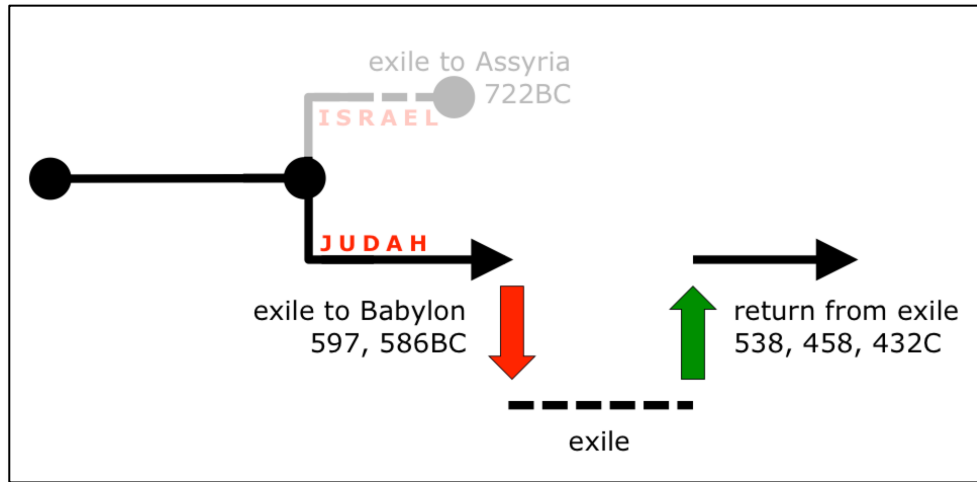


INTRODUCING DANIEL



Year BC	Time ref	Event	Story	Daniel age?
620 ?		The birth of Daniel		
605	1:1	Daniel carried into exile	Dan 1	15
603	2:1	Nebuchadnezzar's dream	Dan 2	17
580 ?		The fiery furnace	Dan 3	
580-70 ?		Nebuchadnezzar's humbling	Dan 4	
562		Death of Nebuchadnezzar	pre 5:1	58
552	7:1	Vision 1	Dan 7	68
550	8:1	Vision 2	Dan 8	70
539	5:30-31	Belshazzar's feast	Dan 5	81
539/8	9:1	Vision 3 (after Daniel's prayer)	Dan 9	81
539	6:1	The lion's den	6:1	81
539	Ezra 1	Cyrus edict re return		
538		First return from exile	Ezra	
536	10:1	Vision 4	Dan 10-12	84

SESSION 1

DANIEL 1:1-21

God rules ... when his people are punished

God rules ... when his people prosper

(And because God rules ...) Live as exiles

AFTER SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION TIME

Are there things from the talk that you'd like to talk about now?

We do find it hard to continue to believe that God is in charge when things are hard. But why?

In your current life situations (work, household, family, friends, lifestyle, etc), where have you had to make a public stand that your first loyalty is to God?

What are the costs of 'saying no to food from the king's table'?



DANIEL OVERVIEW

PRIVATE STUDY (11.15am-12.15pm)

(You'll need to use some other paper!)

- 1 Read through the book of *Daniel* (- out loud?). The key thing is to make sure that you definitely get to the end of the book in this hour!
- 2 As you read, mark the A3 paper copy using different coloured pens (& highlighters if you have them), underlinings, lines to connect phrases, and symbols like these:
! = surprise
? = don't understand
* = seems important
... etc
- 3 Divide the book into (no more than eight) sections, and give each section a short sentence title that describes the contents.
- 4 What has struck you as the two or three main recurring themes? Trace each theme through the book by jotting down some references.
- 5 Can you spot any patterns in the way that the chapters are put together? Why do you think the book is put together like this?

GROUP DISCUSSION TIME (12.20-12.55pm)

What does *Daniel* tell us about God?

What does *Daniel* tell us about the present and the future?

What does *Daniel* tell us about the experience of God's people?



SESSION 3

DANIEL 2 & 7 ... 3 & 6

The king of kings and the Lord of kings

The wrecking rock and the son of man

Enduring the roar of the monster

AFTER SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION TIME

In what ways do you feel as if 'monsters are in charge' ... whether on the world/national stage, or in your own life in the events all around you every day?

Why does 'the sawdust' always grab our attention far more than 'the wheelbarrow'?!

How can we help each other to remember about the wrecking rock that's going to come rolling down the hill? (Now be more specific and practical than you just were in your first answer to that question!)



DANIEL 8-12 / 9:1-27

covered with shame

9:3-11

concerned for God's reputation

9:16-19

consider the word

9:24-27

word going out (23)	the word of Daniel 9
	7 x 7
anointed one comes (25)	Cyrus' decree (Ezra 1)
building project troubled times	62 x 7
anointed one cut off (26)	Jesus' life and death
strong covenant imposed sacrifice ends / abominations	1 x 7
decreed end (27)	Jesus' return

PERSONAL PRAYER TIME

Jot down things from the talk that you want to pray about now. And pray!

And also ...

- thank God for his current **rule**, and that the kingdom he establishes will bring all other kingdoms to an end '... that all peoples, nations and languages should serve him'.
- thank God for his **rescue** of his people. For some, that may mean rescue from the fiery furnace or the lion's den. 'But if not' ... we can be certain of his final deliverance of us (cf Philippians 1:19-21).
- pray to **live logically** in the light of all we've discovered this weekend. God rules over every powerful person/institution/nation/etc, so why would I join in with the Babel-builders?

DANIEL 4 & 5

How to live in Shinar

The Tower of Babel was at Shinar
(Gen 11:2; Zech 5:5-11; Isa 11:11)

'*Daniel*' is about the Tower of Babel'
... where God 'babbed' language.



The humbling of proud King Nebuchadnezzar

The humbling of proud King Belshazzar

Be wise before the King of Heaven

AFTER SESSION 5

TO THINK ABOUT AFTER THIS WEEKEND

After all we've read in *Daniel* this weekend, what does it mean to 'be wise'?

What might it mean for you this week/month/year to 'endure the roar of the monster'... living in this what-you-see-is-what-you-get world and humbling yourself before the King of heaven?

This weekend, God has been revealing 'the other reality' to us. How will you keep that at the forefront of your mind, so that you can live in Babylon as a citizen of Jerusalem?

