

Welcome to the Daniel Prophecy Seminar!

You have in your hand the first episode of the life story and prediction of the prophet Daniel – the famous prisoner who survived the lion’s den. 2500 years ago, this remarkable man foretold many major events of history with 100 percent accuracy. He foresaw some of the global issues of our day, and predicted the coming of a New World order.

WHO WAS DANIEL?

Born in Palestine about 623BC, Daniel belonged to a prominent Jewish family with royal connections. During the Babylonian siege and plunder of Jerusalem in 605BC, the young prince was taken hostage, and with the cream of the city’s youth, carried off to Babylon where he remained in exile for the rest of his life.

The city of Babylon, capital of the Babylonian Empire, was situated 1,500 kilometres east of Jerusalem and about 88 kilometres south of Baghdad, present-day capital of Iraq. Babylon’s remains are still visible today.

FROM PRISON TO POWER

By a remarkable turn of events, Daniel the hostage became Daniel the Prime Minister of Babylon, and the king’s most trusted adviser. Still more remarkable, he was able to tell the king the fate of his empire and of other world powers far into the future.

How could Daniel do this? The question has challenged thinking people for centuries. In the Daniel Prophecy Seminar, you will discover the secret of his amazing insights.

BRIEFLY SCAN EXHIBIT 1: PAGE 7 WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED

Trace the route taken by Daniel into exile

Turn now to Daniel’s first chapter and read. Take your pen and be ready to answer the opening discussion questions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A) DANIEL EXPERIENCES FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 1:1-6, page 855)

What was the name of the king who conquered Judah and took Daniel prisoner?

ANSWER: _____

READ EXHIBIT 2: PAGE 8

AN INTRODUCTION TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR II KING OF BABYLON

QUESTION 2 (Isaiah 39:5-7; Jeremiah 25:1-11, page 755)

The overthrow of the Jewish nation by Babylon was foretold more than a century before either Daniel or Nebuchadnezzar were born. About 735BC the prophet Isaiah predicted Babylon’s raids on Jerusalem and the captivity in which Daniel was taken. What did Isaiah say? Read Isaiah 39:5-7

- (a) *Behold the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to _____ and they shall take away some of your _____... and they shall be eunuchs (servants) in the palace of the king of _____." (verses 6,7)*
- (b) Read Jeremiah 25:1-11. Why were the people of Judah taken captive?
ANSWER: (Jeremiah 25:7, 8) _____
- (c) For how long were Daniel and his people to remain in captivity?
ANSWER: (Jeremiah 25:11) _____

Many predictions of the bible were given to guide and to warn people as they experienced events foretold for their time. Likewise, the great prophecies of the world import, such as we will find in the book of Daniel, were given to guide us through the troubled times of our day and age.

B. DANIEL MEETS NEBUCHADNEZZAR

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 1:3-18, page 855)

On arrival at the capital, Daniel and three of his companions were given Babylonian names and drafted into the king's college for a three-year "re-education" course.

- (a) What were their new names? (verse 7)

ANSWER: _____

- (b) Existence in Babylon was difficult for the young Judaeans. What firm decision did Daniel make about the food and drink he was offered? (Verse 8)

ANSWER: _____

Food from the king's table would have been offered to the Babylonian gods. As well, in the culture of the time, to eat food from the king's table signified acceptance of unconditional loyalty to that monarch. Such loyalty becomes an issue later in the book. Besides all this, the Jews had been given many insights into wholesome food and drink and the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle. Hence, Daniel purposed not to defile himself.

- (c) Instead of accepting the king's provisions, Daniel requested that he and his friends be allowed to eat vegetables and drink only water for a ten-day trial. Was their health adversely affected? (Verses 12-15)

"Their countenance (faces) appeared _____ and _____ in flesh than all the young men." (Verse 15)

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 1:17)

God rewarded the four exiles for standing true to their principles, and for their faith and courage. He gave all of them knowledge and wisdom, as well as good health. But notice the special ability that He gave to Daniel. What was this rare gift?

"And Daniel had understanding in all _____ and _____."
(Verse 17,)

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 1:18-20)

At the end of training, Daniel and his three companions were brought face to face with Nebuchadnezzar. They must personally answer his searching questions. How much better did the king find them than the astrologers and magicians of Babylon? (Verse 20)

ANSWER: _____

To what special positions did Nebuchadnezzar appoint the four graduates? (verse 19)

ANSWER: _____

With insights far beyond ordinary human intelligence, Daniel became God's message-bearer to the king of Babylon and to future nations. 500

years later, Jesus called him “Daniel the prophet” and suggested that we should read and understand his book. (See Matthew 24: 15, page 960)

WHAT DID IT MEAN TO BECOME A PROPHET?

Did Daniel have a glamour career ahead of him? Would people flock to his luxurious apartments from dawn to dusk for news about their future fortunes, romances, and horoscopes? Was he guided by crystal balls, astrological charts, or channelling? Or was there some mysterious force within him little known in our day? The next unit - **The Great Global Dream** - answers these questions.

- 7) After three years' training, Daniel and his companions were found to be three times better than the wise men of Babylon.
- 8) Daniel studied the art of prophecy in the school of Babylon's wise men. This was how he became a prophet.

REVIEW QUIZ (True/False)

- 1) Nebuchadnezzar launched three attacks on Jerusalem.
- 2) He treated Daniel and his fellow captives badly.
- 3) Judah was defeated because the nation rejected the warnings of the prophets.
- 4) Daniel's name was changed to Belteshazzar.
- 5) According to Jeremiah's prophecy, Judah was to remain in captivity for 70 years.
- 6) Daniel and his companions were forced to eat the king's food.

Daniel's First Prophecy

Look for these points

- Daniel sentenced to death.
- When astrology failed.
- Why the human race can never destroy itself.
- Seven words that have stopped the world uniting.

Soon after Daniel's appointment to the royal staff, strife broke out in the palace. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, which seemed to contain evil omens. He called anxiously for his magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans (scholar-priests) to explain the dream to him. "Tell your servants the dream and we will show the interpretation," replied the wise men.

But the king had either forgotten his dream or wanted to test these "prophets". "Tell me what I saw in the dream and give me the meaning," he demanded. The astrologers were stunned. "Impossible!" "Unreasonable!" they protested. "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. DANIEL IN TROUBLE

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 2:1-9, page 856)

His anger rising, what threat did Nebuchadnezzar make?

If you do not make known the dream to me, and its _____, you shall be _____. (Verse 5)

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 2:10,11, page 856)

What admission did the frightened magicians make about their inability to reveal the unknown?

"There is not a _____ on _____ who can tell the king's matter." (Verse 10)

Only the gods could do this! (Verse 11)

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 2:12,13)

Nebuchadnezzar was furious! The Babylonian wise men claimed to have supernatural insights into the unknown, and they had failed him. What decree did he issue?

For answer choose: (a), (b), or (c)

- (a) A death decree upon all the wise men of Babylon
- (b) A decree to implore special help from his god, Marduk
- (c) A decree to destroy all his advisers except Daniel

B. DANIEL'S LIFE IN THE BALANCE

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 2:13-16)

When Daniel learned that his life and the lives of all the wise men were in peril, he went straight to the king. What request did he put before him? (Verse 16)

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 2:17-18)

On returning to his house after his encounter with Nebuchadnezzar, what did Daniel do in an attempt to avert execution?

For answer circle: (a), (b), (c), or (d)

- (a) Tried to think of a plan to escape from the city
- (b) Blamed God for the trouble he and his friends were in
- (c) Suffered a nervous breakdown
- (d) Organised a prayer group to seek help from God

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 2:19, page 856)

There was only one hope for Daniel and the wise men of Babylon. Their lives depended upon an answer to prayer. How did God answer the prayers of the four Hebrews?

*"Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night _____."
(Verse 19)*

This vision saved not only Daniel and his companions from death, but all the wise men of Babylon as well. Notice Daniel's thanks and praise to God. Also notice Daniel's recognition that God rules in the affairs of people and nations. (Verses 20-23)

C. THE KING'S DREAM

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 2:24-31)

So Daniel now knew the secret of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. When brought before the king again, who did Daniel tell him was the author of the dream? What was the dream's purpose?

"But there is a _____ who reveals secrets and has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the _____ ." (Verse 28)

"Notice that the king's dream was a prophecy - something to do with the "last days".

WHAT HAD THE KING SEEN?

"YOU, O KING, WERE WATCHING, AND BEHOLD A GREAT IMAGE!" (Verse 31)

Nebuchadnezzar had seen a huge man-like image composed of various metals, with head, body, arms, legs, and feet. The dream ended with a stone hurtling through space and smashing the image. Its fragments were blown away like chaff in the wind. The stone became a great mountain, which filled the whole earth.

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 2:31-35, page 857)

After reading these verses, can you name the various metals of the image?

- HEAD** _____
- CHEST AND ARMS** _____
- BELLY AND THIGHS** _____
- LEGS** _____
- FEET** _____

D. DANIEL INTERPRETS THE IMAGE

a) Who was represented by the gold head? (verse 37)

ANSWER: King _____

b) Over which empire was he ruler? (Daniel 1:1)

ANSWER: _____

So the head of gold represented Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom, Babylon (605-538 BC).

QUESTION 10

Now notice the other parts of the image.

THE CHEST AND ARMS OF SILVER

THE BELLY AND THIGHS OF BRONZE

THE LEGS OF IRON

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that these three metals represented three major kingdoms that would follow Babylon. According to history, which three kingdoms were they? Daniel 2:39, 40

THE SILVER: MEDO-PERSIA Conquered Babylon, 538 BC

THE BRONZE: GREECE Defeated Medo-Persia, 331 BC

THE IRON: ROME Overcame Greece by 168 BC

The four metals, then, represented:

BABYLON	MEDO-PERSIA	GREECE	ROME
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SCAN EXHIBIT 1: Page 12

Write the names of the metals in the left column and the names of the kingdoms they represent in the right column.

E. THE FEET OF THE IMAGE

QUESTION 11 (Daniel 2:33; 41-43)

Next look at the feet. Of what odd mixture were the feet and toes made up?

“ Partly of _____ and partly of _____ .” (Verse 33)

What did Daniel say the mixture of iron and clay meant?

“The kingdom shall be _____ .” (Verse 41)

The feet of iron and clay pointed forward nearly 1,000 years from Daniel’s time to the break up of the Roman Empire. This break up took place in western Rome between the fourth and sixth centuries AD, when distant barbarian tribes overran the empire. In time, their descendants developed into various nations in Europe. Eastern Rome continued until the fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453.

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 2:43)

What did Daniel predict about future attempts to unite these divided nations?

"They will not _____ to one another." (Verse 43)

"Just as iron does not ___ with clay." (Verse 43)

Many attempts have been made throughout history to reunite the Roman Empire, only to fail. A form of unity for a brief time is predicted in Revelation 17:12, 13, but this points to a competitive system rather than to true adhesion. Potter's clay will stick to iron to a point, but the bond is not lasting. It is always brittle and easily broken.

Daniel Said: "They will not adhere to one another."

These seven words have stood in the way of world unity for more than 1,500 years. This is a most remarkable prophecy! The four kingdoms rose and fell just as predicted. We are now living in the era of iron and clay - a fragmented world, just as predicted.

Read Exhibit 2: Page 13

FOR FACTS ABOUT ROME'S BREAK UP AND ATTEMPTS TO REUNITE EUROPE

From the head of gold to the feet of iron and clay, the image prophecy has been fulfilled to the very letter. 2,500 years of history have proved Daniel totally accurate.

QUESTION 13 (Daniel 2:44,45, page 857)

What happened to the image in the closing scene of the vision?

"Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it _____, the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold - the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this." (Verse 45)

The falling stone and the destruction of the image point to the end of the long human struggle for control of the world. A New World is to rise from the chaos.

In past history, campaigns for world unity were largely based on political ambition or religious zeal. A far more urgent cause exists today - sheer survival of our race and planet.

In its divided state, the world cannot cope with the destructive forces of our time - ruin of the environment, nuclear threat, collapsing economies, crime, famine, overpopulation, and exhaustion of resources. Total cooperation and quick action through single world government are now seen as urgent. The great physicist Albert Einstein warned:

"ONE WORLD OR NONE"

A NEW WORLD ORDER IS PRECISELY THE MESSAGE OF DANIEL. BUT WHO WILL FULFIL THE GLOBAL DREAM?

QUESTION 14 (Daniel 2:44)

Who will set up the New World order?

"And in the days of these kings the _____ will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed." (Verse 44)

REVIEW OF DANIEL'S FIRST PROPHECY:

Gold Head = Babylon
Silver Chest and Arms = Medo-Persia
Bronze Belly and Thighs = Greece
Iron Legs = Rome
Iron and Clay Feet = Rome divided
Stone that fills the Earth = God's everlasting kingdom

QUESTION 15 (Daniel 2:19-23, 26-28, 36-45, pages 856-857)

Who was the real interpreter of the king's dream? Please read these verses carefully before answering. Also read 2 Peter 1:20 (page 1166). Tick the correct statements below.

- Daniel conjured up the dream and its interpretation out of his own mind.
- God revealed some of the details to Daniel but left him to work out the rest.
- Daniel had inborn psychic powers by which he forecast these coming events.
- Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that he had no more wisdom within him to reveal the future than any other person living.
- Every part of the dream and the interpretation were revealed by God.
- Prophecy is of no private interpretation. We must go to the Bible for both the prophecy and the keys to its interpretation.

QUESTION 16

Not only Daniel, but practically all the Bible prophets tell us that God's kingdom will come. This is one of the great certainties of the future. Would you like to have a place in the everlasting kingdom? Would you like to write YES? _____

How will God's Kingdom Come?

Unit 3, "THE NEW WORLD ORDER" has the answer.

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) What main message was God trying to get across to Nebuchadnezzar and to us by this unusual dream?
- 2) Why did God give the message to Nebuchadnezzar in such a way as to create this crisis? Could he not have inspired Daniel to give the message direct?
- 3) The image started with gold and ended in clay. Can you see any significance in this?

REVIEW QUIZ

(Matching Items)

Look for the correct answers to the questions in the right hand column, (a) to (j). Answer on the lines provided. As there are more answers to draw from than questions, you will need to use them all.

1) What was the king's problem that caused him not to sleep? _____ a)
b)

2) Who was the originator of the king's dream and its interpretation? _____ c)
d)

3) What did the parts of the image represent? _____ e)
f)

4) What kingdom did the legs of iron represent? _____ g)
h)

5) What did the coming of the stone represent? _____ i)
j)

Discoveries You Will Make In Unit Three

- Five evidences that Daniel’s prophecy will be fulfilled.
- Other prophets joined Daniel in predicting the future world.
- The coming King of Kings.
- The dawn of the true space age.

In his search for the meaning of his dream, Nebuchadnezzar has put Babylon’s wise men and astrologers to the test. Though they were supposed to understand the mysteries of the future, they failed the king badly. On the other hand, Daniel gave Nebuchadnezzar a series of five long term predictions which have now been fulfilled beyond question. He said that:

- 1) Babylon would fall. It did! To Medo-Persia - 538BC.
- 2) Medo-Persia would fall. It did! To Greece - 331BC.
- 3) Greece would fall. It did! To Rome - 168BC.
- 4) Rome would break up and divide, said Daniel. It did! AD476.
- 5) Daniel claimed that division would remain until the end of time. This prediction has stood true now for more than 1,500 years.

“The Dream Is Certain”

The accurate fulfillment of all these five long term prophecies provides strong evidence that Daniel was truly guided by a divine mind. Considering the fact that all five events have occurred, and occurred in the sequence foretold, we can have confidence that the sixth event – the coming of the everlasting kingdom – is sure to take place. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar: “The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” (Daniel 2:45, page 857)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. WORLD KINGDOM OF THE FUTURE

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45, PAGE 857)

What did Daniel say to show that God will one day take complete control of the world?

"And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a _____ which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other _____; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand _____." (Verse 44)

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 2:35)

Where will this everlasting kingdom be located?

"And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the _____ _____."

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 2:34,45)

Will this kingdom be introduced by political coalition, military force, United Nations resolutions, or other human methods?

"You watched while a stone was cut out _____ _____" (verse 34)

"You saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain _____" (verse 45)

RSV says:

“Cut out by no human hand” (verse 34)

“Cut from a mountain by no human hand” (verse 45)

NIV says:

“Not by human hands” (verse 34,45)

While it is right for all of us to do everything possible to bring peace, order, and prosperity, God alone can change the present tragic conditions. What human genius could undo the complex tangle of current affairs? “Not by human hands”, said Daniel, “The God of heaven will set up a kingdom”.

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 2:44, page 857)

In what ways is God's coming kingdom completely different from all others before it?

Place a tick beside each correct phrase:

- “Never be destroyed”
- “Not be left to other people”
- “Consume all these kingdoms”
- “Stand forever”

What are some of the present world conditions, which you think would need to be changed?

ANSWER: _____

B. THE COMING NEW WORLD RULER

QUESTION 5 (Revelation 11:15, page 1182)

All the leading prophets of Bible times gave the same message, as did Daniel regarding God's coming kingdom. Who did the prophet John say would be the king of this kingdom?

“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His _____, and He shall reign forever and ever.” (Verse 15)

QUESTION 6 (Revelation 19:16, page 1188)

What title did the prophet John see written on Christ's robe at His return?

“A name written: _____ of _____ and Lord of Lords. ” (Verse 16)

King of Kings is a special title. Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar: *“You, O King, are a king of kings. ”* (Daniel 2:37) Many a ruler since Nebuchadnezzar has aspired to be king over the kings of the earth, but the true king of kings is Christ. He is the rightful owner of the world.

C. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

QUESTION 7 (John 14:1-3, page 1042)

What prophecy did Christ Himself make which shows that He intended to come the second time?

“I will come _____ and receive you to myself: ” (verse 3)

QUESTION 8 (Matthew 24:30, page 961)

How will His second coming differ from His first coming as the newborn child of Bethlehem?

(a) “They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with _____ and great _____.” (Verse 30)

(b) *Matthew 25:31, 32.*"He will sit on the _____of His glory. "
(Verse 3 1)

Occasionally we hear claims that Christ has been reborn somewhere on earth, or will suddenly appear from some secluded place, or come secretly or invisibly. What warning did Jesus give regarding such expectations as these? Read Mathew 24: 24-27 and jot down a few of the points given in this text which shows that he will come openly for all to see.

ANSWER: _____

The return of Christ to earth is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament. That is an average of once in every 25 verses. Taken together, all these passages paint a picture of a most glorious and awe-inspiring event - the most overwhelming spectacle since the beginning of time.

QUESTION 9 (Matthew 24:30, page 961)

Will the coming of Christ be welcomed by all earth's people?

"Then all the tribes of the earth will _____, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. " (Verse 30)

The mourning comes from the many who have rejected Christ. They must now meet him face to face.

QUESTION 10 (Matthew 25:32-34)

How many of the world's nations will be involved? Will anybody be omitted?

"All the _____ will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. " (Verse 32)"Then the King will say unto those on his right hand, 'Come you blessed of my Father, _____ the _____ prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" (Verse 34)

QUESTION 11 (Matthew 25:41)

What will the verdict be for those on the left hand?

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ' _____. From me, you cursed ... '" (verse 41)

STUDY EXHIBIT 1: Page 12
SOME OF THE MAIN EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE AT CHRIST'S COMING

D. SETTING UP CHRIST'S KINGDOM

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 2:44, page 857)

(a) When did Daniel say the kingdom will be "set up"?

"And in the days of these _____ the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. " (Verse 44)

(b) In the days of which kings did Daniel mean? For answer, note which particular part of the image the stone struck.

Place a tick in the correct box. Did it strike

- The head of gold - Babylon?
- The silver chest and arms - Medo-Persia?
- The bronze belly and thighs - Greece?

- The legs of iron - Rome?
- The feet of iron and clay - our divided world?

E. EARTH RENEWAL

QUESTION 13 (Matthew 6:10, page 939)

In the Lord's prayer, where did Jesus indicate His eternal kingdom for His people would be located?

*"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on _____ as it is in heaven.
"*
(Verse 10)

QUESTION 14 (Matthew 5:5, page 938)

What else did Jesus say which indicates that His kingdom will be located on earth?

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the _____"
(Matthew 5:5)

QUESTION 15 (Revelation 21:1-5, page 1189)

John, the prophet of Revelation, saw a vision of the future world. How did he describe what he saw?

"And I saw a _____ heaven and a _____ earth. " (Verse 1)

The original Greek word for “new” here, conveys the idea of “renewal” – renewal of our battered, sick and sorry planet. The “heaven” mentioned here would include the atmosphere which supports the life of all creatures on earth. The atmosphere is sometimes referred to in the Bible as “the heavens” or “heaven” (see Genesis 1: 20) and is quite distinct from the starry heavens of the universe (Psalms 8) or the heavens of heavens

where God has his throne (1 King 8:30) Do you think the present atmosphere and earth must be renewed if they are to go on sustaining life forever?

Though great reaches of space separate the worlds, the new earth will not be isolated from God's heavenly kingdom. The whole universe will be at one with God. The true space age will have come - the age of everlasting peace.

QUESTION 16 (Hebrews 11:13-16, page 1155)

Should we find it hard to believe that the world of the hereafter will be a real country?

What words or phrases in this passage indicate that the renewed earth will be as real as the present one?

IMPORTANT NOTE: Some passages of scripture indicate that a period of time will elapse between the second coming of Christ and the actual renewal of the earth. (See Revelation 19, 20, 21)

F. THE CERTAINTY OF DANIEL'S PROPHECY

Daniel’s message to Nebuchadnezzar was as clear as day. If Nebuchadnezzar and all would be world rulers has heeded it throughout time, the human family would have enjoyed a happier history. Read the message of the Bible prophets on the next page.

All the struggles of mankind to bring the world and its people into subjection, will fail. When his time comes, God will terminate man’s works and create a new world order – a “better land” – an everlasting kingdom without crime, sickness, and death, and it will stand forever.

READ EXHIBIT 2: Page 13
SOME SIGNS OF THE COMING OF CHRIST

QUESTION 17 (2 Peter 3:13, page 1167)

What did Peter say about the society of the world made new?

"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which _____ dwells." (Verse 13)

QUESTION 18 (John 3:16, page 1027)

Why does God want to create an everlasting kingdom out of this failing, troubled world?

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have _____" (verse 16)

QUESTION 19 (Read Daniel 2:45-49, page 857)

Daniel finished his interpretation to Nebuchadnezzar by saying; "The great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain and its interpretation is sure." (Daniel 2:45)

Did Nebuchadnezzar believe in God?

ANSWER: _____

Do you welcome the prospect of God’s eternal kingdom?

Unit 4 tells the amazing story of how Nebuchadnezzar defied Daniel’s predictions. How successful was he?

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS

- 1) In what ways do you think we are helped by knowing that Christ will return?
- 2) If you did not know or did not believe in Christ’s second coming, what would you expect as to the future of this world?

REVIEW QUIZ

(Multiple choice – mark your answer with a tick)

1) REACTIONS TO THE IMAGE PROPHECY

- (a) the king was doubtful about Daniel's interpretation
- (b) the astrologers were slightly wrong in theirs
- (c) the king believed Daniel's interpretation

2) THE STONE STRUCK THE IMAGE ON ITS:

- (a) gold head
- (b) iron legs

- (c) feet of iron and clay

3) DESTRUCTION BY THE STONE MEANT:

- (a) that the earth would be smashed to pieces by collision with another planet
- (b) that the human race would destroy itself in the end
- (c) that man's kingdoms would be brought to an end by God

4) GOD'S EVERLASTING KINGDOM WILL BE:

- (a) only in heaven
- (b) only on earth
- (c) on earth and throughout the whole universe

5) DANIEL'S INTERPRETATION OF THE IMAGE WAS:

- (a) "certain" and "sure"
- (b) 50 percent accurate
- (c) proved by history to be somewhat wrong

6) WHEN CHRIST RETURNS, HE WILL FIRST APPEAR:

- (a) in a desert in the Middle East
- (b) in the heavens from space with power and great glory
- (c) in the United Nations Assembly

Look For These Points

- Nebuchadnezzar defies prophecy.
- Three top ministers of state forced to choose between death and loyalty to God.
- Miraculous rescue from a fiery death.
- Evidence that God is with us in our daily experiences of decision and distress.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S GRAND OBSESSION

Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed by the image in his dream that he decided to build on like it for himself. But instead of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay as in the dream, every centimetre of the idol was to be of gold!

Why gold?

You see, despite Daniel's interpretation of the image, Nebuchadnezzar had ideas of his own about the future. He evidently decided that his kingdom was going to stand forever! No silver, bronze, iron, or clay kingdoms, such as in his dream, would replace his Babylon! Babylon was the "eternal city" and he was the king. In one of his inscriptions he wrote:

"I erected [there] a stela (showing) me (as) everlasting king."

(Ancient Near Eastern Texts, Page 307)

Recent discoveries show how determined Nebuchadnezzar must have been about this. If you were to visit the ruins of ancient Babylon in southern Iraq today, you could walk on the great paving stones of Nebuchadnezzar's procession street named

AI-IBUR-SHABU. In English, this means "the enemy will never pass". It was to be "gold forever" as far as Nebuchadnezzar was concerned.

When the image was finished, the king arranged an elaborate religious ceremony. He sent word out to all his officials throughout the empire to attend. As they assembled on the Plain of Dura, the image towering above them must have presented a spectacular sight.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. PRIDE IN ACTION

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 3:1, page 858)

What were the two outstanding features of this image?

"Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of _____, whose _____ was sixty cubits" (90-100 feet or 27-30 metres). (Verse 1)

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 3:2-5)

As the ceremony opened, what was everyone present ordered to do? (for answer circle a, b, or c)

- (a) dance for joy
- (b) start singing the national anthem
- (c) fall down and worship the image when the music sounded

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 3:6)

What was the penalty for disobeying Nebuchadnezzar's command to worship the image?

"(They) shall be cast _____ into the midst of a burning fiery _____." (Verse 6)

B. NOT EVERYONE OBEYS

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 3:7-12)

There was an overwhelming response when the band struck up. Thousands fell to the ground before the idol. No wonder! To refuse meant death by burning. But not everyone obeyed. Informers were quick to report to the king that three prominent people had not bowed down. Who were they?

"There are certain _____ whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: ... They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image, which you have set up." (Verse 12)

C. THE HIGH COST OF LOYALTY TO GOD

Upon hearing that his command had been disobeyed by three Jews, Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage. The offenders were his three governors: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, whom we met in Daniel 1. Hustled into his presence, they were angrily interrogated. Would they be thrown into the flames? No! Not yet! They would be given just one more chance! They could save their lives by simply bowing to the image the next time the music began! It would be as easy as that!

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 3:13-15, page 858)

What statement by Nebuchadnezzar makes it clear that he was challenging the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in all this?

"And who is the _____ who will deliver you from _____ hands?" (Verse 15)

With firmness and great courage, the three made their reply: "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter... Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us from your hand, O King. But if not, let it be known to you, O King, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." (Verses 16-18)

QUESTION 6 ((Daniel 3:19-21)

Infuriated by their reply, what did Nebuchadnezzar order his guards to do?

ANSWER: _____

D. COMPANION IN THE FLAMES

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 3:22-25, page 859)

As the king looked into the furnace, expecting to see the captives incinerated, he could not believe his eyes. What did he see?

"Look!" he answered, "I see _____ men _____ walking in the midst of the fire and they are not _____." (Verse 25)

You will notice from verses 22 and 23 that the soldiers who threw the three men into the furnace were themselves killed by the searing heat. Yet

their victims, who were right in the fire, survived unharmed. What had saved them so miraculously? Was it the presence of the fourth man?

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 3:25)

Who did Nebuchadnezzar say the fourth man was like?

ANSWER: _____

NOTE: Some translations says: "like the Son of God"; others: "like a son of gods". Both translations are permissible from the original. Could Nebuchadnezzar have known anything about the *one God* of Hebrews or the *Son of God*?

Note that Nebuchadnezzar had just been boasting that the *Hebrews'* God could not save the three out of his hand. So he did know about the one God of the Hebrews. That is why, when he saw them alive with the fourth man in the flames, he declared in amazement:

"The God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego sent his Angel (messenger) and delivered his servants." (Verse 28)

Many hold the view that this "angel" was actually the Son of God, for He did intervene in human affairs in Old Testament times as the deliverer of God's people. And He comes more and more into view in the later prophecies of Daniel as the Great Deliverer. (More on this as we come to those chapters.)

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 3:16-18, page 858)

Read these verses carefully before answering this question. Do you think that the decision of Daniel's three friends not to bow down was because they believed that God would be sure to save them?

YES **NO** [circle your choice]

Would you like to comment briefly on what you think their real motive was in disobeying the king's orders.

Why would the three Hebrews think it wrong to bow down to the image?

ANSWER: _____

READ EXHIBIT 1: Page 12

MAN'S TWO LOYALTIES

- this helps to explain whether or not it was right to disobey the king's orders.

E. NEBUCHADNEZZAR CHANGES HIS MIND

QUESTION 10 (Daniel 3:26)

As Nebuchadnezzar called to the men in the furnace to come out, by what title did he refer to their God?

"The _____ God." (verse 26)

QUESTION 11 (Daniel 3:27, page 859)

Did the Babylonian officials find any effects of fire on the three Hebrews?

"The hair of their head was not _____ nor were their _____ affected, and the _____ of the fire was not on them." (verse 27)

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 3:28, 29)

What sudden change came over Nebuchadnezzar because of this amazing experience? What decree did he make?

"Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against ... God ... shall be ___ in ____." (verse 29)

Astonished and shaken, Nebuchadnezzar could do nothing but acknowledge God. In fact, from now on everyone throughout his empire must acknowledge God! The king decreed that, henceforth, any remark made against the God of the Jews would bring sudden death to the offender. In his ignorance the king thought he was doing God a favour by making this decree. But was he?

Has God given rulers the task of enforcing worship or religious belief upon their subjects?

ANSWER: _____

Can you sense that God was trying to win Nebuchadnezzar? Trying to save the king? Was the king showing some response?

ANSWER: _____

Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego lose out by being loyal to God?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION 13 (Daniel 3:28, 29, page 859)

What three things most impressed Nebuchadnezzar about the miracle of the fiery furnace?

- 1) "who sent His _____ and"
- 2) _____ His servants"

3) "who _____ in Him" (verse 28)

How wonderful that the divine "fourth man" should go into the flames to be with these three courageous men! He did not stop the guards from throwing them in, but went in with them. Would you like to write a brief statement on what we can learn from the presence of the fourth man in the furnace.

Later we will come to prophecies in the book of Daniel which foretold that powerful rulers would one day try to do as Nebuchadnezzar did - force millions to worship *their* way, in an attempt to establish an everlasting kingdom. That is one reason why the experience of the fiery furnace is important to the book of Daniel.

QUESTION 14

- a) Would you like to have the same kind of loyalty and faith in God as the three heroes in this story?

ANSWER: _____

- b) Do you want to have Christ with you, too, sharing your trials and protecting you?

ANSWER: _____

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) Does it seem to you that Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego took their religion too seriously?
- 2) Did they really do the right thing? Was it so wrong just to bow to an image? Would that hurt anyone? Is God all that particular about loyalty and obedience to him?
- 3) Should all people be given freedom of conscience with regard to their religious beliefs?
- 4) Why can't God give his people a special "exemption" from obedience, when obeying Him might bring suffering or death?

REVIEW QUIZ (T/F)

- 1) Daniel was one of the men thrown into the furnace.
- 2) Nebuchadnezzar had only the head of his image made of gold, as in his dream
- 3) The king saw three figures walking in the flames
- 4) The three men who refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's image tried to bargain for their lives.
- 5) The rescue of the three men from the fire caused the king to believe that everyone should worship the true God.
- 6) Nebuchadnezzar acted rightly when he decreed the death penalty upon anyone who spoke against God

POINTS TO LOOK FOR

- Higher powers alter the course of history.
- Shock treatment changes Nebuchadnezzar.
- Good comes from disaster.
- The king of Babylon writes a section of the Bible.

INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER FOUR

Twenty, thirty, or even more years could have passed since the drama of the fiery furnace. During this time Daniel and his three friends had continued to hold high positions in the government of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar's prestige and power had grown with each passing year. His fame as a builder and military commander had spread far and wide throughout the ancient world. Monuments found in Iraq and Lebanon still bear his name today.

God had tried to reach Nebuchadnezzar's conscience through the image dream and the miraculous rescue of the three Hebrews from the furnace. But the king had not fully responded. It seems that he had defeated all his enemies except the worse- himself- his own pride!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S SECOND DREAM

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 4:1-5)

God gave Nebuchadnezzar a second dream which he could not understand. What effect did this dream have upon him?

"I saw a dream which made me _____." (verse 5)

Filled with fear, Nebuchadnezzar again sent for his wise men - the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers. But, like the astrologers who tried to explain the first dream, they hadn't the slightest idea as to what it meant. At last Daniel entered the audience chamber.

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 4:6-9)

What did Nebuchadnezzar say distinguished Daniel from the other wise men?

"In him is the _____ of the Holy God." (verse 8)

Since Daniel was titled "chief of the magicians" (Daniel 4:9), it was his right to have first interview with the king, but he chose to be last. Why? Did he want Nebuchadnezzar to learn once and for all that there was no benefit in consulting his astrologers? They merely consulted the stars. Didn't God create the stars? Then why not consult God?

As Daniel approached Nebuchadnezzar, neither king nor prophet could have realised the great shock that was in store for them both.

THE DREAM

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 4:10-17)

In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a great tree. Can you picture it? So tall and magnificent!

(a) What happened to the tree?

A "watcher" from heaven gave the order to _____ down the tree.(verses 13,14) But the _____ and _____ were to be left in the earth. (verse 15)

- (b) What details of the dream show that the tree was symbolic of some particular man?

*The "heart of man" was to be changed to the "heart of a _____".
(verse 16)*

- (c) For how long was this change to last?

For _____ times, or seven _____ . (see margin of KJV or footnote of NKJV - verse 16)

- (d) For what purpose was the dream given?

*To let people know that "the Most High _____ in the kingdom of men."
(verse 17)*

B. TRAGIC NEWS FOR NEBUCHADNEZZAR

When Daniel understood the dream, he was greatly troubled. For a while he could not speak. The news was bad! But after the king had urged him to tell all, Daniel faithfully revealed the terrible truth.

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 4:20-22)

When Daniel understood the dream, he was greatly troubled. For a while he could not speak. The news was bad! But after the king had urged him to tell all, Daniel faithfully revealed the terrible truth.

Which man did Daniel say the tree represented?

"It is _____, oh king." (verse 22)

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 4:23-25)

The cutting down of the tree meant Nebuchadnezzar's fall. For how long was he to be forced from his throne?

"And _____ times (years) shall pass over you." (verse 25)

The length of Nebuchadnezzar's absence from the throne is given on four occasions as "Seven times". (verses 16, 23, 25, 32) The NKJV footnote says: "Possibly seven *Years*." While the Aramaic word here, *IDDAN*, may refer to any "season" or "appointed time," it is also used for a specific period of one "year". This appears to be its meaning in Daniel 4. the Septuagint (Ancient Greek) translation reads "*Seven years*". See also the KJV marginal readings for Daniel 11:13 ("After" the end of "*times*", even "*Years*").

READ EXHIBIT 1:

WHY GOD USED A TREE AS A SYMBOL OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR

C) BETTER NEWS

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 4:25)

What would bring about the end of Nebuchadnezzar's banishment from the throne?

"Till you _____ that the _____ rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses." (verse 25)

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 4:26)

What part of the dream assured Nebuchadnezzar that he would be restored to his throne?

"And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the _____ and _____ of the tree, your _____ shall be assured to you." (verse 26)

Daniel's deep concern for the king is shown in verse 27. He urged Nebuchadnezzar to break off his sins and show mercy to the poor. By changing his ways, the king might avert the dire troubles that were predicted to overtake him. All God's warnings and promises are conditional. Their fulfillment depends upon man's response.

The bible repeatedly calls for rulers and subjects to be just; to be protectors of "little people" and the poor. It warns against corruption and oppression and holds rulers responsible to God for upholding equity and justice.

Strange to say, Nebuchadnezzar didn't do a thing about Daniel's warning. Perhaps he told himself, "It can't happen to me!" "Look how powerful I am!" "Who could drive me away from *my* throne?" "Am I not the great Nebuchadnezzar – the king of kings?" "Isn't my Babylon the world's super power?" "Isn't my city eternal?" "Haven't I defeated oppressive rulers and made life better for the poor?" (Nebuchadnezzar's inscriptions show that he held such a high opinion of himself.)

With the passing of time he seemed to forget about the dream and his old pride fully returned. He believed he had every reason to be proud.

Modern discoveries reveal that he was, in fact, one of the world's greatest builders. Humanly speaking, Nebuchadnezzar did have something to boast about.

READ EXHIBIT 2:

MODERN DISCOVERIES

D) THE PROPHECY IS FULFILLED

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 4:28-30)

Just twelve months after Daniel's warning, what boastful words came from the king's lips?

"The king spoke, saying, 'Is not this great _____, that I have built for a royal dwelling by ___ mighty power and for the honour of ___ majesty?'" (verse 30)

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 4:31-33, page 861)

Even while the king was speaking, a voice from heaven pronounced - *"Nebuchadnezzar - the kingdom has departed from you!"*
At this, Nebuchadnezzar became insane and was driven from his throne.

Try giving a description of his condition during the seven years he spent in the open fields, what he looked like, and what he did.

NOTE: An unusual fragment of a tablet from Babylon, now in the British Museum, was published in 1975. It is considered possible that it refers to Nebuchadnezzar's mental illness. The inscription says, "life appeared of no value to" him, "he does not show love to son and daughter", and "family and clan do not exist" for him any longer. (A K Grayson, Babylonian Historical-Literary Texts, Toronto, 1975, pages 88-92)

The "watchers and the holy ones" mentioned in verses 13, 17, 21, 31 who pronounced judgement upon Nebuchadnezzar were undoubtedly angelic messengers of God. We will find out more about them in Daniel 6, 8, and 10.

E. THE KING RESTORED

QUESTION 10 (Daniel 4:36)

At the end of the seven years, did God keep the promise He had made to Nebuchadnezzar in the dream? (see verse 26)

YES/ NO/ ONLY PARTLY (circle your answer)

QUESTION 11 (Read Daniel 4:34-37)

Did Nebuchadnezzar change his attitude toward God? Had his pride and arrogance now gone?

YES/ NO/ ONLY PARTLY (circle your answer)

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 4:1,2,37)

Do you think the king had a genuine change of heart? Notice what he said after returning to his throne.

"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, _____ and extol and honour the _____ of _____ , all of His works are truth and His ways are justice. And those who walk in _____ He is able to put down." (verse 37)

MODERN DISCOVERIES

Compare what Nebuchadnezzar said about God after the image-dream and after the miracle of the fiery furnace, with what he said after his seven year's madness.

- (a) After the image-dream he said:
 "God is the God of Gods."
 "Lord of kings"
 "a revealer of secrets"
- (b) After the fiery furnace experience he said:

"Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego."
 "No other god can deliver like this."

QUESTION 13 (Daniel 4:34-37)

By comparison, what did Nebuchadnezzar say after his restoration from the seven years of insanity?

ANSWER: _____

Nebuchadnezzar was so moved by his experience that he wrote it out for everybody to read, and here it is in the Bible today. Think of it! The king of Babylon humbly writing a section of the Bible and giving God all the praise! And this was the once-proud lord who tried to take the place of God, forcing people to worship according to his own will – acting as if he were God-on-earth.

QUESTION 14

Can you think of one or two appealing and important things we can learn about God from Nebuchadnezzar's experience?

ANSWER: _____

**READ EXHIBIT 3:
 THE NEW PERSON**

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) Why did God give Nebuchadnezzar this dream as long as one year before it was fulfilled?
- 2) Why is it usually difficult for the rich and mighty to humble themselves before God?
- 3) Are ordinary people much different?
- 4) The fact that the king was to be restored to the throne of Babylon was represented in the dream by the _____ and _____ being left in the earth.
- 5) The king wrote the record of the dream and its consequences _____ his years of insanity.

REVIEW QUIZ

Fill in the blank spaces by selecting words from this list:

seven	holy	stump	ten	seeds
image	days	roots	tree	years
after	spirit	before		

- 1) The king of Babylon recognised that Daniel had the _____ with him.
- 2) In this prophetic dream the king was represented as a _____ .
- 3) The expression "seven times" means seven _____ .

High Points of Chapter 5

- The prince who knew the best, but chose the worst.
- A great city drinks itself to destruction.
- King Belshazzar's judgment day.
- The unerring balances of God

THE MYSTERY OF BELSHAZZAR

This chapter introduces us to another ruler – Belshazzar, the last King of Babylon. His name meant “Bel protect the king.” (Bel was another name for the god Marduk.)

Until recent times, complete mystery surrounded Belshazzar. Unlike the famous Nebuchadnezzar, his name had never been

found outside Daniels writings. As well, all the ancient historians listed Nabonidus a Babylon's last king. So critics concluded that the story of Belshazzar was simply a myth.

THE SOLUTION

In 1854, Sir Henry Rawlinson deciphered the name “Belshazzar” on a clay cylinder, unearthed from the ruins of ancient Ur in Iraq. The inscription was a prayer of Nabonidus to his god Bel for himself and his son “Belshazzar.”

Since then, more than five hundred other tablets containing Belshazzar's name have been found. From them his whole life history can be virtually reconstructed.

Why was Belshazzar, and not Nabonidus on the throne when Babylon fell? The answer is simple. When Belshazzar was about 30 years

old, Nabonidus went into retirement at Tema in Arabia, leaving his son to rule the empire. Today, the Bible's claims about Belshazzar as the last king of Babylon can no longer be doubted.

BABYLON'S FADING GLORY

But Belshazzar was a failure both as a king and as a soldier. Fond of luxury, he succeeded only in bringing his empire to ruin.

This weakening of Babylon's leadership was noticed by the watchful Persians, Medes, and Elamites, over whom Babylon had ruled for 70 years. Under the command of their dynamic leader, Cyrus the Great, they began to push into Babylon's territory.

So deceived was Belshazzar by the old myth of "Babylon the Eternal" and so blind to the Persian military threat, that at the most

dangerous time possible, he invited thousands of his lords and ladies to the inner citadel for a night of drunken revelry. That same night, the armies of Cyrus closed in.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. A NATION ON THE BRINK

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 5:1-3, page 861)

Feeling safe and secure behind the city walls, what did Belshazzar command to be brought to the banqueting hall?

"(Belshazzar) gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the _____, Which had been in Jerusalem." (Verse 2)

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 5:4,5)

What frightening event interrupted the celebrations?

The _____ of a man's _____ appeared and wrote opposite the lamp stand on the _____ of the wall of the king's palace." (Verse 5)

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 5:5-9, page 861)

What facts can you find in verses 4 to 9 which show that the message on the wall could not have been written by a human being?

B. A WISE WOMAN TO THE RESCUE

Trembling with terror, Belshazzar shouted for somebody to bring in the astrologers, but they

were unable to understand the writing, just as Nebuchadnezzar's wise men had been unable to interpret his dreams fifty years before.

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 5:10,11)

When the queen heard about the trouble she hurried into the banquet hall.

(a) What wise suggestion did she make to the king?

*"There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the _____ of the Holy."
_____ (verse 11)*

b) What did the queen say this man had been able to do for Nebuchadnezzar? (Answer in your own words or from verse 12.)

- c) What was the man's name? (verse 12)_____

NOTE: The queen here would most likely have been the queen mother, possibly a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar. She refers to Nebuchadnezzar as “father”, which in Bible times often meant “ancestor”. This would have been the meaning here. It is for this same reason that Nebuchadnezzar is called Belshazzar’s “father” in verse 2.

C. DANIEL WARNS BELSHAZZAR

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 5:13-16, page 862)

When Daniel was brought before the king, what did Belshazzar promise to give him if he could interpret the writing on the wall?

*You shall be _____ with purple”
“have a _____ of _____ around your neck”*

*“and shall be the third _____ in the kingdom”
(Verse 16)*

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 5:17)

Was Daniel interested in making money or receiving honours out of his work as a prophet? What reply did he make to the king?

“Let your _____ be for yourself, and give your _____ to another; yet I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation.” (Verse 17)

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 5:18-21)

Daniel was not in a hurry to explain the writing on the wall. First, he wanted to remind Belshazzar about his failure to learn from God's dealings with Nebuchadnezzar.

Read verses 18-21 and write down in a few words Daniel's message to the king and any lessons we should take from it for ourselves

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 22-24)

What did Daniel say was the reason for the writing on the wall?

*"But you his son, Belshazzar, have not _____ -
_____ your heart, although you knew all this."
(Verse 22)*

*"And you have lifted yourself up against the
_____ of _____." (Verse 23)*

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 5:23, page 862)

What three things had Belshazzar done that were most offensive to God?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION 10 (Daniel 5:23,24)

Who did Daniel say was responsible for the writing on the wall?

ANSWER: _____

**E. DOOM PRONOUNCED UPON
BABYLON**

QUESTION 11 (Daniel 5:25-29)

From these verses, read the four mysterious words and write the interpretations, which Daniel gave.

MENE

TEKEL

PERES or UPHARSIN

Notice Belshazzar's reaction? (Verse 29) Do you find it difficult to understand how, at this desperate moment, the doomed king could have remembered his promise to reward Daniel?

Was it because Belshazzar was drunk? Or was the king trying to win Daniel's favour and have him intervene to avert the disaster? Do people today sometimes try to block out or ignore God's warnings about judgment to come? Jot down in brief your own thoughts on this question.

F. THE CURTAIN FALLS ON KING AND EMPIRE

QUESTION 12

What was meant by Belshazzar being "weighed in the balances and found wanting"? (Verse 27)

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION 13 (Daniel 5:30)

How long did it take for judgment to come upon Belshazzar? (Circle your answer)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| (a) less than 24 hours | (c) a year |
| (b) a month | (d) ten years |

UNIT 6

How were the Persians able to enter the heavily fortified Babylon so easily? Herodotus, "the father of history", Greek writer and traveller of the fifth century BC, states that the armies of Cyrus the Great diverted the waters of the Euphrates, causing the river level to drop in its flow beneath the city wall. At the right moment, when the palace revelry was at its height, the Persians entered via the riverbed and stormed the citadel.

QUESTION 14 (Daniel 5:31)

Who received the kingdom after the death of Belshazzar?

ANSWER: _____

Note here that Daniel had lived to witness the fulfilment of the first part of his image prophecy. The silver kingdom had taken the place of the gold. Medo-Persia had overcome Babylon. Think

Question 15 (Daniel 5:22, page 862)

Engrossed in the pleasures of life, Belshazzar steeled his heart against the voice of the spirit of God. The same danger confronts people and rulers today. Would you like to have a mind and heart that are always responsive to God's leading and teaching?

ANSWER: _____

READ EXHIBIT 1: Page 11
WHEN THE SPIRIT SPEAKS

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

- 1) Do you see any parallels between our modern world and Babylon her last night?
- 2) Did Belshazzar know what he should be doing? How did he know?
- 3) Do the three failures of the astrologers recorded in Daniel chapters 2, 4, and 5 have any significance for us today with regard to astrology?

REVIEW QUIZ (T/F)

- ❑ **Belshazzar held a drunken orgy in which he openly challenged God by drinking from the sacred vessels of God's sanctuary.**
- ❑ **A supernatural hand wrote on Belshazzar's palace wall to announce the end of the Babylonian kingdom**
- ❑ **It took less than 24 hours for the prophecy of Belshazzar's death to be fulfilled.**
- ❑ **The kingdom of Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians.**

- ❑ **Daniel was not able to make clear to Belshazzar exactly why the kingdom was being taken from him**

WATCH FOR THESE POINTS

- A king and a prophet caught in a death plot
- Wild beast tamed by an extra-terrestrial being
- The prayer that should have cost Daniel his life, but saved it.
- God's power revealed through faith and prayer.

DANIEL SURVIVES

In the man-to-man fighting of Babylon's last night, Daniel's life was spared. Perhaps his escape was due to his age, or his high reputation. More likely, however, God's hand was over him. His work was not yet finished.

The Persians, too, might have wanted Daniel alive. During the many years of their contact with the Babylonian courts, they must have learned about his outstanding wisdom and excellent spirit.

*Also Cyrus himself, now the ruler of their entire empire, could have known about Isaiah's "Cyrus" prophecy. One hundred and fifty years before Babylon's fall, Isaiah had actually **named** Cyrus as Babylon's future conqueror. (see Isaiah 44:28 to 45:5).*

When Darius appointed his governors, he considered making Daniel prime minister. This did not please everybody. Jealousy raged in the palace. At a secret meeting of rival officials it was decided to do away with Daniel. He has weathered other life threatening crises before, but none so horrifying as this one. The plot involved Daniel, now 80 years of age, being fed to the lions.

Life for a genuine prophet was never easy. Turn to Daniel 6 and read how it happened.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. KING DARIUS INSTALLS A NEW GOVERNMENT

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 6:1, 2, page 863)

What changes in government by Darius led to the threat on Daniel's life?

"It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps (provincial governors), to be over the whole kingdom; and over these, _____ governors." (verses 1,2)

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 6:2)

Who was to be one of the three governors? _____

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 6:3)

Why did the king consider promoting Daniel to the position of supreme governor?

"Because an excellent _____ was in him." (verse 3)

B. THE DEATH PLOT

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 6:4)

UNIT 7

2

Enemies emerge quickly when it comes to politics - especially when favoured appointments are being made. Some contenders will stoop to anything to bring down their rivals. Usually they start with "fitness for office", "track record", or allegations of "corruption".

How successful were Daniel's opponents in their attempts to discredit him?

"They could find no charge or fault, because he was _____." (verse 4)

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 6:5, page 863)

Not to be put off by Daniel's faultless record, what did his opponents suggest?

"We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his _____."

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 6:6-9)

Read the account of the plans made by Daniel's enemies, then mark the following statements as TRUE (T) or FALSE (F).

- The plan was to get the king to make a decree.
- No request (petition) was to be made to any "god" or person other than the king.
- The ban on prayer was for a period of 50 days.
- Anyone found guilty of breaking the ban would be executed by hanging.
- The law of the "Medes and Persians" could be changed, only if ten or more people signed a petition.

- The law of the "Medes and Persians" could not be changed even by the king.

C. DANIEL AND THE SPIES

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 6:10, page 863)

Although Daniel knew about the plot to kill him, what did he do?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 6:11)

Who waited outside Daniel's window to catch him breaking the newly signed law?

"Then these _____ assembled and found Daniel _____." (verse 11)

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 6:12,13)

Read the report that was taken back to the king. Notice that while most of the report was true, one part was totally false. What lie did it contain?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION 10 (Daniel 6:14)

How do we know whether the king cared about Daniel and whether he recognised Daniel's right to freely worship God?

"And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to _____ him."

QUESTION 11 (Read Daniel 6:15,16)

Darius would have done anything to rescue Daniel. But the supposed unchangeableness of Persian law, finally forced the king to take action against him. How was Daniel, "the lawbreaker", to be punished?

"So the king gave the command and they brought Daniel and cast him into the _____ of _____."

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 6:16, page 863)

What showed that Darius had some hope that God might save Daniel?

"But the king spoke saying to Daniel, 'Your ____ whom you serve continually, He will _____ you.'"

(Perhaps Darius had heard about the three Hebrews being rescued from the fiery furnace many years before!)

D. SURVIVAL THROUGH FAITH

QUESTION 13 (Daniel 6:17)

Three precautions were taken to make sure that Daniel could not escape from the lion's den. What were they?

- 1) "Then a stone was brought and laid upon the _____ of the den"
- 2) "and the king _____ it with his own signet ring"

- 3) "and with the _____ of his lords"

These seals prevented even Darius himself from getting Daniel out secretly.

QUESTION 14 (Daniel 6:18,19)

Was the king troubled over what he had done? Place a tick next to those true statements which help you answer this question.

- The king lost interest in food.
- He did not want to listen to his usual evening music program.
- He could not sleep.
- He prayed all night to the "gods".
- He left his palace early in the morning and went to the lion's den.



QUESTION 15 (Daniel 6:20, page 864)

As Darius hurried anxiously to the mouth of the den at daybreak, what one question was on his lips?

"Has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to _____ you from the lions?"

QUESTION 16 (Daniel 6:21,22)

What good news echoed up from the den?

"My God sent His _____ and shut the lions' mouths."

What a miracle! Daniel was still alive! The king was filled with joy! But notice that Daniel's highest concern was how he stood with God.

QUESTION 17 (Daniel 6:22, 23)

What reason is given for Daniel being saved from this horrifying death?

"Because I was _____ before Him; and also, O king, I have done no _____ before you." (verse 22)

Who had actually shut the lion's mouths?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION 18 (Daniel 6:24)

How did the king bring justice upon those who had plotted to destroy Daniel?

ANSWER: _____

E. A SECOND PAGAN KING ACKNOWLEDGES GOD

QUESTION 19 (Daniel 6:25-27, page 864)

Like Nebuchadnezzar, Darius was elated to discover the power of Daniel's God. He wanted to tell the world. What message did he send throughout the whole kingdom?

"He is the _____ God." (verse 26)

"His kingdom "shall not be _____." (verse 26)

"He delivers and _____ ." (verse 27)

"He works signs and _____ in heaven and on earth." (verse 27)

Did the night in the lions' den shatter Daniel's nerve or deflect him from his purpose in life?

READ EXHIBIT 1 AND EXHIBIT 2: Pages 10-12

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT FAITH
WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT PRAYER

QUESTION 20

If ever faced with demands that conflict with God's will, would you like to have the kind of faith and courage that Daniel had?

STUDY EXHIBIT 3: Pages 13, 14

THE DEEPER MEANING BEHIND THE "STORIES" OF DANIEL

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

1. Do you think that experiences like Daniel had in chapter 6 have any lessons for us today or for the future?

2. What inner strength did Daniel have that would account for his loyalty and devotion to God, even when threatened with death? (if in doubt, read Isaiah 41:10, and Ezekiel 36: 26,27.)
3. An interesting text in the book of Psalms describes Daniel perfectly. Would you like to read it and think about it? (Psalms 37: 31)

- a) about his great victory over Daniel's enemies
- b) about God's power

- 6) Darius declared that God's kingdom would:

- a) come one day in the future
- b) would never be destroyed

REVIEW QUIZ

Underline the correct answers.

- 1) **The king who first ruled Babylon after the conquest of Belshazzar was:**
 - a) Darius the Mede
 - b) Cyrus the Great
- 2) **Darius commanded his officers to:**
 - a) cast Daniel into a lion's den
 - b) take him out of the den
- 3) **Daniel's custom was to:**
 - a) pray on his knees
 - b) pray twice a day
- 4) **Because Darius did not favour Daniel, he:**
 - a) sealed the lion's den so that Daniel could not escape
 - b) spoke words of condemnation regarding him
- 5) **Darius wrote to all nations:**

A New Line of Prophecies

- New symbols of prophecy and keys to their meaning.
- Four beasts from the sea.
- The collapse of an empire brings great changes.
- The new Rome.

BACKGROUND TO DANIEL 7

We have now completed the first half of the book of Daniel. From this point, prophecy takes a great leap forward. Daniel is shown much more about the future in these last six chapters than in the first six. The personal experiences of the first six were recorded to help us understand the meaning of the greater prophecies we are now about to study. So, before starting on Daniel 7, think about these earlier personal experiences again for a few moments. (See Unit 7, Exhibit 3, for review.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. VISION OF THE FOUR BEASTS

QUESTION 1 (Read Daniel 7:1-7, page 864)

To begin this new line of prophecies, Daniel takes us back to Belshazzar's first year. In a night vision he sees "the great sea" lashed by winds. As he watches, four fantastic animals rise out of the water. What animals did they resemble?

1) *"The first was like a _____, and had eagle's _____."*
(verse 7:4)

2) *"A second, like a _____" (Daniel 7:5)*

3) *"Another, like a _____" (Daniel 7:6)*

4) *"a fourth beast, _____ and _____"
"and it had _____ horns" (Daniel 7:7)*

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 7:16, 17, page 865)

What did the heavenly messenger in the vision say the four beasts represented? (verse 17,23)

ANSWER: Four _____

These four kingdoms of Daniel 7 are the same as the four kingdoms of Daniel 2. We can be sure of this because the iron legs of Daniel 2 are said to be the fourth kingdom (2:40), and the fourth beast of Daniel 7 is also called the fourth kingdom (7:23). Hence the third beast and the third metal must represent the third kingdom, the second beast and the second metal, the second kingdom, and the first beast and the first metal, the first kingdom, Babylon. The four were:

BABYLON – MEDO-PERSIA – GREECE – ROME

B. THE TEN HORNS

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 7:7, 24, page 865)

The fourth beast, representing Rome, had ten horns. What did the ten horns represent?

"The ten horns are ten _____ who shall arise from this kingdom." (Rome) (verse 24)

The ten horns of Daniel 7 represent the same ten kingdoms as the feet and toes of the image of Daniel 2. In both cases the ten are shown as the residue of the Roman Empire after its break-up.

Use the following chart to match the symbols of Daniel 7 (four beast and ten horns) with the symbols of Daniel 2 (four metals and feet of iron and clay). Write the names of the kingdoms in the right-hand column of each panel.

DANIEL 2 <i>Four Metals</i>		DANIEL 7 <i>Four Metals</i>	
<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Kingdom</i>	<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Kingdom</i>
Gold ... _____ (verse 37,38)		Lion ... _____ (verse 4)	
Silver ... _____ (verse 39)		Bear... _____ (verse 5)	
Bronze ... _____ (verse 39)		Leopard ... _____ (verse 6)	
Iron ... _____ (verse 40)		Fourth Beast ... _____ (verse 7, 19, 23)	
Iron and clay _____ (verses 41-43)		Ten horns _____ (verses 7,8, 20, 24)	

C. A "LITTLE HORN" KINGDOM EMERGES

As you read these verses, notice that Daniel saw a little horn rise up among the ten horns of the fourth beast. This kingdom must be important because most of the chapter from here on focuses upon it. What facts can we find to help us identify the little horn kingdom?

IDENTIFICATION

- 1) it arises "from", or "out of" the fourth beast (Rome) (verse 8,23,24)
- 2) comes up "among" the ten horns (Europe) (verses 8,24)
- 3) comes up "after" the ten (verses 8,24)
- 4) is "different" from the other horns (verses 24)
- 5) is little but looks "greater" than the other ten (verses 8,20)
- 6) "plucks out", "subdues" three of the ten (verse 8,20,24)

This is amazingly accurate prediction of what took place after the break-up of the Roman Empire. A "different" kingdom did arise "among" and "after" the European divisions. It did "pluck out" three others and did come become "greater" than the rest.

The kingdom ruled with surprising power over the kings and peoples of Europe and other lands. It grew up in the city of Rome during the declining years of the emperors. Its rule was not only political but religious as well. At this point, be sure to study exhibit 1 and 2, which briefly cover the history of that time.

READ EXHIBIT 1: Pages 12-13

HOW EUROPEAN HISTORY FULFILLED DANIEL'S PROPHECY OF THE LITTLE HORN

ALSO READ EXHIBIT 2: Pages 14-15**GREAT CHANGES IN AND AFTER THE DAYS OF
CONSTANTINE****D. BOLD CLAIMS****QUESTION 5** (Daniel 7:21, 25, page 864)

What did the angel say the little horn power would do regarding (a) God, (b) His people and, (c) His laws?

- (a) "He shall speak pompous (great) _____ against the Most High."
(Daniel 7:25)

The original word for "against" here may be interpreted as "over against" implying "standing beside", "at", or "upon the side" [Strong's lexicon] of the Most High God, but in effect, opposing God.

- (b) "He shall _____ the saints of the Most High." (Daniel 7:25)

For many centuries the papal rulers used persecution to silence those of their own people and others who dissented from their authority. Excommunication, confiscation of property, torture, and execution were common methods of discipline. Yet Christ had plainly said to his disciple, Peter "put up your sword in its place. For all who take the sword shall perish by the sword." (Matthew 26: 52)

- (c) "and shall intend (think) to change times and _____ ." (Daniel 7:25)

"Intend" carries the meaning "think to", "endeavour to", "mean to". The law spoken of here would not be mere "law of the land". Ordinary governments are constantly changing their laws. What is predicted here is a claim by this power to have authority to change *GOD'S* times and laws.

READ EXHIBIT 3:**MAN CLAIMS DIVINE AUTHORITY**
for examples of the fulfilment of these predictions**E. A REMARKABLE TIME PROPHECY****QUESTION 6** (Daniel 7:25)

For what time period would the little horn rule with special power?

"Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a ____ and ____ and ____" (verse 25)

What do the "time, times, and half a time". (TT ½) mean? Revelation, the companion book of Daniel, provides us with valuable clues. Revelation 12: 14 speaks of the TT ½ as Daniel does. Concerning this period of persecution it says:

*"But the woman (symbol of God's people) was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness ... where she is nourished for a time, times, and half a time from the presence of the serpent."
(Revelation 12:14, page 1182)*

This text helps us, because earlier in the chapter, the TT ½ is given as **1260 days**, as follows:

*"Then the woman fled into the wilderness ... that they should feed her there one thousand and two hundred and sixty days."
(Revelation 12:6)*

Now since both Daniel and Revelation are books of highly symbolic prophecy, we must ask whether the 1260 days themselves are symbols. Symbols of longer periods. There are a number of reasons why they

UNIT 8

should be taken as symbols. These reasons will be discussed more fully later in the seminar when we come to still more time prophecies such as the 2,300 days, the 70 weeks, the 1,290 and 1,335 days. But for now, we shall note how God himself, in Daniel's own day, used one day as a symbol of one year.

QUESTION 7 (Ezekiel 4:4-6, page 804)

Ezekiel was a contemporary of Daniel, and was also in captivity.

a) What did God tell Ezekiel a day represented in symbolic prophecy?

"I have laid on you a day for each ____." (verse 6)

(c) What did God say the 40 days stood for in His prophecy of Numbers 14:34?

ANSWER: _____

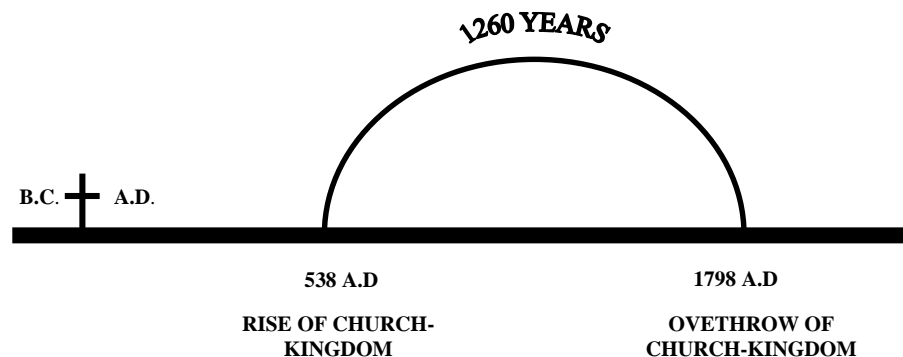
QUESTION 8

Did the "little horn kingdom" hold power for 1260 prophetic days (years)?

The following historical facts show the answer to be yes!

- The supremacy of the papal kingdom began when the last Arian power was defeated in AD538
- Commencing in AD538, the 1260 years must extend to 1798. Did this work out in history? It did!

Precisely in 1798 the atheistic revolutionary government of France proclaimed the political rule of the papacy at an end. Rome was invaded by the French and Pope Pius VI was sent to prison. Later, the Papal States were abolished and Italy became a republic. Notice the following diagram.



The Lateran Treaty of 1929 handed back to the Pope rule of the Vatican City, giving him a kingdom and making him a king once more. Today, his state territory covers only 109 acres of the Vatican City - a "suburb" of the modern city of Rome.

NOTE: These prophecies were given, not to condemn people of one faith or another, but to point to that power which claimed to have the authority of God – to hold "upon this earth the place of God Almighty". Authority to rule the church and the world – to change God's laws and to place its own traditions above Scripture. Claims, which directly conflict with the teaching of Christ. Such prophecies are given to turn back to God's truth, to follow God's plans.

Daniel's clear message is that all attempts by man to usurp God's authority and to rule in His place are doomed to failure.

F. AN ANCIENT WARNING RECALLED**QUESTION 9**

(Read Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, pages 169,179; see also Matthew 15:3,9, page 950; Matthew 4:4, page 937; John 17:17, page 1046) Do you think that God has ever given to man (a) His own glory, (b) His authority to add to, take away from, or change God's laws or His word?

(circle YES or NO)

QUESTION 10 (Acts 17:10-12, page 1071)

The New Testament describes a group of people who placed the Word of God above their own wisdom. What wise course of action did they take?

"They received the _____ with all readiness, and _____ the Scriptures daily, to _____ whether these things were ____."
(verse 11)

QUESTION 11 (Matthew 4:4, page 937; John 17:17, page 1046)

One of Jesus' strongest teachings was to live by God's written word. Have you taken the Bible as your guide, as is it your desire to always keep your mind open to its truths?

ANSWER: _____

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

1. If kings, emperors, and church leaders throughout history had learned from the mistakes made by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3 - the fiery furnace) and by Darius (Daniel 6 - the lion's den), would Christian people have experienced such terrors as the persecution of the Dark Ages?
2. Why is it wrong for the church to rule the state or the State to rule the church?
3. Why is enforced religion wrong? (if in doubt, read Matthew 26:52; Matthew 22:37, page 959; Revelation 22:17, page 1190)

REVIEW QUIZ (True/False)

- 1) The first “beast” in Daniel 7 (the lion) and the “head of gold” in Daniel 2, both represent the kingdom of Babylon.
- 2) the “ten horns” of the fourth beast in Daniel 7 represent the same kingdoms as did the feet and toes of Daniel 2.
- 3) The “little horn” was the symbol of a purely political power, concerned only with military expansion.
- 4) The “little horn” would persecute Christians, during 1260 years.
- 5) The laws of God were to be a special subject of change by the “little horn” kingdom.
- 6) God has given to church rulers his own authority to act out his judgment, to change his laws, and to coerce people to obey.

LOOK FOR THESE POINTS

- Daniel's judgment vision.
- Jesus at the judgment throne.
- Why the judgment is "good news".
- Why you can have confidence concerning the judgment.

In this unit, we are still looking into Chapter 7.

First, recall how alarmed Daniel was by his vision of the little horn's claims regarding God, God's people and God's laws.

Notice Daniel's lament: "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit ... and the visions of my head troubled me." (Daniel 7:25)

But the vision also brought good news to Daniel. A judgment day was coming which would rule in favour of God's faithful people and God's kingdom would be restored on earth forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. DANIEL'S JUDGMENT VISION

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 7:9, 10, page 864)

- (a) As Daniel watched the little horn, and listened to his great claims concerning God, His people, and His laws, his attention was suddenly drawn from earth to heaven. What scene flashed before him?

"I watched till the thrones were put in _____."

"The _____ was seated, and the books were opened."

Notice that NKJV footnote 7:10 has "judgment" instead of "court". KJV does not use "court", but "judgment". RSV uses both court and judgment: "the court sat in judgment."

- (b) What title did Daniel give to God as He came in a fiery chariot to His judgment throne?

"And the _____ was seated." (verse 9) (also read Psalm 90:1,2, page 569)

- (c) Many thousands of attendants stood before the throne. Who would they have been?

ANSWER: _____

B. BOOKS OF RECORD OPENED

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 7:10; Malachi 3:16, page 931; Revelation 3:5, page 1176; 20:12, 15, page 1188)

Daniel saw "books" "opened" in the judgment. What books of record are mentioned in the Bible?

"A book of _____ " (Malachi 3:16)

"the book of _____ " (Revelation 20:12)

QUESTION 3 (Revelation 20:12,15; Isaiah 65:6,7, page 722)

There is reference also to God's record of unrepented sins. Read Revelation 20:12, 15, then Isaiah 65:6,7, before supplying the missing words.

"Behold it is _____ before Me: ... I will repay your iniquities." (Isaiah 65:6)

Read Exhibit 1: Page 13
BIBLE FACTS ABOUT THE JUDGMENT

C. THE MAN AT THE JUDGMENT THRONE

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 7:13, 14, page 865)

As Daniel watched, what notable person was brought before the judgment throne?

"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, one like the _____ of Man came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before him." (Daniel 7:13)

"Like the son of man" generally means "like a human being". In other words, Daniel saw a certain man entering the heavenly judgment. Without doubt this would be "the man Christ Jesus". The New Testament says Jesus is our advocate with God (1 John 2:1), and that he is the key person in the Judgment (Acts 17:31, John 5:27). Also, it is interesting to note that when Jesus was on earth, His favourite titles for himself were "the Son of Man" and "Son of God". He still retains the title "Son of Man", even at his second coming (Matthew 24:30, page 961)

Previously, Nebuchadnezzar had seen one "like the Son of God" in the furnace, now Daniel sees "one like the Son of Man" in the Judgment. Should we not see one and the same person in these two appearances? The one who was to live on earth as a human; who were to be tempted and tried as we are, and who was to die in agony for our sins, is also to represent us before God's Judgment throne. By committing our lives to Him, we place ourselves in the safest hands in all the universe when it comes to the day of judgment

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 7:14,21,22,26,27, page 865)

(a) In the judgment scene what did "the Ancient of Days" give to the "Son of Man"?

Answer (verse 14) _____

(b) What does the judgment do for the saints?

"and judgment was made in _____ of the saints"

(c) What does the judgment do about the little horn kingdom?

"they shall take away his _____ to consume and _____ it forever"

(d) What then happens to the world kingdom?

"then the kingdom ... shall be _____ to the people, the saints of the Most High"

NOTE: Two general groups are brought to view in this judgment scene – "the little horn" and "the saints of the Most High". The kingdom is taken from the little horn and given to the saints. Does this mean that all who have come under the banner of the little horn will be condemned? Does it mean that all other Christians will be numbered as the saints? By no means!

The prophecy of the little horn is pointing, not primarily to the people of the church, but to that power which grasped dominion over the church – over all churches. Even "the saints of the Most High" were "given into his hand". (Daniel 7:25) This dominion, the judgment will take away from the little horn. The same judgment will distinguish between the false and the true of all who have professed to follow Christ. It will award the kingdom to the true.

God knows the secrets of every life, and what God knows, the judgment will reveal before the whole universe when the books are opened at last. (see

Luke 12:2,3, page 1007; Ecclesiastes 12:13,14, page 647; Revelation 14:6,7,12, page 1183)

D. TIME OF THE JUDGMENT

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 7:9,10,13,14,22,26,27; Acts 17:31, page 1072)

As already seen in Exhibit 1, God has "appointed" a judgment day. One important question is, when does this judgment take place?

- At the second coming of Christ?
- After the second coming?
- Just before the second coming?

Before answering, Study the following chart showing the sequence of events...

1	2	3	4	5
THE JUDGMENT BEGINS WHILE THE LITTLE HORN IS STILL AT WORK (VERSES 8,9,10)	THE JUDGMENT GIVES THE KINGDOM TO CHRIST (VERSES 13, 14)	THE JUDGMENT RULES IN FAVOUR OF THE SAINTS (VERSE 22)	THE JUDGMENT TAKES THE KINGDOM FROM THE LITTLE HORN (VERSE 26)	THE JUDGMENT AWARDS THE KINGDOM TO THE SAINTS (VERSE 27) SECOND ADVENT (MATTHEW 25:31-44; REVELATION 22:12)

Circle your answer, (a), (b), or (c), as to when this judgment begins:

- (a) at the second advent
- (b) after the second advent
- (c) before the second advent

QUESTION 7 (Revelation 14:6,7,14-16, page 1183)

Do other prophecies show that a judgment takes place *before* Jesus returns?

"Then I saw another angel ... having the everlasting _____ to preach to those that dwell on the earth - to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people - saying ... 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His _____ has come.'" (verses 6,7)

The angel's announcement shows that God's judgment is in progress while the gospel is still being preached. That is, before the end – before Jesus comes. (Note Matthew 24:14,30,31, page 960; Matthew 25:34, page 962; Revelation 11:18, page 1182.) The nations of earth are still here, stirred and angry at the time of judgment. Also, the little horn is very much alive on earth, speaking great words while the judgment proceeds in heaven. (Daniel 7:10,11, page 864)

Explanatory Note:

The Bible speaks of three phases of judgment.

1. Before Christ comes and before the saints possess the kingdom (as here in Daniel 7).
2. During the 1,000 years of Revelation 20, after Christ comes, when the resurrected saints sit in judgment as Satan and all evil doers are judged. (see 1 Corinthians 6:2,3; Revelation 20:4)
3. At the end of the thousand years when all the evil is destroyed in the carrying out of all previous judgment (Revelation 20:7-15).

E. WHY THE JUDGMENT MUST BEGIN BEFORE JESUS COMES

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 12:1-3, page 871. Read carefully.)

What does Daniel indicate is necessary before God's people can be resurrected in the last day?

"At that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is _____ written in the _____. And many of them who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting ____." (verse 1,2)

Before any of the dead in Christ can be raised to life at the resurrection, the judgment must confirm as to who have the right in Christ to enter His kingdom. The righteous are "found written in the book" – a reference to the "books" that were opened in Daniel's judgment vision.

*If rewards are to be given **when** Jesus comes, a judgment must be made **before** He comes.* (Read Matthew 16:27, page 952; Revelation 22:11, 12, page 1190.)

F. WILL IT BE WELL FOR YOU IN THE JUDGMENT?

QUESTION 9

What is it that determines our fitness for a place in Christ's kingdom?

(a) *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever _____ in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16, page 1027)

(b) *"If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9, page 1168)

(c) *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are _____, who do not walk according to the flesh, but (walk) _____."* (Romans 8:1, page 1090)

(d) *"Here are those who _____ the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."* (Revelation 14:12, page 1184)

(e) *"He who _____ shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot his name from the book of life."* (Revelation 3:5, page 1176)

We overcome "by the blood of the lamb" (Revelation 12:11, page 1182). We don't "earn" a place in God's wonderful new world. No one deserves to be there in his or her own right. Eternal life is a free gift of God's grace to all who truly believe (John 3:16, page 1027). Through Christ's sacrifice and mediation, we receive forgiveness and grace for obedience (Romans 1:5, page 1085). Christ's power works within. "He who has the Son has life." (1 John 5:12, page 1171)

Imperfect as we may see ourselves to be, He accepts us and "cleanses us from all unrighteousness". (1 John 1:9, page 1168)

The judgment is not held to condemn those who believe, love and obey Christ. Its purpose is to confirm, claim, and seal them as His forever before the watching universe (Daniel 7:22, page 865; Revelation 3:5, page 1176; Matthew 10:32, 33, page 944; Luke 12:8,9, page 1008).

G. CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST

Because Jesus, "THE SON OF MAN", is our Advocate in the judgment, we have the strongest possible assurance of acceptance with God.

A judge in Daniel's day was one who saved the oppressed as much as one who convicted wrongdoers. There were no barristers. The judge was

both judge and advocate who defended the accused if at all possible. Likewise, Jesus is both our judge and advocate (Acts 17:31, page 1072; John 5:27, page 1030; 1 John 2:1, page 1168).

This does not mean that Christ can save those who profess to believe in Him, yet do not obey Him from their hearts. (See Matthew 7:21-23, page 941; Hebrews 10:26, page 1154.)

READ EXHIBIT 2: Page 14
RECEIVING CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR

TRY PRAYING LIKE THIS: “Lord Jesus, I open my heart’s door to you just now. I accept You as my Saviour from sin and eternal death. I believe You have come into my life and I thank You for the faith You have given me. Amen.”

QUESTION 10

What are your own thoughts regarding the judgment? Do you welcome it with your faith firmly in Christ?

Would you like to indicate your relationship with Christ by placing a tick in the appropriate spaces below?

- I believe in Christ.
- I have just now accepted Christ as my saviour.
- I have already received Him as my Saviour, but want to renew my commitment to Him.

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) Why does God tell us about a judgment to come in His prophecies? What benefit is it to us?
- 2) Does God conduct the judgment because He needs to gain information about people? If not, why does He have a judgment?

- 3) People sometimes think that they will be judged as soon as they die. Have you learned anything from this unit that would show this not to be so? (Look up Acts 17:31, page 1072; Revelation 11:18, page 1182.)

REVIEW QUIZ

Underline the correct words or statements in the following sets. In some cases more than one statement in the set is correct.

- 1) The judgment described in Daniel 7 takes place BEFORE / AFTER the "Second Coming" of Jesus.
- 2) The little horn power is judged because it PERSECUTED THE SAINTS / CHANGED THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS / TRIED TO CHANGE THE LAW OF GOD / CLAIMED AUTHORITY OVER GOD'S KINGDOM.
- 3) When arriving at decisions for the eternal destiny of every person who has ever lived, the judgment will base its findings on CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE / BOOKS OF RECORD / GENUINE ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST / THE BELIEFS OF THE MAJORITY / THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS / STANDARDS SET BY THE SOCIETY OF THE DAY.
- 4) If I believe, trust, and obey Him, Jesus will CLAIM AND RECEIVE ME / IGNORE ME / CONDEMN ME, when my name comes before the heavenly court.

HIGH POINTS IN CHAPTER 8

- A sheep and a goat at war.
- A brilliant commander who conquered the world but lost it.
- Prophecy’s longest reigning empire.
- The “angel of understanding” and the “time of the end”.

Daniel 8 is closely related to Daniel 7. This being so, a review of the symbols of Chapter 7 will help is with this unit.

DANIEL 7 SYMBOLS

MEANING OF SYMBOLS

The Lion	Babylon
The Bear	Medo-Persia
The Leopard	Greece
The Fourth Beast	Imperial Rome
The Ten Horns	Rome Divided
The Little Horn	Papal Rome

These kingdoms were followed by the judgment and God’s eternal kingdom. Notice now, that in Chapter 8 we find almost all these kingdoms and events again, but under different symbols and with additional details.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. THE BATTLE OF THE BEASTS

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 8:1-8, page 866)

As the vision opened, Daniel saw two animals in deadly combat. What animals were they

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 8:16-21, page 866)

The angel Gabriel was sent to Daniel to help him understand the symbols of the vision. What did the two animals represent? (Verses 20 and 21)

ANSWER:

The ram represented

_____ (verse 20)

The goat represented

_____ (verse 21)

In the image of Daniel 2, Medo-Persia and Greece were represented as the silver and the bronze. In Chapter 7 as a bear and a leopard. Here in Chapter 8 they appear as a ram and a goat. Here the goat traveled “without touching the ground” – a symbol of great speed, the leopard of Daniel 7 has “four wings of a bird”, likewise symbolizing the swiftness of Greece’s conquests.

This prophecy of Daniel 8 is another example of the Bible’s self-interpretation. Daniel was not left to guess the meaning of the animal symbols. God’s angel, Gabriel, provided the basic answers.

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 8:21)

What did Gabriel say the notable horn of the Grecian goat represented?

*“The large horn that is between his eyes is the first _____.”
(Verse 21)*

Alexander the Great was the first king of the Greek *universal* empire. This would be why the angel called him “the first king”.

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 8:6,7, page 866)

How did Daniel describe the conflict between Medo-Persia and Greece?

The goat ran at the ram “with _____ power” (verse 6); “broke his two _____ and trampled upon him.” (Verse 7)

The fulfillment of this prediction of the defeat of Medo-Persia by Greece took place in 331 BC, more than two centuries after the prophecy was given.

ALEXANDER’S REMARKABLE CAREER

The symbol of the “flying” goat illustrates the swift conquests of Alexander. In four years he crushed Persia, and after eight more years became master of the Mediterranean world and countries as Far East as northern India. This young commander was not simply a power-hungry despot; he was convinced that Greek philosophy would save the world.

In the course of his 100 battles, Alexander marched his soldiers more than 8,000 kilometres and built seventy cities, many named after himself. Alexander rose and fell like a meteor, dying in Babylon from alcoholic poisoning and fever at only 32 or 33 years of age. He conquered the world, but lost it all.

The lightning career of Alexander reshaped history and shifted the balance of power from Asia to Europe where it was to remain with Greece for two and a half centuries, and after that, pass to Greece’s mighty successor, Rome.

SEE EXHIBIT 1: Page 13

MAP OF ALEXANDER’S MAIN MILITARY CAMPAIGNS

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 8:8, page 866)

How did the prophecy indicate that Alexander would die suddenly and his kingdoms become divided into four?

"But when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it _____ notable ones came up toward the _____ winds (directions) of heaven." (Verse 8)

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 8:22)

What did the angel say the four notable horns represented?

"Four _____ shall arise out of that nation." (Verse 22)

History confirms the complete accuracy of these predictions. Within a short time after Alexander's death in 323BC, his empire had become divided among four of his leading generals:

- *Cassander took Macedonia and Greece*
- *Seleucus took Babylonian and Assyria*
- *Lysimachus took Thrace and Asia Minor*
- *Ptolemy took Egypt*

Note that while Daniel 8 symbolises the four divisions as four horns, Chapter 7 represents them by the four heads of the leopard. (See Daniel 7: 6, page 864)

SEE EXHIBIT 2: THE FOUR DIVISIONS OF ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE

B. RISE OF THE GREATEST

QUESTION 7 ((Daniel 8:9, page 866)

Toward the end of the lifetime of these four horns what strange event did Daniel see happening?

"Out of one of them came a little horn which grew _____ great." (Verse 9)

*The four horns are said to come up toward the four winds (directions), and the little horn to come "out of one of them". The original grammar indicates that out of one of the **winds** or **directions** is more likely to be the meaning here. The direction taken by each nation is specifically mentioned in the vision. The ram pushed westward, northward, and southward, indicating an empire emerging out of the east, as did Medo-Persia. The goat came from the west, as did Greece. The four horns of Greece rose toward the four winds (directions). Then out of one of these directions came the little horn, which grew exceedingly great. This horn pushed toward the south and east and the "pleasant land" (Palestine), indicating a new empire from the west, greater than all others before it. Besides the many other identifying features, the directions give help in pin pointing each power – Medo-Persia (east), Greece (west), Rome (west).*

QUESTION 8

What other details in the description of this exceedingly great horn help us understand which kingdom it represented?

FOR ANSWERS TURN TO EXHIBIT 3: Page 15

IDENTIFYING THE GREAT HORN OF DANIEL 8

After considering the identifying marks would you agree that the exceedingly great horn is symbolic of the Roman power?

ANSWER: _____

The single horn symbol shows that the two phases of Rome – Imperial and Papal – were in reality, one ongoing power, Constantine and succeeding emperors and popes brought this about through the Popes taking the place of the Caesars, and the fusion of church and state. (See Exhibit 1, Unit 8)

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 8:25, page 867)

What would finally happen to this the greatest of all Daniel's four kingdoms? (circle a, b, or c for your answer)

It would:

- (a) be defeated by a people-power uprising
- (b) rule the world for centuries to come without any end in view
- (c) continue to the time of the end and be broken without human hand

C. GOD LIMITS TIME

QUESTION 10 (Daniel 8:13,14)

This prophecy shows that God has placed time limits upon the kingdoms of this world. What question did one angel ask of another regarding time?

"How long will the _____ be?" (Verse 13)

What was the other angel's reply?

"For two _____ three _____, then the sanctuary shall be cleansed." (Verse 14)

The end of this 2300 days time period would bring in the day of reckoning and "cleansing of the sanctuary," which we shall study later.

D. GABRIEL - ANGEL OF UNDERSTANDING -MESSENGER OF CHRIST

Daniel did not understand the vision. As he was seeking the meaning of the two fighting animals, the great horn, and the 2,300 days, he saw the appearance of a man between the banks of the river and heard a man's voice calling.

QUESTION 11 (Daniel 8:15,16)

What command did the voice give?

"Gabriel, make this man _____ the vision." (Verse 16)

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 8:17,19)

In response to the command, what information about the vision did Gabriel give to Daniel first?

"The vision refers to the time of the ____." (Verse 17)

"What shall happen in the _____ time.?" (Verse 19)

NOTE: the 2,300 days must be symbolic of a very long period because *this whole vision*, covering 2,300 days, started with Medo-Persia and reached to "the time of the end" – the last segment of time before the coming of God's kingdom.

Gabriel explained the ram as Medo-Persia and the goat as Greece. He interpreted the notable horn, the four horns, and what the great horn would do, but gave no further explanation of the 2,300 days until later, as we shall see in Chapter 9.

Gabriel became Daniel's special guide and interpreter from this chapter onward. Before proceeding further with the prophecy of the great horn, we must learn more about Gabriel and his part in revealing the future.

WHO IS GABRIEL?

Apart from Michael the Archangel, Gabriel is the only angel named in the Bible. He is mentioned twice in Daniel – here in 8:16, and later in 9: 21.

Five hundred years after this meeting with Daniel, Gabriel appeared suddenly to startled priest Zacharias, the coming of the birth of John the Baptist. "I am Gabriel who stands in the presence of God," he said.

Later, he was "sent of God" to Nazareth where he announced to Mary the coming birth of her son, whose name, Gabriel said, would be "Jesus". This child would become the "**everlasting ruler**" (Luke 1: 8-38; Mathew 1: 18-21)

Gabriel's visit to Daniel regarding his prophecies, and his visits to Zacharias, Mary and Joseph, regarding the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, tie the book of Daniel closely with Christ and the good news of salvation in the New Testament. They also herald the *coming world ruler*.

QUESTION 13 (Matthew 24:15, page 960)

What did Christ Himself say about the book of Daniel?

"Whoever reads, let him _____" (verse 15)

Understanding the book of Daniel is vitally important. The words "understand", "understanding", and "understood" are used more than 20 times in this book with regard to its prophecies. In the last chapter, the angel says: "and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand." (Daniel 12: 10) Gabriel is called the angel of understanding.

QUESTION 14 (Luke 24:25, page 1024)

How important was it to Christ that all the prophecies of Scripture concerning Himself be correctly understood and believed?

"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in _____ that the prophets have spoken." (Verse 25)

QUESTION 15 (Luke 24:27, page 1024)

According to Christ, how many of the Bible prophets revealed Him?

"And beginning at Moses and _____ the prophets, he expounded to them in all the _____ the things concerning Himself." (Verse 27)

QUESTION 16

Christ is revealed to us in Daniel and in all prophecy. We learn they're who He is, how He saves us, and where we are in the stream of time. Is it your desire and purpose to accept the promises and warnings that have come to us through these prophecies?

ANSWER: _____

YOU WILL BE THRILLED AS YOU STUDY GABRIEL'S INSTRUCTION TO DANIEL IN THE NEXT THREE UNITS.

UNIT 11, still in Daniel 8, reveals the course taken by the great horn on earth and what Christ is doing now in heaven.

UNIT 12 explains the meaning of the cleansing of the Sanctuary to take place at the close of the 2,300 days.

UNIT 13 brings to view Gabriel's remarkable predictions regarding the times of the Messiah, and the beginning and the ending points of the 2,300 days.

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS

- 1) Who is the real interpreter of the vision of Chapter 8? Is it Daniel or is it Gabriel?
- 2) What does this teach us about a true prophet's dependence upon help from God, and man's inability to foresee the future for himself?
- 3) What does it teach us about angels? Have they sometimes served as "prophets" too? (Look up Revelation 1:1, 2, page 1174; 17:1, page 1185; 19:10, page 1187; 22:6,8,9, page 1190)

REVIEW QUIZ

- 1) The ram in the vision represented Medo-Persia, and the goat, Greece.
- 2) According to Daniel, Rome started off as a very great kingdom.

3) The 2300 days of this prophecy reach to the "time of the end".

4) The angel Gabriel who explained to Daniel the vision he had seen, was the one who announced the birth of Christ, centuries later.

5) Christ indicated that Old Testament prophecies were of little value.

6) Daniel's prophecies said nothing concerning Christ and the message of salvation.

HIGH POINTS OF THIS UNIT

- The great horn challenges a mighty prince.
- What Christ is doing now.
- Why the temple veil was torn in two when Jesus died.
- How God taught salvation before Jesus came.

Unit 10 introduced us to the exceeding great horn – Rome. Unit 11 now brings into focus Rome’s most ambitious aims. Not satisfied with its territory conquests toward the south, toward the east, and toward the pleasant land, this power also turned its attention upwards – towards heaven – to claim rights and powers which belong only to God.

As Daniel watched, he saw the great horn attack “the host of heaven” and “exalt himself as high as the Prince of Hosts”, “cast down the place of His (the Prince of the Host) sanctuary”, “take away the daily sacrifices”, and “cast down the truth to the ground. In all this the great horn “prospered and thrived” (Daniel 8:10-12)

HOW WERE THESE PREDICTIONS FULFILLED?

Who is “the prince of the Host” mentioned here?

What and where is his sanctuary?

What is meant by “the daily sacrifices” which the great horn would take away?

THE PRINCE OF THE HOST

Gabriel identified the “Prince of the Host” by using various titles:

Prince of the host (verse 11, page 866); **Prince of Princes** (verse 25); **Prince of the covenant** (11:22, page 870); **Messiah the Prince** (9:25, page 868). In the New Testament He is also called: **the Messiah, Prince and Saviour** (John 1:41, page 1026; 4:25; Acts 5:31 page 1056).

“Messiah” in the Old Testament is the same as “Christ” in the New. The Prince of the host is clearly Jesus – the Christ – the Messiah.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. THE PRINCE OF THE HOST AND HIS SANCTUARY

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 8:11, 25, page 866)

How does the angel Gabriel describe the great horn's actions toward the Prince of the host?

“He even exalted himself as high as the _____ of the host.” (verse 11)

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 8:11; Hebrews 8:1, 2, page 1152; 9:24, page 1153) The great horn would also cast down the place of Christ's sanctuary. What is meant by Christ's sanctuary? Where is Christ's sanctuary?

“For Christ has not entered into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into _____ itself.” (Hebrews 9:24)

“We have such a high priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the _____, a Minister of the _____ and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected and not man.” (Hebrews 8:1,2)

We notice here that Christ’s sanctuary is in heaven. This is where He has ministered as our High Priest and living Saviour since His Resurrection.

Long before Christ came to earth, God directed him a "pattern" from which to work, together with instructions on how the sanctuary services and sacrifices were to be conducted. (Exodus 25:8,9, page 75; Leviticus 1-8, page 93-100)

Inasmuch as the New Testament states that this sanctuary of Moses and its priestly ministries were "a copy and shadow of things in heaven" (Exodus 25:1-10, page 75; Hebrews 8:1-5, 9:6-11, 24 pages 1152-1153), we can learn much about Christ's heavenly sanctuary by studying it. This we must now take time to do.

We will then be able to better understand what Christ's ministry as our high priest means to us, and what is meant by the prophecy of the great horn's action against the sanctuary.

B. GOD'S SYMBOLIC SANCTUARY

The earthly sanctuary was first constructed in the form of a "tabernacle" (a tent) so that it could be carried during the Exodus journey. Later, King Solomon built a magnificent temple at Jerusalem to replace it. Hence, in the Bible it is sometimes referred to as "*the tabernacle*", sometimes "the temple", and at other times, "*the sanctuary*".

The sanctuary was the centre of Israel's spiritual life - the place of refuge, where people found forgiveness for sin and the guidance and protection of God. It represented God's dwelling place among them. (Exodus 25:8, page 75)

At the sanctuary, Israel's priests offered sacrifices for sin and interceded with God for the sinner. This all pointed forward to Christ, His sacrifice, and His priestly work for us in His sanctuary above.

SEE EXHIBIT 1: Page 14 *PLAN OF THE EARTHLY SANCTUARY*

C. CHRIST REVEALED THROUGH THE SANCTUARY

What did the different sections of the sanctuary and their ceremonies mean?

THE COURTYARD surrounding the sanctuary, was the place where all sacrifices were made. These all pointed forward to Christ's one sacrifice - His death on the cross.

QUESTION 3 (Leviticus 6:9,12,13, page 97; Numbers 28:3,4, page 156)

What animals were sacrificed by the priests daily, every morning and evening for the nation of Israel?

ANSWER: (Numbers 28:3,4, page 156) _____

For how long was the sacrificial fire to burn?

ANSWER: (Leviticus 6:9,12,13, page 97) _____

Burning continuously, the morning and evening sacrifices were like one, single, timeless sacrifice. They symbolised Christ's one great sacrifice for the sins of all people in all ages for all time.

QUESTION 4

What other sacrifices were offered day by day? (Leviticus, Chapters 4,5, 6, pages 94-97)

ANSWER: Individuals brought their own sacrifices for their personal sins. The sinner laid his hands upon the innocent animal - apparently a symbol of transferring his sin to Christ. He then sacrificed the animal with his own hands.

This taught that it was for our individual sins that Jesus sacrificed His life. He died in our place that we might live. In faith and by choice, we confess our sins and place them upon Him. He bears them in our place. Our guilt is removed from us.

THE HOLY PLACE: While the courtyard was the place of *sacrifice*, the Holy Place was the place of *intercession*. Only the priests, symbolising Christ, could enter the Holy Place to approach God. The holy **place** is usually referred to as the *first apartment* of the sanctuary.

QUESTION 5 (Leviticus 4:6,7,17,18,25,26,30, page 94)

What part did the intercession of the priest play in the salvation of the sinner?

ANSWER: The priest carried some of the sacrificial blood into the Holy Place. There he sprinkled it before the veil, or marked it on the horns of the golden altar. In some cases he ate some of the roasted lamb before entering. In these ways the sinner's guilt was symbolically carried away from him by the priest, into the sanctuary, into the presence of God. Thus the repentant sinner was accepted through the sacrifice of the lamb and the intercession of the priest. He stood no longer condemned, but was forgiven, just as if he had never sinned.

Both the lamb and the priest represented Christ.

- **THE SLAIN LAMB:** *represented Christ's sacrificial death for us.*
- **THE LIVING PRIEST:** *represented Christ as our minister and advocate with God.*

Think about the fact that our salvation depends upon both Christ's sacrifice and his intercession in heaven. (see Hebrews 7:25, page 1152; Romans 5:10, page 1008; 1John 2:1, page 1168; 1Corinthians 15:17, page 1109) The following exhibit illustrates this.

SEE EXHIBIT 2: PAGE 15***THE SPILLED BLOOD AND THE SPRINKLED BLOOD***

THE MOST HOLY PLACE: The second apartment of the sanctuary was the Most Holy Place, representing the throne room of God. It contained the ark (a large chest). The ark's top, covered with gold, was called "the mercy seat" - the throne of the God of Mercy. At each end of the mercy seat stood a beautiful angel of beaten gold. The glory of God shone continuously above the mercy seat, between the angels. The Ten Commandments were kept in the ark, beneath the mercy seat.

No one but the high priest could go through the veil to minister directly at the mercy seat. He entered only on one appointed day each year. This day was called 'the day of atonement'. On this day, the sanctuary itself was cleansed from all the sin brought to it by repentant sinners during the year. The cleansing of the sanctuary represented Christ's final work as high priest in the heavenly sanctuary prior to His second coming.

E. THE END OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SANCTUARY

QUESTION 6 (Matthew 27:51, page 966)

What happened at the moment of Christ's death which indicated that the Old Testament sanctuary had fulfilled its purpose?

"the _____ of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom." (verse 51)

The earthly sanctuary and its ceremonies were meant to continue only until the sacrifice of Jesus, the real Lamb of God, had taken place. Hence, the veil was torn in two when Jesus died, signifying their end. This miniature sanctuary on earth had fulfilled its purpose of pointing forward to the greater sanctuary, the greater sacrifice, and the greater priest. The Heavenly sanctuary is now the true centre of salvation.

Having briefly viewed the sanctuary and its ministries, we can now return to Daniel's predictions about the great horn and the Prince of the host and His sanctuary.

F. THE GREAT HORN'S THREE-FOLD CHALLENGE

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 8:11, page 866)

What was the first challenge of the great horn?

"He even _____ himself as high as the Prince of the host."

Here is an earthly power that would try to exalt itself to Christ's level in some way. Note that the great horn does not think to do away with Christ or deny Him, but rather to equal Him – stand beside him – exalt himself "as high as the Prince of the host".

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 8:11)

What was the great horn's next challenge?

"by him the _____ sacrifices were taken away." (verse 11)

Note: The original word for "daily sacrifices" here is *tamid* – just one word. "Sacrifices" is not in the original. *Tamid* means "continual" or "regular". *Tamid* is used in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, for not only the daily sacrifices, but for *all* the main ongoing and permanent symbols of the sanctuary and the ministries of the priests.

As we have seen, all these symbols pointed forward to the sacrifice of Christ and His work, which is the true "tamid". The true "daily" of the heavenly sanctuary – always present, always efficacious, always available, night or day until the end to save the repentant sinner.

The New Testament emphasises the "daily", "continual" nature of Christ's one sacrifice, and His priesthood in the one true sanctuary above (see Hebrews 5:6, page 1150; 6:20; 7:3, 17, 21, 24, 25,28; 10:10,12).

When reading these texts, notice the repeated emphasis on "continual", "forever", "once for all", "unchangeable", "one sacrifice for sins forever". Somehow, the great horn would attempt to take away this unique ministry of Christ: - the heavenly tamid.

The RSV says the daily, the tamid, would be "taken away from Him" – away from the Prince of the Host.

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 8:11, page 866)

What would the great horn do regarding the location of Christ's sanctuary?

"And (by him) the _____ of His sanctuary was cast down." (verse 11)

How could an earthly power cast down a sanctuary that is in heaven?

Notice that it is the *place* of the sanctuary that is cast down. The NIV says, “the place of his sanctuary was brought low”.

The original word for “place” here occurs 18 times in the Bible; once for the “foundations” of the earth, the other 17 times for the site of God’s throne, or where He dwells in heaven or where He dwells in His sanctuary. Hence the prophecy indicates that the great horn would somehow interfere with the very foundation of God’s sanctuary and in some way bring it low.

How did he bring it low? By changing the understanding of people about Christ’s high priestly ministry of salvation; by claiming that salvation is to be found through an earthly sanctuary and priesthood. By claiming that God has now given over to human priests His authority to save the sinner and to offer sacrifices for sin in the place of Christ himself.

TO SUM UP, THE GREAT HORN WOULD

“exalt himself as high as the Prince of the Host”;

“take away the daily (*tamid*)”;

“cast down the place of His (*the Prince of the Host’s sanctuary*)”

HOW WERE THESE THREE PREDICTIONS FULFILLED?

READ EXHIBITS 3,4, AND 5: Pages 16-19

QUESTION 10 (Read John 14:6, page 1042; Acts 4:12, page 1054)

Is the Bible clear to you that our salvation is to be found *only* in Christ, and *only* through His sacrifice and intercession? Do you sense and enjoy the wonderful privilege we all have of direct

communion with our Saviour as High Priest in heaven, and that He can and will save all who come continually to Him in faith?

ANSWER: _____

G. HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT FROM CHRIST’S PRIESTHOOD IN HEAVEN

QUESTION 11 (Read, several times, Hebrews 4:15,16; 2:17,18, page 1150)

Can you look to Him and depend upon Him as your all-powerful Saviour?

ANSWER: _____

Does He sympathise with you when you are tested and tried?

ANSWER: _____

Can He help you when you face temptations?

ANSWER: _____

Can He give you inner strength and supply all your need?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION 12 (1 John 2:1, page 1168)

When your conscience is troubled by your sins and weaknesses, to whom must you turn for confession and forgiveness?

“And if anyone sins, we have an _____ with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Righteous.” (verse 1)

QUESTION 13 (Hebrews 9:24, page 1153; 1 Timothy 2:5, page 1140)

Who only has the power to present your case before God and claim forgiveness and eternal life for you?

ANSWER: _____

All your prayers pass to God's throne through Him and all God's answers pass back to you through Him. Because He lives, you will live. No one else but Christ can do this for you.

QUESTION 14 (Hebrews 7:25, page 1152)

After thinking about this verse, would you like to write in your own words what it means for Jesus to "save you to the uttermost".

UNIT 12 tells how God will banish sin's record forever – a clean universe!

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) Why did Israel need a symbolic sanctuary, and why do we need to know about it today? Couldn't we have been simply told about the real sanctuary?
- 2) Why would God allow those who wrongly represent His truth to become prosperous and great and step in between him and the people?

REVIEW QUIZ

- 1) "The Prince of the host" is _____ .
- 2) The earthly sanctuary was a "copy" and a prophecy of the heavenly _____ .
- 3) The Hebrew priest was a symbol of _____, the heavenly High Priest.
- 4) The daily sacrifices represented Christ's _____ for us.
- 5) The priest represented Christ as our Advocate in the presence of _____.
- 6) The exceedingly great horn would "_____ himself even to the Prince of the host".
- 7) He would "take away the _____".
- 8) He would "cast down the _____ of Christ's sanctuary".
- 9) The only name in all the universe "whereby we must be saved" is the name of _____.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN UNIT 12

- More about the 2300 days.
- The cleansing of the sanctuary.
- Christ's final work in heaven before His return.
- How God will banish sin forever.

Remember that we are still in Daniel Chapter 8 and its prophecies. Start briefly by reviewing the vision.

THE RAM symbolised _____
 THE GOAT symbolised _____
 THE GREAT HORN symbolised _____

The great horn would:

- “trample” upon God's people
- “exalt himself as high as the Prince of the host”
- “take away the daily sacrifices” (the tamid)
- “cast the place of the (Prince of the host's) sanctuary”
- “cast the truth to the ground”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. THE 2300 DAYS

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 8:13, page 866)

With regard to the *time* covered by the vision, what question did Daniel hear from one of the "holy ones"?

"How _____ will the vision be?" (verse 13)

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 8:14, page 866)

What reply did the angel give as to the length of time?

"And he said to me 'for _____ days'." (verse 14)

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 8:17,19,26)

As we saw in Unit 10, the angel Gabriel did not explain the 2300 days immediately. But what did he say which showed that they stood for a very long period of time?

"The vision refers to the _____ of the _____." (verse 17)

"For it refers to _____ _____ in the future." (verse 26)

At first glance we seem to have a problem here. How could the events of this prophecy, commencing with Medo-Persia and passing onto Greece, Rome, and to the time of the end, fit into a mere 2300 days – less than six-and-a-half years?

We remind ourselves that this prophecy is given in symbols. Just as the animals were symbols, so were the "days". When the symbolism of one day for one year (as illustrated in Ezekiel 4:6 page 804) is applied, the problem is solved. The 2300 days stand for 2300 years. Here we are looking at long-term events covering the many centuries from Medo-Persia to the time of the end.

B. THE END OF THE 2300 DAYS

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 8:14)

What event would take place at the end of the 2300 days (years)?

"Then the sanctuary shall be _____." (verse 14)

QUESTION 5 (Mark 15:38, page 988; Hebrews 10:8,9, page 1154)
 Since the prophecy "refers to the time of the end", which sanctuary would the angel have meant - the earthly or the heavenly?

Answer by drawing a circle around either (a) or (b):

- (a) The earthly (b) The heavenly

QUESTION 6 (Hebrews 9:23, page 1153)

What does the New Testament say about the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary?

*"It was necessary that the (earthly) **copies** of things in the heavens should be purified with these (animal sacrifices), but the _____ things themselves with better sacrifices than these."
 (verse 23)*

Why should the heavenly need to be purified or cleansed? Is there anything impure in heaven? For answer –

TURN TO EXHIBIT 1: Page 12
THE PLACE WHERE GOD DEALS WITH SIN

**C. THE CLEANSING OF THE EARTHLY
 ILLUSTRATES THE CLEANSING OF THE
 HEAVENLY**

QUESTION 7 (Leviticus 16:15-21, page 109)

As we learned in Unit 11, only on one special day toward the end of Israel's ceremonial year, did the high priest enter the Most Holy Place. In a solemn ceremony, he cleansed the earthly sanctuary from the sins of the people that had been taken there during the year. How did he do this?

- He took the blood of a special sacrifice into the Most Holy Place
- sprinkled it upon the Mercy _____ (verse 15)
- to make an atonement for the _____ (verse 16)
- he did the same for the whole sanctuary and the people (verses 33,34)

QUESTION 8 (Leviticus 16:22,30, page 109)

After the sanctuary was cleansed, where were the sins taken?

"to an _____ land" (verse 22)

The cleansing of the sanctuary in Israel illustrates how sin and its record will be removed and banished forever through Christ's closing ministry in the heavenly sanctuary

TURN TO EXHIBIT 2: Page 13
STEPS IN THE BANISHMENT OF SIN

QUESTION 9 (Leviticus 23:27, page 116)

What were the people of Israel instructed to do on this crucial day?

"You shall _____ your _____." (verse 27)

"Afflict your souls" means examine your lives, repent, return to God.

QUESTION 10 (Leviticus 23:29,30)

What would happen to the one who did not search his heart and repent?

"He shall be _____ from his people." (verse 29)

"That person I will _____." (verse 30)

That day was Israel's day of judgement. It is still revered by Jewish people as such. On that day it was to be determined who should live and who should die – symbolic of the greater day of judgement at the time of the end, which we studied about in Chapter 7, Unit 9.

Those who searched their hearts, who repented and trusted in their High Priest, remained before God. Just so, those who trust in Christ and repent from sin remain justified before God in the heavenly judgement. They will not come into condemnation. Christ stands for them.

However, Christ cannot accept those who profess to believe in Him but are unwilling to examine their lives and turn fully to Him.

Said Jesus, "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven." (Matthew 7:21-23, page 941. Please be sure to read all three verses.)

Besides the sanctuary being cleansed in Heaven, there must be a restoration of the sanctuary to its *rightful place* in the minds and hearts of God's people on earth. Remember the *place* of Christ's sanctuary has been "cast down"; "brought low" in the minds and hearts of millions throughout many centuries. It is to be restored to heart and mind at the time of the end.

READ EXHIBIT 3: Page 14

THE SANCTUARY CLEANSSED AND RESTORED

READ EXHIBIT 4: Page 15

HOW THE EARTHLY SANCTUARY POINTS TO THE HEAVENLY

D. HOW THE CLEANSING IN CHAPTER 8 RELATES TO THE JUDGMENT IN CHAPTER 7

Daniel's prophecies are all closely linked to each other, all covering much the same ground, but with additional detail in each succeeding vision. Study the following diagram. Note the parallel between the judgement in Daniel 7 and the cleansing of the sanctuary in Daniel 8.

LINE GRAPH NEEDS TO DONE

QUESTION 11 (1 John 4:17,18, page 1170)

Is the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary and its associated judgment something to be feared by the true believer in Christ?

"We may have _____ in the day of judgment." (verse 17)

"Perfect love casts out ____." (verse 18)

E. THREE ASSURANCES OF SECURITY IN CHRIST

1) (1 John 1:9, page 1168): CHRIST IS FAITHFUL

"If we confess our sins, He (Christ) is _____ and just to forgive us our sins and to _____ us from all unrighteousness."

2) (John 1:12,13, page 1025): THE RIGHT TO BE GOD'S CHILDREN

"As many as _____ him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God." (Also read Acts 16:31, page 1070; Romans 10:9, page 1093.)

3) (Colossians 1:22,23, page 1132): CONTINUE IN HIM

He will present you *"holy and blameless if you _____ in the faith ... and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel."* (Also read Hebrews 3:14, page 1149; John 15:4-8, page 1043; Matthew 24:13, page 960.)

F. THE JUDGMENT-HOUR CALL

QUESTION 12 (Revelation 14:6,7, page 1183)

Keep in mind that this sanctuary judgment occurs in "the time of the end". Then should the preaching of the Gospel in the time of the end include a message about the judgment? Revelation points to such a message.

"Then I saw another angel ... having the everlasting Gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth ... saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of His _____ has _____.'" (verses 6,7)

QUESTION 13 (Revelation 22:11,12, page 1190)

Just before Jesus returns what decree is proclaimed which shows that this phase of judgment has finished and man's day of opportunity has closed?

"He who is unjust, let him be unjust _____."

"He who is filthy, let him be filthy _____."

"He who is righteous, let him be righteous _____."

"He who is holy, let him be holy _____."

"And behold, I am coming quickly."

QUESTION 14 (Isaiah 55:6,7, page 712)

What does the "time of the end" and the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary mean to all of us personally?

"Seek the Lord while He may be _____,

Call upon Him while He is _____

Let the wicked _____ His way and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

Let him _____ to the Lord,

And He will have _____ on him;

And to our God,

For He will abundantly _____."

QUESTION 15

Do you want to respond to this loving call from God? _____

As we come to the end of Chapter 8, we find Daniel in great distress over this prophecy. So astonished was he by the vision of the great horn and the 2300 days that he became sick with anxiety. What did it all mean?

IN THE NEXT UNIT GABRIEL RETURNS TO THE ANXIOUS PROPHET. He explains the Chapter 8 vision further – gives the point of commencement for the 2300 days – foretells the time of the coming of “Messiah the Prince” and reveals what these events would mean to Daniel’s people of the future.

- 2) The sanctuary to be "cleansed", at the close of the 2300 "days" is the sanctuary in _____
- 3) The "cleansing" of the sanctuary referred to in Daniel 8 is linked to the _____ in Daniel 7.
- 4) The heavenly sanctuary is the place where God deals with _____ .
- 5) The sanctuary would not only be cleansed, but also _____ .

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) Why couldn't God have avoided all the sin and suffering of this world by either not creating it in the first place, or by wiping it out when mankind sinned, and starting again?
- 2) Better still, why couldn't God have made all His intelligent creation **unable** to sin, or have simply saved them in their sins without Christ having to suffer and die?

REVIEW QUIZ

Complete the following sentences by selecting the correct word from the supplied list. One word should go in each space. You will not need to use all the words supplied.

SIN DESTROYED CENTURIES YEARS JERUSALEM
DAYS CREATION JUDGMENT HEAVEN RESTORED

- 1) The 2300 "days" in Daniel 8:14 represent 2300 _____

WHAT TO EXPECT IN UNIT 13

- Christ's Messiahship and crucifixion foretold 500 years beforehand.
- Tragedy strikes Jerusalem.
- Gabriel returns with the master key to the 2300 days.
- Are we in the end time?

BACKGROUND TO DANIEL 9

At the close of Chapter 8, we left Daniel devastated by the terrible deeds of the great horn and mystery of the 2300 days. Said Daniel, "I fainted and was sick for days... I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it." (verse 27)

Gabriel had interpreted the ram and the goat, and had foretold the deeds of the exceedingly great horn, but nowhere had he explained the beginning or ending points of the 2300 days. Did this prophecy mean continued oppression for Daniel's people, for "many days" – "2300 days" (or even years) – into the future? Would the desolation of Jerusalem and the sanctuary go on and on? These questions must have weighed heavily upon Daniel's spirit. As Chapter 9 opens we find him searching "books" for help.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. A TROUBLED PROPHET SEARCHES SCRIPTURE

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 9:1, 2, page 867; Jeremiah 25:11,12, page 755)

As Daniel searched, what was the only information he could find regarding the duration of Israel's captivity?

"The word of the Lord, given through Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish _____ years in the desolations of Jerusalem." (Daniel 9:2, page 867)

QUESTION 2 (Take time to read Daniel's prayer: Daniel 9:3-19)
Unable to relate Jeremiah's prophecy to the vision of the 2300 days, Daniel turned to God with "prayer and fasting". Does his prayer indicate a deep anxiety that the restoration of Jerusalem and the sanctuary should not be delayed? It had now been in ruins for many years.

"Now, therefore, our God ... cause Your face to shine on your _____ which is desolate." (verse 17)

"O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not _____ for Your own sake." (verse 19)

B. RETURN OF THE ANGEL

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 9:20,21)

In response to Daniel's prayer, who came to help him solve his problem?

*"The man _____, whom I had seen in **the vision** at the _____." (verse 21)*

"The vision at the beginning", mentioned here by Daniel, could only refer to the vision of Chapter 8, for that was the only vision in which Daniel had previously seen Gabriel.

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 9:22,23)

What did Gabriel say to indicate he had come to further explain the vision of Chapter 8?

"Therefore, consider the matter, and understand the ____."
(verse 23)

*Gabriel had not come to Daniel with a new vision, but to explain the **time** prophecy of the Chapter 8 vision – the 2300 days. Notice that Gabriel started right at the question of **time**, and that **time** is a major focus right to the end of this chapter.*

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 9:24-27, page 868)

What period of time did Gabriel say would be allotted to Daniel's people and their city?

" _____ weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city." (verse 24)

The original word for "determined" (chathak), in many cases, meant "severed from", "cut off", (Strong's Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary). Evidently, in this case, the seventy weeks were to be cut off "for" or "upon" Israel from the longer period of the 2300 days (years). The following diagram illustrates that.

COPY ILLUSTRATION

The 70 weeks allotted to Israel would have been the first part of the 2300 days (years), as becomes evident later.

C. THE MEANING OF "70 WEEKS"

QUESTION 6

Remember that this is prophetic (symbolic) time. Using the prophetic symbolism of *A DAY FOR A YEAR*, how many actual years would there be in these "70 weeks"?

ANSWER: ___ years

RSV says "seventy weeks of years" meaning seventy seven of years. (70 x 7 = 490) Study the next diagram briefly.

COPY ILLUSTRATION

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 9:24,25, page 868)

Would these 490 years mean further captivity and delay for Israel such as Daniel apparently feared? No! What was to be the purpose of granting this time to Israel? What was Israel to do during the 490 years?

"finish the _____ " (verse 24)

"make an end of ____ "

"make reconciliation for _____ "

"bring in everlasting _____ "

"seal up vision and _____ "

"anoint the Most _____ "

"restore and to build Jerusalem" (verse 25)

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 9:25, page 868)

What special person would come during the 490 years?

" _____ the Prince" (verse 25)

SO GABRIEL HAD BROUGHT WONDERFUL NEWS!

The captivity of Daniel's people would be reversed! Jerusalem would be restored! Above all else the Messiah (Christ) would come! Israel would be called to repentance and godliness. They would be free again with a new opportunity to serve God in their own land!

D. THE BEGINNING OF THE 490 YEARS

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 9:25, page 868)

What specific event would mark the beginning of the 490 years?

"the commandment to restore and build _____" (verse 25)

Do we know when this command was given? We do.

Three decrees were issued by Persian kings authorising the return of the Hebrew exiles.

- **the decree of Cyrus** **537BC**
- **the decree of Darius** **519BC**
- **the decree of Artaxerxes** **457BC**

These three decrees were seen by the prophet Ezra as one decree and were said to be God's decree. (Ezra 6:14, page 449)

Not until the decree of Artaxerxes, were full restoration provisions granted to the Jews. Hence the 490 years would need to be calculated from his decree – 457BC.

SEE EXHIBIT 1: Page 15 *COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE 70 WEEKS*

QUESTION 10

If the 490 years commenced in 457BC, in what year would they have ended?
(Remember to add one year to allow for the change from 1BC to AD1.)

ANSWER: _____

Check your answer by viewing the next diagram.

COPY ILLUSTRATION

Next, read Daniel 9:25,27; and notice that Gabriel divided the 490 years into three periods: 7 weeks, 62 weeks, and 1 week.

1)	7 weeks	=	49	years
2)	62 weeks	=	434	years
3)	1 week	=	7	years
		=	490	years

Visualise this with the aid of the next diagram.

COPY ILLUSTRATION

E. YEAR OF THE MESSIAH

QUESTION 11 (Daniel 9:25, page 868)

At what point of the three periods was the Messiah to come?

"Until Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks and _____ weeks." (verse 25)

That is, the Messiah would appear after 49 plus 434 years. Add the 49 and 434 together. They total 483. So the Messiah would appear 483 years after 457BC.

Calculate the date of the Messiah's appearing and write it on the diagram following. (Add one extra year for the BC-AD changeover.)

COPY ILLUSTRATION

If you wrote AD27 you are correct. It was then that Jesus was baptised and anointed by the Holy Spirit as “the Messiah” – “the Christ”. (Matthew 3:16, page 937; Acts 10:36-38, page 1063; Luke 3:21-23, page 993)

SEE EXHIBIT 2: Page 17
YEAR OF THE MESSIAH

Jesus himself recognised that His time had come. After His baptism He announced, “the TIME is fulfilled” (Mark 1:15, page 968) and began to preach as the “anointed one” – “the Messiah” (see Luke 4:18-21, page 995; John 4:25,26, page 1028).

E. THE YEAR OF SACRIFICE

QUESTION 14 (Daniel 9:26,27, page 868)

At what point of time was Christ's sacrifice predicted to take place?

- (a) *"And _____ the 62 weeks Messiah shall be cut off but not for himself" (verse 26)*
- (b) *"In the _____ of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering." (verse 27)*

The middle of the “week” (7 years) would be at the 3.5 year point. Jesus ministry did span just 3.5 years. At the hour of His sacrificial death, the tearing of the temple veil signified the end of the sacrifices and offerings of the earthly sanctuary. (see unit 11, page 6) Thus he caused the sacrifices and offerings to cease. Their continuance held no further significance.

QUESTION 15

If Christ's 3½ year ministry commenced at AD27, in what year would His crucifixion have taken place?

COPY ILLUSTRATION

G. THE NEW COVENANT

QUESTION 16 (Daniel 9:27, page 868)

*"Then he shall confirm a _____ with many for one week."
(verse 27)*

A “covenant” means a bond, contract, agreement. The Covenant here would be the New Covenant which Jesus confirmed by His death (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 8:8-13). “Testament” is another word for covenant. This is how the “New Testament” got its name.

God kept faith with Israel regarding the full 490 years, even though they rejected and crucified His Son 3½ years before its close. After His resurrection, Jesus gave special instructions to His disciples to go first to Israel with the Gospel. (Acts 1:8, page 1051). The nation’s time was fast running out.

But, except for the few thousand believers – “the remnant of Israel” – both leaders and people angrily rejected Jesus as the Messiah and turned on the infant church with fierce persecutions. After the stoning death of Stephen and the conversion of Saul (Paul), the message of the Messiah was carried to the Gentiles. Israel had forfeited her standing as God’s chosen nation. The 70 weeks had run their course. (Read Acts 7:54-60, page 1059, 13:46) Henceforth from that time onward, all believers, Jew and Gentile, would be counted

as His chosen nation, His church. Details of this come with our next unit.

H. TRAGEDY STRIKES JERUSALEM

QUESTION 17 (Daniel 9:26b, 27b)

What tragedy was predicted to overtake Jerusalem and the sanctuary, after the close of the 490 years?

"The people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the _____ and the _____." (verse 26b)

This prophecy was fulfilled in AD70 by the Roman army, and the Jews who were locked in civil war within the city.

Jerusalem was utterly destroyed. The nation had failed to accept the Messiah and turn back to God during their 490 years probation. Just before they crucified Him, Jesus said with great sorrow, "Your house is left to you desolate." (Matthew 23:38, page 960; 21:43; 24:1, 2; Luke 19:43,44, page 1017)

QUESTION 18 (John 1:41, 45, page 1026)

What discovery by the disciples Andrew and Philip could have been made by all the Jewish leaders and people?

*"We have found the _____" (verse 41)
"_____, the son of Joseph." (verse 45)*

I. THE END POINT OF THE 2300 YEARS

Having traced the events of the 490 years, we now remind ourselves that the 490 formed the first part of 2300 years. So we are now able to calculate the end point of the 2300.

QUESTION 19

Counting 2300 years from the commencement date, 457BC, in what year would the 2300 end? (Add the extra year for the BC-AD change.)

ANSWER: _____

TURN TO EXHIBIT 3: Page 18

THE MASTER KEY TO THE 2300 DAYS

Check your answer from this exhibit and review the main historical events of the 2300 years

The 2300 years span the history of God's people from the time of Medo-Persia, and Israel's release from captivity, to "the time of the end". This period, covers many events:

- the reign of Medo Persia
- the rise of Greece and Rome
- the rebuilding of Jerusalem
- the coming of the Messiah
- the Messiah's ministry and crucifixion
- the confirmation of the New Covenant
- the destruction of Jerusalem
- the spread of the Gospel to the Gentile world
- the challenge of the exceedingly great horn

- the arrival of the time of the end and the cleansing of the sanctuary judgement

The prophecy of the 2300 years confirms that we are now living in the closing period of history. Conditions prevailing in the world strengthen the reality of this time prophecy. Heaven's inquiry into the standing of all is now proceeding. Christ is soon to come.

QUESTION 20 (Luke 21:34-36, page 1019)

What urgent appeal did Jesus make to those who would be living in the "time of the end"?

"Watch therefore, and _____ always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to _____ before the Son of Man." (verse 36)

Have you responded to this loving appeal?

ANSWER: _____

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) What is the most valuable thing you have learned from this chapter?
- 2) In analysing Daniel's prayer of Daniel 9:3-19 (page 867), have you discovered ways of enriching your own prayer life?

REVIEW QUIZ

Look again carefully at your diagram of the 2300 days and the 70 weeks (Exhibit 1). Try to memorise the main and dates, then test yourself on these questions:

- 1) In what year was the decree of Artaxerxes given to allow the restoration of Jerusalem? _____
- 2) When was Jesus anointed the Messiah? _____
- 3) Name some of the important things that were to be accomplished in Israel during the 490 years.

- 4) What date would mark the end of the "2300 days" and the beginning of the cleansing of the sanctuary? _____
- 5) What does Gabriel call the time which follows the "2,300 days"?

POINTS TO LOOK FOR

- How Daniel met the Son of God 500 years before Bethlehem.
- Evidence of unseen agents in national governments and courts of kings.
- The invisible battle between good and evil.
- A glimpse of the caring ministry of angels.
- The importance of personal decision regarding our eternal destiny.

ONE OF DANIEL'S GREATEST VISIONS

Spring had come to Persia in the third year of Cyrus the Great (probably 535BC). The white-haired Daniel, now in his late 80s walked by the bank of the Hiddekel – the ancient Tigris river. Suddenly, a most awe-inspiring vision burst upon him. A being of surpassing glory, with eyes like torches of fire, appeared above the waters. Daniel fell like a dead man, while his companions fled in terror.

Who was this mighty one?

Why had he come to Daniel just then?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. DANIEL'S SORROW FOR JERUSALEM

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 10:1-3, page 868)

What did Daniel say which shows he was passing through great stress at the time?

"I Daniel, was _____ three full weeks." (verse 2)

What was troubling him?

We learn in verse 1 that something had been revealed to Daniel about "the appointed time". Remember that Gabriel had spoken about an appointed time in Chapter 8 (the 2,300 days, and about the "time" of Jerusalem's restoration in Chapter 9 (the 70 weeks). Two years had passed since then. With joy, Daniel had seen the issuing of the decree of Cyrus allowing Jewish exiles to leave for Jerusalem. But now, bad news was coming back to Persia.

Local Palestinians, hostile to Jewish resettlement, were sending false reports to Cyrus, and doing everything possible to obstruct the work of restoring the temple. They kept this opposition "all the days of Cyrus". (Read Ezra 4, page 446, for this interesting glimpse of history.)

In a state of grief, Daniel had given himself to fasting and prayer for God's intervention. It was at this point, as he walked by the river, that he saw the vision of the heavenly being.

B. VISION BY THE HIDDEKEL

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 10:5,6, page 868)

How did Daniel describe the "man" who suddenly appeared to him above the waters?

"I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold a certain _____ clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of _____, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in colour, and the sound of his words like the voice of a _____." (verses 5,6)

QUESTION 3

(Compare Revelation 1:13-16, page 1174, with Daniel 10:5, 6, page 868)

Who was this glorious personage? Do other scriptures help us discover his identity? John, the writer of Revelation, experienced a similar vision. He saw:

"one like the _____"

"girded ... with a _____ band" (Revelation 1:13)

"his _____ were like a flame of fire" (Revelation 1:14)

"his feet were like fine _____"

"his voice as the sound of _____" (Revelation 1:15)

QUESTION 4 (Revelation 1:17, 18, page 1174)

How did the being identify himself to John?

"He laid his right hand on me, saying to me, 'Do not be afraid, I am the _____ and the _____." (verse 17)

"I am he who lives, and was _____, and behold I am _____ forevermore." (verse 18)

The almost identical descriptions given by John in Revelation and by Daniel here, leave little room for doubt that Daniel was in the presence of the Son of God, that day by the Tigris River.

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 10:7, 8)

Could you describe from these verses the effect the vision had upon Daniel and his companions?

ANSWER:

This appearance of the Son of God in power was God's answer to Daniel's fears about Jerusalem. Here was the one who had walked in the fire with the three Hebrews; the "Son of Man", whom Daniel had seen standing before the Ancient of Days in judgement; "the Messiah the Prince"; "the Prince of Princes"! With this "man" on Israel's side, no force on earth could obstruct God's plans for restoring Jerusalem.

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 10:10-12, page 869)

As Daniel felt the touch of a hand upon him, what encouraging words did he hear?

"Oh Daniel, man greatly _____." (verse 11)

"Your words were heard, and I have _____ because of your words." (verse 12)

The voice he heard and the hand that now touched Daniel were almost certainly those of the angel Gabriel. Gabriel had already guided the prophet in understanding the vision of Chapter 8 and the prophecy of Jerusalem's restoration in Chapter 9. Their meeting again gives us a touching insight into the tender care of angel beings for the members of our fallen race! Gently lifting the old man to his feet, Gabriel assured Daniel that he was greatly loved by the inhabitants of a better world.

C. THE BATTLE BEHIND THE SCENES

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 10:13)

Why had Daniel been left to fast and pray for three weeks before Gabriel could come to him?

"But the prince of the kingdom of _____ withstood me twenty-one days." (verse 13)

There had been a fierce conflict at the court of Cyrus between Gabriel and somebody called the "prince of the kingdom of Persia". This "prince" may have been the king of Persia himself. However the unusual phrasing, "prince of the kingdom of Persia", seems to point to an angelic prince matching Gabriel – a supernatural being – one who was attempting to manipulate the mind of Cyrus the Great against God's plans. Day after day, for three full weeks, the contest had gone on – Gabriel versus an evil angel-prince.

This takes us behind the scenes of the visible world and gives us a glimpse of the awesome conflicts that constantly go on between the angels of God and the messengers of Satan for control of people's lives! Do you sometimes feel that powerful unseen forces seem to drive leaders and even whole nations into war and disaster? Do you yourself sometimes struggle with inner conflict when you are making a choice between right and wrong?

SEE EXHIBIT 1: Page 13, 14 UNSEEN AGENCIES

QUESTION 8 (Ephesians 6:10-12, page 1128)

What did the apostle Paul say concerning the battle between good and evil?

"For we do not _____ against flesh and blood, but ... against _____ hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (verse 12)

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 10:13, page 869)

Who came to help Gabriel in his battle to win the mind of Cyrus?

"And behold, _____, one of the chief princes, came to help me." (verse 13)

Michael, "one of the chief princes", had come to Gabriel's aid. The name Michael means "who is like God?" Gabriel told Daniel that beside himself, only Michael had knowledge of the divine mysteries that he was about to reveal. Who was Michael? His full identity becomes clear in these final chapters we are now studying.

D. DANIEL'S PEOPLE NOT FORGOTTEN

QUESTION 10 (Daniel 10:14, page 869)

Now that Gabriel was free to come to Daniel, what had he been instructed to tell the prophet?

"Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the _____, for the vision refers to _____ yet to come." (verse 14)

Here Gabriel gives the reason for this visit to Daniel. It was to reveal more about the future of God's people – especially the far distant future. Their warfare in the battle between good and evil and their final victory is Gabriel's main theme for the rest of the book of Daniel.

STUDY EXHIBIT 2: Pages 15-17

WHO ARE GOD'S PEOPLE OF THE LATTER DAYS?

QUESTION 11 (Daniel 10:15-19)

After reading these verses, describe how Daniel was revived and given new strength.

Answer: _____

E. CONFLICT TO COME

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 10:20, page 869)

Was the conflict with the "prince of Persia" over?

"Then he said, ... And now I must _____ to _____ with the prince of Persia." (verse 20)

QUESTION 13 (Daniel 10:20)

For how long would Gabriel's presence at the headquarters of Persia continue?

"And when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of _____ will come." (verse 20)

Gabriel would continue to strive with the Persian kings until Persia was superseded by Greece (about 200 years into the future). He would then strive to influence the Greeks in favour of God's people as he had the Persians.

It could well be that the second restoration decree by Darius the Great in 519BC and the third and final decree of Artaxerxes in 457BC to let the Jews restore Jerusalem and their nation, were the result of Gabriel's strivings with the minds of these Persian kings.

F. GABRIEL HAS MORE TO TELL

QUESTION 14 (Daniel 10:14,21)

Before returning to the Persian court, what else did Gabriel say about his purpose in making this visit to Daniel?

"But I will tell you what is noted in the _____ of _____." (verse 21)

Gabriel said that what he was about to reveal was noted in "the Scripture of Truth" or "the true writing" – God-given, unerring truth. This is what he reveals in the last two chapters of Daniel (Units 15 and 16).

G. GABRIEL'S SUPPORTER

QUESTION 15 (Daniel 10:21, page 869)

Who is again mentioned as Gabriel's chief supporter in the continuing conflict with evil powers?

ANSWER: _____

WHO IS MICHAEL?

His name appears only in the symbolic prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, and in Jude 9 (page 1173). Jude calls him “Michael the Archangel”. In the original language, “archangel” means “prince of angels” or “ruler of angels”. Revelation shows him to be the great commander who cast Satan out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-9, page 1182). Michael always appears under this name in His role as protector and deliverer of God’s people against Satan and the forces of evil.

Some Jewish writers and many Christian writers identify “Michael” as one and the same as the “Messiah”. Gabriel does this – “Michael your prince”, he says, “Messiah the prince”; “Michael the great prince who stands for your people.” (Daniel 10:21; 9:25; 12:1) Many Christians find certainty only as they identify Michael with the Son of God.

**WHY IS MICHAEL’S NAME
IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION?**

SEE EXHIBIT 3: Page 18

At His birth, Christ took upon Himself the nature of mankind to save mankind. But prior to Bethlehem He was just as involved in the work of salvation. He visited the earth as a mighty angel – always taking the lead at the battlefield to deliver His people from evil, as here in Daniel 10. This divine “angel” appeared on many occasions in Old Testament times. He is sometimes called a “man”; sometimes an “angel”, and sometimes “God”. (See Joshua 5:13-15, page 206; Genesis 32:24-30, page 32; Hosea 12:3-5, page 881; Isaiah 63:9, page 720.) (Also see Revelation 12:7-9, page 1182; Jude 9, page 1173; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, page 1137.) This mighty one could be none other than Christ. “God with us.” (Matthew 1:23, page 935) (See 1 Corinthians 10:4, page 1105.)

THE DAILY BATTLEGROUND

When we study the rise and fall of empires as in the prophecies of Daniel 2, 7, 8, it is possible for us to see only military conflict. But when the curtain is drawn aside as it is in this chapter, the truth comes close to home that greater forces of good and evil are fighting it out on the battleground of minds that rule the nations, and on the battleground of our everyday lives.

As we face the future with its tests of right or wrong, we can say “yes” or “no” to God. We have the choice. But we should understand that these day-by-day decisions determine our eternal destinies.

QUESTION 16

Would you like to say: 'Dear God, I need your protection against the forces of evil. I choose, freely and deliberately, to let you have your way in my life, both today and in the future?'

ANSWER:

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) Does a knowledge of the battle between the forces of good and evil help in understanding the reason why this world is experiencing so much conflict?
- 2) Do these facts help you better understand the presence of suffering in an otherwise wonderful world, and the sufferings of Christ in His conquest of Satan on our behalf?
- 3) Why did the Creator permit sin to rise and allow humans and higher beings the freedom to choose between good and evil?

REVIEW QUIZ (multiple choice)

Select the correct answer from (a), (b), (c) in each section, and answer by placing a tick alongside your choice.

- 1) Gabriel's conflict with evil in the Persian court demonstrated that:
 - a) People are like "puppets" under God's arbitrary control. He determines what they will decide
 - (b) God will try to influence, but will not force people to do what is right
 - (c) God has no active interest in this world's affairs
- 2) Important themes in Daniel Chapter 10 show that:
 - (a) God makes life smooth and easy for His people

- (b) There is an invisible warfare going on between Christ and Satan and their angels
 - (c) Christ did not involve himself in human affairs until New Testament times
- 3) The main reason why the angel Gabriel took so long to explain the vision of the 2300 "days", the 70 "weeks" and the experiences of God's people into the far distant future was that:
 - (a) The visions were so long and complicated
 - (b) Daniel was not ready emotionally, and physically to endure at one time the full impact of the truth about the future
 - (c) Prophets were not just receivers of messages for others. They were personally involved in receiving and pondering them first for themselves, and this took time.

HIGH POINTS OF UNIT 15

- The crucial event of history.
- Christ and Caesar.
- The shape of things to come.
- A road to resurrection.

In Chapter 11, do not look for symbols such as animals with wings, heads, and horns. This chapter is actually a further explanation of “the vision” of Chapter 8 – another journey over the same road.

In Chapter 8, the kingdoms are portrayed through symbols. In Chapter 11, the same kingdoms are simply named or described without the use of symbols.

Keep these facts in mind and Daniel 11 will be much easier to understand. Also keep in mind Gabriel’s reason for bringing this additional message to Daniel, as stated in Chapter 10:14:-

**“I HAVE COME TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT
WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR PEOPLE IN THE LATTER
DAYS.”**

Two facts provide us with a reliable basis for interpreting this prophecy. First, the journey starts in the days of Medo-Persia. Second, it reaches to the “latter days” and the resurrection at the end. The timespan of the prophecy is therefore unmistakable – Medo-Persia to the second coming of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. THE LAST KINGS OF PERSIA AND GREECE

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 11:2, page 869)

How many kings did Gabriel say were yet to arise in Persia?

ANSWER: _____

The three kings were:

(1) Cambyses (530-522BC) (2) Smerdis (522BC) (3) Darius I (522-456BC)

These would be followed by a fourth king. His name was Xerxes (486-465BC). What would Xerxes do?

*“He shall stir up all against the realm of _____.”
(verse 2)*

With the backing of immense riches, Xerxes “stirred up” as many as forty nations and led a huge army against the Grecian city states. But he was roundly defeated by the Greeks at the battles of Salamis and Plataea (480 and 479BC). Greece grew in strength until it finally conquered Persia (331BC).

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 11:3,4)

The next king in the prophecy would be “mighty”. Can you identify him by comparing Daniel 11:3, 4 with Daniel 8:5-8, 21,22? He would:

“Rule with _____” (Daniel 11:3)

Who was this king?

ANSWER: _____

Alexander certainly did rule with great dominion, but his rule was brief. Just as Chapters 7, 8, and 11 all said, his kingdom was divided into four. The kings who first ruled over these four divisions were as we saw in Unit 10:

LYSIMACHUS:	<i>north</i>	CASSANDER:	<i>west</i>
SELECUCUS:	<i>east</i>	PTOLEMY:	<i>south</i>

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 11:5,6-13, page 869)

Which two of these four kingdoms would temporarily join forces?

"The king of the _____ shall be strong." (verse 5)

"shall come to the king of the _____" (verse 6)

The titles – “King of the South” and “King of the North” – occur throughout Daniel 11. At first they applied to the Greek successors of Ptolemy in Egypt (south) and the Greek successors of Seleucus in Syria (north). Intrigue and quarrelling raged back and forth between north and south until the Greek world was swallowed up by the next great power – Rome.

B. ROME EMERGES

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 11:14,23)

Remember that in the Daniel 7 and 8 visions, Rome was to start off as a "little horn" ("from littleness", ie. a small power), but would grow to become "exceedingly great". It would become strong with a small number of people. (verse 23) How did Gabriel describe Rome's rise against Daniel's people?

*"Certain violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfilment of **the** _____ ." (the vision of Chapter 8) (verse 14)*

The literal meaning of "violent men of your people" is "sons of the breakers of your people". The KJV says "robbers of thy people". Three important clues help us to identify these "robbers" or "breakers" as the Romans.

- they would come “in fulfilment of **the vision**” (the vision of Chapter 8)
- they would “exalt themselves” – a reference to the self-exalting power of Rome (Daniel 8:11,25)
- they would be “breakers of your people” – This “breaking” of others was a chief characteristic of Rome as already foretold in Daniel’s previous prophecies. For example:

- Daniel 2:40 - “breaks in pieces”
- Daniel 7:7,23 - “breaking in pieces”
- Daniel 8:10,13,24 - “trampled upon them”, “destroy the mighty, and also the holy people”

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 11:14, page 869)

What did Gabriel say would eventually happen to Rome, the "breakers" of God's people?

"but they shall ____" (verse 14)

Daniel 8:25 likewise says of the same power: *"He shall be broken without hand."*

AT THIS POINT STUDY EXHIBIT 1: Pages 15
LINKS BETWEEN DANIEL 11 AND DANIEL 8

VERSES 15-16: These verses picture the overpowering advance of Rome against the warring kings of the south and north (the Ptolemys of Egypt and the Seleucids of Syria). Rome absorbed both, took ‘the glorious land’ (Palestine) and became the dominant power from then on.

VERSES 16-21: Focus upon the exploits of the noted Romans, Pompey, Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra, (‘the daughter of women’ corrupted by Julius Caesar). Octavian (Augustus), and Tiberius also appear to feature in these verses. These emperors became highly exalted.

“Augustus” was a title of “the gods”. This title was adopted by Octavian for himself. The title was carried by all succeeding emperors. When Augustus died he was deified (made a god). Before him, Julius Caesar had been proclaimed sole head of the Roman world and given the title “Pontifex Maximus” (Supreme Pontiff – priest). These ideas of “Augustus” (as it were god) and “Pontifex Maximus” (chief bidge builder, or supreme priest) became strongly entrenched in Roman tradition. Both these ideas were later adopted by the Roman bishops who took the place of the emperors.

C. CHRIST AND CAESAR

VERSE 20: Augustus Caesar was evidently the “imposer of taxes” mentioned here. He was ruling the Roman world when Jesus was born. (Read Luke 2:1, page 991. Compare with KJV.)

VERSE 21: The “vile person” who followed Augustus is seen as Tiberius, who reigned AD14-37. Many Romans escaped from his tyranny only by suicide. This is the same Tiberius who is mentioned in connection with Jesus’ baptism. (Luke 3:1, 21, page 993)

Jesus was born into a cruel world. Herod the Great, "king of Judea" under Rome, tried to kill Him as a baby. Herod murdered all the male infants of Bethlehem in an attempt to destroy Jesus (Matthew 2:7-16). As well, he destroyed many political opponents. He even put three of his own sons and one of his ten wives to death. Augustus said of Herod, “I would rather be Herod's hog than his son.”

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 11:22, page 870)

How did Gabriel describe the tragedy of Rome's devastation of the Jewish nation and the crucifixion of Christ?

“They shall be swept away ... and be _____. Also, the _____ of the covenant.” (verse 22)

Do you remember the confirming of the new covenant by the “Messiah the Prince” in Chapter 9? This prophecy of the breaking of the “prince of the covenant” (Christ), was fulfilled when He was crucified in the nineteenth year of the same emperor as mentioned above – Tiberius Caesar. (That year was AD31 – the “middle” of the 70th week of Daniel 9).

The Roman historian, Tacitus, who lived AD55-120, recorded the death of Christ with this brief sentence:

“Chrestus, the founder of that name, was put to death as a criminal by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea, in the reign of Tiberius.”

In AD70, forty years after Christ's crucifixion, the Jews were "swept away" by Rome in the terrible destruction of Jerusalem, predicted in Daniel 9:26, page 868 - one of the worst tragedies of all time.

The breaking of the Prince of the Covenant is the great landmark prediction of Daniel 11 - history's major reference point from which we check our bearings for the rest of the chapter. This is the crucial event of world history on which the destiny of the human race depends.

D. THE JOURNEY FORWARD FROM THE CROSS

From here on, we find details of the chapter harder to understand. This is not because there are no events in history that fit the predictions, but because there are so many that may seem to do so. In fact, people frequently hold that these final predictions apply to the tyrannical Seleucid King, Antiochus IV, or to a Roman emperor such as Nero, or to a series of emperors, thinking that the last kings of Daniel 11 are those of Greece or of Imperial Rome.

But the final events of Daniel 11 do not occur at the time of the Greek or pagan Roman empires. They extend much further into the future, as shown in the first few verses of Chapter 12.

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 11:45-12:1-3, page 871)

What are the final events of this prophecy? (answer in your own words, if you wish)

ANSWER: _____

We see then, that the predictions of Daniel 11 extend to the great resurrection day. This means that the prophecy covers the whole Christian era, ending with the coming of Christ.

E. THE CHURCH IN CONFLICT

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 11:23-39, page 870)

Would Roman-Christian times bring peace and goodwill to all mankind? Read through these verses and write down some of the words or ideas which describe the condition of things.

ANSWER: _____

The papal rulers made war on their own people and upon religious and political rivals. Popes were believed to hold the place of God upon the earth as His judge and avengers in both religious and political government. This led to the church using only force against those who dissented from its claims.

READ EXHIBIT 2: Pages 16, 17
THE TWO SWORDS

F. WAR AGAINST THE HOLY COVENANT

From the fourth century AD, beginning with the emperor Theodosius the Great, pagan religion was outlawed and forcibly repressed by Christian Roman emperors. Next, the three Arian Christian kingdoms were uprooted by Rome. Then came nearly two hundred years of crusades against Moslems (1096-1275). As the crusades tapered off, Pope Innocent III decreed that the Albigenses, a large Christian body in France, were "more wicked than Mohammedans" (Moslems). The Albigenses were virtually wiped out by persecution.

Verses 28-39 seem to highlight these political and religious wars, especially war against "the covenant" and "the people of the covenant".

The Waldenses (northern Italy), the Lollards (England), the Hussites (Bohemia), the Huguenots (France), the Lutherans (Germany), and the Protestants of Spain and the Netherlands were relentlessly persecuted through inquisitions and religious military crusades. "The people of the covenant" went through great suffering for their faith. They had forsaken Rome - sometimes by whole nations - to return to the Gospel covenant.

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 11:28-31, page 870)

Against what sacred thing was "the king's" heart moved?

"against the _____" (verse 28)

"rage against the _____" (verse 30)

"he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the _____" (verse 30)

The "*holy covenant*" here would be the covenant mentioned in Daniel 9:27 and 11:22. It is the covenant of salvation through Christ. Christ is "the Prince of the Covenant". Saving power and judgement belong to Him alone. For another to claim authority to save and to judge, and especially to condemn and kill in the name of God, is certainly to war against the Holy Covenant.

G. HEROES AND HEROINES

QUESTION 10 (Daniel 11:32-33)

Throughout all these tremendous trials, what would the "people who understand" do? What would be their lot?

"instruct _____" (verse 33)

"for many days they shall fall by _____ and _____ ; by captivity and plundering" (verse 33)

QUESTION 11 (Daniel 11:34,35, page 870)

How much help would the persecuted ones receive?

"They shall be aided with a _____ ."
(verse 34)

What effect would this have on the faithful ones?

"and some of those of understanding shall _____ , to _____ them, ... and make them _____" (verse 35)

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 11:35)

For how long would these trials last?

"until the _____ of the _____"

UNIT 15

The "time of the end" has become a familiar term to us. It encompasses the final period beyond the 1260 and 2300-day prophecies of Daniel 7 and 8 (1798 and 1844). The age of religious persecution had virtually ended by those dates just as verse 35 indicates. But more trouble was predicted to come.

QUESTION 13 (Daniel 11:36-39)

How would this last day power called "THE KING" regard himself?

"He shall _____ and _____ himself... against the _____ of gods." (verse 36)

Remember that he was described the same way in Daniel 8:11,25.

"exalt himself as high as the Prince of the host"

"magnify himself in his heart"

His "war" against God's sanctuary, which we studied in Daniel 8, is again mentioned in Daniel 11:31, which says:

"They shall defile the sanctuary fortress." Compare this with Daniel 8:11 which says: "The place of His (the Prince of the host's) sanctuary was cast down", "brought low". (NIV)

H. THE FINAL CONFLICT

Have you read the prophecies of Revelation about the world's final conflict and how certain powers will endeavour to bring the whole world under one rule and one worship? (see Revelation chapters 11-19, page 1181) Here is depicted a consortium of religious and political powers, with the Roman entity of Daniel still prominent. These powers will endeavour to bring all people into one system of worship, one universal order, thinking to achieve world government at last - an impossible dream!

**Remember Nebuchadnezzar's golden image!
Remember Daniel's prediction! "They shall not adhere to one another!"**

QUESTION 14 (Daniel 11:40-44, page 871)

We should all long for and work with all our might toward the eradication of violence, hunger, homelessness, intolerance, and all evil. But do these prophecies indicate that *human effort* will ever succeed in bringing in the "one-world" "golden age" of peace?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION 15 (Daniel 11:45)

According to Gabriel's prediction, what will happen to the great super-power of the last days?

"he shall come to his _____, and no one will help him"

In Daniel 2, the stone destroyed the image "without hands". In Daniel 7, divine "judgment" destroyed the little horn kingdom. In Daniel 8, he would be "broken without hands". Now Daniel 11 says: "He shall come to his end and no one will help him." These prophecies show that God alone will bring an end to the long ages of conflict.

In Daniel 11:40-45, the focus is on events at the end – events not yet fulfilled. Are we able to predict precisely how they will be brought about?

READ EXHIBIT 3: Pages 18
THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME
for principles that help in dealing with
predictions yet to be fulfilled

QUESTION 16 (Daniel 12:1,2, page 871)

When the final crisis comes, who is it that steps in to save His people?
 What is his name?

"_____ the great _____" (verse 1)

What promised events take place at the end?

"And at that time your people shall be _____, every one who is found written in the _____. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall _____, some to everlasting _____." (verse 1,2)

J. THE JOURNEY'S END

Now that we have travelled the road from the cross to the coming of Christ, let us look back at the main signposts we have passed along the way. Again notice how Daniel 11 and Daniel 8 have taken the same path throughout the journey.

STUDY EXHIBIT 4: Pages 19

FAMILIAR LANDMARKS

on the journey from the cross to the resurrection morning – Daniel 8 and 11 compared

Do you sense that we are now living in a time of great significance and that our personal decisions for Christ and His word are urgent?

ANSWER: _____

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) Why is the breaking of the "Prince of the Covenant" called the central event of history?
- 2) Jesus said, "The gate of hades (hell)" would not "prevail" against His church (Matthew 16:18, pages 951-952). How does Daniel 11 demonstrate this?

REVIEW QUIZ (T/F)

- 1) Christ is referred to in Daniel 11 as the "Prince of the Covenant".
- 2) A main focus in the prophecy of Daniel 11 is the "war" against God's "Holy Covenant" (the Gospel).
- 3) God has not revealed the final outcome of the struggle between good and evil. No one knows whether right or wrong will triumph in this world.
- 4) Because I have given my life to Christ, He will see to it that I will never have to face serious hardship or opposition concerning my belief or way of life.
- 5) The message of Daniel 11 covers the same ground as the message of Daniel 8.
- 6) The message of Daniel 11 commences with Medo-Persia and ends with the resurrection day.

DISCOVERIES IN DANIEL'S LAST CHAPTER

- Great world changes soon to take place.
- Why you should not be surprised by the scientific wonders of our day.
- The new beginning beyond the end of time.
- When Daniel lives again.

THE GOLDEN MILE-POST

At the heart of ancient Rome there once stood a golden milepost – the spot where all roads from distant lands of the empire met and ended. This final chapter of Daniel is his golden milepost. Here, all his prophecies meet in the triumph of God's people at the end of time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. THE CRISIS AT THE CLOSE

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 11:44, 45; 12:1, page 871)

At the height of the world's final crisis, what supreme ruler will intervene?

"At that time shall _____ stand up, the great Prince who stands watch over ... your people." (verse 1)

Here the identity of Michael is unmistakable. He is "the Great Prince" who has care of God's people – "Messiah the Prince". The strong deliverer.

What does it mean for Michael to stand up?

To "stand up" means to rise and rule. See Daniel 11:2,3,4,7,14,20,21 (page 869), where one king after another arises. Last of all Michael arises, and none ever stand up after Him. He is the rightful king. The world is His, and His kingdom is eternal. (Read again Daniel 7:14,27, page 865; and Daniel 2:44, page 857) As Gabriel said: "Of His kingdom there will be no end". (Luke 1:33, page 990)

Before He comes, Christ will have completed His final work as our advocate in the judgment (Daniel 7:10, 13). Through Him, judgment will have been made "in favour of the saints of the Most High". (Daniel 7:22) It is then that He "stands up" and the judgments of the heavenly court are put into effect.

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 12:1, page 871)

In a brief space of time when Michael stands up, what will occur on earth?

"And there shall be a time of _____ such as never was." (verse 1)

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 12:1)

What will then happen to God's people?

"At that time your people shall be _____" (verse 1)

What is it that determines who are His people?

"Everyone who is found _____ in the _____."
(verse 1) (Link this verse with Daniel 7:10.)

"Is my name in God's book?" Could you ask yourself a more important question? Notice the reassuring promise of Jesus (Revelation 3:5,12, page 1176).

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 12:2, page 871)

What miraculous event will take place at the deliverance of God's people?

"And many of those who _____ in the dust of the earth shall _____, some to everlasting _____, some to shame and everlasting contempt." (verse 2)

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 12:3)

How is this thrilling reward of God's people described by the angel?

"Those who are wise shall shine like the _____ of the firmament (heavens), and those who turn many to righteousness like the _____ forever and ever." (verse 3)

READ EXHIBIT 1: Pages 13 FACTS ABOUT THE RESURRECTION

B. THE SEALED BOOK AND THE AGE OF WONDERS

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 12:4)

After giving these inspiring revelations, what did the angel tell Daniel to do regarding his book of prophecies? Tick the right statement.

- send it out to the whole world
 shut it up and seal it until the time of the end

From Gabriel's instruction to "seal the book *until* the time of the end", would you conclude that the book would be opened and understood *at* the time of the end?

ANSWER: _____

The closing of the book does not mean that it would be impossible to understand any of Daniel's prophecies before the time of the end. Much of it has been well understood throughout the centuries as it has been progressively fulfilled. For instance, see Matthew 24:15 (page 960). Evidently, it simply means that Daniel was to finish writing and to stop asking questions, because his long – range predictions and time prophecies could not become fully clear until the end time.

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 12:4, page 871)

What developments were to occur at the time of the end?

"Many shall _____ to and fro and _____ shall increase." (verse 4)

Great Scientific discoveries began about the time Daniel's 1260 and 2300 day prophecies came to fulfilment (1798 and

1844). *Since then knowledge has absolutely exploded - especially in the last few decades.*

Sir Isaac Newton, the famous 18th century scientist, was an outstanding student of Daniel's prophecies. In commenting on Daniel 12:4 he claimed that rapid travel would be a mark of the future. He would not be surprised, Sir Isaac Newton said, if one day people could reach the incredible speed of 50 mph! The French philosopher, Voltaire, responded with the comment, "The study of prophecy has led the prince of philosophers to make a fool of himself!"

What would Sir Isaac say today about his "50 mph", if he were to rise from the grave and take a ride in a 10,000 kph shuttle? And suppose Voltaire went along for the ride! Would he apologise to Sir Isaac, do you think?

However, this amazing increase of scientific knowledge and high volume transport to and fro across the globe appear to play only a secondary role in the fulfilment of this prophecy.

It is practically certain that the knowledge which was to be increased was knowledge concerning the book of Daniel, and the running to and fro meant searching out those mysteries in his book which neither Daniel nor anyone else could understand at that time. In other parts of the Bible, "running to and fro" means seeking. See Jeremiah 5:1 (page 731), Amos 8:12 (page 894), and Zechariah 4:10 (page 920). As we have seen, certain aspects of long-term prophecy can only be understood as they take place, or are about to take place.

C. A SOLEMN DECLARATION ABOUT TIME

After the prediction concerning this increase of knowledge, two other heavenly visitors appeared to Daniel (verse 5) and joined with Gabriel.

Also present was "the man clothed in linen" – the glorious being Daniel had seen by the river Hiddekel – (Chapter 10).

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 12:5, 6, page 871)

What question did one of them ask the man clothed in linen?

"How ____ shall the _____ of these wonders be?" (verse 6)

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 12:7)

In reply, what did the man clothed in linen declare?

"It shall be for a _____, times and _____ a time." (verse 7)

This time-prophecy had already been given (Daniel 7:25). It was the 1260-year period of the little horn's supremacy, which ended in 1798. Now the great heavenly visitor is saying again that the close of this period would signal the last segment of time.

QUESTION 10 (Daniel 12:7)

How did the man clothed in linen highlight the extreme importance of His declaration about the time of the end?

"He held up his _____ hand and his _____ hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time."

This was the most solemn form of oath possible – a pledge on the authority of heaven that the end of the 1260 years would bring in the winding up of affairs. Thus he assured Daniel

that human strife, error, and suffering would not be allowed to continue forever. God has His times!

QUESTION 11

Would you like to state in a few words what it means to you to know that we are living in the time of the end?

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 12:8-10, page 871)

Still worried because he did not understand all he wanted to know, what did Daniel again ask?

"My Lord, what shall be the _____ (outcome) of these things?" (verse 8)

Would anyone ever understand these final prophecies? What was the response of the divine visitor?

"And he said, 'Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.'" "The _____ shall understand." (Daniel 12:9,10)

READ EXHIBIT 2: Pages 14
THE 1260 YEARS AND THE UNSEALING
OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

D. PROMISES TO THOSE WHO STAND FIRM

QUESTION 13 (Daniel 12:10)

Beside the promise of understanding, what other promise was made by the heavenly being regarding God's people in the time of the end?

"Many shall be _____ and made white." (verse 10)

What does it mean here to be "purified and made white"?

ANSWER: _____

E. TWO ADDITIONAL PERIODS

QUESTION 14 (Daniel 12:11, 12, page 871)

What other time periods did Daniel's instructor link with the 1260 years?

"There shall be one _____ two _____ and _____ days." (verse 11)

"Blessed is he who waits and comes to the one _____ three _____ and _____ days." (verse 12)

SEE EXHIBIT 3: Pages 14, 15
FOR COMMENTS ON THE 1290 AND THE 1335
DAYS

F. CHRIST'S PARTING ASSURANCE TO DANIEL

When the heavenly being said, "Blessed is he that waits for... the 1335 days", he seemed to mean it first of all for Daniel himself; that he might have rest in the hands of the great God who had revealed all these things to him. The end of the 1335 days (years) would doubtless bring him to the eve of the judgment when the books of heaven would be opened and his name would be "found" written there, with the names of the faithful of all ages.

QUESTION 15 (Daniel 12:13)

What was the divine instructor's parting promise to Daniel?

*"But you, go your way till the _____, for you shall rest and will _____ to your inheritance at the end of the days."
 (verse 13, page 872)*

This "goodbye" to the 90-year-old prophet was one of tender assurance. After more than 70 years of faithful service, Daniel was to "rest" from his labours, but he would never be forgotten. In the final review, the Son of God will present his name before the Father and the angel messengers who had so often talked with him (Revelation 3:5, page 1176). He will be accounted worthy through Christ of a place in the kingdom which he had so many times foretold. When the Son of God comes to gather His people from among the dead and the living, Daniel

will be raised to his eternal reward. His will be a glorious resurrection. He will "rise to his inheritance at the end of days".

Are you planning to meet with Christ and His faithful Daniel on that glorious resurrection morning? If so, would you like to write YES?

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) What connections do you see between the prophecies of Daniel, the Gospel of Salvation, and the commandments of God?
- 2) Would you like to think about, and write down some of the benefits you have gained from participating in the Daniel Seminar?

REVIEW QUIZ (multiple choice)

Indicate your answers. More than one in each set may be correct.

- 1) The main purpose of the prophecies of Daniel is:
 - a) to prove that God is able to foretell the future
 - b) to expose errors in the Christian world
 - c) to assure God's people that He is the one in control of the world and its eternal destiny

UNIT 16

- 2) The book of Daniel shows that:
- a) God is particular about our religious beliefs and actions
 - b) He has appointed a day of judgment
 - c) Christ will deliver to everlasting life those found to be right with Him in the judgment
- 3) The main character in the book of Daniel is:
- a) King Nebuchadnezzar
 - b) the prophet Daniel
 - c) Christ
- 4) The supreme purpose of the coming of Christ is:
- a) to take over the United Nations
 - b) restore His eternal kingdom
 - c) improve world conditions
- 5) According to Daniel, the task of God's people is to:
- a) bring about a new world order
 - b) take over Christ's work of salvation
 - c) be faithful, loyal, and obedient to God, His word and mission, through times of trouble or of peace

Whatever your lot – take courage! Have faith in Christ and His salvation. Obey His commandments. He holds your future in His hands. This is *HIS* world, and through Him, it is your inheritance.

IS YOUR HEART SET ON THAT BRIGHT NEW WORLD?

“In the annals of human history, the growth of nations and the rise and fall of empires appear as dependent on the will and prowess of man. The shaping of events seems to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the Word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, behind, above, and through all the play and counter-play of human interest, power and passions, the agencies of the all-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will.”

E G White, Education, page 173, Pacific Press Association

CONCLUSION

The momentous themes of Daniel's prophecies do not end with the close of his book. They are re-echoed by later prophets, by Jesus Himself (Matthew 24) and by the New Testament apostles; especially by John, the writer of Revelation. In his inspired visions, which take up where Daniel left off, John saw symbols such as Daniel had seen, and foretold events of the time of the end, the glories of Christ's return, and the bright new world that is coming.