

Survey of Daniel

by
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Survey of Daniel

**A study of the book of Daniel for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

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Updated January 2017**

Survey of Daniel

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the book of Daniel. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you has written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the book of Daniel. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses that you will be reading. After each paragraph you will usually have three questions. These three questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer to some question in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will ask you a question that will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson there will be an opportunity to write down something that you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons that three things will happen in your life:

1. First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.
2. Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses that you have studied.
3. Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally written in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that covered the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of Daniel
Lesson 1
Daniel 1:1-21

Today we are beginning a study of the book of Daniel. As we have studied the other prophets, we have seen that many of the prophets tell us much about the judgment and future of the nation of Israel. The book of Daniel tells us about the judgment and future of the world as a whole. Daniel was taken captive as a young man and taken to the country of Babylon. However, he had parents who had been faithful in teaching Him the importance of knowing and obeying the Word of God. As a result, Daniel stood true for the Lord even though he was a young man in a foreign land. He chose to serve the true and living God rather than serve the false gods of Babylon.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how Daniel was chosen to serve the king of Babylon.
- Explain why Daniel chose to speak for what he believed.
- Explain how God rewarded Daniel and his three friends for their faithfulness.

Today we are beginning a study of the life of a man who gives us an outstanding example of the kind of life that the Lord wants every Christian to live. Daniel made choices as a very young man that affected his entire life as well as the lives of many others. While Daniel was still a young man, probably about fifteen or sixteen, he was taken as a captive to the land of Babylon. He was taken to Babylon at the same time that all of the gold and silver dishes in the temple were taken to Babylon. The king of Babylon had taken the gold and silver vessels from the temple. In addition, he had also taken many of the people as captives to the land of Babylon.

1. Read Daniel 1:1-7 and write what the king of Babylon did with the gold and silver dishes that he took from the temple in Jerusalem.
2. Explain why God allowed the king of Babylon to take the treasures of the temple at Jerusalem to Babylon.
3. Explain why you think that Daniel gives us an example of the importance of making wise decisions even while a person is still a youth.

We are going to see that the decision of the king of Babylon to take the gold and silver dishes from the temple at Jerusalem was something that will be very important later in this book. The king of Babylon also decided that he was going to take the best of the young captives that he had captured in Jerusalem and train them to work for him. The king gave several requirements for the men that he chose to be trained. He did not want any young men that had a physical blemish. He felt that in their appearance these young men must be perfect. The king also wanted young men that were very intelligent. They must have knowledge of a wide variety of things. They must also have a good understanding of science.

4. Read Daniel 1:1-7 and write what the king wanted these young men to learn.
5. Explain why an effective leader will make it one of his important goals to train future leaders.
6. Explain why you think that the king wanted the best of the young captives from various lands to receive special training.

In addition to choosing to teach these young men the learning and language of the Chaldeans, the king also wanted young men who had proper social manners so that they would know how to stand and work in the palace of the king. The king wanted these young men to receive the best education possible. Here we see that the king wanted these young men to be prepared to do anything that he would desire. He wanted them to learn to think and act like the people of Babylon instead of continuing to think and act like the people of their own land.

7. Read Daniel 1:1-7 and write how long these young men were to be trained before they would stand before the king.
8. Explain why the king wanted these young men from Jerusalem to learn to think and act like the people of Babylon.
9. Explain why you think that the king wanted these young men to receive the best education that was possible.

The king said that for three years these young men were to receive the best training that the country of Babylon could give them. They were also to eat the same food that the king ate. They were to drink the same kind of wine that the king drank. Here we see that the king was planning to do everything possible to make these young men like himself. Among these young men were four teenagers who had their faith in the true and living God. These four were Daniel and his three friends. The three friends of Daniel were given the names of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Daniel was given a different name by the prince of the eunuchs.

10. Read Daniel 1:1-7 and write the Babylonian name that was given to Daniel by the prince of the eunuchs.
11. Explain what you learn about the young men that the king chose to serve him in these verses.
12. Explain why you think that God wanted to help us realize that these four young men were men of faith.

These four teenagers were very different from the rest of the young men that the king had chosen to be trained to serve him. The rest of the young men were very willing to do exactly what the king wanted and eat the food that the king gave them to eat. In contrast, the four young men felt that it was more important to be obedient to the Lord than to follow the desires of the king. They knew that the food and wine of the king would defile their bodies and cause them to be disobedient to the Lord. As Jews, they knew that God had commanded the Jews not to eat some of the foods that the king was offering to them. Even though these young men were only teenagers in a foreign country, they wanted to be faithful to God rather than just live to please themselves.

13. Read Daniel 1:8-16 and write what request Daniel made of the prince of the eunuchs.
14. Explain how these four young men give us an example of the fact that young people can develop a very strong faith.
15. Explain why you think that these four young men were more concerned to please the Lord than they were to please the king of Babylon.

Here we see that Daniel was willing to speak up for the things that he believed. He was more concerned to please God than to conform to the desires of the king. He and his friends did this even though they knew that it could cost them their lives. This is the kind of a person that the Lord wants each of us to be. God wants us to be people that stand up for what we believe is right regardless of the consequences. This kind of a choice will be very difficult for those who are trusting in their own strength. Of course we know that when we are willing to stand for God, He will reward us for being faithful to Him.

16. Read Daniel 1:8-16 and write how the prince of the eunuchs felt about Daniel and his friends.
17. Explain why it is important for people to trust the Lord for strength instead of depending on their own strength if they want to stand firm for the Lord.
18. Explain why you think Daniel and his friends were willing to stand for what they believed even though they knew it could cost them their lives.

Here we see that the Lord had already made the necessary preparations to protect Daniel and his three friends. God had caused the eunuch to have a real concern for Daniel and his three friends. The eunuch told Daniel what would happen to him if he allowed Daniel and his friends

to disobey the commandment of the king. The eunuch said that to allow Daniel and his friends to disobey the commandment of the king was to endanger the life of the prince of the eunuchs. The eunuch said that he could be put to death if these young men did not develop as they should. However, we see that the prince of the eunuchs was willing to listen to Daniel because God had prepared the heart of the prince of the eunuchs in advance.

19. Read Daniel 1:8-16 and write how Daniel and his friends asked the prince of the eunuchs to test them.

20. Explain what you learn from these verses about the way that God prepares the hearts of people before we speak to them.

21. Explain why you are thankful to know that the Lord works in the hearts of people to prepare them to learn about the Lord.

Daniel had made the decision to serve the Lord and be obedient to Him. As a result, God also told Daniel what to say to the eunuch. Daniel realized that the king wanted these young men to be the wisest and best young men possible. He realized the king would allow the eunuch to do anything that the eunuch chose to do to help the young men become the kind of leaders that the king wanted. As a result, Daniel suggested to the eunuch that he and his three friends be allowed to eat their own food for a few days and then examine them to see what had happened. Here we see that Daniel knew that he could depend on the Lord to guide him and develop him if he would be obedient to the Lord and trust the Lord.

22. Read Daniel 1:8-16 and write how many days Daniel requested for the eunuch to give this test to him and his three friends.

23. Explain why the fact that we make the decision to put the Lord first in our lives will guide us in every other decision that we make.

24. Explain why you think that Daniel showed real creativity by asking the prince of the eunuchs to test them in this way.

We see that Daniel had complete faith in the power of God to make a definite change in his life and the lives of his three friends in just ten days. This is a real example of the kind of faith that God wants us to have today. We need to have faith that God can do all things. The power of the Lord is not limited. We only limit what God can do in our lives by our own lack of faith. Even though Daniel was only a teenager, he had learned to place his faith and trust in the Lord. If we will allow the Lord to develop our faith, we will learn to trust God just as Daniel trusted Him.

25. Read Daniel 1:8-16 and write what Daniel and his three friends looked like after just ten days.

26. Explain why the Lord is able to make great changes in even a period as short as ten days.

27. Explain why you think that it is important to you in your own life to know that the power of the Lord is not limited.

God rewarded the faith of Daniel and his three friends. In only ten days, the Lord caused these four young men to look different than the rest of the young men. The four young men were the picture of strength and health. It was easy to see that the four had been eating a different diet than the rest of the young men. Because of the great difference in the appearance of Daniel and his three friends, the eunuch agreed to allow them to continue to eat the food that they had chosen instead of the food of the king. As a result, the four ate vegetables instead of the food and wine that the king provided.

28. Read Daniel 1:8-16 and write the name of the eunuch that was the one who supervised Daniel and his three friends.

29. Explain how the Lord rewarded the faith of Daniel and his three friends for the choice that they had made.

30. Explain how you think that the prince of the eunuchs felt when he saw the way that the Lord rewarded the faith of the four young men.

We also see that the faith of Daniel and his friends was rewarded in other ways. We read that God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom. Here we see that God is the One who gives us knowledge. God is the One who helps us to learn and understand. We also see that the Lord gives us wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to take knowledge and use that knowledge the way that the Lord wants us to use it. Then we are able to think the thoughts that God gives us in the way that God wants us to be able to think. A person may know many things and yet not be able to think the way that God wants him to think about those things. The only people that can have true wisdom are those people who have their trust in the Lord.

31. Read Daniel 1:17-21 and write what other kind of understanding was given to Daniel.

32. Explain why it is important for every Christian to realize that God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge.

33. Explain why you think that it is important to ask the Lord to give you wisdom so that you are equipped to use the knowledge God gives you in wise ways.

In the book of Daniel we are going to see that the Lord gave Daniel the ability to interpret many visions and dreams. Some of these visions that Daniel received will tell us about things that have not happened yet. However, some of the visions that Daniel interpreted happened very soon. This was the way that God showed whether a prophet was a true prophet. Everything that a prophet said about the near future must be true. Otherwise that prophet was to be considered a false prophet. We will see that everything that Daniel said about the near future came true exactly as he had spoken. This is how we can know that we can depend on the things about which Daniel spoke that are still future.

34. Read Daniel 1:17-21 and write how great the understanding of Daniel and his friends was compared to the magicians and astrologers of the king.

35. Explain why it is important to realize that God says that every single thing that a prophet predicts must come true in order for that person to be considered a true prophet.

36. Explain why you think that the Lord gave Daniel the ability to interpret visions and dreams.

Because Daniel and his friends had their trust in the Lord, it was easy for them to stand before the king. They knew that they did not need to be afraid as they stood before the king because they were not speaking their own thoughts. Instead they were speaking the things that God had given them to speak. As a result, their wisdom and understanding was ten times greater than the wisdom of the rest of the young men that were depending on their own wisdom as they spoke to the king. Here we see that we will not be afraid to speak if we are depending on the Lord for the words to speak when He gives us the opportunity to speak to others.

37. Read Daniel 1:17-21 and write how long Daniel continued to be in a position of influence.

38. Explain what these verses teach about why we should depend on the wisdom of the Lord instead of trying to depend on our own wisdom.

39. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to speak the thoughts of the Lord instead of sharing your own opinions.

As we look at the earthly life of Daniel, we see a real example for our own lives. Daniel had a purpose in his heart. He was determined to let the Lord lead his life instead of trying to run his own life according to his own knowledge. In the same way, it should be our desire today to be obedient to the will of the Lord instead of trying to run our own lives according to human wisdom. We realize that we can also place our faith in the Lord and expect Him to do the impossible in our lives and through our lives. Finally Daniel shows us that we do not need to be afraid to speak for the Lord as long as our trust is in the Lord.

40. Read Daniel 1:17-21 and write how long Daniel continued to serve as a leader of other people.

41. Explain why it is important for every Christian to seek to do the will of the Lord.

42. Explain why you think that it is important to develop a godly purpose for your life and then let that purpose lead you through life.

Reread Daniel 1:1-21 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Daniel
Lesson 2
Daniel 2:1-49

After Daniel had been in the country of Babylon for a period of time, one night the king had a dream. However, the king forgot what he had dreamed. As a result, the king called his magicians and told his magicians to come and tell him what he had dreamed and then explain the meaning of his dream to him. The magicians said that in order for them to be able to explain the meaning of his dream to the king that the king had to tell them the dream or they would not be able to explain it. Here we see that the power that Satan gives to people who tell the future is limited. This is due to the fact that the power of Satan is limited. Then we will see that Daniel was able to tell the dream and then interpret it because his trust was in the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why the astrologers and magicians could not interpret the dream.
- Explain how God revealed the dream to Daniel.
- Explain what the king saw in his dream.
- Explain the meaning of that dream.

Throughout history people have felt that dreams are very important. Many people think that their dreams tell them about the future. This was very true in Babylon. We will see that the Lord used Daniel to interpret the dreams of several kings. This tells us about the first such dream. One night the king of Babylon had a dream. As he usually did, the king called for his astrologers and fortune tellers to come and interpret the dream for him. These men were able to interpret some dreams and tell things about the future through the power of Satan. This was due to the fact that the king told them the dream and then they only had to explain what they thought it meant. However, one thing was different this time. The king had forgotten his dream. As a result, the king told these men to remind him of his dream and then explain the meaning of the dream to him.

1. Read Daniel 2:1-13 and write what the astrologers and fortune tellers said the king must tell them before they could give him the interpretation.
2. Explain why the astrologers and fortune tellers were able to interpret some of the dreams of the king of Babylon.
3. Explain why you think that the astrologers and fortune tellers said that they could not interpret the dream if the king did not tell them the dream.

Here we see an example of the fact that the power of Satan is limited. Satan does not know our thoughts and so it was impossible for him to reveal the dream to the astrologers and magicians. These men told the king that they had to know the dream before they could try to interpret the dream. The king was very angry when these men could not tell him what he had dreamed. Then he gave them a choice. Either they must tell him his dream or they would be cut to pieces and their houses would be destroyed. The king also promised these men great rewards if they could tell him what he had dreamed.

4. Read Daniel 2:1-13 and write what these men said to the king the second time that he asked them to tell him his dream.
5. Explain what you learn from this event about the fact that the power of Satan is limited.
6. Explain why you think that the king was so angry when his astrologers and fortune tellers could not tell him what he had dreamed.

The king could tell that the magicians were stalling for time. He told them that they were a bunch of liars if they could not tell him what he had dreamed. He said that the only way that they could prove that they were not liars was to tell him the dream. The men answered that

there was no person on the earth that could explain an unknown dream. These men said that only the gods could reveal such a dream. Here we see that these men recognized that it would take a power greater than the power that they had to reveal the dream. Of course we realize that the true and living God is the only One with that kind of power.

7. Read Daniel 2:1-13 and write what the king ordered his soldiers to do when these men could not tell the dream of the king.

8. Explain why these men realized that their power was limited and that only a god could provide an answer for the king.

9. Explain why you think that it is important to realize that only the true and living God could tell the dream and not just a false god.

The king was very angry when the magicians told him that they could not tell him the dream and then interpret it. As a result, the king ordered the death of all of the magicians, the astrologers and other leaders. Since Daniel and his friends were leaders, they were also supposed to be killed. Daniel asked the captain of the soldiers why he was in such a rush to kill all of these men. When Daniel heard about the order of the king, he went into the king and talked to him. He told the king that he would tell him the dream and explain it to him if the king would give him some time. Here we see that Daniel knew that God had all power. He knew that God could show him the dream. Here we see the kind of faith that we should have in the power of God.

10. Read Daniel 2:14-30 and write what Daniel asked his three friends to pray with him.

11. Explain what you learn about the faith and trust that Daniel had in the Lord when he told the king that he would tell the king the dream.

12. Explain why you think that Daniel was confident that the Lord would reveal the dream to him.

We see that Daniel knew the right way to find the answer for the king. He knew that God would reveal the dream and the meaning of the dream if Daniel and his friends would pray and ask the Lord to show them. As the four men prayed, God did reveal the dream to Daniel. We see the prayer of thanks that Daniel prayed when God revealed the dream to him. He knew that the Lord had all wisdom and power. He knew that God is the One who changes the seasons. God is also the One who gives kings their power and removes them. God is able to reveal all things because He knows the thoughts of people. Because God is light, He also knows what happens in the darkness.

13. Read Daniel 2:14-30 and write what God had given to Daniel.

14. Explain why the first thing that Daniel did when the Lord revealed the dream was to give a prayer of thanks to the Lord.

15. Explain why you think that Daniel included in his prayer the fact that God knows the thoughts of people.

The Lord is the One who is able to give us all things. He knows what we need and He will give us the things that we need if we will pray to Him in faith. Daniel called for the captain of the soldiers and asked him not to kill the other men because he would tell the dream and then interpret it for the king. The captain of the soldiers quickly went to the king and told him that there was one person who could explain and interpret his dream. Then Daniel came into the palace of the king. He reminded the king of the fact that the astrologers and wise men could not reveal the dream to the king. However, Daniel said that there was One who did reveal secrets.

16. Read Daniel 2:14-30 and write who Daniel said would reveal the dream and the interpretation of it.

17. Explain why Daniel began to speak to the king first by telling Him that there was One who did reveal secrets.

18. Explain why you think that the captain of the soldiers was very eager to tell the king that someone could tell him his dream.

Daniel gives us a real example for our own lives. He gave all of the credit and glory to God instead of claiming the praise for himself. It is very easy for us to talk about the things that we have done. Instead we need to be talking about the things that the Lord is doing. Then people will be changed by Christ. Daniel told the king that God had given the dream to the king because God wanted to show the king what would happen in the future. Since God had revealed these secrets to him, the king could be sure that the things in this dream would surely come to pass. Daniel emphasized again that it was God who would reveal the dream because Daniel was no wiser than any other person.

19. Read Daniel 2:14-30 and write what Daniel said that he would reveal to the king.

20. Explain why we should give all of the praise to the Lord instead of boasting about what we know or can do.

21. Explain why you think that Daniel chose to give all praise and glory to the Lord instead of taking any credit for himself.

Then Daniel began to reveal the dream that the king had dreamed and forgotten. Daniel said that the king had dreamed of a great image. This image was in the form of a man. This man had a head of fine gold. His chest and arms were of silver. His stomach and hips were made of bronze. This great image had legs that were made of iron. Finally this image had feet that were made of iron and clay mixed together. The king also saw a stone in his dream. That stone had been cut but it had not been cut by the hands of man. This stone fell on the feet of the image.

22. Read Daniel 2:31-39 and write what happened to the feet of the image when the stone fell on the feet.

23. Explain what you think the king thought when Daniel reminded him of the dream that he had dreamed.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord had given this unusual dream to the king of the nation of Babylon.

In the dream of the king, when the feet of the image had been broken into pieces, the entire image fell down in a heap. The pieces of the image became like small pieces of straw that are quickly carried away by the wind. The wind carried these pieces away and they were gone. Then the stone that had destroyed the image became a great mountain (kingdom). This kingdom filled the whole earth. As we hear this dream revealed, we see that the Lord had given the king a very unusual dream. It is not surprising that such a dream had bothered him especially when he could not remember what he had dreamed.

25. Read Daniel 2:31-39 and write who Daniel told the king that the head of gold was.

26. Explain why the king had been bothered and wanted to know what he had dreamed since it was such an unusual dream.

27. Explain why you think that the king had not been able to remember the dream even though it had been an unusual dream.

When Daniel finished retelling the dream to the king, he began to explain the meaning of the dream to the king. The head of gold was a picture of Nebuchadnezzar and the nation of Babylon. Babylon was a very powerful nation that had control over many other nations. We see that certain kingdoms are represented by each part of the body. Daniel said that each of these various kingdoms would be nations that would control many other nations. Daniel said that the second great world kingdom would be the Medo-Persian kingdom. That was the kingdom that destroyed Babylon. Later the Greeks under Alexander the Great conquered the Persians and ruled many nations in the world.

28. Read Daniel 2:31-39 and write who Daniel said was the head of gold of the image in the dream.

29. Explain why it was important for the king to know that the various parts of the body represented different kingdoms of the world.

30. Explain how you would explain the first part of this dream to someone else in your own

words.

We go on to read that Daniel said that the fourth world kingdom would be as strong as iron. As we look at history, we see that the fourth world empire was Rome. It was a very strong nation. It ruled a large part of the world at the time that Christ was born. Rome destroyed many other nations and took control of them. Rome was not as great as some of the other world empires but it was very strong. However, it divided into two parts, the eastern and the western empires. Eventually the Roman Empire was divided into many parts like the toes of the statue. We will see later in the book of Daniel that these ten toes (kingdoms) will become very important again in the future.

31. Read Daniel 2:40-49 and write what God said would happen when the iron and clay were mixed together.

32. Explain why Daniel spent more time telling about the fourth kingdom than he had spent talking about the other kingdoms.

33. Explain why you think that it was important for Biblical history to include the empire that would be in control at the time of the birth of Christ

Here we also see one of the results of sin. People fail to trust one another. As a result, when kingdoms are joined together, they do not really trust each other. We will see later that there will be problems when the ten kingdoms try to work together. Finally the antichrist will take direct control of three of the kingdoms. However, one day a kingdom will come that will destroy all of these other kingdoms. That kingdom will never be destroyed. Instead that kingdom will stand forever. The reason that this final kingdom will stand forever is due to the fact that it will be ruled by Christ. Christ will be a perfect ruler just as He is perfect in every other way.

34. Read Daniel 2:40-49 and write what Christ, the Great King, will do to all of these other kingdoms.

35. Explain why it is important to understand that Christ will defeat all worldly kingdoms and establish a kingdom that will last forever.

36. Explain why you think that it is impossible for worldly kingdoms to fully trust one another.

Today we live in a day when all of the countries of the world are ruled by people who do evil because of the fact that all people are sinful. However, Christ will break and destroy all of the evil kingdoms of the world. Christ is the Stone that was cut without hands. He will destroy the kingdoms that are like gold, silver, bronze and iron. Then Christ will set up a kingdom where everything will be ruled the right way. God said that He had shown Nebuchadnezzar what was going to happen in the future. The king could know that everything would happen exactly as God said that it would happen because the Word of God is true.

37. Read Daniel 2:40-49 and write what the king did after Daniel had explained the dream and its meaning to him.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the way that Christ will have victory over all of the evil nations of the earth.

39. Explain why you think that Christ was called the Stone that was cut without hands.

After Daniel had explained the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, the king fell on his face and worshiped Daniel. The king recognized that God is the God over all other gods. He realized that the true and living God is the One who knows all of the secrets of men. However, even though the king recognized God, the king failed to place his trust in the Lord. Here we see what many people do today. They realize that God is true but they fail to place their trust in Him. After this the king promoted Daniel and made him one of the key leaders in the kingdom.

40. Read Daniel 2:40-49 and write where Daniel sat.

41. Explain what the explanation and interpretation of the dream by Daniel caused the king to recognize about God.

42. Explain why you think that there are many people that will recognize that God exists but

then fail to place their trust in Him.

Reread Daniel 2:1-49 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter today.

Survey of Daniel
Lesson 3
Daniel 3:1-30

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon was a very proud king. One day he decided to make a great image of himself. After the king had completed the building of his image, he called all of his leaders from all of the countries that he had conquered to come to Babylon to dedicate this image. When these leaders arrived in Babylon, they were told what they were expected to do. The king told all of the leaders that they must bow down and worship this image or they would be destroyed. However, we are going to see that the three friends of Daniel refused to worship the image that the king had made. We will learn how the Lord protected these three men because of the fact that they were faithful to the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what this chapter teaches about the pride of Nebuchadnezzar.
- Explain what this chapter teaches about the faith of the three Jews.
- Explain how the Lord is with us when we are persecuted.
- Explain what you learn about the results of faithfulness.

One day Nebuchadnezzar made a great image of himself. This image was about ninety feet high and nine feet wide. This statue was made out of gold. When the king had completed the statue of himself, he invited all of his leaders and all of his rulers from all of the countries that were under his control to come to Babylon. They were to come so that they could participate in the dedication of this huge statue. Because of his pride, Nebuchadnezzar had plans for more than just a dedication service. He wanted to make sure that all of his leaders and rulers worshiped him. Here we see that Nebuchadnezzar was a very proud man.

1. Read Daniel 3:1-7 and write where all of the people stood when the king gathered these leaders together.
2. Explain how the fact that Nebuchadnezzar made this great image of himself shows that he was controlled by pride.
3. Explain why you think that Nebuchadnezzar wanted to use the dedication service of his image to make sure that all of his leaders worshiped him.

Nebuchadnezzar also called for the royal band to come out and play music for this event. Then one of the helpers of the king told all of these leaders and rulers what they were supposed to do when they heard the music of the royal band. All of the people were instructed to fall down and worship the golden image that the king had made as soon as they heard any music. The king wanted to make it very clear to every one of his rulers that he had complete control over them. He wanted them to realize that they could not do anything unless the king allowed them to do that thing because he wanted them to know that they were to worship him.

4. Read Daniel 3:1-7 and write what the king said would happen to any of the leaders or rulers who failed to bow down to the image.
5. Explain why Nebuchadnezzar wanted all of his leaders to realize that they could not do anything unless he allowed it.
6. Explain why you think that leaders that are controlled by pride try to control others by making many rules.

Here we see that the king was giving all of his leaders a choice. They could choose whether they wanted to worship and serve the king or they could choose to be destroyed. Here we see one of the ways that Satan works. He tries to convince people that they will have no fun in life if they do not follow and serve him. The devil is a great deceiver. After all of the people had

heard the instructions of the king, he gave the command for the musical instruments to start to play music. Now the people had to make a choice. Immediately nearly all of the people fell down and worshiped the golden image that had been set up by the king.

7. Read Daniel 3:1-7 and write how the king said that those who refused to worship his image would be destroyed.
8. Explain what you learn about the pride of King Nebuchadnezzar from the choice that he gave to his leaders and rulers.
9. Explain why you think that Satan also tries to control people and get them to do what he wants them to do.

Although nearly all of the people fell down and worshiped the image, there were three men who did not fall down and worship the golden image of Nebuchadnezzar. These men were the three friends of Daniel. Because they worshiped the true and living God, they refused to worship the image of the king. When everyone else fell down to worship the image of the king, these three men stood in their places. As a result, some of the Chaldeans quickly went to tell the king about the three men who had not worshiped the image of the king. These Chaldeans were probably very anxious to get rid of these three Jews because of the knowledge and wisdom that the Lord had given to the three of them. Jealousy always causes people to be filled with hatred.

10. Read Daniel 3:8-18 and write what the Chaldeans said to the king about these three men.
11. Explain why the Chaldeans went quickly to tell the king that the three Jews did not fall down and worship his image.
12. Explain why you think that the three friends of Daniel make the decision to refuse to worship the image of the king.

The worship of the golden image also meant that the people were worshipping the false gods of the Babylonians. This was the reason that the three Jews had made a choice. They knew that they were being forced to make a choice between serving the true and living God or serving the king and the false gods of the Babylonians. They chose to be faithful to the Lord even though they knew that it would cost them their lives. When the king heard that the three men had refused to worship his image, he was very angry. He ordered his men to bring the Jews so that he could talk to them. This gives us an example of what happens when proud people do not get what they want.

13. Read Daniel 3:8-18 and write what the followers of the king did with the three Jews when they saw the anger of the king.
14. Explain why the three friends of Daniel were willing to be faithful to the Lord even if it cost them their lives.
15. Explain why you think that the king was so angry when he heard that the three Jews had refused to worship his image.

The king was very angry when the three men stood in front of him. He asked them if it was true that they had not worshiped his image. When they told the king that it was true that they had not bowed down to or worshiped his image, the king told the three men that they would have one more opportunity to worship his image. He told the three of them that if they refused to worship the king and his image that they would be thrown into a fiery furnace the same hour. He told that that God would not be able to deliver them out of the hands of the king. They would die if they refused to worship the image that the king had made.

16. Read Daniel 3:8-18 and write what the three men told said about their answer to the king.
17. Explain why the king thought that God would not be able to deliver the three Jews out of the hands of the king.
18. Explain why you think that the king promised the three men that they would die if they refused to worship his image.

The three had prepared in advance and had given careful thought about the way that they would

answer the king. The three Jews knew that God had the power to protect them from the fiery furnace of the king. If God wanted to deliver them from the fiery furnace of the king, He would do it. However, even if God chose not to deliver them, they told the king that they were not going to worship the image of the king. They were going to serve God even if that choice cost them their lives. This is the kind of trust that we need to have in the Lord today. Our desire should be to serve the Lord regardless of what happens to our lives.

19. Read Daniel 3:8-18 and write what the three men told the king that they would not do regardless of what he did.

20. Explain what kind of an example these three men provide for you as you think about truly serving the Lord.

21. Explain why you think that these men were willing to die if necessary rather than worship the image of the king.

Nebuchadnezzar was very angry when he heard the words of the three Jews. In fact the king became so angry that he did not even look like a normal man. This gives us a little picture of what anger and hatred can do to a person. In his anger the king ordered his servants to heat the furnace seven times as hot as usual. Then he ordered the strongest soldiers in his army to tie the three Jews and throw them into the middle of the furnace. The soldiers tied up the three men with all of their clothes still on them. Then these soldiers threw the three men into the furnace. Because the furnace had been heated seven times hotter than usual, the furnace was very hot.

22. Read Daniel 3:19-25 and write what the fire did to the soldiers who threw the three Jews into the furnace.

23. Explain how a person can become so angry that the person will not even look like a normal person in their anger.

24. Explain why you think that Nebuchadnezzar ordered his servants to heat the furnace seven times hotter than it was normally heated.

Here we see again what hatred can do to a person. The king made the fire so hot that the fire killed the soldiers who threw the Jews into the fire. The king did not care what happened to the soldiers as long as he got rid of the three men that had refused to worship his image. The three Jews fell down into the middle of the fire. However, they did not remain down. Instead they got up and started walking around in the fire. Suddenly the king had a very shocked look on his face. He could not understand what had happened. He no longer saw just three men in the fire.

25. Read Daniel 3:19-25 and write how many men the king now saw in the fire.

26. Explain why the king was willing to let some of his strongest soldiers be killed in order to get rid of the three Jews.

27. Explain why you think that the king was so shocked when he saw the men get up and start walking around in the fire.

The king could not believe his eyes because he saw four men walking in the middle of the fire. This is a tremendous lesson for us today. As Christians, we should be prepared for persecution. However, we do not need to face that persecution alone. Instead we know that Christ will walk with us through that persecution. Christ will not forget those who are faithful in serving Him. Here we see that Christ walked with the three Jews in the fiery furnace. Even though they were feeling the opposition of the enemy, they were enjoying fellowship with Christ. This is actually one of the Old Testament appearances of Christ. Christ came personally to encourage these three men because they had been faithful in serving Him.

28. Read Daniel 3:19-25 and write what the king said that the fourth person in the fire looked like.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that Christ will be with us when we go through times of persecution.

30. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ will walk with you when you go through times of testing.

The king was very shocked when he saw four men walking around in the fiery furnace. He jumped up very quickly. He asked his helpers if they had thrown only three men into the fire. Then he wanted to know who the fourth man was that was walking around in the fire. The king said that the fourth man in the fire looked like a god. He was partly right. However, it was not just any god. It was the true and living God that created the heavens and the earth. When the king saw the four men in the furnace, he walked close to the entrance of the great furnace. Then the king spoke and said that he realized that the three Jews were the servants of the Most High God. Then the king told the three men to come out of the furnace.

31. Read Daniel 3:26-30 and write what the three men did when the king spoke to them.
32. Explain how the thinking of the king was changed because He saw Christ join the three men in the furnace.
33. Explain why you think that the fact that Christ was in the furnace with the three men caused the king to realize that the Jews were the servants of the Most High God.

The king and all of the people gathered around him recognized that God had caused a great miracle to happen. Even though the fire was very hot, the fire had not harmed the three men at all. It had only burned the ropes with which the three men were tied. The fire had no power over those three men. The fire had not even burned a single hair on the heads of the men. Their clothes had not been burned at all. In fact they did not even smell as if they had been near a fire. God had shown His great power by giving the men complete protection from the fire.

34. Read Daniel 3:26-30 and write who the king said that God had sent to deliver the men from him.
35. Explain how this great miracle that the Lord did affected the king and the people that were gathered around him.
36. Explain why you think that God did not allow the fire to harm the three men in any way and even kept the smell of smoke from coming on them.

Here we see an example of the results of being faithful to the Lord. The king and all of his leaders recognized that God was the One who has all power. This happened because these men had yielded their bodies to God for His use. Their physical lives were not important to them. They were willing to let their bodies be destroyed if necessary in order to stand true for God. Today God also asks us to yield our bodies to Him as living sacrifices. If we are willing to let God have complete control of our lives, then others will also see Christ in us.

37. Read Daniel 3:26-30 and write the new law that the king wrote after he saw how the Lord had protected the three men.
38. Explain what it means to yield our bodies to God.
39. Explain why you think that these three men were willing to let their physical bodies be destroyed if necessary in order to stand true to God.

Nebuchadnezzar also made a new law because of the faithfulness of the three men. He made a law that said that no one could speak against the God that the three men served. The king was not yet ready to serve the Lord himself. However, he did recognize that God does have great power. As a result, the king said that no person should speak against the God that these three men served. The king said that any people who spoke against God would have their houses destroyed. The king said that there was no other God who could deliver the way that God had delivered these three Jews from the fiery furnace.

40. Read Daniel 3:26-30 and write what the king did to the three Jews for their faithfulness to the Lord.
41. Explain why the king said that no person could speak against the God of the three men even though the king was not yet ready to serve the Lord himself.
42. Explain why you think that even when many people see the way that God works that they are still not willing to place their trust in the Lord.

Reread Daniel 3:1-30 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Daniel
Lesson 4
Daniel 4:1-37

In our last lesson we saw a real picture of the pride of Nebuchadnezzar. Even though the king made a law that people could not speak against the God of the three Jews, the king did not turn from his pride. The Lord will not allow people to continue to live in pride without bringing judgment upon them. One day God gave the king a dream. Again no one could explain the dream until the king called for Daniel to come and interpret the dream. When Daniel came to the king, the king said that he knew that Daniel would be able to explain the dream to him. Then Daniel told the king that the dream told what was going to happen to the king very soon. We go on to see that everything happened exactly as Daniel said it would happen.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Nebuchadnezzar said about God.
- Tell about the dream that the king had dreamed.
- Explain the meaning of the dream as it was interpreted.
- Explain how God fulfilled the dream exactly as Daniel had said.

As we begin our study of this chapter, we see that the king had several good things to say about God. These things show us that Nebuchadnezzar was changed by the Lord. In this lesson we will see how God changed the pride of Nebuchadnezzar so that he said these things. We read that the king spoke to the people of his empire and told that he had a message of peace. The peace that he described is a peace that can only come from the Lord. We see that God had done a great work in the life of the king. As a result, the king wanted to share what he had learned with others. Today we also need to be sharing what the Lord has taught us.

1. Read Daniel 4:1-7 and write what the king said about the signs and wonders of the Lord.
2. Explain why the king wanted to share with others the fact that he had learned how to have the peace of God.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord continued to work to draw the king to Himself even though the king was filled with pride.

We see that by the time Nebuchadnezzar spoke the words that are written in these verses that he had learned that the signs and wonders of God are great and mighty. He realized that God is able to establish His own kingdom. That kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom. It will never end. God is also the One who has control over all of the nations of the earth. His control extended to all generations. At one time Nebuchadnezzar thought that he was very great and powerful. Because of what the Lord had done in his life, we see that Nebuchadnezzar now realized that God was the One who had the power instead of himself.

4. Read Daniel 4:1-7 and write how the dream of the king made him feel.
5. Explain how Nebuchadnezzar had changed in his thinking toward God so that He realized that God is the One who is great and powerful.
6. Explain why you think that Nebuchadnezzar had come to the point where He realized that the kingdom of God would never end.

One day Nebuchadnezzar had another dream. He called together all of the wise men of Babylon and asked them to come and explain the dream to him. The king told the dream to these men but they were not able to explain the meaning of the dream to the king. This dream had been given to the king by the Lord. As a result, the dream could not be interpreted by men who did not have their trust in the Lord. As Nebuchadnezzar thought about his dream, he was filled with fear. When people do not have their trust in the Lord, the things that they do not

understand often cause them to be afraid.

7. Read Daniel 4:1-7 and write the four groups of people that could not explain the dream of the king.

8. Explain why it is important to understand that people that do not trust the Lord cannot understand things that are spiritual in nature.

9. Explain why you think that the dream of Nebuchadnezzar caused him to be filled with fear.

Because of his fear, the king finally called for Daniel and asked him to come and explain the meaning of the dream to the king. The king realized that Daniel had the Spirit of God in him. He knew from previous experience that Daniel could interpret the dream through the knowledge and wisdom that the Lord had given to Daniel. Then the king began to tell Daniel about the dream that he had dreamed. The king said that he saw a tree. However, it was not a regular tree. Instead it was a very large tree. It had good leaves and plenty of food for all who came to eat from the tree. He said that the animals and the birds also came and rested under the tree.

10. Read Daniel 4:8-18 and write what came down from heaven.

11. Explain why the king was confident that Daniel could interpret his dream even when none of the other people could interpret it.

12. Explain why you think that the king realized that Daniel had the Spirit of God in him.

The king said that in his dream he saw a watcher or a holy one come down from heaven. This watcher came with a message of judgment. The watcher spoke and said that the tree must be cut down. The branches were also to be cut off from the tree. Then the watcher gave instructions to shake off all of the branches and scatter the fruit of the tree. The animals would no longer be able to rest under the tree. The birds would no longer be able to sit on the branches of the tree. However, in his dream the king heard that the tree would not be completely destroyed. The stump and the roots of the tree would be left in place. The stump of the tree would have a band of bronze and iron around it.

13. Read Daniel 4:8-18 and write what would cause this stump to become wet as it stood in the field.

14. Explain why the king said that in his dream he had seen a watcher that came with a message of judgment.

15. Explain why you think that the king was able to realize that because the tree was cut down that this was a message of judgment.

Suddenly in this dream the tree changed from a tree to a man. We read that the king dreamed that this man would live with the animals of the field. He would feel the dew of heaven upon him. Instead of having the heart of a man, the heart of this man would become like the heart of an animal. Here we see that he dreamed that there would be many great changes in the life of this one who had looked like a beautiful tree. That which had been beautiful would no longer be beautiful. Instead that one had been changed.

16. Read Daniel 4:8-18 and write how many times (years) would pass over this man after he was changed.

17. Explain what you think the king thought when the king saw that the tree became a man and started to live with the animals in the field.

18. Explain how you think the king felt when he dreamed that instead of having the heart of a man that this man would have the heart of an animal.

The watcher said that this thing was determined by the Holy One so it must come to pass. We also see the purpose of this strange happening. The purpose of this happening was to cause those who were living to know that the Most High is the ruler over all of the kingdoms of the earth. He is the One who allows all rulers to rule. When the king had finished telling the dream, Nebuchadnezzar asked Daniel to explain the meaning of the dream to him. He realized that Daniel had a power in him that none of the other men in the entire kingdom had. He realized that Daniel had the Spirit of God in him.

19. Read Daniel 4: 8-18 and write the name that the king called Daniel as he asked him to interpret the dream.
20. Explain why the king had realized that Daniel had the Spirit of God in him so that he was able to interpret dreams.
21. Explain why you think that the king realized that the Most High is the One that allows all rulers to rule.

After Daniel heard the dream, he was very sad for an entire hour. He did not want to tell the meaning of the dream to the king. Then the king told Daniel not to be sad. Daniel told the king that the reason why he was sad was due to the fact that the dream was against the king. What the king had dreamed would make the enemies of the king happy. Then Daniel began to explain the dream to the king. He said that the tree that was tall and strong was the king. Nebuchadnezzar had become very strong and powerful. Most of the people of the earth were influenced by the king. The birds and the animals were also under his influence.

22. Read Daniel 4:19-27 and write what the king had become as he and his kingdom had grown.
23. Explain why Daniel was very sad and did not want to tell the king the meaning of his dream.
24. Explain why you think that the Lord had used a tree to give a picture of the greatness and the power of the king.

The king had grown and become very strong. He ruled many nations that he and his armies had conquered. However, the watcher with the message of judgment had brought the message that Nebuchadnezzar would be cut down. He would only be a stump instead of a great tree. Daniel said the king was the one who would have the dew come on him for seven years. He would also live with the animals in the field. God said that Nebuchadnezzar would be driven out from among men. Instead of living in the palace, the king would live in the fields.

25. Read Daniel 4:19-27 and write what God said that the king would eat during the time that he lived in the fields.
26. Explain why God said that Nebuchadnezzar would experience a judgment where he would live in the fields with the animals for seven years.
27. Explain why you think that God said that He would leave the stump of the tree when the tree was cut down.

God said that the king would live like an animal for seven years. During that time he would have no shelter or protection. Instead he would feel the dew each night. He would also eat grass like the oxen. The king would live like an animal until he was ready to recognize that God is the One who rules over all people. Then Daniel began to speak to the king about his need to place his trust in God. He told the king that he must turn from his sin and put his trust in the Lord. He must begin to show kindness and mercy to the poor. That was the only way that the king would have a long life with no judgment. He could choose to turn to God or he could suffer this judgment.

28. Read Daniel 4:19-27 and write what Daniel said that the king would lengthen if he would turn to the Lord and do what was right.
29. Explain the meaning of the dream of the king in your own words.
30. Explain why you think that God said that the king would be out in the fields until he was ready to recognize that God is the One who rules over all people.

Daniel had warned the king to turn to God and turn from his sin. However, the king failed to listen to the warning of Daniel. God gave the king one entire year after that dream to turn from his sin. Then God brought judgment on Nebuchadnezzar. One day the king was walking through the palace and began boasting about his great power. He boasted about the kingdom that he had built. He boasted about his power and his strength. He boasted about the greatness of his kingdom. Suddenly God interrupted the king while he was speaking.

31. Read Daniel 4:28-37 and write what God said to the king as he spoke to him.
32. Explain why God waited an entire year after the king had this dream before God brought this judgment on the king.
33. Explain why you think that Nebuchadnezzar failed to listen to the warning of Daniel and turn to God.

Here we are reminded again that God is the ruler over all. At the very moment when the king was boasting about all of the great things that he had done, God told him that his kingdom had been removed. When people lift themselves up, they are asking God to bring judgment upon them. God told Nebuchadnezzar that he would be driven away from men. Instead he would be forced to live with the animals of the field. He would eat grass like the oxen. God said this judgment would last for seven years. God said that finally the king would recognize that God is the One who has power over all nations and kings.

34. Read Daniel 4:28-37 and write when these things happened to Nebuchadnezzar.
35. Explain why people are asking God to bring judgment on them when they lift themselves up in pride.
36. Explain why you think that God chose to bring this judgment on the king at the very moment that he was boasting about the great things that he had done.

God had waited an entire year to bring judgment on the king. However, when God spoke the second time, judgment came immediately. As Nebuchadnezzar was out in the fields, he began to look like a wild man. His hair grew until it looked like the feathers of an eagle. His finger nails grew until they looked like the claws of a bird. Finally after seven years, Nebuchadnezzar prayed to the Lord. Then God caused his understanding to return. This was the time that Nebuchadnezzar recognized God and put his trust in the Lord. He recognized that God is the One who lives and rules forever. The kingdom of God will be an everlasting kingdom.

37. Read Daniel 4:28-37 and write what God did for the king in addition to restoring the understanding of the king.
38. Explain why God caused all of these things to happen to Nebuchadnezzar.
39. Explain why you think that God kept working in the life of the king until the king finally turned to the Lord in repentance and faith.

We read several other things that Nebuchadnezzar said about God. He realized that the people of the world are nothing when they are compared to God. God is the One who does all things. Since the Lord is so great, no man should question the things that God chooses to do. When Nebuchadnezzar finally recognized God, he received many blessings from the Lord. The Lord restored the king to his kingdom and he once again sat on the throne. He received all of the things that he had before the Lord brought judgment upon him. However, he no longer boasted about his own power. Instead Nebuchadnezzar spoke for God to other people.

40. Read Daniel 4:28-37 and write what the king said about the works of God as he spoke to others.
41. Explain why Nebuchadnezzar started speaking to the people about God instead of boasting about his own power.
42. Explain what you learn about the way that the Lord works in the lives of people to draw them to Himself from the example of the king.

Reread Daniel 4:1-37 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Daniel
Lesson 5
Daniel 5:1-6:28

When Belshazzar became the king of Babylon, he removed Daniel from his place of leadership. He felt that he did not need the help of God to rule the kingdom. One day the king held a great banquet to worship his gods. At that banquet, God wrote a message on the wall for the king and the people that were gathered at the banquet. No one could explain the message to the king. Everyone was filled with fear. Then the queen reminded Belshazzar about Daniel. The king quickly called for Daniel to come and explain the handwriting on the wall. Daniel explained that the handwriting showed that immediate judgment would come on the king.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the purpose of the handwriting on the wall.
- Explain the meaning of the handwriting on the wall.
- Explain how Daniel showed his faithfulness to the Lord by his prayer life.
- Explain how the Lord protected Daniel from his enemies.

After the death of Nebuchadnezzar, his son-in-law and grandson became the kings. Apparently these men did not depend on Daniel as Nebuchadnezzar had done. From historical records it seems that Nebuchadnezzar did not have a son of his own. As a result, his daughter became the queen. In such a case the son of the queen was then considered the son of Nebuchadnezzar. Although the son-in-law was legally the king, his son ruled with him so the country actually had two kings. The father would lead the army of Babylon while the son led the government at home when his father was away for war or for other reasons. The man that we are studying about today is the son of the queen rather than the husband.

1. Read Daniel 5:1-16 and write the name of this son who ruled as the king of Babylon.
2. Explain why Belshazzar is called the son of Nebuchadnezzar even though he was actually a grandson.
3. Explain why you think that the new kings of Babylon did not recognize the Lord even though they had seen what the Lord had done to Nebuchadnezzar.

One day Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his leaders. He did this at the very time that the army of the Medes and Persians was outside the city wall of Babylon. After the king became drunk, he decided to show those men some of his riches. He commanded his servants to bring the golden cups that had been taken from the temple in Jerusalem. The people at the feast used these gold cups to drink their wine. Then they gave praise to their gods of gold, silver and other materials. When all of the people were drunk, something happened that caused all of the people to be filled with fear and to become sober very quickly.

4. Read Daniel 5:1-16 and write what happened that same hour.
5. Explain why the king and his guests praised their gods of gold, silver and other materials at this feast.
6. Explain why you think that Belshazzar was also filled with pride when he had a great feast like this at the very time that the enemy was outside the wall of the city of Babylon.

When a hand came and wrote on the plaster of the wall, the king and all of the people that were with him were filled with great fear. The knees of the king began to knock together. He mind was filled with terrible thoughts. Then he called for the magicians and astrologers to come and interpret the writing. He promised these men that the one who could interpret the writing would become the third ruler in the kingdom. (This is another thing that shows that he and his father were ruling the nation of Babylon together.) However, none of the astrologers and magicians

could interpret the handwriting on the wall. This caused Belshazzar to become even more afraid.

7. Read Daniel 5:1-16 and write who came into the banquet hall and suggested that the king call for Daniel to come and interpret the writing on the wall.

8. Explain why the king and all the people that were with him were filled with fear as they saw a hand begin to write on the wall.

9. Explain why you think that the thoughts of the king were filled with confusion as he saw the handwriting on the wall.

The mother of Belshazzar (the queen) remembered how Daniel had interpreted the dreams of her father. She told how Daniel had interpreted dreams and other difficult things for the grandfather of Belshazzar. Then Belshazzar called for his men to bring Daniel to him. The king told Daniel that he had heard that Daniel had the ability to interpret dreams. He told Daniel that his wise men had been unable to interpret the handwriting on the wall. He also told Daniel that he would make him the third ruler in the kingdom if he could explain what the handwriting on the wall meant.

10. Read Daniel 5:1-16 and write how the king said that he would clothe Daniel if he could interpret the handwriting.

11. Explain why Belshazzar was so eager to have Daniel interpret the handwriting as Daniel had interpreted the dreams of his grandfather.

12. Explain why you think that the king was so anxious to know the meaning of the handwriting on the wall.

Daniel told the king that he would be glad to interpret the handwriting for him. However, Daniel said that he did not want the riches and the power that the king was offering to him. As Daniel prepared to explain the handwriting on the wall, he reminded Belshazzar of what had happened to Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel told how Nebuchadnezzar had become proud because of his great power. Then he told how Nebuchadnezzar had been judged because of his pride. He told how he had become a wild man who was forced to eat grass with the wild animals.

13. Read Daniel 5:17-31 and write what Belshazzar had not done even though he knew about all of the things that had happened to Nebuchadnezzar.

14. Explain why Daniel spoke to Belshazzar about the pride of the king before he began to explain the meaning of the handwriting.

15. Explain how you think that Belshazzar felt as he was reminded of the pride of his grandfather.

Here we see a real picture of the sinfulness of the hearts of people. Even though Belshazzar knew all of the things that had happened to Nebuchadnezzar, he refused to humble himself. Instead he chose to lift himself up against God. Daniel reminded the king that he had taken the cups that came from the house of God in Jerusalem for his drinking party that very night. Then he had given praise to his false gods of gold and silver even though his gods could not see or hear. He had failed to give any glory to God. As a result, God had sent the handwriting on the wall to show him the condition of his heart.

16. Read Daniel 5:17-31 and write what God had written on the wall.

17. Explain why Daniel reminded the king of the way that the king had praised the gods of gold and silver and refused to give glory to the true and living God.

18. Explain why you think that Belshazzar had refused to humble himself and lifted himself up against God even though he knew all that had happened to his grandfather.

In explaining the meaning of the handwriting on the wall, Daniel explained that God had determined that the kingdom of Babylon would come to an end. He had weighed the kingdom of Babylon in the balances and found the kingdom lacking. As a result, God said that Babylon would be captured by the Medes and the Persians. At that very moment the army of the Medes

and the Persians was changing the course of the river that flowed through the city. That very night the army marched down the dry riverbed and into the city. That very night they captured the city and killed Belshazzar. Here we see that God will judge those who continue to live in rebellion against Him.

19. Read Daniel 5:17-31 and write what king conquered the kingdom of Babylon and began to rule instead.
20. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the handwriting that God had written on the wall.
21. Explain why you think that God told Belshazzar that the result of his pride and rebellion would bring him immediate judgment.

Darius was the ruler of the Medes. He recognized that Daniel had great knowledge and wisdom. As a result, the king made Daniel president over the one hundred and twenty princes that ruled the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians. The king placed Daniel over the princes because he recognized that Daniel had an excellent spirit in him. Of course we know that Daniel had the Holy Spirit in him. However, the princes became jealous because they had hoped to gain the position that was given to Daniel. They decided to see if they could find anything wrong with Daniel so that they could accuse him to the king.

22. Read Daniel 6:1-15 and write what the princes found when they looked for a fault in the life of Daniel.
23. Explain why the princes of the Medes and the Persians wanted to find some wrongdoing in Daniel so that they could accuse him to Darius.
24. Explain why you think that when people are filled with jealousy it can cause them to try to destroy other people.

Here we see that Daniel lived the kind of life that every follower of the Lord should desire to live. He lived the way that God wanted him to live. The princes realized that the only way that they could get rid of Daniel was to trick the king into making a law that no one could pray to anyone except the king for thirty days or else that person would be thrown into the lions' den. The princes told the king that he should make such a law and put it in writing. Once the Medes and the Persians made a law and it had been signed by the king, no one could change that law including the king. The king listened to the princes and wrote out the law.

25. Read Daniel 6:1-15 and write what Daniel did when he knew that the king had signed the law.
26. Explain why the princes chose to encourage the king to write a law that no one could worship anyone or anything except the king for thirty days.
27. Explain why you think that the princes were unable to find any sin in the life of Daniel for which they could accuse him to the king.

Daniel continued to give thanks to the Lord as he had done for many years (he was around ninety years of age). We see that Daniel chose to obey God even if obedience to the Lord meant physical death. He did not even try to hide when he prayed. Instead Daniel opened his windows so that it would be easy for the princes to see that he was praying. The princes were watching to see what Daniel would do. As soon as they saw that Daniel was praying, they all went together to tell the king. The king was sad when he heard that Daniel was the one that the princes wanted to kill. He was unhappy with himself for signing such a law because the king had great respect and love for Daniel.

28. Read Daniel 6:1-15 and write how long the king labored to try to find a way to spare the life of Daniel.
29. Explain why Daniel was faithful and prayed to the Lord even though he knew that he would be thrown into the den of lions if he prayed.
30. Explain why you think that Daniel chose to be obedient to the Lord even if it meant that he would experience physical death.

The king realized that he had been tricked by the princes. As a result, the king spent the entire day trying to think of a way to protect Daniel from being thrown to the lions. However, the king could find no way to protect Daniel because no one could change the laws of the Medes and the Persians including the king. Finally the king had to allow Daniel to be thrown into the den of lions. At the same time the king also realized that Daniel served a great and powerful God. The king hoped that God would be with Daniel and protect him even when Daniel was among the lions.

31. Read Daniel 6:16-28 and write what the king did during that night.

32. Explain why the king realized that Daniel served a great and powerful God and hoped that God would deliver Daniel.

33. Explain why you think that Darius had come to realize the greatness of the God that Daniel served.

We see by the actions of the king that Darius had developed a real love and concern for Daniel. He did not forget about Daniel as soon as Daniel was thrown to the lions. Instead the king spent the night fasting for Daniel. The king was so concerned for Daniel that he could not even sleep that night. The king got up very early the next morning. He hurried to the den of lions to see if Daniel was still alive. As soon as the stone was removed from the entrance to the den of lions, the king began to call for Daniel with the hope that Daniel might still be alive.

34. Read Daniel 6:16-28 and write what the king said as he called to Daniel.

35. Explain what these verses teach about the great respect that the king had developed for Daniel.

36. Explain why you think that the king was not able to sleep the entire night because of his concern for Daniel.

The king realized that Daniel served the living God. He realized that God could choose to protect Daniel. As a result when the king called to Daniel, Daniel called back to the king and told the king that God had sent an angel to close the mouths of the lions. The lions had not hurt Daniel at all. Then Daniel was taken out of the den of lions. We read that Daniel was protected because he believed in his God. Here we see a real example of faith. We also see that God will go with us through any persecution that we may face. We are not alone. Regardless of what Satan tries to do to us, we can trust Christ because He will always be with us.

37. Read Daniel 6:16-28 and write what the king ordered should happen to the princes that had tried to get Daniel killed.

38. Explain what lessons you learn about faith from the example of Daniel in this chapter.

39. Explain how you think that Daniel felt that night as he spent the night with the lions in their den.

Although the lions did not eat Daniel or tear him apart, the lions did receive a good meal. The king commanded that all of the men who had tried to get rid of Daniel were to be thrown to the lions. Their families were also thrown to the lions. These lions were very hungry. The lions ate all of these people before they even reached the bottom of the den of lions. Then the king made a new law. He said that people should worship the God of Daniel because He is the living God. He is the One who rules over all things. The king realized that God's power will last forever. God had shown a little of that power by protecting Daniel from the lions.

40. Read Daniel 6:16-28 and write what happened to Daniel while Darius and Cyrus ruled the empire of the Medes and the Persians.

41. Explain how these verses show that the men who tried to destroy Daniel reaped the consequences of their choice.

42. Explain how you think that the king felt when he saw what the lions did to those who have tried to destroy Daniel.

Reread Daniel 5:1-6:28 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from

these chapters.

Survey of Daniel
Lesson 6
Daniel 7:1-28

In an earlier lesson on Daniel, we said that we would learn more about the ten kingdoms that would come out of the old Roman Empire. Today we will be studying about the ten horns. These ten horns are the ten kings that will unite again to form a renewed Roman Empire. They will also be another ruler who will arise. We will see that this ruler will be the false christ or antichrist. When three of the ten kings rebel against this false christ, we will see that the antichrist will take direct control of their countries. However, we will also see that the true Christ will have victory over all of the evil powers of Satan.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the meaning of the four great beasts.
- Explain what we learn about the second coming of Christ.
- Explain why the fourth beast is different from the other beasts.
- Explain what we learn about the antichrist (false christ).

As we begin our study of the second half of the book of Daniel, we will see that the rest of the book of Daniel gives us several visions that tell about the things that happened after the death of Daniel. In fact some of the things that are mentioned in these chapters have not happened yet. One night as Daniel was asleep; God gave Daniel a vision of a great sea of water. The four winds were blowing upon this great sea. Suddenly four great beasts came up out of the sea. Each of these beasts was different from the others. The first beast was like a lion. However, this beast also had wings like an eagle. As Daniel watched, the feathers were pulled out of the wings. The beast was also made to stand on its feet.

1. Read Daniel 7:1-8 and write what was given to this beast.
2. Explain why the Lord gave Daniel various visions to tell about the things that would happen in the future.
3. Explain why you think that God wants us to know and understand some of the things that are going to happen in the future.

Daniel saw that the first beast was given a heart like that of a man. Then he saw a second beast that was like a bear. The bear raised itself up on one side. We see from the description that Daniel wrote that this beast was very powerful and dangerous. This beast had three ribs in its mouth. This beast was also given much power to destroy and eat many things. The third beast in the vision was like a leopard. A leopard is an animal that can travel very fast. We see that this speed was emphasized by the fact that the leopard also had four wings. This beast was different from the others in another way. It had four heads as well as the four wings.

4. Read Daniel 7:1-8 and write what was given to this third beast.
5. Explain why the third beast was different than the other animals that Daniel had seen in his vision.
6. Explain why you think that God gave Daniel visions about various kinds of animals to tell what was going to happen in the future.

By the fact that this beast was given dominion, we see that these four beasts were actually four rulers of four empires. Daniel saw that these rulers would be given power to rule over the nations. The fourth beast was very different from the first three beasts. In fact, the fourth beast did not look like any animal that we know today. It was a very strong and terrible looking animal. Instead of regular teeth, this beast had great iron teeth. This beast had the power to eat or break into pieces. With its feet, it was able to smash anything that got in its way. It was

completely different from the first three beasts that Daniel saw.

7. Read Daniel 7:1-8 and write how many horns that great beast had.

8. Explain why God used these four beasts as pictures of four different world empires.

9. Explain how you think that Daniel felt when he saw this fourth beast that was not like any animal that he had seen.

As we look at the description of this fourth beast, we see that this beast was very different from any of the other animals that have been described. For one thing this beast had ten horns. As Daniel looked at this strange beast, a very unusual thing happened. Suddenly another little horn came up on this beast. This horn was a very powerful horn even though it was small. This little horn pulled up three of the original horns by the roots. This little horn was also very unusual in another way. It had eyes like the eyes of a man. It also had a big mouth that spoke great things. The description of this beast is so strange that it is hard to image what this beast looked like in the vision that was given to Daniel.

10. Read Daniel 7:1-8 and write where the little horn came up in relation to the other horns.

11. Explain what made the little horn different from all of the other horns on the beast.

12. Explain why you think that the Lord gave Daniel such a strange vision with such strange animals.

We are also given a real picture of Christ in the vision that was given to Daniel. In this chapter we see that Christ is called the Ancient of Days. This is a name that shows that Christ has always existed. He is eternal. In the vision Daniel saw that the Ancient of Days had on clothes that were as white as snow. The hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was like a very bright fire. His wheels were like a burning fire. We also see that the vision included a great group of people standing before Christ. This group of people included a huge number of people. We read that there will be people of all nations and languages standing before God and ministering to Him.

13. Read Daniel 7:9-14 and write what God showed Daniel would happen when the time of judgment is set.

14. Explain why it is important to understand that Christ is the One that has always existed.

15. Explain why you think that Daniel was given a vision of Christ as a part of the vision about these unusual animals.

In this vision we see that Christ will come as both a judge and a king. As a judge, Christ will judge all people. At that judgment, those who have their names written in the book of life will receive eternal life. Those whose names are not written in the book of life will stand to be judged at the great white throne judgment. At that judgment the books will be opened that will list all of the sinful things that these people have done throughout their lives. As a judge, we see that Christ will also judge the nations that the beasts in this vision represent.

16. Read Daniel 7:9-14 and write happened to the final beast in the vision when it was killed.

17. Explain why it is important to understand that Christ will come as both a judge and a king when He comes the second time.

18. Explain why it is important for those who reject Christ to realize that they will be judged on the basis of all of the sinful things that they have done.

We see that this beast was destroyed and its body was given to the burning flame. We also see what will happen when Christ comes to rule as king. This time that Christ rules as king will happen before the final judgment. We read that Christ will come with the clouds of heaven. Then He will be given power to rule. He will have a great kingdom. There will be people from all nations, languages and tribes who will serve Christ when He begins His rule as King. However, we see that once Christ begins His rule that His rule will actually last forever. The earthly kingdom will become an eternal kingdom once Christ begins to rule. Nothing will ever be able to destroy the kingdom that Christ will establish.

19. Read Daniel 7:15-22 and write what God says that the saints will do in the kingdom that Christ establishes.
20. Explain why it is important to understand that there will be people of every nation, language and tribe in the kingdom that Christ will rule.
21. Explain why you think that the kingdom of Christ on earth will become an everlasting kingdom where He will rule forever.

Daniel was troubled after he saw the vision of the four beasts. He could not understand what this vision meant. However, Daniel knew how to find out the meaning of the vision that the Lord had given to him. He went and asked the one who came from the Lord to explain the meaning of the vision to him. Here we see what we need to do when we do not understand what the Lord is telling us. We need to pray and ask Him to give us wisdom. We see that Daniel was told that the four beasts were four kings that would arise out of the earth. They were the four great world powers of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. Each of these four kingdoms ruled a large part of the earth.

22. Read Daniel 7:15-22 and write what God said that the saints would do.
23. Explain why we also need to ask the Lord for knowledge and wisdom when we do not understand something that we read in the Bible.
24. Explain what you think that Daniel thought when he found out that the four beasts actually pictured four world powers.

When God has destroyed all of the kingdoms of the world, then all of the saints will rule with Christ forever. Daniel realized that the four beasts were four earthly kingdoms. Daniel wanted to know more about this kingdom represented by the final beast that was different from all of the other kingdoms. He saw that this fourth beast was a terrible beast. It had teeth of iron and nails of bronze. It ate or destroyed everything that got in its way. It also had ten horns and then another horn came up which destroyed three of the original ten horns. This final horn had eyes and spoke great things. It was stronger than any of the other horns.

25. Read Daniel 7:15-22 and write what this horn did to the saints.
26. Explain why Daniel wanted to know more about the kingdom that was represented by the final beast.
27. Explain why you think that Daniel also wanted to know more about this little horn that came up and spoke great things.

We see that this little horn will have great power. It will fight against the saints. It will even win many victories over the saints. Many people who trust in Christ will be killed by this little horn because of their trust in Christ. However, this little horn will only have victory over the saints until Christ comes. When the Ancient of Days (Christ) comes, He will win a complete victory over this little horn. Then the saints will rule with Christ and judgment will be given to all those who have been rejecting Christ. This will result in the saints possessing the kingdom that Christ has prepared for them.

28. Read Daniel 7:15-22 and write what will be given to the saints of the most high.
29. Explain what you learn about the saints that will recognize Christ and place their trust in Him during the time of this little horn.
30. Explain why you think that God will allow the antichrist to win many victories over the saints before Christ comes.

The Lord went on to give Daniel further explanation about this fourth beast. We saw that this kingdom is different than the other kingdoms. It will capture the entire earth and rule the entire earth for a time. When the Roman Empire first ruled in the world, it only ruled part of the world. The day is still coming when a greater ruler will come out of the former Romans Empire. A revived Roman Empire will come into existence again when ten kingdoms join together to form a single kingdom. These are the ten horns. The little horn will come out of the ten kingdoms. He will be different from the ten other rulers. In fact he will have power over

the ten other rulers and will tell those rulers what to do.

31. Read Daniel 7:23-28 and write what this little horn will do to three of the other kings.

32. Explain why we see that this little horn, the antichrist, will come out of the revived Roman Empire.

33. Explain why you think that the antichrist will be allowed to rule the entire earth for a short period of time.

This little horn is the antichrist (false christ) who will rule on the earth during the time of the tribulation. Here we see the way that he will gain power. He will become the leader of the ten kingdoms. When three of those kings rebel against him, the antichrist will crush their power and take direct control of their countries. This antichrist will begin to speak great and evil words against God. In fact his desire will be to destroy God. This is the reason that the antichrist will fight against the saints and try to destroy the saints. He will think that he can change the times and the laws.

34. Read Daniel 7:23-28 and write how much time will be given into the hand of this evil ruler.

35. Explain why the antichrist will crush the three kings that rebel against him and take direct control of their countries.

36. Explain why you think that the antichrist will begin to speak great and evil words against God and also try to destroy the saints.

In order to understand this time, we must compare passages in Daniel 9, Daniel 12, Revelation 11 and Revelation 12. By comparing these passages, we see that this time is three and a half years or 1260 days. In Daniel 9:27 we see that the time of the tribulation will be divided into two parts. This will be the second part known as the Great Tribulation. During that time, the antichrist will make a great effort to destroy the Jews and all others who place their trust in God. However, God will bring His judgment on the antichrist and all who follow him at the end of that time. In that day God will completely destroy the antichrist and bring an end to his power.

37. Read Daniel 7:23-28 and write what Christ will establish when He takes away the kingdom of the antichrist.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the antichrist and what he will do while he is in control.

39. Explain why you think that the antichrist will make a great effort to destroy all of the Jews.

When the Lord takes away the kingdom from the antichrist, we read that the kingdom will be given to the saints. This is the time when the saints will rule with Christ. This rule will be on the earth for the first one thousand years. However, this rule will not end even though the kingdom on earth is completed. We see that the rule of Christ will last forever. There will be no end to the rule of Christ. When Christ rules, all people will obey Him. After Daniel had seen this vision, it troubled him because he could not understand it. However, he did not tell anyone about the vision.

40. Read Daniel 7:23-28 and write what Daniel did instead of telling the vision to anyone else.

41. Explain why all followers of Christ can look forward to the time when He will establish His rule that will last forever.

42. Explain why you think that God said that the saints will rule with Christ during the thousand year period on the earth.

Reread Daniel 7:1-28 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Daniel
Lesson 7
Daniel 8:1-27

In our lesson today, we will learn about another vision that was given to Daniel. This chapter speaks about the second and the third kingdoms that were given great power. We saw in our last lesson that these kingdoms were the kingdoms of Medo-Persia and Greece. In this vision Daniel learned that the countries that would be under the control of Greece would be divided into four sections. God showed Daniel that one of the rulers that controlled the part of the Greek Empire that controlled the nation of Israel would be a very evil ruler. God told Daniel that this ruler would be a very proud ruler that would lift himself up against God.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the vision of the ram and the he-goat.
- Tell about the little horn of the he-goat.
- Explain the meaning of the ram and the he-goat.
- Explain the meaning of the little horn.

In our last lesson Daniel was given a vision that gave more information about the fourth world kingdom. Today we will be studying the vision that gave Daniel additional information about the second and third kingdoms. One day Daniel was down by the river Ulai. This river was located near the city of Shushan. While Daniel was down by the river, he was given another vision from the Lord. This vision was given to Daniel during the time that Belshazzar was still the king of Babylon. Babylon had not yet been defeated by the Medo-Persians at the time that this vision was given to Daniel. In the vision Daniel saw a ram with two horns. Both of the horns were tall. However, one horn was taller than the other.

1. Read Daniel 8:1-8 and write which horn came up last.
2. Explain why it is important to know that this vision about the second and third empires was given when the Babylonian Empire was still in existence.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord gave these visions to Daniel in different places and at different times.

As Daniel watched the ram in this vision, he saw that the ram pushed out in several directions. It went west, north and south. Everywhere the ram went, it destroyed the animals that tried to stand against it. No other animal was able to survive because the ram was so fierce. Instead the ram did exactly as he chose. As a result, the ram became very great. Today many people are just like this ram. They are doing the things that they choose. They do not care whether they do right or wrong as long as they get what they choose. However, God only allows evil people to do as they choose for a certain period of time. Then God brings judgment on those people. That is exactly what happened to the ram in this vision.

4. Read Daniel 8:1-8 and write what God used to bring judgment on the ram.
5. Explain why God used a very fierce ram to picture what the second empire would be like.
6. Explain why you think that God only allows evil people to do what they choose for a period of time before He brings judgment.

The ram thought that he was very powerful. Suddenly there came a he-goat out of the west. The influence of this he-goat was felt over the whole earth. The he-goat came so fast that he did not even touch the ground as he came. Here we see that the he-goat moved with tremendous speed. This goat had a very great horn. He came to fight against the ram with the two great horns. When the he-goat, saw the ram, he ran toward the ram to fight. The he-goat came against the ram with great anger and great power. His goal was to destroy the ram by the

power that he had.

7. Read Daniel 8:1-8 and write what the he-goat did to the two great horns of the ram when he came to him.

8. Explain why God chose to show that the king that would come out of the west would move with great speed.

9. Explain why you think that God said that this empire out of the west would come against the ram with great anger and with great power.

Here we see a picture of what happens when two great world powers come to fight against each other. The goal of each of those world powers is to destroy the other world power. After the he-goat broke off the horns of the ram, the goat threw the ram to the ground and began to jump on him. There was no one to protect the ram from the he-goat and so the ram was destroyed. The he-goat continued to grow and become more powerful. When the goat was very strong, the great horn was suddenly broken. Then four other horns came up on the head of the he-goat. Here we see again that God destroys those who practice evil.

10. Read Daniel 8:1-8 and write what happened to the great horn of the he-goat when he became strong.

11. Explain what these verses teach about the judgment of those who become great in their own strength.

12. Explain why you think that God suddenly caused the great horn of the he-goat to be broken when he was very strong.

As Daniel watched the he-goat with the four horns, he saw one of those horns grow and become great. That horn spread toward the south and the east as well as toward the pleasant land that God had chosen. As this horn grew and became great, it raised itself up against heaven. Then it cast some of the stars to the ground and began to jump on those stars. Here we see a real picture of the pride of this horn. It thought that it was so powerful that it could raise itself against God and do to God as it chose. Those rulers and nations who are controlled by Satan still think that they can raise themselves up against God and that He cannot stop them.

13. Read Daniel 8:9-14 and write what was taken away by the horn.

14. Explain why God showed Daniel that there would come up a ruler that would raise himself up against heaven.

15. Explain why you think that powerful rulers of strong countries often become filled with pride.

Here we see one of the things that this horn did as he raised himself up against God. He caused the daily sacrifice in the temple at Jerusalem to stop. Here we see another picture of what pride will do to a person. This horn tried to make himself equal with God. He caused the daily sacrifice that was offered to the Lord at the temple in Jerusalem to stop and he began to offer his own sacrifices. We also see that this horn had no respect for the truth. Instead he cast the truth to the ground. This will always happen when people raise themselves up against God. In their pride they will completely reject the truth because the truth comes from the Lord.

16. Read Daniel 8:9-14 and write how long God said that this evil ruler would be allowed to rule.

17. Explain what you learn from the fact that the little horn had no respect for the truth and cast the truth to the ground.

18. Explain why you think that anytime a person raises himself up against God that the person will reject the truth.

As the saints of God saw this terrible ruler, one saint asked another saint how long this evil ruler would be allowed to rule and continue to practice his evil. The saint wanted to know how long he would be able to stop the daily sacrifice. We read that Daniel learned that this ruler would fill the temple with evil. He would make the temple unclean in the sight of God. We see

though that God made it clear that He would only allow this evil ruler to continue to his evil against the temple of the Lord for a certain period of time. Then Daniel learned that God would bring judgment against this evil ruler. God would also cause the temple to be cleansed again. 19. Read Daniel 8:9-14 and write how many days God said it would be until the temple was cleansed.

20. Explain what you learn from these verses about this horn that God said would lift itself up against the Lord.

21. Explain why you think that this rebellious ruler would choose to make the temple of God unclean by his actions.

After Daniel had seen this vision, he wondered what the vision meant. As Daniel was thinking about this vision, he suddenly saw someone standing in front of him. This one looked like a man to Daniel. When this person spoke, he also had a voice like a man. However, this one that looked like a man called for an angel to come and explain the vision to Daniel. Here we see why it said that this one looked like a man. Daniel was given a vision of Christ before Christ came to live on this earth. Daniel was one of a number of people in the Old Testament who had the privilege of seeing Christ on this earth before Christ came to the earth as a baby.

22. Read Daniel 8:15-19 and write the name of the angel who was told by Christ to explain this vision to Daniel.

23. Explain why in this Old Testament appearance that Christ both looked and spoke like a man.

24. Explain why you think that Daniel was given the opportunity to see Christ before Christ came to live on this earth.

There are only a few times where the name of an angel is given in the Bible. In fact Gabriel is one of only two angels that is mentioned by name in the Scriptures. Here we see that Christ told Gabriel to explain the meaning of this vision to Daniel. Then Gabriel came close to Daniel so that he could explain the meaning of the vision to him. As a result, Daniel became afraid. This is something that commonly happened when people saw an angel. This is probably due to the fact that an angel is recognized as the messenger of the holy God. Because of the fact that God is holy, His messengers often produce fear in the lives of those who see an angel.

25. Read Daniel 8:125-19 and write what Daniel did in his fear when he saw the angel come close to him.

26. Explain why Daniel became afraid when Gabriel came close to him to explain the vision to him.

27. Explain why you think that Christ had Gabriel explain this vision to Daniel instead of explaining it Himself.

Gabriel told Daniel that he had come to explain to Daniel what would happen in the future. As the angel was speaking, Daniel was in a very deep sleep. Then Gabriel woke Daniel up. Daniel had his face to the ground. When Gabriel touched Daniel, he woke up Daniel and caused Daniel to sit up straight. The angel said that he had come to let Daniel know when God would bring an end to this evil ruler who would rise up and rebel against God. Here we see that the Lord wants the people who have their trust in Him to know what will happen in the future. God will also reveal to us many things that will happen in the future as we study the Word of God.

28. Read Daniel 8:15-19 and write what Gabriel said that he would cause Daniel to know.

29. Explain what you learn about the ministry of angels from these verses.

30. Explain why you think that God hides many things in the Bible from those who do not trust Christ and reveals them to those who study the Word of God.

As we read on, Gabriel explained to Daniel that the ram with the two horns would be the nation of Media and Persia. Those two countries joined together and destroyed Babylon to become the second great world power. The reason that the second horn became greater than the first was due to the fact that Persia eventually had more power than Media. Gabriel told Daniel that the

rough goat which destroyed the ram would be the king of Greece. He said that this great horn that would be so powerful was Alexander the Great and that he would conquer many other nations. Later history records the fact that by the time Alexander was thirty years old that he sat down and cried because there were no more countries for him to conquer. However, Alexander drank himself to death by the age of thirty-two. Then his four leading generals divided the Greek empire into four parts and each took a part.

31. Read Daniel 8:20-27 and write how Gabriel said the power of the four generals would compare with the power of Alexander.

32. Explain why Gabriel told Daniel the names of the second and third empires before they had become powerful.

33. Explain why you think that God allowed Alexander to become such a powerful king but only for a short time.

Gabriel said that one of these four generals would rule the area which included the nation of Israel. It was from this kingdom that the evil ruler would come that did evil in the temple at Jerusalem. We go on to read more about this king that would do great evil. The name of the king who did this great evil was Antiochus Epiphanes. Antiochus was very fierce in his looks and also in the way that he acted. He had great power during the time that he ruled. However, this power was not his own power. This was power that was given to him by the devil so that he could do evil to the people of God. Throughout history, the devil had caused proud rulers to do evil to the people of God.

34. Read Daniel 8:20-27 and write what people this evil king would try to destroy.

35. Explain why God said that this evil king would do the evil that he did through the power given to him by the devil.

36. Explain why you think that proud rulers throughout history have chosen to do evil to the people of God.

As we continue to read, we see that Antiochus gives us a picture of the false christ who will rule in the future. The antichrist will also be given great power by the devil. His goal will also be to destroy all of the people that trust and serve the Lord. He will deceive people so that he can do as he chooses. He will also lift himself up in his heart. He will promise peace but will destroy many instead. The antichrist will also lift himself up against Christ, the Prince of princes. For a time the antichrist will think that he is going to gain control of all things. However, one day God will say that the time of judgment has come. Then God will judge the antichrist just as He judged Antiochus.

37. Read Daniel 8:20-27 and write what Daniel did after he had seen this vision.

38. Explain how Antiochus gives us a real picture of the antichrist that will come in the future.

39. Explain why you think that the antichrist will believe that he is going to gain control of all things.

After Daniel had seen this vision, he was very surprised. In fact he was so surprised that he fainted. Then he was sick for several days. During this time Daniel thought about the things that the Lord had shown him in this vision. God told Daniel that all of the things that he had seen were true and would come to pass. However, God said that the vision was to be shut up because it would not happen for many days. Since this is also a picture of the antichrist, the things that we see here give us a picture of things that are still for the future.

40. Read Daniel 8:20-27 and write how many understood the vision of Daniel.

41. Explain why God told Daniel that all of the things that he had seen were true and would come to pass in the future.

42. Explain why you think that God said that this vision was shut up because it would not happen for many days.

Reread Daniel 8:1-27 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Daniel
Lesson 8
Daniel 9:1-27

One day Daniel was given a vision about a period of seventy weeks. We will see in our study today that these weeks are actually weeks of years. This means that we are talking about a period of 490 years. This period of time is a very important period of time in the history of the world. God said that 69 of these weeks would be completed before the time that the Messiah would give His life to pay the penalty for the sins of mankind. Then we will see that God said that there would be a period of time before the final week of years would be fulfilled. We see that this final week will be a seven year period of great judgment. This great judgment is the period of time known as the tribulation.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what you learn from the prayer of Daniel.
- Explain the meaning of the seventy weeks.
- Explain what you learn about the ministry of Christ.

One day Daniel received a message telling him about the prophecies that the prophet Jeremiah had given in the land of Judah. Jeremiah had spoken of the fact that God would bring seventy years of judgment on the city of Jerusalem. When Daniel heard about this judgment of the city of Jerusalem, he was filled with sorrow. Then he began to pray to the Lord and confess his sins and the sins of his people. Here we see that Daniel had a tremendous concern about the sins of his people. We see that Daniel did several things as he prayed. He set his face to seek the Lord. He also fasted so that he could spend all of his time in prayer. We see that Daniel was filled with sorrow as he prayed to the Lord for his people.

1. Read Daniel 9:1-11 and write the first thing that Daniel did as he began to pray to the Lord.
2. Explain why Daniel began his prayer to the Lord by confessing his sins and the sins of the people.
3. Explain why you think that Daniel wanted to know the meaning of the seventy years of judgment that had been predicted by Jeremiah.

Daniel gives us an important lesson about prayer. If we really want our prayers to be effective, we need to begin by confessing our sins to the Lord so that there is nothing in our lives to hinder our prayers. If we have unconfessed sin in our lives, we will not be praying with real faith. As Daniel continued in his prayer, we see that he recognized the greatness and power of the Lord. This is also important if we are going to pray in faith. We must recognize that we serve a great God who is able to do all things and answer all of our prayers. There is nothing that is too hard for the Lord.

4. Read Daniel 9:1-11 and write how the people of Israel and Judah had rebelled against the Lord.
5. Explain why Daniel gives us a good example by speaking about the greatness and power of the Lord in his prayer.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to recognize that nothing is too hard for the Lord.

The nation of Israel had rebelled against the Lord many times and had done many evil things. The people had failed to obey the Word of God. This was true of all of the people from the lowest servant to the greatest king. All of the people of the nation had sinned against the Lord. However, the character of God was completely different from that of the people. The Lord is the One who does all things right. He is the One who scattered the people of Israel among the nations. This was done because of the sins of the people. The people had brought this

judgment from the Lord upon themselves by their sin.

7. Read Daniel 9:1-11 and write what Daniel said belonged to God even though the people had rebelled against Him.
8. Explain why it is important to understand that God is a holy God and that He is the One who does all things right.
9. Explain why you think that all of the people of the nation of Israel had sinned against the Lord from the lowest servant to the greatest king.

God is the One who shows mercy to mankind. He is the One who forgives sin. It is our own sin that makes it necessary for God to discipline us when we fail to ask Him to forgive our sins. Daniel mentioned in his prayer how the people of Israel had failed to obey the voice of the Lord. They had not obeyed the law of God. God had sent His prophets to give the people His Word. Instead of listening to the Word of God and obeying the Word, the people chose to do evil. As a result, the judgment that had been promised in the Law of Moses was coming upon them. God had warned His people hundreds of years before but the people had not listened and obeyed.

10. Read Daniel 9:1-11 and write what Daniel said belong to the Lord, our God.
11. Explain what you learn about the way that we should pray in our own prayers from the example of Daniel.
12. Explain why you think that the people of Israel had not listened to the Word of the Lord and had chosen not to obey Him.

God caused the warning of judgment that He had given to the people of Israel to come to pass. Because of the great sins of the people, God had brought great evil upon them. The people had been given the warnings but they had not listened to them. They had not prayed to the Lord. They had not asked Him to forgive their sins. They failed to understand the Word of God. As a result, it became necessary for God to bring judgment on the people. The Lord did what was right when He brought judgment on the people because He had warned the people many times to turn from their sins.

13. Read Daniel 9:12-19 and write what the people had done even though the Lord had brought them out of the land of Egypt.
14. Explain why it was right for the Lord to bring judgment on the people after He had warned them many times of the consequences of their sin.
15. Explain why you think that God had been patient and had warned Israel many times before He brought judgment instead of just a few times.

After Daniel had confessed his sins and the sins of the people, he begged God to turn His anger away from the city of Jerusalem. Daniel knew that the nation of Israel was receiving exactly what it deserved. However, Daniel prayed that God would show mercy and kindness even though the people deserved judgment. Daniel was not praying that God would show kindness to him. Instead he prayed that God would show kindness to the city of Jerusalem. Here we see that Daniel was more concerned about the city of Jerusalem than he was about himself.

16. Read Daniel 9:12-19 and write whose prayers Daniel asked the Lord to hear as he prayed to the Lord.
17. Explain why Daniel begged God to turn from His anger even though he knew that the nation deserved judgment.
18. Explain why you think that Daniel was more concerned about the city of Jerusalem than he was about himself.

Daniel wanted the Lord to hear his prayer for the sake of the name of the Lord. The Lord had chosen the city of Jerusalem to be the city where His name would be honored. Now Daniel was concerned about the name of the Lord. He felt that if God allowed the city to remain an empty waste that people would use the opportunity to speak against the name of the Lord. Daniel

wanted people to love and praise the Lord and not speak evil against Him. In the same way, it should also be our desire to see the name of the Lord honored. It should be our desire to live our lives in such a way that both our attitudes and our actions will bring honor to the Lord.

19. Read Daniel 9:12-19 and write why Daniel told the Lord that he was presenting His supplication to the Lord.

20. Explain why it should be our desire to see the name of the Lord honored both by our attitudes and by our actions.

21. Explain why you think that Daniel had a great desire for the Lord to be honored and praised by the people.

God heard the prayer of Daniel as he prayed. As a result, the Lord gave Daniel an answer to his prayer. Daniel had been praying for his people and for the city of Jerusalem. Then the Lord sent the angel Gabriel to tell Daniel what was going to happen in the future to the people of Israel and to the city of Jerusalem. Because Daniel was faithful in praying for his people, God gave him a little picture of some of the things that would happen to his people in the future.

Gabriel came quickly to Daniel to let Daniel know what the Lord was going to do in the future.

22. Read Daniel 9:20-27 and write what time it was when Gabriel came to speak to Daniel.

23. Explain how God rewarded the faithfulness of Daniel as he faithfully prayed for his people.

24. Explain why you are thankful that you know that the Lord will also reward your faithfulness if you faithfully pray for relatives and friends that are not Christians.

Gabriel told Daniel that he had come to give Daniel understanding of the things that were going to happen to his people. Here we see that the Lord will give us understanding when we pray to Him and ask Him to help us understand His Word. Gabriel came to tell Daniel about what would happen in the future because God had a great love for Daniel. God gave Daniel this special privilege because of the great faith and trust that Daniel had for the Lord. God began by telling Daniel that he had set a certain number of weeks before the judgment of Jerusalem and the people of Jerusalem would be complete.

25. Read Daniel 9:20-27 and write how many weeks God said that it would be until the judgment of Jerusalem was complete.

26. Explain why God sent Gabriel to tell Daniel what would happen in the future to the people of Israel.

27. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that the Lord will give you understanding when you ask Him to help you understand His Word.

This period of seventy weeks is one of the most important time periods in the entire Bible as far as helping a person to understand the plan and purpose of the Lord. We see that this period of seventy weeks is divided into three sections. As we study these verses, we will see that each of these weeks is a week of years. Genesis 29 gives us an example of a week being used to refer to a period of seven years. Since the Jewish calendar is based on 360 day years, we are talking here about 490 years that each had a total of 360 days in them. We will see that these periods of years teach us several things about both the first and second coming of Christ.

28. Read Daniel 9:20-27 and write why God said that this period of seventy weeks had been determined for the people of Israel and for the city of Jerusalem.

29. Explain the meaning of the seventy weeks of years in your own words.

30. Explain why you think that God sometimes used a week to describe a period of seven years in the Bible.

We see that God told Daniel that these seventy weeks would complete the judgment of the people of Israel. By the end of the final week of years, God said that judgment would be completed against the city of Jerusalem. Also by the end of the final week of years, the rebellion of the Jews against God would come to an end. At the end of that time the Jews will all turn to the Lord and become righteous in the sight of God through repentance and faith.

Then there will be righteousness that will last forever. Christ will be the king. As we can easily see, these things have not happened yet. This means that the seventy weeks of years are not yet complete. The Jews have not yet turned to the Lord as a nation and begun to serve Him.

31. Read Daniel 9:20-27 and write when God said that the seventy weeks of years would begin.

32. Explain why it was a message of encouragement to Daniel when he heard that the people would turn to the Lord as a nation at the end of this period.

33. Explain why you are thankful that God is still going to complete this promise to the Jews in the future.

The command to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem is mentioned in Nehemiah 2. That command was given in 445 BC. We read that from that time until the time when the Messiah would be cut off would be sixty-nine weeks. Using the Jewish calendar of 360 days per year, we see that these years bring us to the exact year in which Christ was put to death on the cross. If the Jews would have read and understood this part of the book of Daniel, they would have realized that they were killing Christ in the very same year that Daniel had predicted. They would have realized that they were completing one of the key prophecies in the Old Testament. Here we see again that the timing of the Lord is always perfect.

34. Read Daniel 9:20-27 and write what God said would happen to the Messiah at the end of the sixty-nine weeks.

35. Explain why the sixty-nine weeks of years was the exact number of years until the time that Christ was crucified.

36. Explain why you think that God wanted to make it clear in the Old Testament the exact time that Christ would be crucified.

Here we see a promise that Christ would be the One who would come to die for the sins of mankind. He did not die for His own sins because He was without sin. Instead Christ died and rose again so that He could give eternal life to us as a free gift. We read that after the death of Christ that the prince would come and destroy the city of Jerusalem and the temple. This happened about forty years after the death and resurrection of Christ. Today the city of Jerusalem has been rebuilt. However, the Jews are still suffering. They have not yet become free from punishment. God said that Jerusalem will continue to suffer judgment until the final week mentioned in Daniel is completed.

37. Read Daniel 9:20-27 and write the time period when God said that He would confirm His covenant.

38. Explain what you learn about the time of the death and resurrection of Christ from these verses.

39. Explain why you think that there is a break of time between the fulfillment of the sixty-ninth week and the seventieth week.

We see that God said that there would be a break before the final week in the judgment of Israel. That break began at the time that Christ died and rose again. That break in time will be completed when Christ takes the Christians to heaven. Then this final week of seven years will happen before Christ returns to rule on the earth for one thousand years. In the middle of the seven years we read that the sacrifice will end and an abomination (idol) shall be brought into the temple where it will remain until the end of the seven years. Then God will bring great judgment on the antichrist that brought this great evil into the temple at Jerusalem.

40. Read Daniel 9:20-27 and write how long this period of terrible suffering will last.

41. Explain why it is important to understand that in the middle of the seven years that the sacrifices would end.

42. Explain why you think that God said that He will allow the antichrist to set up his idol in the temple at the middle of the seven year period.

Reread Daniel 9:1-27 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from

this chapter.

Survey of Daniel
Lesson 9
Daniel 10:1-11:20

In this lesson and the final lesson we will be studying the final vision that the Lord gave to Daniel that is recorded in this book. When Daniel saw this final vision, he was told that the length of time necessary to complete this vision was long. In fact the things that God said would happen in chapter twelve have not happened yet. Before the Lord gave Daniel this final vision, God gave Daniel a vision of the glory of the Lord. We also see that the Lord gave Daniel strength because Daniel recognized the fact that he had no strength.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the vision of the glory of the Lord.
- Explain how Daniel received strength from the Lord.
- Explain who God said would defeat the nation of Persia.
- Tell about the fight that God said would happen between the divided kingdoms of Greece.

One day Daniel was given a vision of the glory of the Lord. This vision of the glory of the Lord was actually the beginning of the final vision recorded in the book of Daniel. Daniel had been in great sorrow for three entire weeks. During that three week period Daniel had not eaten any food. Instead he had spent all of his time during this three week period praying to the Lord. Here we see one of the purposes of fasting. We see that fasting can give us extra time for prayer so that we can know the will of the Lord. Because Daniel spent his time in fasting and prayer, he received a vision showing what the Lord was going to do in the future.

1. Read Daniel 10:1-9 and write where Daniel was when he received this vision from the Lord.
2. Explain why one of the purposes of fasting is to spend extra time in prayer so that we can know the will of the Lord.
3. Explain why you think that Daniel was willing to go for a period of three weeks without eating because of his desire to know the plan of God.

As Daniel was fasting and praying down by the River Tigris, he suddenly received a vision of the glory of the Lord. When Daniel saw this glory, he saw that Christ had clothes of linen. His body looked like gold and precious stones. His face was so bright that it looked like the lightning. His eyes were so bright that they shone like lamps of fire. His arms and his feet were like polished bronze. His voice was a great voice that sounded like many voices combined. Here we see a little picture of the greatness and glory of Christ. There is no person on earth that can compare to Christ in beauty and in glory.

4. Read Daniel 10:1-9 and write who saw this vision of the glory of the Lord.
5. Explain what these verses teach us about the appearance of Christ when His full glory is revealed.
6. Explain why you think that God began this vision by giving Daniel a vision of the glory of the Lord.

There were several men that were with Daniel at the time that he received this vision of the glory of the Lord. However, these men were not prepared to see the glory of the Lord because they had not been spending time in fasting and prayer. Instead these other men felt a great earthquake which caused them to run and hide. This is a lesson that each of us need to learn for our own lives. If we want to see the Lord accomplish great things in our lives, we need to spend much time in prayer so that God can prepare us for the things that He wants to teach us and the things that He wants to do in our lives.

7. Read Daniel 10:1-9 and write what happened to Daniel when he heard the voice of the Lord speak.
8. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of prayer if we want to see the Lord work in our lives.
9. Explain why you think that the men with Daniel were not allowed to see the vision of the glory of the Lord.

When Daniel saw this vision of the glory of the Lord, Daniel was left without strength. Suddenly Daniel realized how sinful he was in his life. This is the same thing that happens whenever people see the glory of the Lord. The Lord is so holy that we are caused to realize how sinful our lives have been. This is why it is so important to compare ourselves with Christ rather than comparing ourselves with some other person. Then someone came and touched Daniel with his hand. This one who came and touched Daniel was an angel that had been sent to Daniel by the Lord. This angel mentioned again that Daniel was one who was greatly loved by God.

10. Read Daniel 10:10-21 and write what Daniel did when the angel told Daniel to stand on his feet.
11. Explain why it is important to compare ourselves with Christ and not to compare ourselves with any other person.
12. Explain why you think that a vision of the glory of the Lord will always cause us to realize our own sinfulness.

As Daniel stood before the angel, the angel told Daniel that his prayers had been heard from the first day that he began to pray three weeks earlier. The angel said that he had come as quickly as he could. However, the angel said that he had been hindered by the powers of Satan (demons) for three entire weeks. Then the angel Michael had come to help him. Here we see that the fallen angels who chose to follow Satan will do everything possible to hinder the work of the Lord. This is one reason why some of our prayers are not answered immediately. This is the reason why we should continue to pray even when we do not see an immediate answer to our prayers.

13. Read Daniel 10:10-21 and write what the angel came to help Daniel understand.
14. Explain why the devil hindered the angel from coming to explain the vision to Daniel for a period of three weeks.
15. Explain why you think that the devil did not want Daniel to receive an explanation of this vision.

The Lord had sent the angel for a reason. The angel had been sent to help Daniel understand what would happen to the people of Israel in the latter days. When the angel had spoken to Daniel, we read that Daniel was even unable to speak. Then Christ came to him and touched his lips so that he was able to speak again. We go on to see why Daniel had become so sad. He was sad because of the things that he had seen in the vision that the Lord gave to him. Those things in the vision had taken away his strength. He felt that he could not even talk to the Lord because he had no strength.

16. Read Daniel 10:10-21 and write what Christ did when Daniel said that he had no strength.
17. Explain why Daniel was unable to speak until Christ came and touched his lips after he had seen this vision.
18. Explain why you think that the vision of what would happen to the people of Israel in the latter days caused Daniel to become so sad.

There are times when we are also without strength. When we have no strength, we can choose to pray to the Lord and He will give us His strength. The Lord told Daniel not to be afraid because God had a great love for him. Instead Daniel was told to have peace and to be strong. As soon as the Lord spoke to Daniel, he received strength. Here we see the way to have

strength as Christians. Daniel did two things when he received strength. First Daniel prayed to the Lord. Then Daniel let God speak to him. Today we will also experience weakness in our own lives when we depend on our own strength instead of doing these two things. When we are without strength, we need to pray to the Lord and then let Him speak to us from His Word. 19. Read Daniel 10:10-21 and write who the Lord said that He had to go and fight when He had strengthened Daniel.

20. Explain how we can be strong as Christians when we realize that we have no strength in ourselves.

21. Explain why it is important in your own life to pray and then let the Lord speak to you from the Word of God when you need strength.

After Daniel received strength from the Lord, the Lord began to explain to Daniel the things that were going to happen after the time of Daniel. God said that there would be three more kings of Persia that would be great. However, there would arise a fourth king who would be much more powerful than the three. Because this fourth king would be so strong and rich, he would decide to go and fight against the nation of Greece. However, one day a very powerful king would arise in the country of Greece. This very powerful king of Greece would defeat the Persian army. That Greek king was Alexander the Great. God said that the Greek king would have great power and he would do exactly as he chose.

22. Read Daniel 11:1-9 and write what God said would happen to Alexander when he stood up as king.

23. Explain why God told Daniel that a very powerful king would arise in Greece that would defeat the Persians.

24. Explain why you think that the rich and powerful king decided that he would go and fight against the king of Greece.

Alexander the Great was a very powerful ruler. However, he drank himself to death while he was still a young man. Since he did not have any sons that were old enough to take his place and become the ruler of Greece, the four leading generals in the army of Alexander divided the empire into four parts and each of them took one part. One of the four generals received Egypt and another received Syria. The land of Israel was in the part that was under the rule of the general in Syria. However, the king in the south (Egypt) was the stronger of the two kings. God said that the two kingdoms would be close for a while and would intermarry. One day though the king from the south would come to fight against the king of the north.

25. Read Daniel 11:1-9 and write what the king of the south would do to the king of the north.

26. Explain why God wanted Daniel to know that the division of the Greek Empire into four parts would have an effect on the land of Israel.

27. Explain why you think that the God warned that the king of the south (Egypt) would one to fight against the king of the north (Syria).

God said that the king from Egypt would capture the capital city of the king of the north. Then he would take their false gods to Egypt. He would also take the leaders and their riches to Egypt. After the king of Egypt had captured these riches, he would return to Egypt. As we study this section, we see that God made it clear that the only desire of these two kings would be to get all that they could get for themselves. Today people are still the same. People usually think only about themselves and their desires. In fact many people are ready to destroy others to get what they want for themselves.

28. Read Daniel 11:1-9 and write how long God said that the king of the south would live.

29. Explain why God showed that the desire of both of these kings would be to get all of the riches that they could get for themselves.

30. Explain why you think that many people are only concerned about what they can get for themselves.

God said that although the king of the south would win a victory over the king of the north, he would not be able to hold his control. God said that the sons of the king of the north would gather together a large army. This army would flow through the land of Israel like a flood as it came and went. This army of the north would go to fight against the army of the south. However, God said that the army of the south would win a great victory. The king of the north would escape and begin to build another army. This army would be greater than the army that went against the army of Egypt the first time.

31. Read Daniel 11:10-20 and write how God said this army would come against Egypt after certain years.

32. Explain why the king of the north would build a larger army when he was defeated the first time.

33. Explain how you think that having these armies pass through the land of Israel affected the people of Israel.

Later the army of the north did go against Egypt with a great and powerful army. The king of Egypt had died a short time before and his young son had been appointed as the new king of Egypt. As a result, there was not a strong leader to lead the armies of the south as they fought against the armies of the north. This made it possible for the king of the north to destroy the cities of Egypt. The armies of the south were unable to protect their cities. They did not have any strength to stand against the army of the north.

34. Read Daniel 11:10-20 and write what this king of the north would do as he came against the south.

35. Explain why the lack of a strong leader made it impossible for the new king of the south to protect his cities from the king of the north.

36. Explain why you think that so many rulers of nations want to fight against other nations.

Here we see a picture of all sinful people. Their desire is to satisfy themselves and they do not care about others. The king of the north would even have his daughter marry the king of the south because he thought that he would then have better control of the king of the south. Instead the daughter later would do everything possible to help her husband to defeat her father. This completed the prophecy exactly as it is written here in the book Daniel. God always has the last word. He is the One who decides all of the things that will happen in the future. We see that the plans of sinful men do not work out in the way that people plan.

37. Read Daniel 11:10-20 and write what the king of the north would do to the glorious land.

38. Explain why sinful people are not able to complete their plans as they want them to be completed.

39. Explain why you think that these kings even had their children marry each other in their efforts to try and defeat each other.

God said that the king of the north would think that he was very powerful because he had been able to defeat the army of Egypt. As a result, God said that he would decide to go and fight against Greece. However, the king of the north would not recognize that the ruler of Greece had developed great power. God said that instead of winning a victory, the king of the north would be defeated by the army of Greece. This would force him to return to his own land. He would return as a fallen ruler who had stumbled. Then another ruler would take his place.

40. Read Daniel 11:10-20 and write what God said would happen to this ruler in a very short time.

41. Explain why the king of the north decided that he would go and fight against the army of Greece.

42. Explain why you think that God allowed the king of the north to be defeated by the army of Greece.

Read Daniel 10:1-11:20 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from

these chapters.

Survey of Daniel
Lesson 10
Daniel 11:21-12:13

Today we will be studying our final lesson in our study of the Major Prophets. We read that there will be a world ruler who will deceive the people of Israel. We read that this ruler would pollute the temple in Jerusalem. As a result of what that ruler would do in the temple, God said that the people of Israel would be in total rebellion against that ruler. We will also learn about several things that are still in the future beyond the time that we are living. In fact today we are beginning to see some of these things happening in the world around us.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what we learn about the king that polluted the temple.
- Explain what we learn about the willful king.
- Explain how you know that we are living in the last days.
- Explain why the message of Daniel was sealed up.

As we concluded our last lesson, we were studying about the kingdom of the north which was fighting against the kingdom of the south. In our lesson today we continue our study of this kingdom of the north. We see that the king still wanted to control others. God goes on to tell us about the one who would become the ruler of this northern kingdom. God said that this coming king would be called a vile person because he would be very evil. In order to gain more power for himself, God said that this evil king would order the death of the high priest (the prince of the covenant) of Israel. He would also use many other forms of deceit and trickery to gain power for himself.

1. Read Daniel 11:21-35 and write how he would enter the fat places.
2. Explain why God said that the one that would become the ruler of the north (Syria) would be called a vile person.
3. Explain why you think that God wanted Daniel to understand what this vile king would be like.

As we hear this ruler of the northern kingdom described, we see that it is speaking about the time when Antiochus Epiphanes would become the ruler. In the next several verses we see that Antiochus would go down to fight against Egypt several times. He would use part of the riches that he gained to hire others to come and fight with him. We see one of the times that he sat down to talk about peace with the king of Egypt. We see that at that time both sides would speak lies. As a result of their lies, God said that neither kingdom would continue to prosper. We see that God said that particular time the king of the north would be successful and would gain great riches.

4. Read Daniel 11:21-35 and write what ships would stop Antiochus from gaining riches the next time he went against Egypt.
5. Explain what we learn about the character of both the king of the north and the king of the south.
6. Explain why you think that God said that neither kingdom would prosper because both of their kings were speaking lies.

During the time that Antiochus was ruling the northern kingdom; Rome would be in the process of becoming powerful and would start sending its ships out to conquer other countries. As a result, we read that Antiochus would be told that Rome would come against him if he made an attack on Egypt. We see that Antiochus would start back toward his own land but he would be very angry. As a result, when he came to the land of Israel, he would show his anger by doing evil in Israel. History tells us that he polluted the temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar of the

temple. The pig was an unclean animal and the sacrifice of a pig caused the entire temple to become unclean. History also records that Antiochus stopped the Jews from offering their sacrifices. Then he set up his own idol in the temple. This idol was called the abomination that makes desolate.

7. Read Daniel 11:21-35 and write what God said the people of God would be in that terrible day.

8. Explain why Antiochus chose to set up his own idol in the temple at Jerusalem.

9. Explain why you think that Antiochus showed his great anger and defiance of God by offering a pig on the altar of the temple at Jerusalem.

When this happened, the people of Israel rebelled against Antiochus because of the evil things that he had done. As a result, many of the Jews were killed. Others showed that they did not trust in the Lord by joining with Antiochus. Here we see that persecution was used in that day to separate the Jews that trusted in the Lord from those who did not. God said that the Jews would continue to suffer persecution until the time of the end. In our next section we will learn more about the time of the end. Here we see that God allowed Antiochus to give us a picture of the antichrist who will rule in the time of the end just before Christ comes to rule.

10. Read Daniel 11:21-35 and write this evil ruler would do to the daily sacrifice that was offered in the temple.

11. Explain what you learn about Antiochus Epiphanes from these verses.

12. Explain why you think that God allowed Antiochus to give us a picture of the future antichrist.

We said that Antiochus gives us a picture of the antichrist. We also said that the final verses of this chapter look forward to the time of the end. Both the books of Matthew and Revelation refer to the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel. The study of Antiochus gives us a picture of the antichrist that will come in the future and set up his image in the temple. We see that the antichrist will do as he chooses. He will boast about all of the things that he has done. He will claim that he is greater than any god. He will speak evil words against God. He will be allowed to rule until the purpose of God is complete.

13. Read Daniel 11:36-45 and write who will be his god.

14. Explain why it is important to understand that both the book of Matthew and the book of Revelation refer to the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel.

15. Explain why you think that the future antichrist will do all of the things that are mentioned by Daniel.

The antichrist will not recognize anyone else as god. Instead he will magnify himself. He will refuse to recognize that the One who was the desire of women is Christ. Throughout the history of the Jews, it was the desire of every Jewish woman that trusted in the Lord to be the mother of Christ. The antichrist will not recognize anyone but himself as god. Here we see that the antichrist will be filled with pride. His only desire will be to satisfy himself. That is why he will magnify himself and refuse to recognize anyone else.

16. Read Daniel 11:36-45 and write who he will honor with gold, silver and other precious things.

17. Explain why it was the desire of every godly Jewish woman to be the mother of Christ.

18. Explain why you think that the antichrist will magnify himself as god and try to force everyone to recognize him as god.

His fathers did not know the god that the antichrist will honor because he will honor himself as his own god. He will also set up his own idol in the temple in Jerusalem. People will be forced to send their gifts of gold, silver and other precious things to this one who has become his own god. Then he will use those gifts for his own purpose to strengthen his own rule. He will also divide the land and give parts of it to others. However, this will be done to strengthen his own

rule and for the purpose of bringing him additional gain.

19. Read Daniel 11:36-45 and write what countries will escape the hand of the antichrist.

20. Explain what you learn about the pride of the antichrist from the things that are recorded in these verses.

21. Explain why you think that the antichrist will choose to set up his own image in the temple at Jerusalem.

This false christ will have plans to rule the entire earth. We see that he wants complete control in three key areas. He will want complete control in the area of religion because he will want to be the god that everyone serves. He will want complete control of all valuable things so that he can control the economy. He will want complete political power so that he can rule the world. It is interesting the people today are talking about a world religion, a world economy and a world government. The false christ will take control of all three. He will work to keep this control over the entire earth by military power.

22. Read Daniel 11:36-45 and write what kings will come against him in the time of the end.

23. Explain why the antichrist will take control of religion, the economy and the government when he sets up his rule.

24. Explain why you think that many people today are talking about a world religion, a world economy and a world government.

When the king of the south and the king of the north come against the antichrist, he will lead his armies against these enemies. He will go into their countries like a flood and defeat their armies. God said that many countries will be overthrown and come under the direct control of the antichrist. However, some countries will escape. When the antichrist takes control of Egypt and the other countries of Africa, we read that he will take their riches for himself. As a result, the rebellion against the antichrist will only cause him to become richer. The army of the north will not be completely destroyed because it will join with another army to come against the antichrist again.

25. Read Daniel 11:36-45 and write what areas of the world will bring bad news for the antichrist.

26. Explain why the antichrist will use his military victories to gain riches from the countries that he conquers.

27. Explain why you think that the antichrist will overthrow the governments in many countries so that he will have complete control of those countries.

The reason why the news out of the east will worry the false christ is explained for us in the book of Revelation. There we see that an army of two hundred million men will come from the east. These will be joined by the armies of the north. They will all come to fight against the antichrist. However, there will be a change in their plans. The antichrist and all those following him will join together with those out of the east and the north in rebellion against Christ. Then the antichrist and the armies from the north and the east will all be destroyed. There will be no one to help any of them in that day.

28. Read Daniel 11:36-45 and write what God says will happen to the antichrist.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the things that will happen on the earth during the time that the antichrist rules.

30. Explain why the antichrist will join with these armies out of the east and out of the north.

During the time when the antichrist rules on the earth, it will be a time of great suffering and persecution for the Jews. The Jews have had much suffering in the past. However, they have never suffered like they will suffer during the time that is called the Great Tribulation. In the day when the Jews experience this terrible suffering, God will not forget His people. Instead we see that God promises that He will deliver His people in their day of great trouble. God has written in a book the names of all those who have placed their trust in Him. We read in the

New Testament that all of the Jews will turn to Christ during that time of great suffering.

31. Read Daniel 12:1-13 and write what will happen to those who sleep in the dust of the earth.

32. Explain why it is important to understand that God promises to deliver His people in their day of great trouble.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord will use this period of terrible suffering to cause all of the Jews to turn to Him.

Here we see that God looks forward to the time of the resurrection of all people. God is going to raise all people from the dead. Those who have placed their trust in Christ will be given eternal life. All others will receive eternal judgment. God says that we will shine as the stars forever if we have led many to turn to Christ because we have been faithful in speaking about Christ. We also read about two other things that will happen in the end times. During the end times, people will be running here and there. God also says that knowledge will greatly increase. Both of these things are already happening today. This is an indication that we are coming close to the time when the antichrist will rule on the earth during the tribulation.

34. Read Daniel 12:1-13 and write how long God told Daniel His words would be sealed that He spoke to Daniel.

35. Explain why you are thankful that God promises that all who have led many to Christ will shine as the stars forever.

36. Explain why you think that it is important that God says that in the end times that many will be running here and there and knowledge will greatly increase.

Daniel wanted to know when all of these things would happen. God told Daniel that He had sealed up His words until the time of the end. God said that He had done this for a reason. God wanted to make it impossible for evil people to understand the things that are written in this book. The things written in this book are only for those who have placed their trust in the Lord. This is the reason that people who do not accept the Bible as the Word of God have many strange ideas about the book of Daniel. They cannot understand because they do not have their trust in Christ.

37. Read Daniel 12:1-13 and write how long God said it would be from the time that the antichrist sets up his image until everything is cleansed.

38. Explain why sinful people are unable to understand the Word of God.

39. Explain why you think that God says that He will cause the wise to understand the things that are written in the book of Daniel.

We read that those who trust in the Lord will be made pure and holy by the Lord. God said that we will be clothed in white. God said that we will also be able to stand any test because we will be given the righteousness of Christ. The Lord will also give us understanding. We read that it will be 1335 days from the time that the antichrist sets up his image in the temple at Jerusalem until all of these things happen. God will bring an end to the antichrist at the end of 1260 days. This will bring an end to the tribulation. That will allow 75 days for the Lord to cleanse and purify the earth.

40. Read Daniel 12:1-13 and write who God says will be able to understand these things.

41. Explain why the fact that all believers stand in the righteousness of Christ means that we will be able to stand any test.

42. Explain why you think that God will make all those who trust in Christ pure and holy in their lives.

Reread Daniel 11:21-12:13 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.