

THE BOOK OF **DANIEL**

THIS WEEK:

“Daniel & His Friends”

Chapters 1-6

NEXT WEEK:

“Daniel Prophetic Writings”

Chapters 7-12

“About half of [Daniel] is history, and [the other] half... is prophetic. The first half is narration, and the second... is revelation... In Chapters 1–6, Daniel is spoken of in third person, and in Chapters 7–12, Daniel speaks in first person.” (Dr. Graham Scroggie)

THE BOOK OF **DANIEL**

THREE INSTANCES TODAY:

- **Chapters 1-4** during the reign of the Babylonian **King Nebuchadnezzar...**
- **Chapter 5-6** during the reign of the Persian **King Darius...**
- **Chapter 10** during the reign of the Persian **King Cyrus...**

THE TIMELINE OF DANIEL

“Babylon invaded Judah on three separate occasions before finally [destroying] it in 586 BC.” (Jon Courson)

- Daniel and friends taken to Babylon during the **FIRST INVASION** (appx. 605 BC)
- Daniel **BELIEVED** to have been about 20 years old...

“Daniel’s ministry continues [beyond Babylon] and into the Persian period... covering about 72 years... Daniel must have been around 90 years old at the time of his death.” (Dr. Graham Scroggie)

“This book has TREMENDOUS LESSONS... for how we are to walk in this world in which we live.” (Jon Courson)

HOW DO WE LIVE IN
BABYLON?

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Dan. 1:1-2: **“In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim... into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure-house of his god.”**

2 Kings 20:12-13: **“Berodach-Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick. And Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures—the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory—all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.”**



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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2 Kings 20:16-18: **“The days are coming when all that is in your house... what your fathers have accumulated... shall be carried to Babylon... And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you... and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”**

ISAIAH'S
PROPHECY
COMES
TRUE IN
THE BOOK
OF DANIEL!

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Dan. 1:1-7: “**The king [of Babylon] instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel... young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, [with] knowledge and quick to understand... whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.**” – “**The king appointed for them a daily provision of the king’s delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training... so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king. [And] from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.**” – “**To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: to Daniel [he gave] the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.**”

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Babylonian Indoctrination

The Babylonian indoctrination process was a systematic effort to assimilate the Jewish exiles into Babylonian culture and governance. The tactics employed included isolation, indoctrination, and confusion. The goal was to replace the Jewish identity with Babylonian culture, making it difficult for the exiles to maintain their original beliefs and practices. This process was part of a broader strategy to weaken the cultural and religious identity of the Israelites and to integrate them into the



INDOCTRINATION

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THE BOOK OF DANIEL

- **REMOVE THEM FROM THEIR FAMILIES...**
- **DRESS THEM in Babylonian CLOTHES...**
- **SPEAK TO THEM in Babylonian LANGUAGE...**
- **EDUCATE THEM in Babylonian CUSTOMS...**
- **YOUNG MEN often IMASCULATED**
- **GIVE THEM Babylonian names...**

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identity of the Israelites and to integrate them into the Babylonian empire.



**YOU ARE
BABYLONIAN!**

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

1st John 5:19: “**the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.**”

2 Cor. 4:4: “**whose minds the god of this age has blinded...**”

1st John 2:15: “**do not to love the world, or the things in the world.**”

“**THE WORLD SYSTEM**”

“A secular, anti-God way of doing things that is typical of human society...” (David Guzik)



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Dan. 1:8: **“Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies...”**



DANIEL “GOD IS MY JUDGE”

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Dan. 1:9-21: **“God... brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.”** – **“God gave [Daniel and his 3 friends] knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”** – **“in all matters of wisdom and understanding... the king... found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.”**

VS. 21: **“Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.”**

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Dan. 2:48-49: “**the king promoted Daniel...**”
“**[He] made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon... chief administrator over all the wise men... ALSO... Daniel petitioned the king, and... set Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; [and] Daniel sat in the gate of the king.**”

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THEY WERE FREE OF TRIAL OR CONFLICT!

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Dan. 3:1: **“Nebuchadnezzar... made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.”**

VS. 4-6: **“a herald cried [out], saying: whoever does not fall down and worship [the image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up] shall be cast... into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.”**

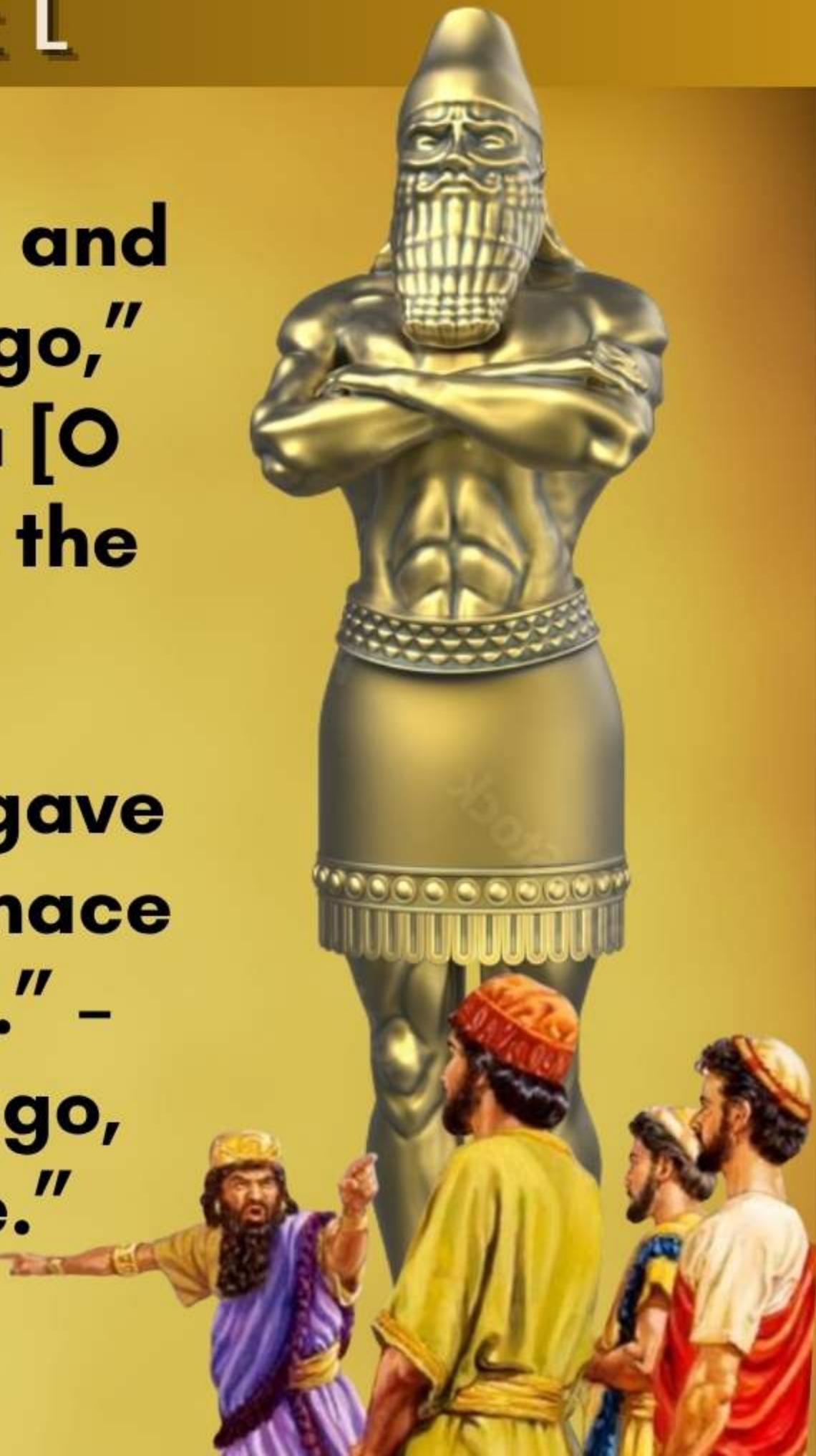


**ABOUT 90 FT. HIGH
& 9 FT. WIDE**

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Dan. 3:8-12: **“certain Chaldeans came forward and accused... Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego,” saying they “have not paid due regard to you [O king]. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.”**

VS. 13-19: **“Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command... that they [should] heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.” - And “bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.”**



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Dan. 3:21-23: **“Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace... the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.**

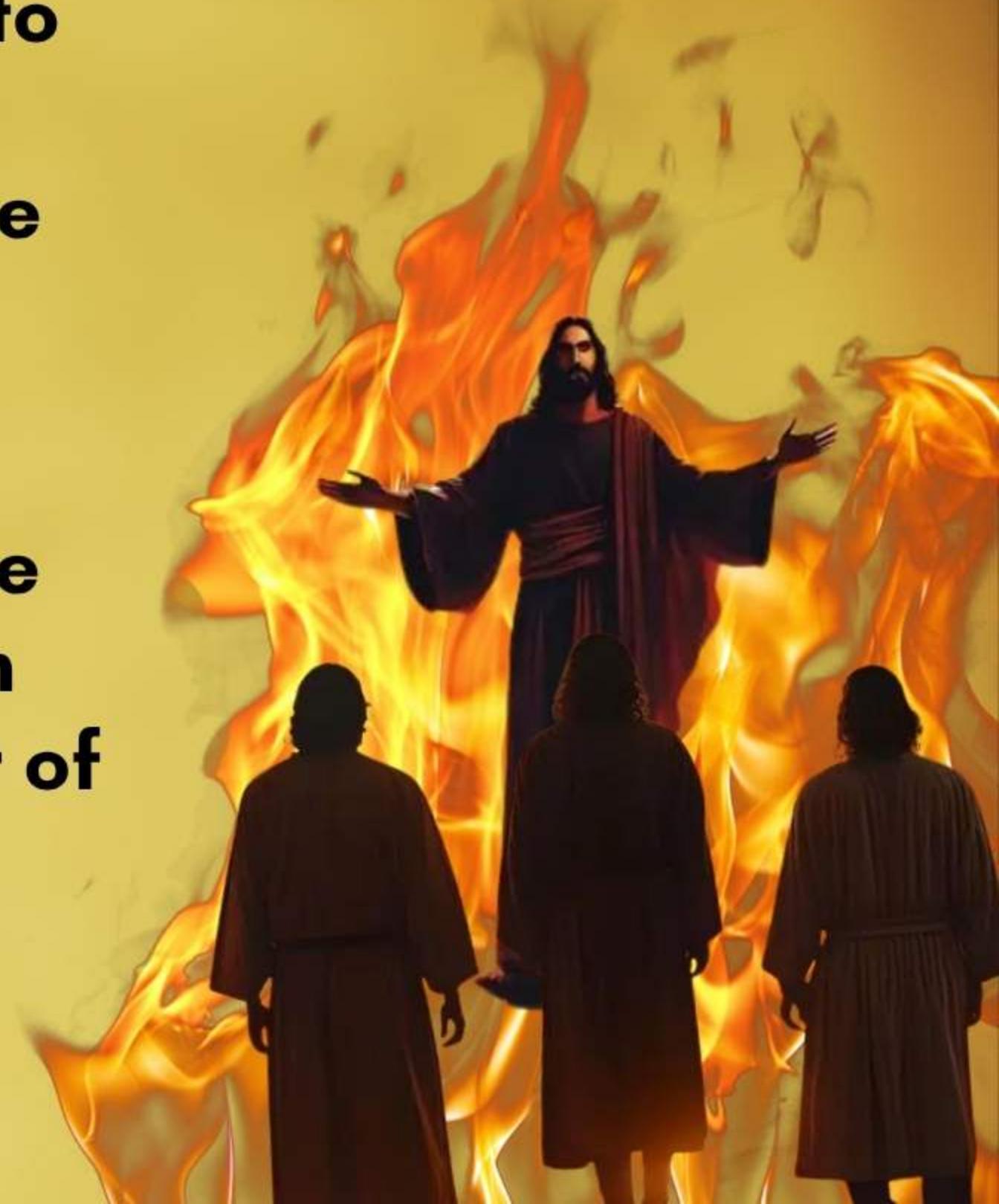
And... Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.”



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Dan. 3:24-27: “**Nebuchadnezzar... [said] to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men... into the midst of the fire?” – “I see four men... walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”**

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.” – “these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.”



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Dan. 3:28-30: "**Nebuchadnezzar [said]:**
'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach,
& Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and
delivered His servants who trusted in Him...
I make a decree that any people, nation, or
language which speaks anything... against
the God of Shadrach, Meshach, &Abed-
Nego shall be cut in pieces... their houses
shall be made an ash heap; because there
is no other God who can deliver like this.'



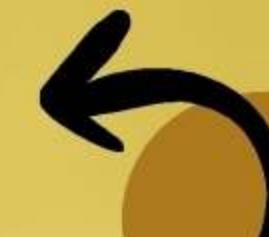
**Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.**

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

DANIEL CHAPTER 5:

“The Writing on the Wall”

Dan. 5:1: **“Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand.”**



WHO IS
BELSHAZZAR?
WHAT HAPPENED TO
NEBUCHADNEZZAR?

DANIEL CHAPTER 6:

“Daniel in the Lion’s Den”

WHO is BELSHAZZAR?

"Prior to the middle of the 19th century... Belshazzar was unknown to history, allowing critics to question the... the book of Daniel. Ancient historians—such as Berossus—record that Nabonidus was the last king of Babylon.

This changed in 1854, when J.E. Taylor discovered four cylinders in... a ziggurat at Ur which contained a prayer of Nabonidus... which says: 'As for me, Nabonidus, King of Babylon... grant me as a present a life of long days, and as for Belshazzar, my oldest son... may he be sated with a life of plentitude."

Bible Archeology Report

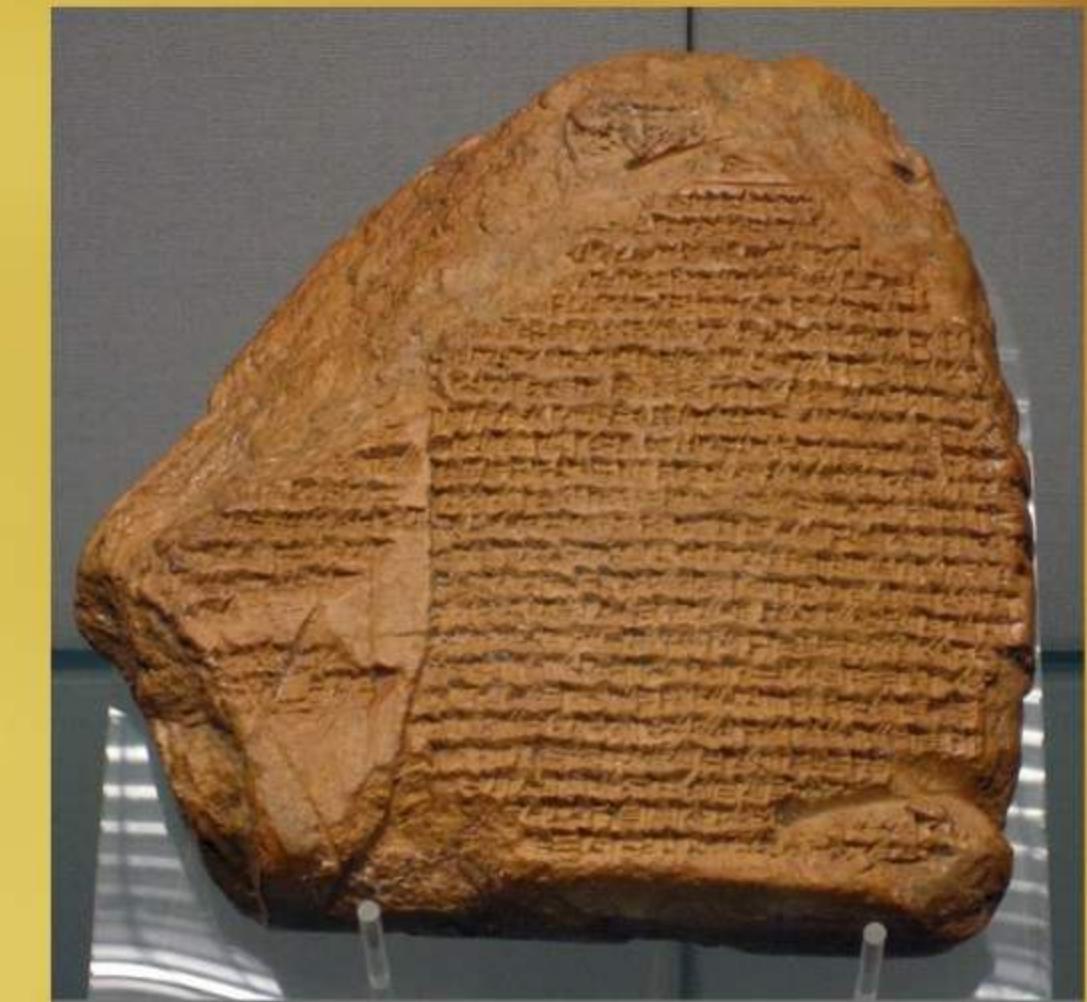


ONE OF THE NABONIDUS CYLINDERS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

WHO is BELSHAZZAR?

“In 1924, the Persian Verse Account of Nabonidus was discovered... during which [Nabonidus] “entrusted the army to his oldest son, his first born... He... entrusted the kingship to him, and... started out for a long journey.” These inscriptions affirm [that] Belshazzar... served as a co-regent of Babylon. Thus, a king [just] as Daniel records.”

Bible Archeology Report

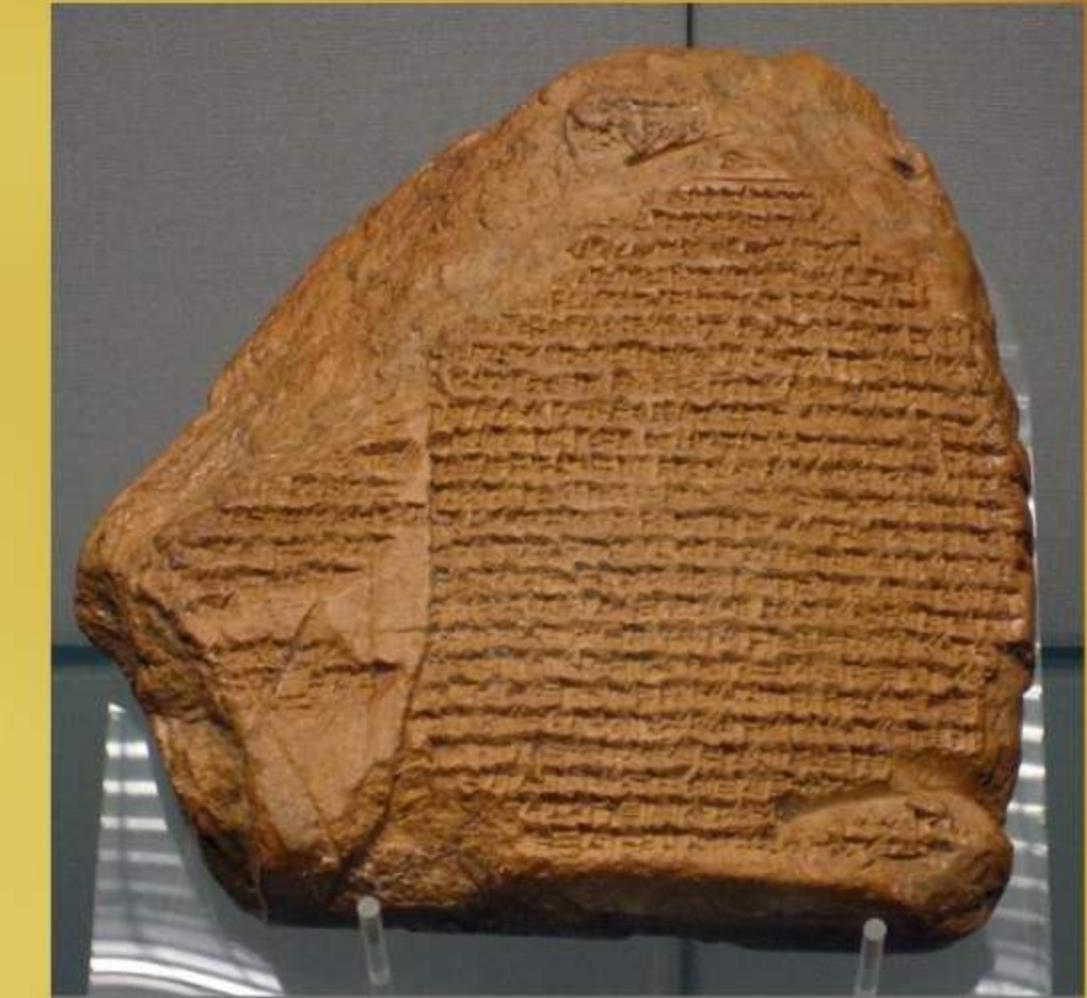


THE NABONIDUS CHRONICLE (PERSIAN VERSE ACCOUNT) IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

WHO is BELSHAZZAR?

“According to Babylonian records, Belshazzar [continued as] co-regent... until 539 B.C. It is most likely that at the time of Daniel 5, Nabonidus had gone out to fight the Medo-Persian army and had been already captured. Those armies now surround Babylon, and were looking for a way into the strongly defended city.”

David Guzik



THE NABONIDUS CHRONICLE (PERSIAN VERSE ACCOUNT) IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

DANIEL CHAPTER 5

Dan. 5:1-6: **“Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. In the same hour the fingers of a man’s hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king’s countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other.”**



DANIEL CHAPTER 5

Dan. 5:10-12: “**The queen spoke, saying... ‘There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God...’** – “King Nebuchadnezzar... made him chief of the magicians, astrologers... and soothsayers...” – “Let DANIEL be called, and he will give the interpretation.”

VS. 24-28: “**God sent this message...**” – “**God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it... You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting... Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.**”



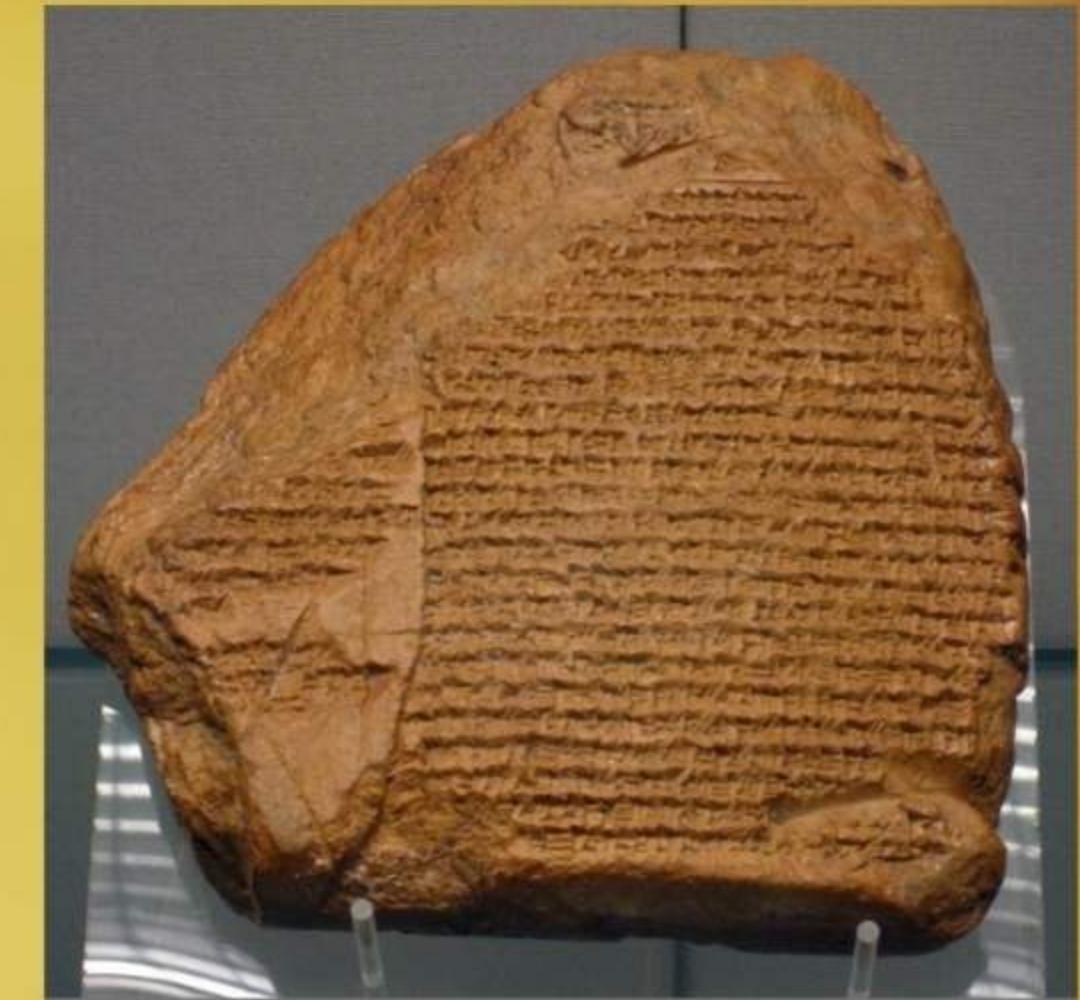
TAKE NOTE OF THIS



DANIEL CHAPTER 5

“The Nabonidus Chronicle—from 556 to 539 BC” records TWICE that “the people of Akkad retreated... On the fourteenth day Sippar was captured without a battle... On the sixteenth day, Ugbaru, governor of Gutium, and the army of [the Persians] without battle... entered Babylon.”

Bible Archeology Report

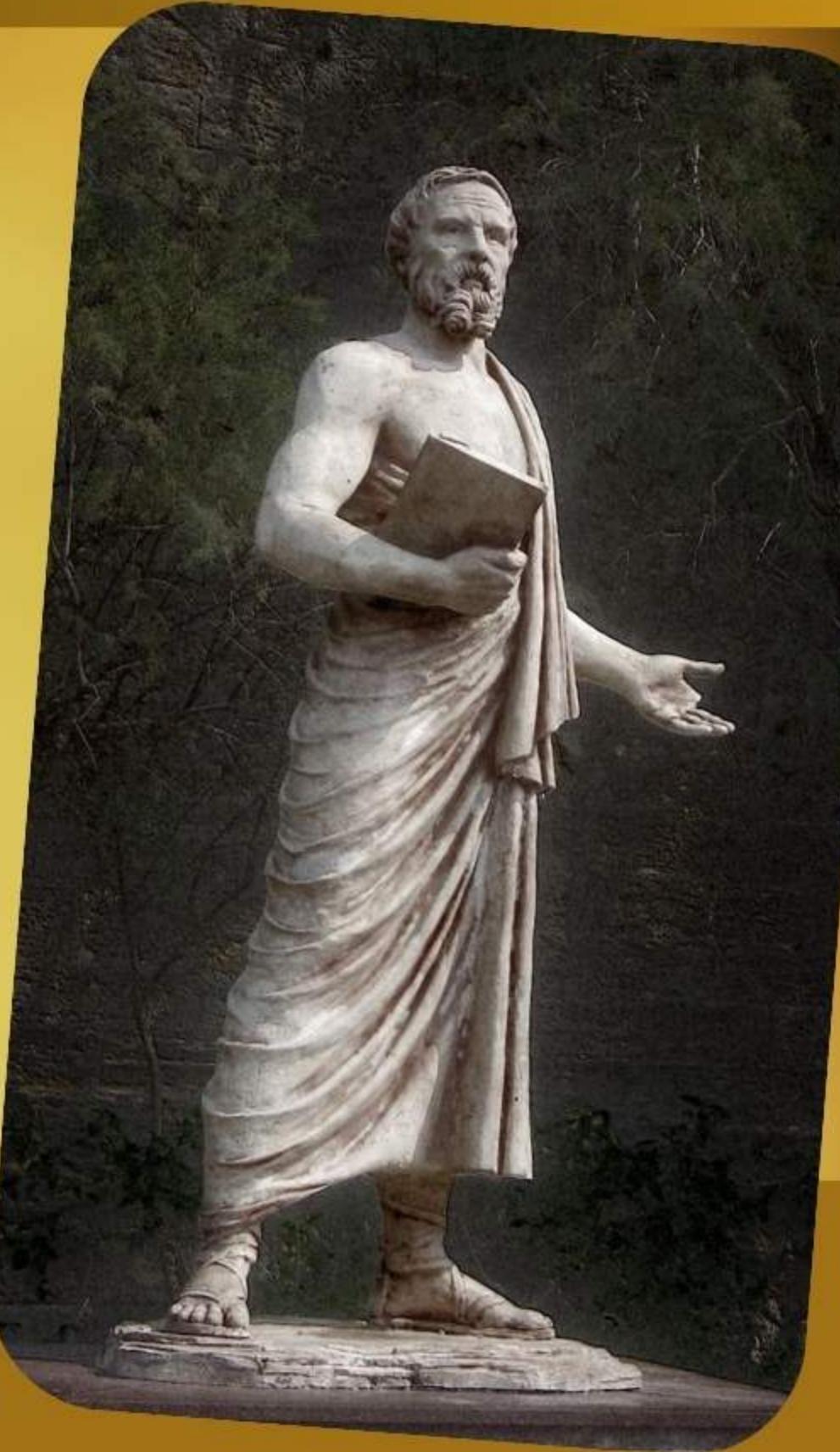


THE NABONIDUS CHRONICLE (PERSIAN VERSE ACCOUNT) IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

DANIEL CHAPTER 5

*"The ancient Greek historian Herodotus relates that the [Persians] conquered Babylon by diverting the flow of the Euphrates [river] into a nearby swamp. This lowered the level of the river so [that] troops marched through the water and under the river-gates. They still would not have been able to enter [Babylon] had not the bronze gates of the inner walls been left **inexplicably unlocked**. This was exactly what God predicted in Isaiah 44 & 45 and Jeremiah 51. God opened the gates of the city of Babylon for [the Persians], and put it in writing 200 years before it happened." (David Guzik)*

"...the taking of Babylon was as bloodless and effortless as Daniel Chapter 5 implies." (Alec Motyer)



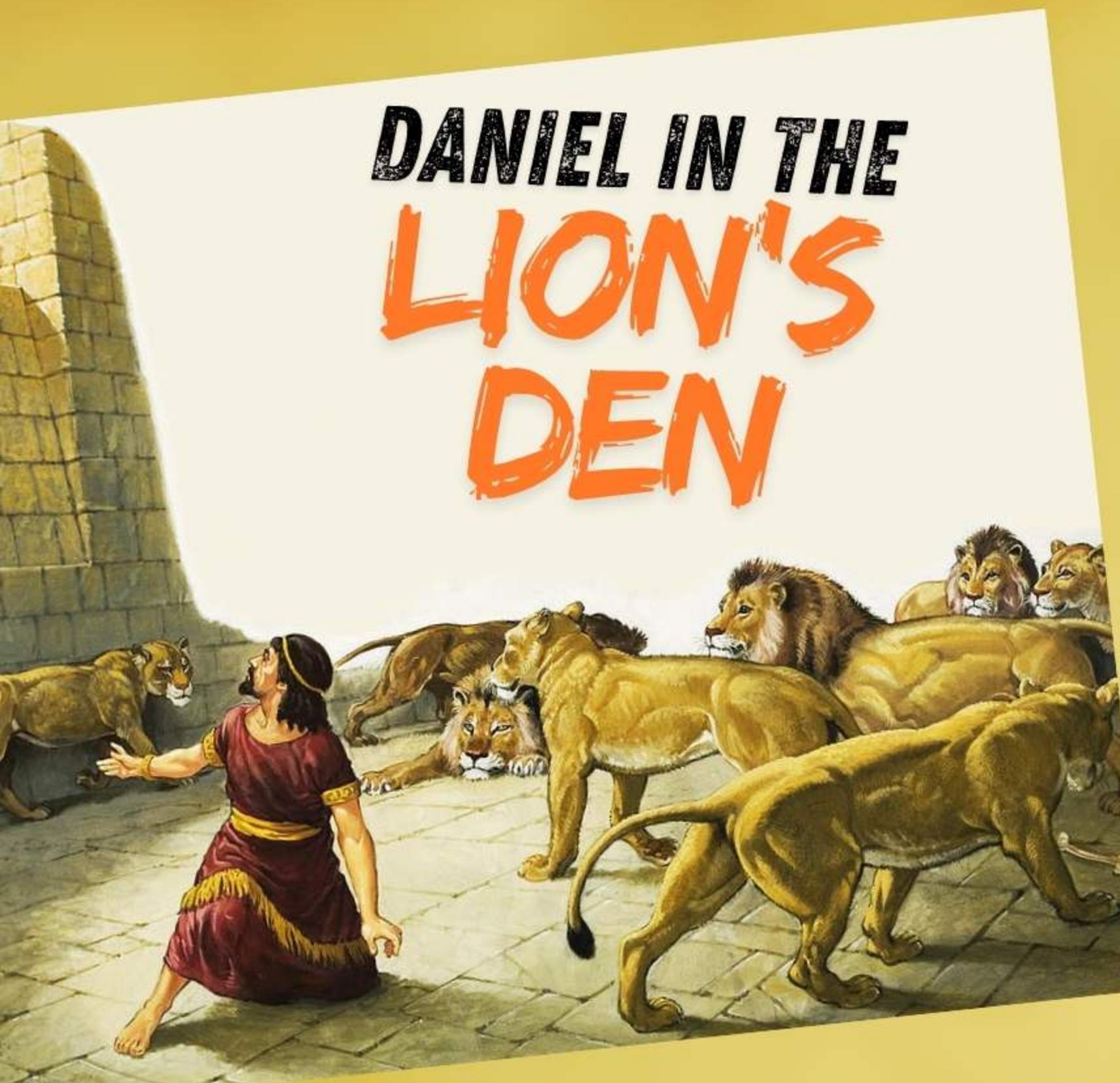
DANIEL CHAPTER 5

Dan. 5:30-31: **“That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. – And Darius the Mede received the kingdom...”**

“Xenophon, Herodotus, and Daniel agree that the city was taken by surprise, at the time of a festival, and without much loss of life. The Cyropaedia states that a father and son were both reigning over Babylon when the city fell, and that the younger ruler was killed.”



DANIEL CHAPTER 6



DANIEL IN THE **LION'S DEN**

Daniel is living under a
DIFFERENT KING... And in a
DIFFERENT KINGDOM...

It's **NO LONGER** the
BABYLONIAN EMPIRE... it's
the **PERSIAN EMPIRE**...

Daniel 3 involves
DANIEL'S FRIENDS...

Daniel 6 involves
DANIEL HIMSELF...

DANIEL CHAPTER 6

Dan. 6:3 **“Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king [Darius] gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.”**

VS. 4-5: **“The governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel... but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful... [They] said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”**