Walking with the Captives

Week 3

Daniel's faithfulness to God

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To read the Bible online go to:

http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/King-James-Version-KJV-Bible/



The writing on the wall



Daniel in the den of lions

To read KJV in 21st Century English go to:

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Sunday

Nebuchadnezzar lives like an animal

Bible Reading: Daniel 4v19-37

1. What happened for an hour? (v19)
2. Why? (v19)
3. Who was the great tree in the dream? (v22)
4. What would happen to him for 7 years? (v25+32)
5. Why? (v25+32)
6. What would be sure for him after? (v26)
7. What did Daniel tell him to do? (v27)
8. When did this happen? (v29)

Nebuchadnezzar had a year to get right with God BUT he didn't. He was really, really proud. So, God was going to teach him the hard way.

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9. What was he boasting about? (v30)
10. What was Nebuchadnezzar like? (v33)
11. What returned to him after 7 years? (v34+36)
12. Who did he praise and honour? (v34, 35 +37)
13. Who is God able to bring down? (v37)

"Break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor." (Daniel 4v27)



Answers

1) Daniel was astonished and his thoughts troubled him; 2) The dream and meaning was to Nebuchadnezzar's enemies who hated him; 3) Nebuchadnezzar; 4) He would live and eat with the animals of the field; 5) Until he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whoever He wants; 6) His kingdom; 7) Break off his sins and show mercy to the poor; 8) After 12 months (1 year); 9) He had built great Babylon by his mighty power, and honour of his majesty; 10) He ate grass, was wet with dew, had hairs like eagles' feathers, and nails like birds claws; 11) His understanding, his reason; 12) The Most High God; 13) Proud people



God is Sovereign. He rules over all.

We can't tell God what to do. He does as He chooses. It took 7 years of living like an animal before Nebuchadnezzar humbled himself. Then, he praised and honoured God as the King of heaven (v37).

"And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Daniel 4v35)

Sinful pride can ruin your life.

You need to give God the credit HE deserves.



Imagine standing before the most powerful king in the world and telling him: 'You are proud. You need to turn from your sins. God will bring you down.'

It takes courage to speak up for God. People don't like to hear the truth about their pride and sins.

BUT remember: Sinful pride can ruin your life.

Monday

Vision of 4 beasts

Bible Reading: Daniel 7v1-14

1. When did Daniel have this vision? (v1)
2. What came out of the sea? (v3)
3. What was the 1st beast like? (v4)
4. What was the 2nd beast like? (v5)
5. What was the 3rd beast like? (v6)
6. What was the 4th beast like? (v7+19)
7. What did a little horn do? (v8)
8. Who sat upon His throne? (v9)
9. What was opened for the judgment? (v10)
10. Who came with clouds? (v13)
11. What was He given? (v14)
12. Who will serve him? (v14)



MEANINGS:

Sum = total;

Strove = stirring up;

Diverse = different;

Devour = eat;

Flesh = meat;

Fowl = bird;

Dreadful = very cruel;

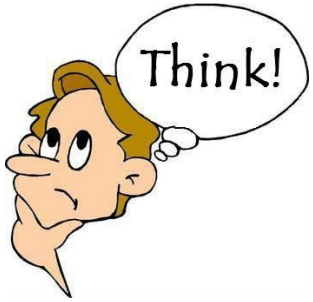
Terrible = awful;

Issued = came out;

Judgment was set = court was seated

Answers

1) The 1st year of Belshazzar's reign; 2) 4 great beasts; 3) Lion with eagle's wings; 4) Bear with 3 ribs in its mouth; 5) Leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads; 6) Dreadful, terrible, strong with great iron teeth, brass nails and 10 horns; 7) Came up and plucked out 3 of the 10 horns; 8) The Ancient of Days (God); 9) The books; 10) The Son of Man; 11) Everlasting dominion, glory and kingdom; 12) All people, nations, and languages



God will judge us. He is our Creator, so He has the right to judge us.

He is Just. He will judge us correctly….in righteousness and truth. Are you ready to meet your Judge?

"He cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth." (Psalm 96v13)

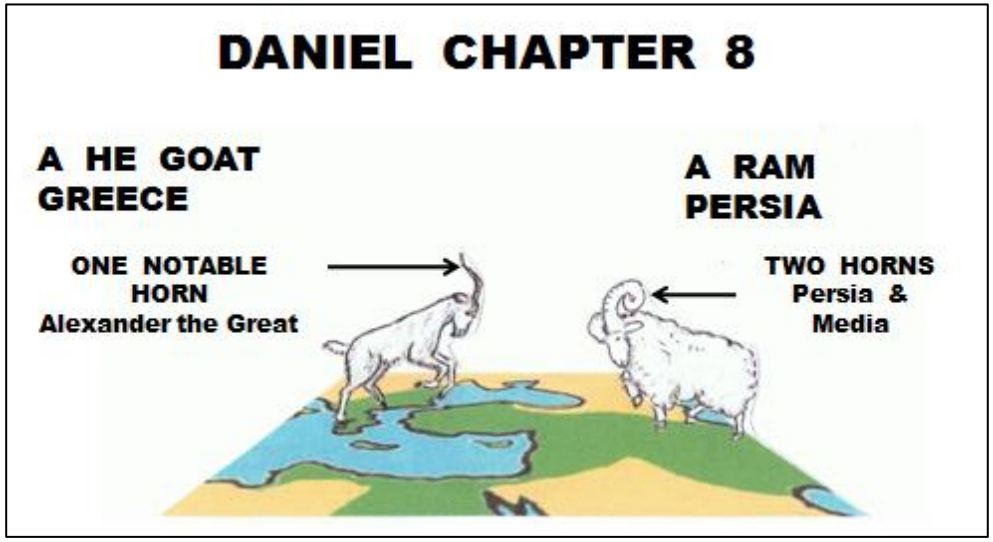
"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14v12)



The prophet **Daniel** had other visions too.

In the 3rd year of Belshazzar's reign he dreamt about a ram and a he goat (chapter 8).

The ram with 2 horns meant the kings of Media and Persia (8v20). The he goat meant the king of Grecia (8v21). Grecia would defeat the Medo-Persia Empire.



Tuesday

Meaning of Beast Vision

Bible Reading: Daniel 7v15-28

1. What was wrong with Daniel? (v15)
2. What did he want to know? (v16)
3. What were the 4 beasts? (v17)
4. Who would possess the kingdom forever? (v18)
5. What beast did he really want to know about? (v19+20)
6. What did a little horn on it do? (v21)
7. Until when? (v22)
8. What did the 10 horns mean? (v24)
9. What would another king rise up to do? (v24+25)

Wear out means to persecute. He will make Christians suffer much.
A 'time and times and the dividing of time' (v25) means 3 ½ years.

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10. What would be taken from him? (v26)
11. Who would it be given to? (v27)
12. What did all this do to Daniel? (v28)

Answers

1) He was grieved in spirit and his visions troubled him; 2) The truth, the interpretation; 3) 4 kings that will arise on earth; 4) The saints of the Most High God; 5) The 4th beast; 6) made war with the saints and won; 7) The Ancient of Days came and judged; 8) 10 kings that would arise; 9) Subdue 3 kings, speak great words against the Most High, wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws; 10) His dominion; 11) Saints of the Most High; 12) His thoughts troubled him and his countenance changed but he kept it all in his heart



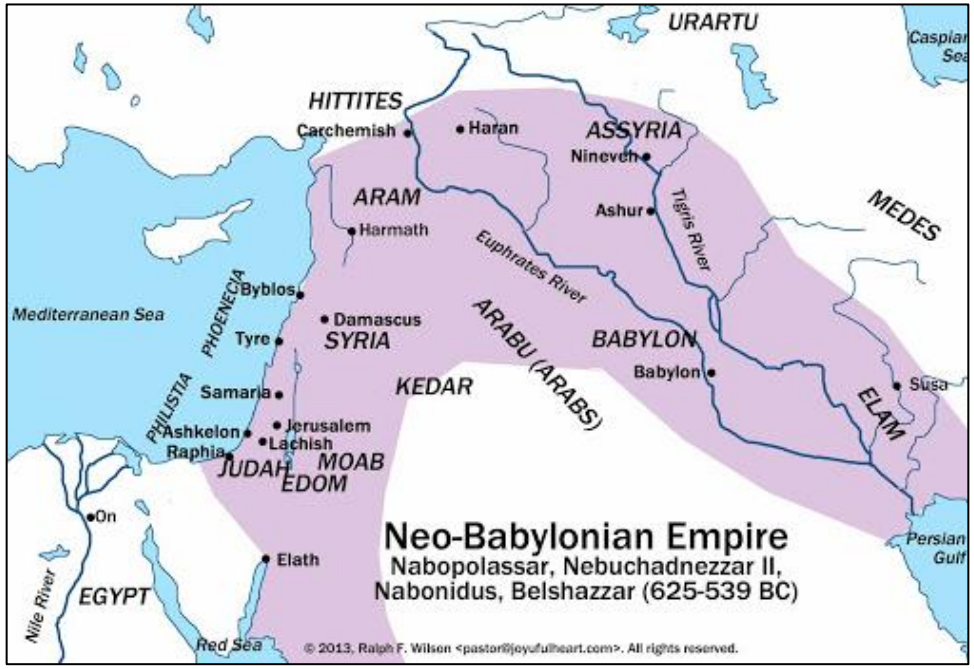
"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." (2 Thessalonians 2v3)



What do these beasts mean?



The lion beast represents the Babylonian empire.



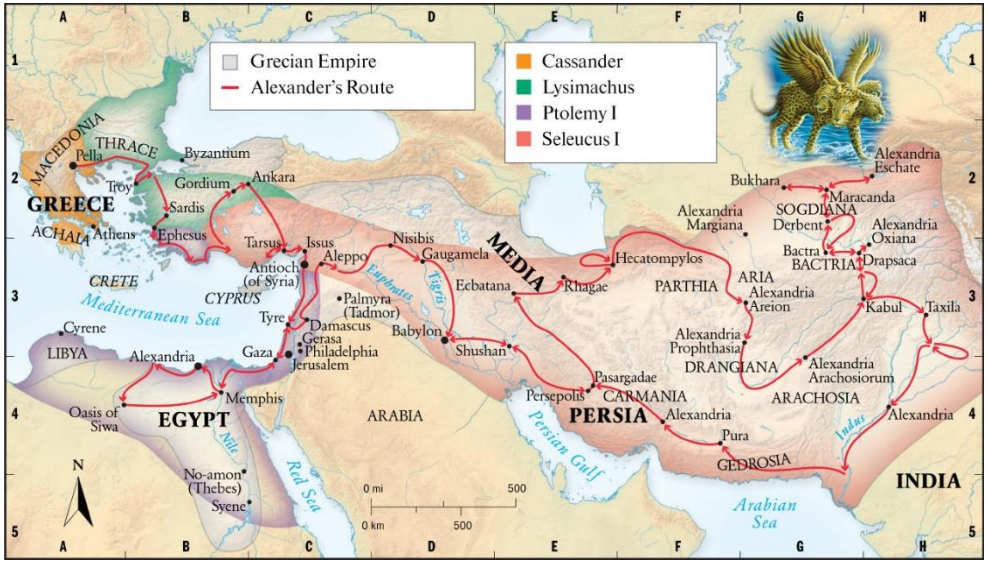


The bear represents Medo-Persian empire





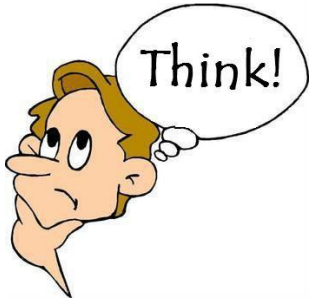
The leopard represents the kingdom of Greece.





The monster beast represents the Roman Empire





The saints were fought against and worn out. But in the end they won. Why? Because they were on God's side.

Life can be discouraging at times. It seems one problem after another hits us. Sometimes you feel you're in a losing battle.

But don't give up. If you're on God's side you won't face the battle alone. Remember, God wins in the end!



This map shows the 4 divisions of the Greek empire.

Daniel 8 describes 4 horns on a male goat (v8, 21+22). Alexander the Great conquered the Persian empire in 333 BC. But the 4 horns represent the 4 divisions/kingdoms in the Greek empire.

"...the four horns that arose in its place are the four kingdoms which will arise from his nation, although not with his power" (8:22)



Cassander took over Europe

Lysimachus took over Asia Minor (Turkey)

Ptolemy took over Egypt

Seleucus took over the Middle East

Wednesday

Belshazzar's feast

Bible Reading: Daniel 5v1-16

1. What did Belshazzar do? (v1)
2. What did they drink out of? (v2+3)
3. Who did they praise? (v4)
4. What wrote on the wall? (v5)
5. How did the king feel? (v6)
6. What would he give the man who told him what it meant? (v7+16)
7. Who could NOT tell him? (v7, 8+15)
8. So, how did Belshazzar and his lords feel? (v9)
9. Who said to send for Daniel? (v10+12)

This was the old queen.... probably Belshazzar's mother. She wasn't at the feast (v10). His wives were (v2).

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10. What did she say was in Daniel? (v11+12)
11. What was Daniel able to do? (v12)

Answers

1) Made a great feast for 1000 of his lords; 2) Gold and silver vessels from the temple of God in Jerusalem; 3) The gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood and stone; 4) the fingers of a man's hand; 5) So scared his knees knocked against each other; 6) Clothed in scarlet, have gold chain around his neck, and be 3rd ruler in the kingdom; 7) Astrologers, Chaldeans, soothsayers, and all the king's wise men; 8) Belshazzar was greatly troubled and his lords were astonished; 9) The queen; 10) The spirit of the holy gods, excellent spirit of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding; 11) Interpret dreams, show hard sentences, and dissolve doubts

MEANINGS:

Concubines = mistresses, women with less rights than wives;

Plaister = plaster;

Soothsayers = fortune tellers;

Show hard sentences = explain riddles;

Dissolve doubts = solve problems



Did you know?

While Belshazzar partied.... armies surrounded the city to take it. But Belshazzar thought he was safe because of the big strong city walls.

Babylon had inner and outer walls and moats. The outer walls were 17 miles long, 22 feet thick and 90 feet high. The guard towers were another 100 feet high. The gates were bronze. All this made the city very safe.



WARNING:

Don't get the Belteshazzar and Belshazzar mixed up. Belteshazzar was Daniel's Babylonian name (1v7). Belshazzar was king of Babylon.

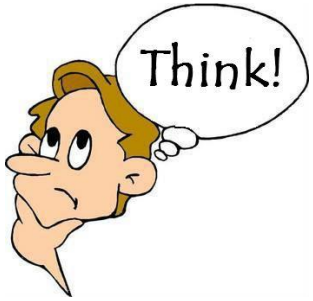
Kings of the Neo-Babylonian Empire

1. Nabopolassar 627-605
2. Nebuchadnezzar 605-562
3. Evil-Merodach 562-560
4. Neriglissar 560-556
5. Labashi-Marduk 2 mos. 556
6. Nitocris (*Daughter married*) 556-539
7. Belshazzar 553-539

"For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee." (Psalm 5v4)



Ever heard the saying, 'The writing on the wall'? This is where it comes from.
They all saw the writing. But they didn't understand it. They were heading for disaster.



Belshazzar partied at a drunken feast unaware of the real danger he was in. Don't revel in sin at the expense of your eternal soul.



The Temple Vessels

Nebuchadnezzar took vessels out of the temple of God in Jerusalem. He brought them to Babylon with captives under Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah (2 Chronicles 36v7, 20+18).

These temple vessels were only to be used in the worship of the One True Living God. They were NOT for using in a drunken feast. They were NOT to be used to praise other gods with.

We're to be like special holy vessels. We're meant for God's use....not drunken parties. If you are a child of God, you're meant to be a vessel unto honour. You are to let God use you to do good works (2 Timothy 2v20+21).

Thursday

Meaning of Writing on wall

Bible Reading: Daniel 5v17-31

1. Who did Daniel say to give the rewards to? (v17)
2. What had God given Nebuchadnezzar? (v18)
3. What happened to Nebuchadnezzar because he was proud? (v20+21)
4. Until when? (v21)
5. What had Belshazzar NOT done? (v22+23)

Belshazzar knew what had happened. He knew what God can do to the proud. But he wouldn't learn from his grandfather.

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6. Who sent the part of the hand to write on the wall? (v23+24)
7. What did it write? (v25)
8. What did MENE mean? (v26)
9. What did TEKEL mean? (v27)
10. What did PERES mean? (v28)
11. What was done to Daniel? (v29)
12. What happened that night? (v30+31)

Answers

1) Others; 2) A kingdom, majesty, glory and honour; 3) Removed from his throne, he lived with animals in the field, he ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with dew; 4) He knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men and puts over it whoever He wants; 5) Humbled his heart; 6) God; 7) Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin; 8) God has numbered your kingdom and finished it; 9) You are weighed in the balances and found wanting; 10) Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians; 11) He was clothed in scarlet, had gold chain put round his neck, and made the 3rd ruler in the kingdom; 12) Belshazzar was killed, and Darius the Mede took the kingdom





Did you know?

The enemy was outside the city of Babylon. They dug another channel for the river to run through....so it didn't go through the city. Then, they were able to go right under the walls....where the river had been!





MENE *means Numbered*

Belshazzar's days were numbered. He was going to die that night. Your days on earth are numbered. Death comes to us all.

TEKEL *means Weighed*

Belshazzar was found wanting. He didn't measure up to God's standard. Judgment comes after death. We will all be judged by God's standard.

UPHARSIN *means Divided*

Belshazzar's kingdom would be divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

"Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." (5v27)



UPHARSIN or PERES

The hand wrote UPHARSIN. Daniel said PERES. Which is right?

Upharsin is plural. Peres is singular. So, Upharsin means many dividings. Peres means divided once.

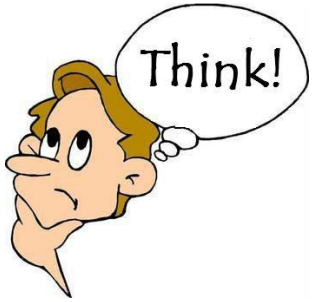


God is the Most High God (v21).

There is no god higher than HIM. He rules over all. He has the right to do as He wants.

Our breath is in God's hand (v23).

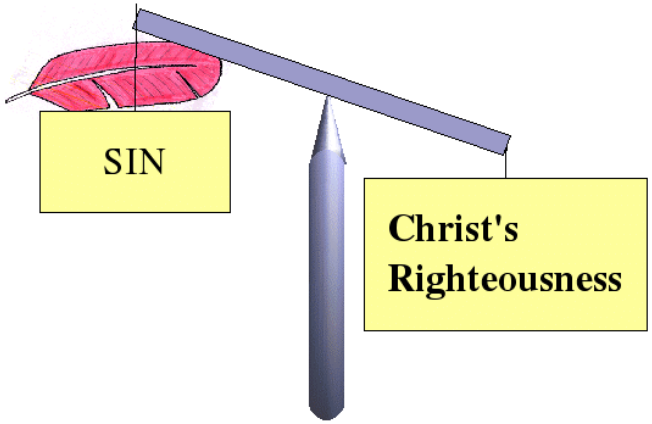
He can take away your breath at any time. So, make sure you're ready to die!



How much do you weigh in God's balances?

Are you trying to balance your sin against Christ's righteousness? Do you really think that all your good works are enough?

Are you weighed in the balance and found wanting?



"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9v27)

Friday

Princes jealous of Daniel

Bible Reading: Daniel 6v1-14

1. Who did Darius put over the kingdom? (v1)
2. Who was over them? (v2)
3. Why was Daniel liked best? (v3)
4. Why could they NOT find fault with Daniel? (v4)
5. So, what would they find against him? (v5)
6. What law did they get Darius to make? (v7)
7. Why could it NOT be changed? (v8)
8. What did Daniel do? (v10)
9. So, what did the princes and presidents do? (v11+12)
10. How did they speak against Daniel? (v13)
11. How did Darius feel? (v14)
12. What did he try to do? (v14)

Answers

1) 120 princes; 2) 3 presidents and Daniel was first; 3) An excellent spirit was in him; 4) He was faithful; 5) Something about the law of his God; 6) Whoever ask a petition of any god or man for 30 days, except the king, would be thrown into the den of lions; 7) The king signed it and the law of Medes and Persians said it couldn't be changed; 8) Went into his house and, with his window open, kneeled down 3 times a day, and prayed and gave thanks to God; 9) gathered together and went and told the king; 10) They said Daniel didn't regard the king or the decree he had signed; 11) Very displeased with himself; 12) Worked to going down of sun to deliver Daniel

MEANINGS:

Occasion = something wrong;

Faithful = honest;

Save = except;

Statute = written law;

Decree = order by law;

Petition = request, prayer;

Altereth = changes;

Supplication = asking humbly, pleading;

Sore = very;



Daniel prayed with his windows open to Jerusalem (v10). This showed his love for his homeland.

BUT he knew what Solomon had prayed many years before this. He believed God would answer (1 Kings 8v46-50).

We don't have to pray with open our windows to Jerusalem today. But we do need to pray believing God will answer.



Was Daniel sinless?

No! No! No! He was faithful. No fault or error was found in him about his work (v4+5). Daniel didn't cause any harm to come to the king or his kingdom (v2+3).

The king knew he could trust Daniel. He had an excellent spirit in him. He was the best at what he did. God gave him this ability.

The princes and presidents were jealous of Daniel. Jealousy is sin (Galatians 5v19-21). God hates all sin.





Daniel was an old man by this time....over 80 years old. But he was still on his knees 3 times a day praying. He was thanking God and asking for His guidance.

You're never too old or too young to pray. Get a quiet safe place alone with God every day.

"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice." (Psalm 55v17)



Daniel and Prayer (v10)

1. *Daniel had the prayer habit. He prayed as he always did. He prayed every day. He prayed 3 times a day.*
2. *He prayed and gave thanks. He didn't just ask God for things. He thanked God.*
3. *Daniel kneeled on his knees to pray. This shows he was humble before God.*

You may not do it exactly like Daniel. BUT keep praying and keep praising God!

The people that God uses tend to be people that have learned to pray.

Saturday

Daniel in lions' den

Bible Reading: Daniel 6v15-28

1. Why did the king put Daniel in the lions' den? (v15+16)
2. What did he tell Daniel? (v16)
3. How was the den closed up? (v17)
4. How did the king pass the night? (v18)
5. What did the king do early next morning? (v19)
6. How had God delivered Daniel? (v22)
7. Who was Daniel innocent before? (v22)
8. How did the king feel? (v23)
9. Why had God saved Daniel? (v23)
10. What did the king say to do? (v23+24)
11. Why did Darius want people to fear Daniel's God? (v26)
12. How long did Daniel prosper? (v28)

Answers

1) The princes and presidents came to the king and told him that no law of the Medes and Persians could be changed; 2) Thy God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee; 3) Stone at the mouth of the den, and the signet of the king and lords; 4) Fasting in his palace and could not sleep; 5) Went to the den of lions; 6) Sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths; 7) Before God and the king; 8) Very glad; 9) Because he believed in his God; 10) Take Daniel up out of the lions' den, and cast the men who accused Daniel, their wives and children into the lions' den; 11) He is the Living God and steadfast forever, and His kingdom shall never be destroyed; 12) In the reign of Darius and Cyrus

MEANINGS:

Decree = order by law;

Statute = written law;

Establisheth = set up;

Purpose = decision;

Lamentable = sad as in pain;

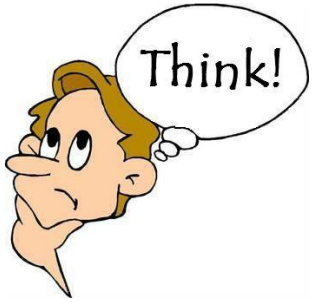
Innocency = not guilty;

Mastery = overpowered;



Did you know?

In Bible times, kings had their own special rings. There was a signet or symbol on the ring. The ring would be pressed into soft wax or clay. This was like the king's signature.



Daniel served God continually (v20)....not just when things were going well or when he felt like it.

Keep on doing what pleases God. Don't give up because someone laughs at you OR gives you a hard time. Keep on going on for God.

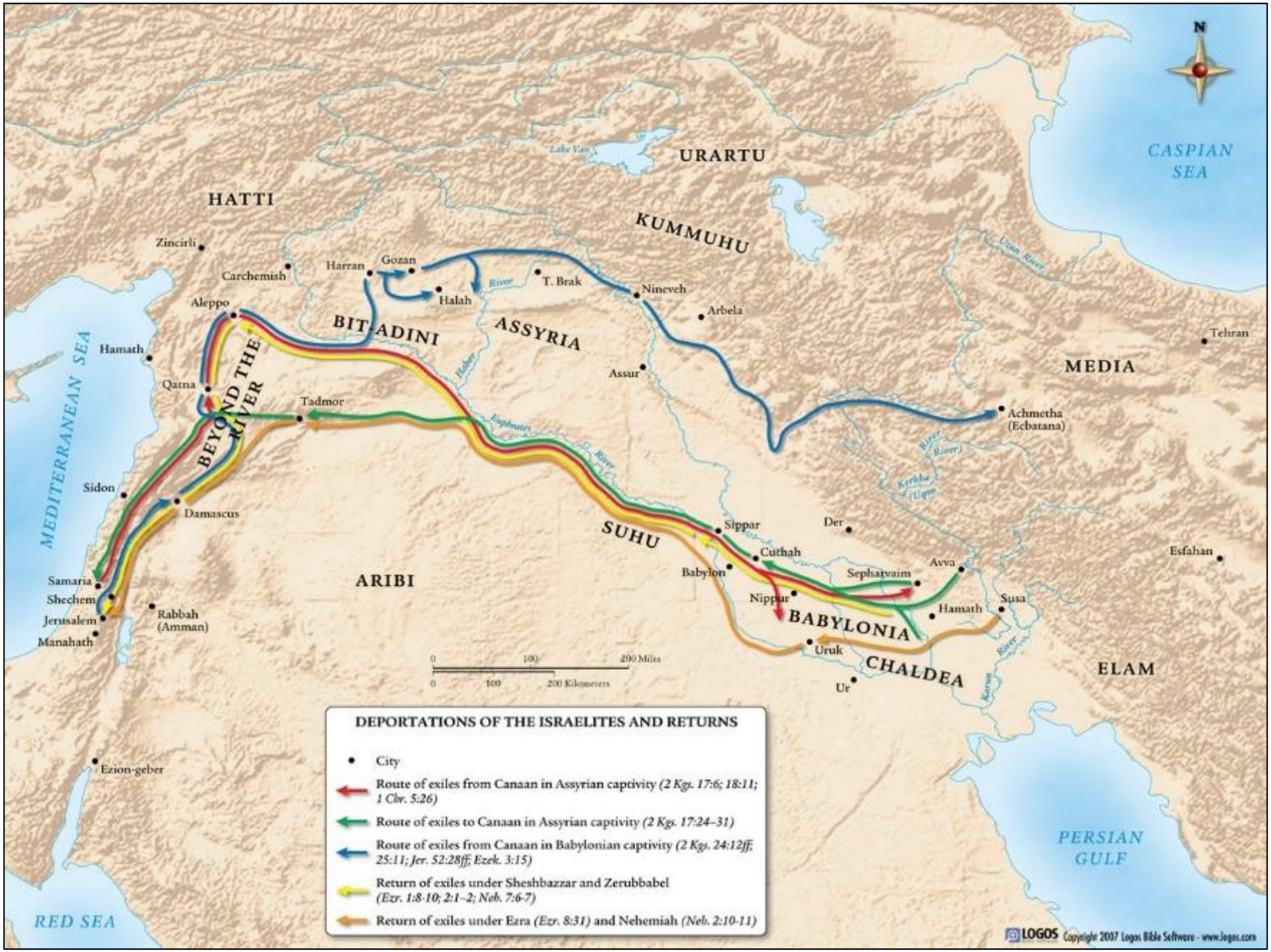
"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."
(1 Corinthians 15v58)



Stop and Think!

Maybe you're thinking: The lions didn't eat Daniel because they weren't hungry.

Well, they had some feed the next day if they weren't hungry....120 princes and their families!


N
CASPIAN SEA
URARTU
HATTI
KUMMUHU
Lake Van
Zincirli
Carchemish
Harran
Gozan
Halah
T. Brak
Nineveh
Arbela
Aleppo
BIT-ADINI
ASSYRIA
Assur
Tehran
MEDIA
Hamath
Qatna
BEYOND THE RIVER
Tadmor
Euphrates
Achmetha (Ecbatana)
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Sidon
Damascus
SUHU
Sippar
Der
Cuthah
Babylon
Avva
Esfahan
Sephatvaim
Samaria
Shechem
Jerusalem
Manahath
Rabbah (Amman)
ARIBI
Nippur
Hamath
Susa
BABYLONIA
Uruk
CHALDEA
ELAM
Ur
0 100 200 Miles
0 100 200 Kilometers
DEPORTATIONS OF THE ISRAELITES AND RETURNS
City
Route of exiles from Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:6; 18:11; 1 Chr. 5:26)
Route of exiles to Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:24–31)
Route of exiles from Canaan in Babylonian captivity (2 Kgs. 24:12ff; 25:11; Jer. 52:28ff; Ezek. 3:15)
Return of exiles under Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel (Ezr. 1:8-10; 2:1–2; Neh. 7:6-7)
Return of exiles under Ezra (Ezr. 8:31) and Nehemiah (Neh. 2:10-11)
Ezion-geber
RED SEA
PERSIAN GULF
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Old English words

Afar	Far away
Ass	Donkey
Aught	Anything at all
Befallen	Happened to
Dealt	Done
Dost, Doest	Do
Draw nigh	Come near
Fetch	Go and get
Gat	Get, got
Hence	From this place
Hereby	By this
Heretofore	Before now
Hindmost	Last
Hither	Here
Hitherto	Up until now
Howbeit	However, nevertheless
Inasmuch	Since
Midst	Middle
Mixt	Mixed
Nigh	Near
Notwithstanding	Nevertheless, in spite of this
Peradventure	Perhaps
Plow	Plough
Straightway	Immediately
Selfsame	That same
Shew	Show
Thereon	On that
Therewith	With that
Thither	To there
Thou	You *(singular)*
Thou art	You are
Thrust out	Cast out
Uttermost	Farthest
Whence	From where
Wherefore	Why
Wherewith	With which
Whilst	While
Whither	To where
Whomsoever	Whoever
Wilt	Will
Wit, wot, wist	Know
Withholden	Held back
Wont to do	In the habit of doing
Wrought	Done, made

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