just a tower.

Why do you think he set it up on a plain? V1

It is not uncommon for kings to require their administration to make some sort of show or oath of allegiance to them. That is probably what was intended here since the common people were not asked to attend. Nebuchadnezzar, having achieved his aims for his empire, gathered representatives from the region to come and show their political submission.

What position did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego have in Babylon? (Daniel 2:49)

What were they all to do when the music was played? V5

What would happen to anyone who refused? V6

Using fire to kill people was not an unheard of thing in Babylon. Who else was killed by fire? (Jeremiah 29:22)

Read Daniel 3:8-12.

There are always going to be people who for various reasons want to get other people in trouble. Clearly the other officials in the kingdom were watching and waiting for an opportunity to hurt the Jews.

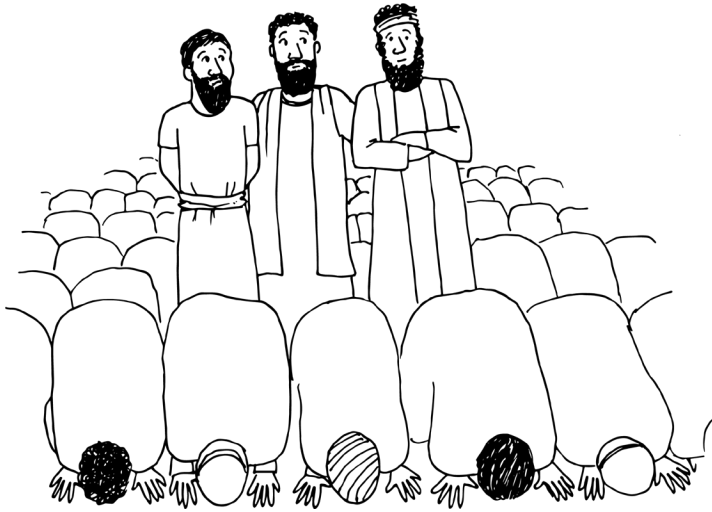
Look up the word “accused” in verse 8 in a concordance. Write down what it means.

What did they accuse the three Jews of? V12

Read Daniel 3:13-18.

What was king Nebuchadnezzar’s reaction to this news? V13

Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar gave them a second chance? V15



How do you know that Nebuchadnezzar's power had made him think he was more powerful than he actually was? V15

What did the three friends tell Nebuchadnezzar they believed their God could do? V17

Look up the references that follow and write down what they knew their God could do and why they believed He could deliver them:

Deuteronomy 4:20

1 Samuel 17:37

Psalms 34:7

Jeremiah 24:5-7

BUT...

Even if God didn't deliver them, they would still not serve his gods, or worship the golden image.

Why do you think they would rather die than serve his gods, or worship the golden image? (Exodus 20:3-5)

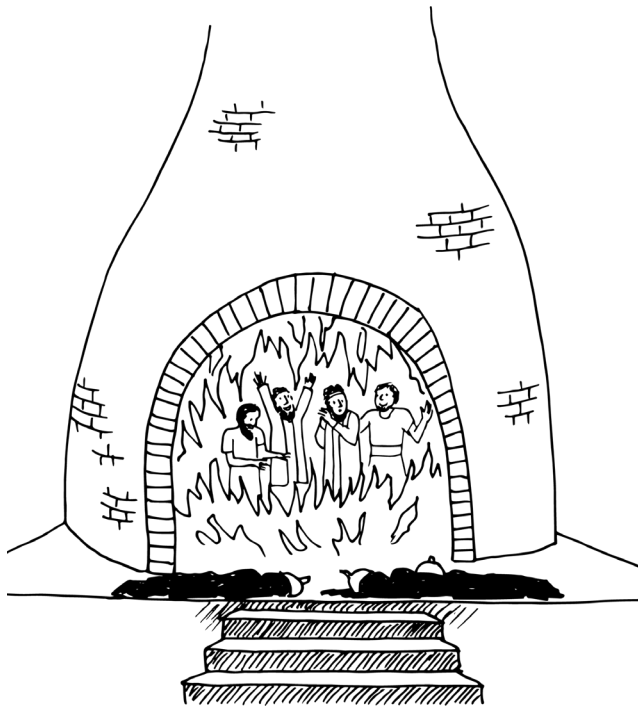
Idols like the Babylonians had are not a common part of Canadian culture today, but idols can still exist. They can be anything that we are slaves to when we should be God's servants.

Worshipping this image would have meant promising loyalty to something other than God, and serving the gods of Babylon would have meant thinking that the God of Israel was just one of many.

Read Daniel 3:19-30.

What was Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to this? V19

Are you getting the impression that King Nebuchadnezzar had a very bad temper?



Babylon was a city made out of millions of bricks. This furnace was possibly an oven that was used to bake bricks in order to make them harder and more weather resistant. A normal fire using wood will burn at around 600 C, but it will get hotter in an enclosed space by pumping in air (oxygen) or adding charcoal which burns hotter. It is nice to stand next to a bonfire when it is cold out, but fire is dangerous when you get too close or it gets too hot.

Nebuchadnezzar was very angry, but maybe a little uncertain too. Just to make sure, he had the fire heated so hot that he didn't believe there was any possibility of deliverance.

His mighty men tied them up in all their clothing, and threw them in, but some unexpected things then happened.

Who were killed? V22 _____

Who weren't killed? V25 _____

Who has joined them in the fire? V25, 28 _____

Add to timeline: 6. Three friends delivered from the fiery furnace.

What had Nebuchadnezzar learned about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's God? V28-29

What was unusual about the three men when they came out of the fire? V27

GOD IS OMNIPOTENT:

What does omnipotent mean? Look it up in a dictionary.

Write out Luke 1:37.

God asks Job lots of questions in Job 38. Write down one example that shows how much more powerful God is than people.

If you truly understand and believe that God is so powerful, then you can believe that God can deliver you out of any situation when you are obeying Him, but even if He doesn't you will still obey.

Nebuchadnezzar went on to make Babylon one of the most magnificent cities of the time, with forty feet tall walls so thick that horses and chariots could be raced on top of them. Thousands of bricks have been found inscribed with his name. The Ishtar gate, the eighth gate to the inner city, part of a grand processional way, was made of glazed brick decorated with a blue rock called lapis lazuli. It was excavated by archaeologists in the early 1900's and reconstructed in a museum in Berlin where it can be seen today.

What did Nebuchadnezzar say about his city? (Daniel 4:30)

Pride is something that can destroy good people when they start thinking of themselves in god-like ways. Sometimes a reminder is needed that each of us are no better or worse than anyone else. Nebuchadnezzar spent seven years living like a beast of the earth, and learning humility.

At the end of his experience, what had he learned? (Daniel 4:37)

Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 BC after a reign of 43 years. His son Evil-Merodach took the throne after him but was assassinated by a man called Neriglissar only two years later. Neriglissar reigned for four years. A conspiracy then put a man named Nabonidus on the throne and he reigned for 17 years. His son, Belshazzar, served as regent in Babylon starting in 533 BC, while his father was absent. At this time, Daniel would have been in his eighties.

Read Daniel 5:1-9.

What did Belshazzar decide to bring out for the feast with his lords? V2

While they drank wine from them, who did they praise? V4

What can gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood and stone do? (Psalm 135:15-18)

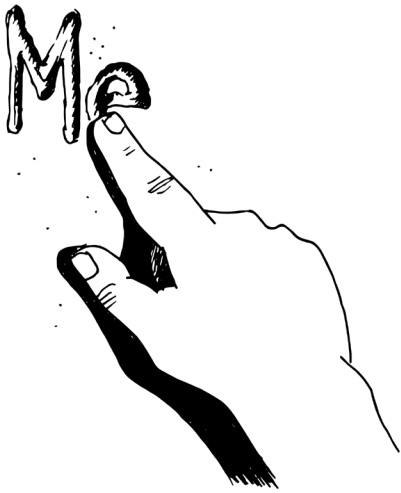


It may not seem that unusual for Belshazzar to be having a feast (probably part of a religious festival in honour of the gods) except that at this moment, Babylon was surrounded by the Persian army. He was confident, however, in the massive double walls of the city and all the supplies stored away, and the gods he thought superior. And so he was having a party. And using the vessels from a previous victory to boost morale.

This is what Smith's Bible Dictionary says about Babylon: "These walls were strengthened by two hundred and fifty towers and pierced with a hundred gateways, the lintels and side posts, as well as the gates themselves, being of brass... the river [the Euphrates which ran through the middle of the city] was enclosed on both banks by quays, which were likewise protected by walls and brass gates".

What did the king see on his wall? V5

What four things happened to king Belshazzar when he saw this? V6



Perhaps you have heard someone say today “the writing is on the wall”. This phrase comes from this story and means that there are clear signs that a situation is going to take a turn for the worse. Although it seems that Belshazzar could not read the writing, his conscience was clearly bothering him to be so afraid.

What three things did he promise to whoever could read and interpret for him? V7

Why do you think the wise men could not read the writing? V8

Why do you think they didn't just make something up?

Read Daniel 5:10-16.

Who thought of getting Daniel to help with this problem? V10

Belshazzar was not the son of Nebuchadnezzar, but it is thought that his father Nabonidus was married to the daughter of Nebuchadnezzar. This would make Nebuchadnezzar Belshazzar's grandfather.

What qualities does she credit Daniel with? V12

Who else can you think of in the Bible who was especially known for his wisdom? (1 Kings 3:9-12)

What do you have to do to get wisdom? (Proverbs 2:1-6)

Although Nebuchadnezzar had made Daniel master of the wise men, it seems that he had retired from the position. He was, of course, no longer a young man. The gifts of scarlet clothing, a gold chain, and being third ruler of the kingdom were probably no longer appealing to Daniel.

During Belshazzar's reign as regent, Daniel experienced several visions about the future from God. He had visions similar to Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the great image. Except that while Nebuchadnezzar saw the kingdoms of men as a great and imposing man, Daniel's vision showed the nations as wild beasts.

These visions would have helped him understand that the captivity was NOT the end of the story, and that evil would eventually be overcome by a glorious future.

Read Daniel 5:17-31.

Before Daniel tells Belshazzar what the writing means, it is important for Belshazzar to take a look back at the lessons his grandfather had learned.

Who gave Nebuchadnezzar his kingdom? v18 _____

What word can you think of that describes what Nebuchadnezzar became as king? V19

What did this lead his heart to be? V20

How did he learn the lesson of humility? V21

What did he acknowledge from this experience? V21

What was wrong with Belshazzar's heart? V22

What was in God's hands? v23

This is such a universal problem... we have difficulty learning lessons from history and end up repeating the same mistakes over and over again.

One way we can stay humble before God is to remember that we are mortal.

Write out Psalm 90:12.

GOD AS SUSTAINER

Write out Acts 17:24-25.

From whose hand does everything come from? (1 Chronicles 29:14-16)

What does God do for you? (Psalm 103:2-5)

How should we respond to the fact that everything comes from God? (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Write out what the writing on the wall meant (Daniel 5:25-28):

MENE _____

TEKEL _____

PERES _____

At night, while this party was going on, the story is that the Medo-Persian army diverted the course of the river so that the water level went down and his troops were able to march through the riverbed into the unsuspecting city.

What happened to Belshazzar? V30

Read Daniel 6:1-9.

There is a little uncertainty about who Darius actually is, but the name is a title that means “the subduer” and was used by more than one king. Probably this was someone appointed by Cyrus to rule over the Chaldeans.

Who did Darius set over the kingdom? V1

Who did he place over these princes? V2

What did the king think to do because of Daniel’s excellent spirit? V3

What does it mean to have an “excellent spirit”? V4

How can you have an “excellent spirit”?

So often people become jealous of those who are successful in life. When those people also don’t allow themselves to participate in dishonorable practices, and are in some way different (for example, a Jew), it can lead to terribly unjust things happening.

Where did they think they might be able to find an occasion to discredit him? V5

What part of his religious life did they decide to focus on? v7

How was the plot they came up with a lie? V7

The Persian empire was very tolerant of other religions and cultures within their empire, however, kings were often thought to have a special relationship with the gods. This plot was really a way of showing who was really in control, implying that the Persian gods were more powerful than all the others.

Read Daniel 6:10-17.

What does Daniel do when he knows that the writing is signed? V10

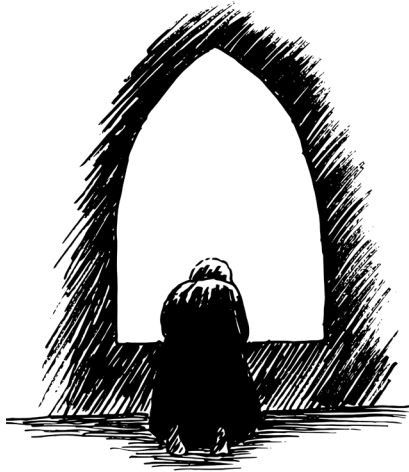
Did Daniel hide what he was doing? V10 _____

Daniel didn't make a big show of disobeying this law. He didn't run to the king to complain. He didn't stand out on the street and pray loudly to his God. He just carried on with his usual behaviour.

How did he pray? V10

Can you find another verse in the Bible that speaks about praying three times a day?

Write out Psalm 119:109-112.



What had Daniel learned at this time from the writing of Jeremiah? (Daniel 9:2)

What did Daniel do because of this? (Daniel 9:3)

Write out how Daniel addresses God in the first part of his prayer (Daniel 9:4)

What did Daniel confess to God? (Daniel 9:8)

What did Daniel acknowledge to God? (Daniel 9:14)

What did Daniel ask God to do? (Daniel 9:16)

The plotters ran to the king as soon as they found Daniel praying to his own God and told on him.

There are some verses in Proverbs 6 that speak about seven things that God hates. Write out all the ones that these men were guilty of. (Proverbs 6:16-19)

How does the king feel about himself when he hears about Daniel? (Daniel 6:14)

This is an important lesson to learn when we are feeling a little flattered by attention. Before making decisions take the time to think about the possible consequences.

Write out Proverbs 29:20.

Although Daniel could have been immediately cast to the lions, what does the king do? V14

What do the men remind the king of? V15

What does the king say to Daniel before he is cast into the den of lions? V16

What do you think King Darius might be remembering from Nebuchadnezzar's reign?

Daniel is cast into the lion's den, a stone placed over the opening, and sealed with the king's ring. And everybody goes to bed.

Since it was nighttime, what do you think it was like in the den?



Read Daniel 6:18-23.

How did the king spend the night? V18

Where did he go as soon as it was morning? V19

How did he describe Daniel's God? V20

This Aramaic word corresponds to the Hebrew word for life "chai" which sounds like "hi" when you say it with an English accent. You may have heard it recently in the slogan "Am Yisrael Chai" which means "the people of Israel live".

In contrast to the lifeless idols and false gods, the God who Daniel served was a living God.

What does Daniel tell the king that God did? V22



God could have just shut the lion's mouths, but he also sent an angel to keep him company in the dark night in the den with the wild animals that he could not see.

What was the reason given for Daniel having no manner of hurt when he was taken up from the den? v23

There are times when God allows his servants to suffer and sometimes be killed in terrible ways. Jesus is an example of this.

This is often because humans choose to do these things to each other, and why God wants us to live by His standards which are just.

Read Daniel 6:24-28.

What did Darius decide to do to those who had plotted against Daniel? V24

What had Darius learned about Daniel's God? V26

Did this mean that everyone in the Persian empire became followers of Daniel's God? No. But it did mean that the Jews were provided with a certain amount of safety and protection. It was during the time of the Persian empire that the Jews were able to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city and the temple and become a people who would continue to be a witness to their God - that He was living, steadfast, eternal, and that He delivers and rescues His people.

Add to timeline on page 6: 7. Daniel delivered from the lions.

GOD IS WITH HIS PEOPLE.

Write out Exodus 3:14.

God's name means more than just existence. It is more correctly translated "I will be that I will be". It means that God is an active presence. He exists, but not only that, He is living, He is with His people. Even though they were captives, far away from their own land and the temple, God was with them.

How did God show this to His people in the following places?

Exodus 8:22-23 _____

Deuteronomy 20:2-4 _____

Why were God's people not consumed? (Lamentations 3:22-25)

How much does He love His people? (John 3:16-17)

Will He stop loving His people? (Romans 8:35-39) _____

Underline all the things in this Psalm that speak of what God does:

Psalm 121

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth,
and even for evermore.

What does the last verse of this chapter tell us about Daniel? V28

Daniel also had several visions himself during his life that are described in the next chapters of Daniel. These visions were meant to help God's people understand what was happening to them and encourage them that there would be a time when all the worldly kingdoms would be replaced by the eternal kingdom of God.

What does God promise would happen in the end? Daniel 12:1

What are God's final words to Daniel? Daniel 12:13

So, when you hear of troubles in the world, when things seem dark and difficult, bring to your mind who God is and what He has promised. Pray for His kingdom to come! And know that God is with His people always wherever we are.

Write out Daniel 12:3.

