

Daniel Part 2
Leader Guide
(NASB and ESV)

GAINING UNDERSTANDING OF
THE TIME OF THE END

Daniel Part 2 Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)
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USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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IMPORTANT NOTE TO LEADERS:

It will be very important to get your students (especially the new ones) started on Lesson 1 the week prior to your Lesson 1 discussion, so that they leave with part of the lesson completed and know how to complete the remainder. Make the lesson “come alive” for them, so they are excited to finish it during the week.

Be sure to have them bring colored pens or pencils to class for this.

Suggestion of what to cover with your students:

Explain that there are five days of assignments, which will take about 1 hour per day.

Begin by reading the **bolded paragraph** prior to Day 1.

Day 1

Do #1 and #2 with them, reading Daniel chapter 1 aloud.

Read the instructions for #3 and do chapter 2 with them if you have time.

Read # 4. If you did chapters 1 and 2 with them, they can answer this question.
(history and prophecy)

Day 2 and Day 3

Do #1 with them. (Skip the first paragraph if you didn't cover the type of literature on Day 1.)

Do #2a with them. Give suggestions for marking. Read only Daniel 7:1-10 (they can finish the chapter at home), and have them say aloud the words they need to mark. Give them a couple of seconds to mark, then move on. (Read slowly enough for them to follow.)

Do #2b, helping them make lists on God and Daniel from 7:1-10. They'll finish at home.

Do #2c with them.

Read #2d with them. They can do this at home after they finish the chapter.

Day 4 and Day 5

Read through the assignments to see if they have any questions.

DANIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis

- Daniel 7
- Dream/visions and interpretation

DANIEL 1–6

To begin your discussion, briefly review or discuss the main points of Daniel 1–6. The “Daniel at a Glance” chart is a good visual aid for this part of your discussion. Also relate each chapter to the “Daniel Time Line” chart.

Daniel 1

What is the timing of this chapter? What is the chapter about?

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon besieged Jerusalem for the first time in Jehoiakim’s 3rd year as king of Judah. The Lord Himself gave Judah into the hands of Babylon.

That was 605 B.C. Daniel was about 15 years old.

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were given Babylonian names and educated in the literature and language of the Babylonians for three years.

Daniel made up his mind / resolved not to defile himself with the king’s food and wine and sought permission to only eat vegetables and drink water for ten days. At the end of the test period, the four looked healthier than the other youths who had been eating the king’s choice food.

At the end of three years, they were ten times better than all others, and they entered the king’s service. God gave them knowledge and intelligence and wisdom. Daniel even understood dreams and visions.

Daniel was in the king’s service until the 1st year of Cyrus the king of Persia.

Daniel 2

When did this chapter take place?

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a statue / image in the 2nd year of his reign.

At this point, you can direct your group to their chart from the lesson, “Dream and Vision of Daniel 2 and 7.”

Discuss the main points of the dream and interpretation.

The statue / image of Daniel 2 was large / mighty and of extraordinary splendor / exceeding brightness; its appearance was awesome / frightening.

It had a head of fine gold, representing King Nebuchadnezzar, ruler of the Babylonian Empire. God had given him the kingdom, power, strength, and glory.

The silver breast / chest and arms symbolized an inferior kingdom which was after Babylon.

The bronze belly / middle and thighs represented a third kingdom which was to rule over all the earth.

The iron legs represented a fourth kingdom. It was as strong as iron and would crush and break all the others in pieces.

Its feet and toes were a mixture of iron and clay—some of it strong and some brittle. It was a divided kingdom with the toughness / firmness of iron. The toes represented 10 kings.

In the days of those 10 kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed.

In the dream, a stone was cut out without hands and struck the statue / image on its feet and crushed them. Then the whole statue / image was crushed at the same time and became like chaff which the wind carried away.

The stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. God's kingdom will crush and put an end to all the kingdoms of the earth and will endure forever.

Daniel 3

What is this chapter about? How does it relate to Daniel 2?

It's possible that the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream that he was the "head of gold" put into his mind the idea of constructing the gold image for his people to worship.

This followed the appointment of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego to the administration of the province of Babylon in Daniel 2. So, on the time line it's after chapters 1 and 2.

Daniel 4

How does this chapter relate to Daniel 1–3?

It was still the reign of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar had another dream—this time visions of a large tree.
Daniel interpreted it as the king himself.

God wanted the king to recognize / know that the Most High God is the ruler over mankind and not King Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 5

Ask about the timing of this chapter first and then the main events.

The end of Belshazzar's reign as king of Babylon
The end of the Babylonian Empire

The beginning of Darius the Mede reigning over the Babylonian Empire
The beginning of the Medo-Persian Empire

King Belshazzar was involved in a feast using the vessels from God's temple.
Nebuchadnezzar brought them to Babylon from Jerusalem.

He saw a hand write on a wall, and Daniel interpreted it.

The interpretation was that Belshazzar's rule was over. He was killed that same night and the Medes and Persians took over his kingdom.

Daniel 6

Ask your group about the events of this chapter.

It was during the reign of Darius the Mede, so Daniel was about 80 years old.
Verse 28 states that Daniel enjoyed success / prospered under Darius and Cyrus the Persian.

This is the third time in Daniel 1–6 that a man, or men, of God refuses to compromise his belief in the Lord. Daniel petitioned his God during the 30-day injunction.

A pagan king again saw God deliver a man from certain death and decreed that his people reverence the living God, the Hebrew God.

Help your group understand that these first six chapters take them through the whole period Daniel was in Babylon under the kings of Gentiles who ruled his people.

NOTE: Your group will spend two more lessons studying Daniel 7, so watch your time. Also, don't discuss more than what they've studied at this point.

DANIEL 7

Where does this chapter fit in the chronology of Daniel 1–6?

Direct your group to “Daniel’s Time Chart” for the length of time between Daniel 2 and 7.

Daniel 7 was the 1st year of Belshazzar’s reign, the last king of Babylon.
This chapter fits chronologically in Daniel between chapters 4 and 5.

On the chart, it shows that Daniel was about 70 years old at the time.

It was about 14 years before the end of the Babylonian Empire when Darius the Mede took the kingdom from Belshazzar and about 50 years after Daniel 2.

Verses 1-8

Direct your group to their chart, “Dream and Vision of Daniel 2 and 7.”

What are the basic facts of the dream?

Daniel saw a dream and visions and wrote them down.

The four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea, and four great beasts were coming up from the sea. Each beast was different from the others.

The first beast was like a lion with an eagle’s wings. The wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground to stand like a man. A human mind (ESV—mind of a man) was given to it.

The second beast resembled a bear raised up on one side with three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. “They” said (ESV—it was told) to arise and devour much meat / flesh.

The third beast was like a leopard with four bird wings on its back. It had four heads and dominion was given to it.

The fourth beast was dreadful, terrifying, and extremely strong with large iron teeth. It was different from the others and devoured, crushed / broke in pieces, and trampled / stamped the remainder with its feet. It had 10 horns.

Compare the statue / image in Daniel 2 with the beasts in Daniel 7. Ask your group if they think the two dreams were describing the same kingdoms.

Statue / image: The head of gold was Nebuchadnezzar.

Beasts: A lion whose wings were plucked, then made to stand and given a human mind.

Relate this to Daniel 4. What happened to Nebuchadnezzar?

Statue / image: The breast / chest and arms of silver, inferior to the Babylonian kingdom.
The next kingdom was the Medo-Persian Empire.

Beasts: The bear was raised on one side.

The Persians were more dominant than the Medes.

Statue / image: Third was the bronze belly / middle and thighs, a kingdom that would rule over the earth.

Beasts: The third beast was a leopard who had dominion given to it.

Statue / image: Fourth part of the statue was the legs, feet, and toes.

It was a divided kingdom as strong as iron.

It crushed, shattered, and broke all the others in pieces.

10 toes on two feet. Defined as 10 kings.

Beasts: The fourth beast did the same to the others.

The beast had 10 horns.

The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom and the 10 horns are 10 kings.

What is verse 8 about?

An eleventh horn appeared and three of the original ten were plucked out by their roots, leaving eight. Then the little horn uttered / speaking great boasts / things.

Verses 9-14

What else was part of the dream and/or visions?

Thrones were set up / placed, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. The court sat and the books were opened—judgment.

Ask your group about the description of God in verses 9 and 10.

Give them time to discuss what they learned about Him and how it relates to them.

What happened to the beast?

The beast was slain / killed, destroyed, and its body burned. Dominion was taken from the rest of the beasts, but they were given an extension of life for an appointed period of time (ESV—a season and a time).

Then One like a Son of Man came up to the Ancient of Days. He received everlasting dominion, glory, and a kingdom which will not be destroyed.

Relate this to the stone which struck the statue / image in Daniel 2.

In Daniel 7, the role of God the Father is Judge, giving the kingdom to the Son.

Verses 15-18

What was Daniel's reaction to the visions?

He was distressed / anxious and alarmed.

Others were with him as he asked one for the meaning. Evidently these were angelic beings, because one interpreted the dream, visions, for him.

Verses 19-22

What further meaning did Daniel ask for?

He wanted to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, the ten horns on its head, and the other horn which became larger in appearance (ESV—seemed greater).

That horn overpowered / prevailed over the saints in war until the Ancient of Days judged in favor of the saints of the Highest One. The time arrived and the saints took possession of the kingdom.

Relate this to Daniel 2—no mention of saints, just the kingdom of God.

Verses 23-27

What are these verses about?

The interpretation Daniel had asked for.

The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on earth. The ten horns are ten kings who arise from this fourth kingdom. Relate this to Revelation 17:3, 12.

Another king will arise, different from the others, and subdue three of the ten. That king will war with the saints and wear them down for time, times, and half a time. He will speak against God Most High and intend to make alterations / change in times and law, but the court will sit, judgment will come, and his dominion will be taken away.

The greatness of all the kingdoms will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One / Most High.

All dominions will serve and obey Him in His everlasting kingdom.

Verse 28

What was Daniel's conclusion?

He was alarmed and kept the matter to himself.

To end this discussion, you can ask for a brief review.

The first of the four kingdoms in the dreams/ visions was the Babylonian kingdom. Then the second was the Medo-Persian.

NOTE: Some of your group might remember from the overview of Daniel in Part 1 that there are also references to Greece in Daniel 8:21 and 10:20. But at this point, you don't need to mention this if no one else does.

The first time Daniel knew of the four kingdoms before God's everlasting kingdom was when Nebuchadnezzar had the dream during the 2nd year of his reign.

Then about 50 years later, Daniel dreamed of the four beasts and kingdoms before the everlasting kingdom of God.

Encourage your group that understanding the basic facts of Daniel's prophecy will increase their faith in the Most High God.

You might end this discussion by asking if they can tell someone else the main points of this basic prophecy.

- Four earthly kingdoms
- Then God's everlasting kingdom

DANIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis

- Comparison of Daniel 7 and Revelation 12–13

REVIEW

Ask your group what they can remember from Daniel 1–6. Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Daniel 1—

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon
Daniel and 3 put in his service

Daniel 2—

Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd year
Daniel interpreted king's "statue / image" dream—4 kingdoms
God of heaven

Daniel 3—

Nebuchadnezzar's reign
Statue of gold, 3 didn't bow
Most High God delivered them

Daniel 4—

Nebuchadnezzar's reign
Daniel interpreted king's "tree" dream
King recognized Most High rules over mankind

Daniel 5—

Belshazzar, king of Babylon; Darius the Mede received the kingdom
Daniel interpreted handwriting on wall
Most High God is sovereign

Daniel 6—

Darius's reign, Medo-Persian Empire
Daniel in the lions' den
Living God delivered him

The first six chapters of Daniel are chronological. Daniel interpreted dreams and/or visions, even the handwriting on the wall, for two Babylonian kings.

Daniel 7–12 are chronological, but fit into the events of Daniel 1–6.
Daniel had the dreams or visions in these chapters and angelic beings interpreted.

Ask your group what they remember from Daniel 7. Tell them to look at “The Beasts and Dragon of Daniel and Revelation” as a visual aid.

In the first year of Belshazzar, about 14 years before the end of the Babylonian empire, Daniel dreamed of four beasts. Daniel was about 70 years old and had lived in captivity in Babylon for almost 55 years.

When he had been in Babylon for only a short period of time, Daniel had interpreted a dream for King Nebuchadnezzar about four kingdoms, the first being Babylon, and God’s eternal kingdom.

In chapter 7, the four beasts of Daniel’s dream represent four kingdoms. From Daniel 1–6 two of those kingdoms can be named—the first, Babylon, and the second, the Medo-Persian Empire.

Daniel was the most concerned about the fourth kingdom with its ten horns and the little horn which came up among the ten—ten kings and then an eleventh.

This eleventh king of the fourth kingdom will have control, even of the saints, until the Ancient of Days takes His seat for judgment. Then his dominion will be taken away and destroyed forever.

The horn or king will wage war with the saints, overpowering them, for time, times, and half a time—an important time reference in this passage.

Ask your group what they learned from the other references to “time, times, and half a time.”

Not only is this an important time reference in Daniel 7, but in Revelation where it also is called 42 months and 1,260 days, which equal 3 ½ years.

Revelation 13:5

Authority to act will be given to a beast for 42 months. He will speak arrogant / haughty words and blasphemies. Relate this to Daniel 7:8, 11, 20, and 25.

Revelation 12:6, 14

Verse 6 says a woman fled to a place prepared for her in the wilderness to be nourished for 1,260 days. Verse 14 describes the event also. Two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman to fly to the wilderness to be nourished for time, times, and half a time from the serpent’s presence.

You could ask for a simple time sequence from the events of Daniel 7.

1st kingdom, Neo-Babylonian Empire

2nd kingdom, Medo-Persian Empire

3rd kingdom, four heads and dominion given to it

4th kingdom, has ten kings plus another one

The saints will be given into the eleventh king's hand for 3 ½ years. He will war with them and overpower them. At the end of that time, he'll be judged by God—the Ancient of Days.

REVELATION 12

Ask your group what they learned from this chapter and how it relates to what they've studied in Daniel. Encourage them that the next lesson especially will bring this together better.

Verses 1-2

The first sign appeared in heaven.

- a woman clothed with the sun, moon under her feet
- crown with 12 stars on her head
- she was pregnant and cried out in labor / birth pain

NOTE: Some in your group might say this woman is the church, Israel, Jesus' mother Mary, or even some other woman.

Verses 3-6

Ask for the specifics of these verses and how they relate to the first two verses.

The second sign appeared in heaven

- a great red dragon
- seven heads with seven diadems on them
- ten horns
- his tail swept away 1/3 of the stars of heaven, throwing them to earth
- he stood before the woman to devour her child when born

- the woman, the first sign, gave birth to a son
- the Son is to rule all nations with a rod of iron
- He was caught up to God and His throne

- the woman fled into the wilderness
- God prepared a place to nourish her for 1,260 days

Verses 7-12

What are these verses about? What is the meaning?

There was war in heaven between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels. The dragon and his angels were thrown down to earth. The dragon is “the serpent of old (ESV—ancient serpent),” called “the devil” and “Satan” who deceives the whole world. The devil is also called the accuser of our brethren / brothers.

The child seems to be clearly referring to Jesus.

The devil tried to kill Jesus when He was less than two years old as Herod had all the Jewish baby boys who were two or less killed at that time (Matthew 2:16).

The woman who gave birth to Him cannot be the Church because His birth, death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven preceded and created the Church.

So the woman represents either Mary or Israel through whom the Lord Jesus came.

What happens next in verses 10-12?

When the devil is thrown to earth the salvation, power, and kingdom of God and authority of Christ have come.

When he’s thrown to the earth, the brethren overcome / conquer him because of the Lamb’s blood and their testimony. The statement about them not loving their lives unto death seems to indicate severe persecution for their faith, brought on by the devil.

Woe to the earth and the sea.

The devil is filled with wrath, and he knows he has only a short time.

Verses 13-17

Ask how these verses relate to verses 1-6.

Verses 13-17 fill in details for the events of verses 1-6.

The Son has already been caught up to God and His throne, and verse 6 states that the woman, probably representing Israel, subsequently fled to the wilderness for 1,260 days to be nourished by God. Verse 14 says she is nourished for time, times, and half a time from the presence of the serpent.

Verse 13 tells why the woman needs to flee. After the devil is thrown to earth and is enraged because of having only a short time left, he persecutes / pursues the woman.

She gets to the wilderness because of God’s intervention and is protected from the devil, the serpent.

He tries to sweep her away in a flood, but the earth swallows up the water.

Verse 17 is very significant. For 3 ½ years, the devil will make war with the rest of the woman's offspring—those who keep God's commands and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

This verse should eliminate the interpretation of the woman as Mary, since this is not what happened to Mary, Jesus' mother. There is no biblical reference to the rest of her offspring, Jesus' brothers and sisters, keeping God's commands, and holding to the testimony of Jesus or of the devil making war with them for 3 ½ years.

So the sign of the woman probably represents Israel.

Relate this to Daniel 7:21 and 25. Could the saints of Daniel 7 be the rest of the woman's offspring in Revelation 12?

REVELATION 13

Remind your group that there were no chapter divisions when the Bible was written. Therefore, you can ask them how Revelation 12 ends and how 13 begins.

NOTE: The NASB says "the dragon" instead of "he" in verse 1. The ESV says, "And he stood on the sand of the sea," and includes this as part of 12:17.

There is a strong connection between chapters 12 and 13.

Is chapter 13 telling how the devil will operate while he's enraged and knows he has only a short time? Is this the description of what he'll do during those 3 ½ years?

Verse 1

The beast has ten horns and seven heads.

Compare this with the dragon of Revelation 12 and the beast of Daniel 7.

10 horns are associated with both the beast and the dragon, representing the 10 kings in Daniel 7.

The dragon and the beast of Revelation 13 both have 7 heads.

The dragon has seven diadems on his heads.

The beast has blasphemous names on his.

Verse 2

The beast is like a leopard; compare this with the 3rd beast of Daniel 7.

It has feet like a bear; compare this with the 2nd beast of Daniel 7.

His mouth is like that of a lion: compare this with the 1st beast of Daniel 7.

The devil will give the beast

- his power
- his throne
- great authority

Relating to the time of Revelation 12, this will be right after the devil is thrown down from heaven to the earth. And he'll be enraged, filled with wrath. This beast will carry out the devil's rage on the earth during those 3 ½ years.

Verses 3-10

The whole earth will be amazed / marvel because the beast's fatal wound will be healed. That will cause the whole earth to worship the devil, because he'll empower the beast. The whole earth will also worship the beast.

Compare the question at the end of verse 4 with Daniel 7:21 and Revelation 12:17. He'll make war with the saints, but the rest of the world at that time will worship him.

Verses 5-7 indicate that this is the same person, king, as the eleventh horn of Daniel 7.

given authority to act for 42 months, 3 ½ years
speak arrogant words and blasphemies against God
overcome / conquer the saints

Ask your group if there are principles in verses 9-10 which can apply to them.

Verses 11-18

What are these verses about?

Another beast will arise from the earth with all the authority of the first beast.
2 horns like a lamb
speaks as a dragon

Ask your group what they think about that description.

What will this second beast do?

Perform signs
make fire come from heaven
Deceive the whole earth
tell those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the first beast
give breath to the image
cause the image to speak and kill those who don't worship it
cause men to be given a mark to buy and sell
the number of the beast, a man, is 666

Ask your group for some review of a simple sequence of events combining Daniel 7 and Revelation 12–13.

Babylon

Medo-Persian Empire

3rd kingdom on earth

4th kingdom, ten kings then another who boasts against God

This king will be controlled by the devil who'll be cast down to earth.

He'll be helped by another beast, a false prophet.

He'll make war with the saints, of Israel? for 3 ½ years.

Israel will flee to the wilderness for this period.

The whole world will worship that king.

Judgment will come for that king and kingdom.

Dominion will be taken away forever, and the saints will receive the kingdom.

God will set up His everlasting kingdom with the Son of Man ruling.

You could end your discussion by asking your group how understanding all of this helps them.

All of this shows God's sovereignty. He is over all kings and kingdoms. His plans will take place and will not be thwarted. He is sovereign over individual lives too. Believers can trust Him and know that nothing can keep His plans for their lives from happening.

DANIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis

- Daniel 7
- Dominion and kingdom

REVIEW

Ask your group what Daniel knew when he had this dream/ vision of the kingdoms in chapter 7. Fit Daniel 7 into the chronology of Daniel 1–6. Tell them to look at their completed timeline of “God’s Plan of the Ages” as a visual aid for this discussion.

Daniel was taken captive to Babylon in the first siege against Jerusalem in 605 B.C. The king of Babylon at that time was Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 2:44-45

About 50 years before the time of Daniel 7, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream about a statue / image. Daniel interpreted that dream to mean four earthly kingdoms and then God’s everlasting kingdom putting an end to them. The first of those kingdoms referred to Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonian Empire.

Daniel 4:3

Nebuchadnezzar praised God Most High when he regained his sanity. He knew that his kingdom was going to end, but God’s would last forever.

Daniel 6:26

When God delivered Daniel from the lions approximately 15 years after Daniel had his vision of Daniel 7, Darius the Mede praised the Lord as the living God whose kingdom will not be destroyed.

DANIEL 7

As a foundation for the rest of your discussion, ask your group what they learned from Daniel 7 about God’s dominion and kingdom. Tell them to look at the chart on Day One as a visual aid.

There are four earthly kingdoms.

- Babylon
- Medo-Persian
- 3rd unnamed in Daniel 1-7, but named as Greece in Daniel 8 and 11
- 4th different from all before it, a divided kingdom

The 4th kingdom will be dreadful, terrifying and extremely strong. It will trample the remainder of the others and devour the whole earth. Ten kings will be associated with that kingdom, and another king, different from the others, will overpower three of them. He'll also make war with the saints for 3 ½ years and speak against God.

Judgment will come from the Ancient of Days ending this 3 ½ years.

- 4th kingdom will be destroyed
- dominion will be taken from the other beasts
- they'll have an extension of life for an appointed time

At that time, the Son of Man will be given dominion, glory, and a kingdom. Verse 14 indicates this will also be an earthly kingdom as all the peoples, nations, and languages will serve Him. This will be the time when the stone crushes the statue / image of Daniel 2 and fills the whole earth, another indicator that this is an earthly kingdom.

His dominion is everlasting, and His kingdom won't be destroyed. The saints will receive and possess the kingdom for all ages to come at the appointed time. This is the end of the 3 ½ years during which the king of the 4th kingdom wages war against them and overpowers / prevails over them.

All dominions will serve and obey the Lord Most High.

For the rest of your discussion time, ask your group what they learned about this kingdom from the cross-references on Day Two and Three. Give opportunity at relevant points for them to discuss application or how this helps them with understanding.

NOTE: Isaiah prophesied to the kingdom of Judah at least 75 years before Daniel. He warned of coming judgment on Judah, but also prophesied of restoration in the future.

Isaiah 2:1-4

Prophesies to Judah and Jerusalem, Daniel's home until the exile
Tells of how great the kingdom will be in the future because of God's Law, Word, going out from Jerusalem. The nations will be judged and will come to Jerusalem in peace, never learning war again.

Isaiah 9:2-7

Especially verses 6-7 tell of Jesus' coming—first and second. He's the Prince of Peace, and the government will be on His shoulders. He'll rule on David's throne over his kingdom to establish it with righteousness.

Judah went into captivity because of sin—turning away from God to worship idols. When Jesus rules over them in the future, righteousness will be established in Israel.

Isaiah 24:21-23

Punishment is coming for the host of heaven, Satan and his angels and for the kings of the earth. At that time, the Lord will reign on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. Relate this to Jesus' rule on earth in Daniel 7.

Ezekiel 37:21-28

NOTE: Ezekiel was taken captive to Babylon at the second siege of Jerusalem, 8 years after Daniel was taken there. Ezekiel prophesied at the same time as Daniel. While Daniel was serving the king of Babylon, Ezekiel was speaking to the Jewish exiles in Babylon.

This particular prophecy has to do with the return of Israel to their promised holy land. God Himself will bring them from the nations where they were scattered.

He will cleanse them, and David will be their king. This didn't happen when they returned to their land after the 70 years of Babylonian captivity. This is future.

NOTE: Some think this reference to "David" is Jesus the son of David. Don't lose time by letting this become an area of debate.

God will make an everlasting covenant of peace with Israel when He brings them back to their land and cleanses them.

At the time of that covenant of peace with David ruling in Jerusalem and God's sanctuary in the midst, the nations will know that the Lord is the one who sanctifies Israel.

The complete fulfillment of this fits on the time line immediately following the judgment at the end of the 3 ½ years. It's after Jesus returns.

Ask what they learned from Zechariah.

NOTE: Zechariah began to prophesy about 33 years after Daniel 7. He spoke to the exiles who had returned to their land from Babylon.

Zechariah 8:1-8

God tells of His jealousy for Zion, Jerusalem. He will return and dwell there. Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth when Jesus rules and God's Law proceeds from there.

Verses 4 and 5 seem to refer to the time of the covenant of peace mentioned in Ezekiel. The same time when they will be His people and He will be their God.

Zechariah 14:1-9, 16-21

Zechariah foretold of another time the nations gather against Jerusalem and the city is captured. At that time the Lord will fight against the nations that come against Jerusalem. He will return to the land at that time and set up His earthly kingdom.

Some people left from the nations who went against Jerusalem will go there yearly to worship the Lord and celebrate the Feast of Booths. Everything in Jerusalem will be holy in that day.

Ask how the New Testament passages add to this.

Matthew 24:3, 29-31; 25:31-46

Jesus told some of His disciples about events at His second coming to earth.

There will be a time of tribulation.

Immediately after, the sign of the Son of Man will appear, and all the tribes of earth will mourn.

They'll see the Son of Man come.

He will gather His elect from the four winds.

Then all the nations will be gathered for judgment.

He'll separate them as sheep and goats are separated.

The righteous of the nations at that time will enter eternal life.

The accursed ones will go away into eternal punishment.

After Jesus' second coming, at the end of the 3 ½ years, He will judge the nations. The wicked, the goats, will go away into eternal punishment . . . they're not part of His earthly kingdom. These will be the ones who worship the devil and the beast of Revelation 13.

The righteous, the sheep, of the nations will enter the Lord's earthly kingdom.

This might be the time when the first three kingdoms of Daniel are given an extension of life.

1 Corinthians 15:22-26

These verses are taken from a passage about Christ's resurrection.

But chronology is also given for some events of His second coming.

Jesus will come.

He'll reign until He puts all His enemies under His feet; He'll defeat them.

He'll abolish all rule, authority, and power.

The last enemy to be abolished / destroyed is death.

Then He'll hand over the kingdom to God the Father.

Revelation 19:11-20:6

This is an account of Jesus' second coming to earth.

At the end of the 3 ½ years Jesus will return.

The beast, king and the kings of the earth will assemble to war with the Lord Jesus Christ. But the king, first beast of Revelation 13, and the false prophet, second beast of Revelation 13, will be seized and thrown alive into the lake of fire.

Compare this with Daniel 7:9-12, 25-26.

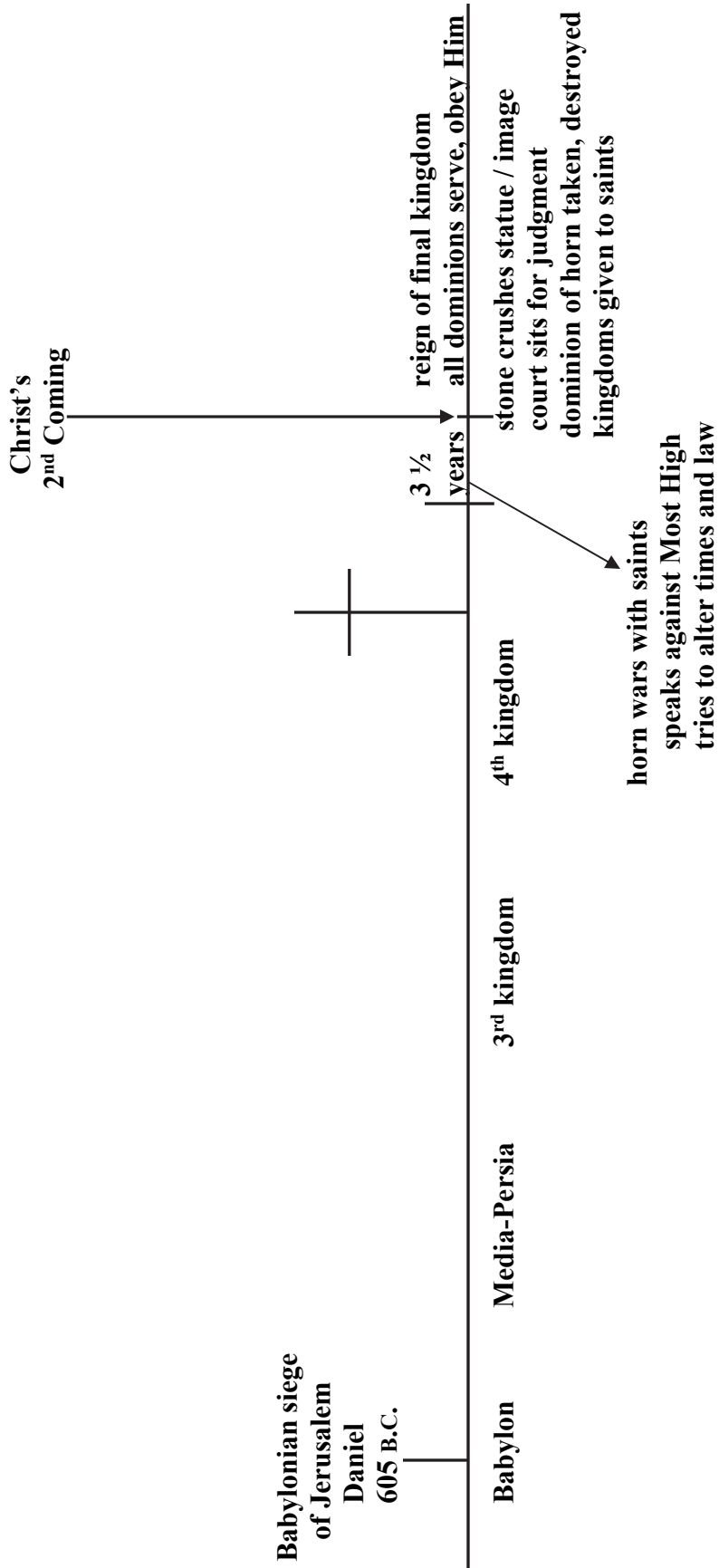
There is no battle. The rest of the nations gathered for war will be killed with the sword which comes from Jesus' mouth.

The devil will then be bound for 1,000 years so he cannot deceive the nations any longer.

There are some who sit on thrones and will be given authority to judge.

Those who don't worship the beast or take his mark, those who will be killed, come to life and reign with Christ for those 1,000 years on earth.

You might end this discussion by encouraging your group that if they can share the basics with each other during discussion time, they can probably do so when needed with someone who wants to know what is going to happen in the future.



DANIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis

- Daniel 8

REVIEW

You might begin by asking your group about the historical setting, main segment divisions, and the theme of Daniel. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart and “Daniel’s Time Chart.”

Israel was taken captive because of disobedience to God. Daniel and others were taken to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar in the first siege of Jerusalem. Two other sieges were necessary, and the third brought the destruction of Jerusalem.

God Most High rules over the realm of mankind (ESV—kingdom of men)
and bestows it on / gives it to whomever He wishes

Daniel 1–6 Daniel interprets for kings of Babylon about kingdoms

Daniel 7–12 Angel interprets Daniel’s dreams/ visions of future kingdoms

What did the statue / image of Daniel 2 and the beasts of Daniel 7 represent?
Tell your group to look at “Dream and Vision of Daniel 2 and 7.”

Head of gold = Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon
The lion of Daniel 7 = first kingdom, Babylon

Breast / chest and arms of silver = second inferior Medo-Persian Empire
The bear raised on one side—Persians dominated Medes

Belly / middle and thighs of bronze = third kingdom to rule over all the earth, Greece
The four-headed leopard with wings

The legs and feet of iron and clay = fourth kingdom, different from the rest
Dreadful and terrifying beast with ten horns, ten kings plus one

Then God’s kingdom will put an end to all earthly kingdoms. It will endure forever,
never to be destroyed.

Whenever relevant in your discussions, ask your group what they are learning about the Most High and what they learn from Daniel’s example which is applicable to their lives.

DANIEL 8

Verse 1

How does this chapter begin? When?

The third year of Belshazzar, the last king of the Babylonian Empire
Daniel's vision of chapter 7 was two years before.

But there had been about 50 years between Daniel 2 and 7. In Daniel 7, according to the chart "Daniel's Time Line," Daniel was about 70 years old. When he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapter 2, he might have been a teenager.

The Medo-Persian Empire came immediately after the Babylonian. Belshazzar was the king defeated by Darius the Mede, Daniel 5:31. Daniel 5 took place about 11 years after Daniel 8.

So, Daniel had interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's statue / image dream early in his captivity. He had the dream/vision of Daniel 7 about the beasts approximately 50 years later. Then two years after that he had the vision of Daniel 8 in the third year of Belshazzar. About 11 years later the Babylonian Empire came to an end.

Direct your group to look at their maps and "The Visions of Daniel 2, 7, and 8" as visual aids for this discussion.

Verses 2-4

How did the vision begin?

Daniel's vision places him in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam, beside the Ulai Canal.

NOTE: Susa was the winter capital of the Persian Empire, now in modern Iran. Cyrus made Susa a capital city.¹

From chapters 2 and 7 Daniel knew there were three more earthly kingdoms to rule his people before God's kingdom was revealed. But until the vision of Daniel 8 he didn't know which kingdoms would follow.

He would have been in the capital of the Babylonian Empire when he had this vision, centered in Susa, seeing the Ulai Canal.

Standing in front of the Ulai canal was a ram with two horns, one longer than the other and coming up last.

¹ Trent C. Butler, General Ed. *Holman Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, Tennessee: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991), p. 1309.

The ram butted / charged westward, northward, and southward.

No other beast could stand before him; he did as he pleased and became great.

Verses 5-14

What was the next part of the vision?

A goat from the west came to the canal. He came across the whole earth without touching the ground. He had a conspicuous horn between his eyes.

He was enraged with mighty / powerful wrath at the ram and shattered / broke his two horns and trampled the ram. Then the goat became the powerful one before whom none could stand.

But as soon as the goat became mighty, his conspicuous horn was broken.

In its place, four others came up, then a smaller one out of one of the four. It grew exceedingly great toward the south, east, and the Beautiful Land (ESV—glorious land).

Relate this to the map and ask your group where they think the Beautiful / glorious Land is.

Israel would have been the beautiful / glorious land to Daniel.

That horn grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of them and some stars to fall to earth, and then it trampled them. It magnified itself / became great to be equal with the Commander / Prince of the host and removed the regular sacrifice.

The host was given to the horn because of the host's transgression.

Verses 13 and 14 connect the host with the holy place / sanctuary and the regular sacrifice. The host and the holy place / sanctuary will be trampled by the horn for 2,300 evenings and mornings—6 years, 4 months, and 20 days or 76 months and 20 days.

Then the holy place / sanctuary will be restored.

Verses 15-17

Who interpreted Daniel's vision?

Daniel sought understanding of the vision, implying that he did not have the God-given ability to interpret his dreams and visions as he had earlier for the kings.

Gabriel, one who looked like a man, was directed by a voice to give understanding to Daniel. Daniel's reaction was fear and falling on his face.

He told Daniel the vision pertained to the time of the end.

Verses 18-26

What was the interpretation? How does it relate to the interpretation of Daniel 2 and 7?

Daniel sank into a deep sleep with his face to the ground, but Gabriel touched him and made him stand, then gave him understanding. These visions and dreams affected him greatly. They had to do with the future of his people who were in captivity because of disobedience to God.

Gabriel said he would let Daniel know what would occur at the final period / latter end of the indignation; it pertains to the appointed time of the end. Relate this to the time of the fourth kingdom with ten kings before the Lord's kingdom is set up.

But the rest of the interpretation shows that the ram represented the Medo-Persian Empire and the goat represented Greece. This is the first time Greece is mentioned in Daniel. The conspicuous horn between its eyes is its first king.

Since Greece conquered and trampled the Medo-Persian Empire, it would be the third kingdom of the statue and the leopard of Daniel 7.

NOTE: Someone in your group might know some history of the Persians and the Greeks. The first horn of the goat represented Alexander the Great, who conquered Persia first, then more of the world with amazing speed. But he died suddenly at a young age, and his kingdom was eventually divided between four of his generals. You don't need to bring this up if no one else does.

You might ask your group what Daniel knew about kingdoms by this time.

The time of this vision was still during the Babylonian kingdom. So, Daniel knew well before the end of the Babylonian Empire that the Medes and Persians would be the ones to conquer Babylon. He also knew 11 years before that happened, Daniel 5, that Greece would conquer the Medo-Persian Empire and there would be another, different, kingdom which would then take over the whole world before God's kingdom put an end to it.

The head of gold on the statue was Nebuchadnezzar, the lion representing the kingdom of Babylon.

The breast / chest and arms were Media-Persia, the bear raised on one side.

The third kingdom of bronze belly / middle and thighs was Greece—the leopard with four heads.

NOTE: The four horns of Daniel 8:22 were four kingdoms arising from the nation of Greece, founded by Alexander's four generals.

What do verses 23-26 say?

In the latter period of their rule, the four from the Greek Empire, a king would arise.

This would take place when the transgressors had run their course / reached their limit.

This king was mighty / great power, but not by his own power, and destroyed to an extraordinary degree / fearful destruction. He even opposed the Prince of princes.

Broken without human agency means his death was not caused by man.

The vision of the evenings and mornings—that king would rule God’s people for 6 years and almost 5 months—pertained to many days in the future from the time Daniel saw it.

Ask how this vision fits chronologically with the other kingdoms of Daniel 2 and 7.

Although verse 19 says clearly that the vision pertains to the appointed time of the end (the end of the fourth kingdom), it is also clear that the king of this chapter came from the Greek Empire, not the fourth one. So this “final period of the indignation” is for the third kingdom, the time described in 8:23-25.

The king skilled in intrigue / understands riddles who magnified himself to be equal with the Commander / Prince of the host and who opposes (ESV—rises up against) the Prince of princes sounds like the king of the last 3 ½ years. But they come from two different kingdoms; one from the third (Greece) and one from the fourth.

Historically, Antiochus IV Epiphanes was that king of Daniel 8. He ruled the Syrian Empire, which Seleucus I Nicator had received in the initial division of the Greek Empire. Antiochus Epiphanes foreshadowed the coming king of the fourth kingdom.

Antiochus came against the Jews in the land of Israel to the degree that he desecrated the altar in the rebuilt temple. His transgressions began in 171 B.C. and continued until 164 B.C., the same amount of time as the evenings and mornings.

Although Antiochus was on a military campaign at the time of his death, he died of a disease—without human agency.

Ask for a short summary of this vision and what your group read in their commentaries.

Greece conquered the Medes-Persians.

The first king of Greece became great, then was broken—Alexander the Great.

Four kings came from the Greek Empire.

One went against Israel and trampled the holy place for 2,300 evenings and mornings.

Antiochus Epiphanes ruled Syria—one of the regions from the Greek Empire.

What he did probably pictures something similar which will happen in the future.

You might ask your group what they are learning about their Most High God through this study of Daniel. Also, does their understanding of the dreams and visions have the same effect on them as it did on Daniel?

DANIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis

- Daniel 9
- The 70 weeks of verses 24-27

REVIEW

You could ask for the chronological setting for Daniel 9. Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and/or “Daniel’s Time Chart” as visual aids.

Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon took Daniel and others captive from Judah. God gave Judah into his hand because of repeated disobedience by His people.

Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel had dreams/ visions of coming kingdoms which would also rule God’s people—Daniel’s people, Israel.

Daniel 5 records the account of the end of the Babylonian kingdom when Belshazzar was king. Darius the Mede took the kingdom from him. This chapter fits between the visions of Daniel 8 and 9.

Daniel 9:1 says that the events of this chapter took place in the 1st year of Darius’s reign. So this happened shortly after Daniel 5.

After the account of the lions’ den, Daniel 6:28 says Daniel was successful in the reigns of Darius and Cyrus the Persian. Daniel 6 could have taken place before or after Daniel 9.

The main theme of Daniel is that the Most High rules over the realm of mankind (ESV—kingdoms of men) and bestows it on / gives it to whomever He wills, God’s sovereignty.

He gave Judah to Nebuchadnezzar. He foretold who would rule after Babylon, after Media-Persia, then after Greece. A fourth kingdom would rule the earth. But God’s kingdom will be the last and will endure forever.

DANIEL 9

Verses 1-5

Ask what your group learned about Daniel from these verses and the cross-references. Tell them to look at their page about him, “What I Learned about Daniel.”

Daniel was a man of God’s Word. He read Jeremiah’s prophecies. He recognized, from God’s Word through Jeremiah, that the 70 years of Babylonian captivity were complete.

In Leviticus, part of the Law Daniel might have been taught as a child and growing up, the Lord said the land was to have a sabbath rest every 7 years. Since Israel didn't obey this, God rested the land during the years of desolation when the people were in captivity.

2 Chronicles explains that Israel served the king of the Chaldeans (Babylon) until the rule of the king of Persia to fulfill what Jeremiah had said and until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths, 70 years.

What did Daniel do after he read what Jeremiah said about the 70 years of captivity?

Daniel then sought the Lord regarding his people, based on God's Word.

Daniel's prayer began with praise and thanksgiving for who God is, then turned to confession of sin.

His knowledge and understanding of what God said was the basis for his prayer.

Ask your group what their prayers are based on.

Then ask what they learned about God from verses 4-5. Tell them to look at their page "What I Learned about God from the Book of Daniel."

The great and awesome God
The covenant-keeping God
The God of lovingkindness / steadfast love

Daniel knew God kept His covenant with Israel. Israel broke the covenant and suffered the consequences in the Babylonian captivity, but the Lord had not completely destroyed Israel as a nation; some would return to their land.

Verses 6-19

Ask about these verses.

The Lord God is righteous, compassionate / merciful, and forgiving.
He spoke to His people and told them how to live holy and righteously.
He keeps His Word—even of calamity for disobedience.

Daniel was humble, though he was successful in the world. He loved his people and holy city Jerusalem. He prayed based on the name and Word of the Lord God. He called himself God's servant. He confessed the sin of his people Israel and his own.

Based on the Word of God, Daniel prayed specifically for his people Israel and his holy city Jerusalem.

NOTE: You might need to remind your group that the content of Daniel is specific to his people, the nation of Israel. At the time of Daniel, the people of God were Israel. Only the old covenant of the Law had been given to them, and they had broken it. God had promised the new covenant of salvation through Jeremiah and Ezekiel, but it was not yet in force. Nowhere in Daniel is the New Testament (covenant) body of believers (the church) mentioned. Daniel prophesied about Gentile kingdoms, the Jewish people, and their land, especially Jerusalem.

Israel was captive in Babylon and Jerusalem was destroyed, because they rebelled against God, turning from His commandments.

They had not listened to the prophets who spoke in God's name, like Jeremiah who prophesied before and during the sieges of Jerusalem.

Verses 11-14 specifically mention the curse of the Law poured out on them for their disobedience. The calamity God brought on them confirmed His Word.

Then in verses 15-19, Daniel petitioned God to turn His anger away from Jerusalem, His holy mountain and the city called by His name, to make His face shine on His desolate sanctuary, and to take action for the people called by His name.

Verses 20-23

Ask your group what they observed in these verses.

While Daniel was praying, confessing, and presenting his supplication / plea for himself, Israel, and Jerusalem, Gabriel came to him at the time of the evening offering. Daniel said that this was the man he had seen in the previous vision, Daniel 8.

As in chapter 8, Gabriel came to Daniel to give him understanding.

Gabriel said Daniel was highly esteemed / greatly loved. This meant God highly esteemed / greatly loved him.

In verse 23, Gabriel told Daniel he would give him understanding of the vision, but no vision is recorded in chapter 9. Was he referring to the vision in Daniel 8?

Is this one of the reasons for the order of the last segment of Daniel—chronological within chapters 7–12, though not continuing the chronology of 1–6 but building on Daniel's visions?

Verses 24-27

What are these verses about? Discuss relevant word studies and cross-references.

Tell your group to look at “Daniel's Vision of Seventy Weeks” and “God's Plan of the Ages.”

Daniel prayed based on what he read in Jeremiah about the 70 years of Babylonian captivity coming to an end and his people returning to Jerusalem.

The insight given him had to do with what Daniel prayed. It related to his people, Israel, and his holy city, Jerusalem.

It had to do with another seventy weeks, literally sevens, decreed for the Jews and Jerusalem. The 70 years of captivity were because the land hadn't rested every 7 years for 490 years—seventy sevens.

“week”—*shabua*, means a period of seven¹

Daniel 9's seventy sevens, 490, could refer to 490 weeks, months, or years.

Daniel prayed confessing the transgression of his people.

The insight regarding the seventy weeks said that the first thing decreed for his people and holy city was to finish transgression, then
to make an end of sin,
to make atonement for iniquity
to bring in everlasting righteousness
to seal up vision and prophecy / prophet
to anoint the most holy place

Daniel had mentioned most of these in his prayer.

What is verse 25 about?

It gives the beginning of the seventy weeks decreed for Daniel's people and holy city—from the issuing of a decree / word to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 1 and 2

In the 20th year of his reign, 445 or 446 B.C., King Artaxerxes of Persia made a decree for the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem.

Were these events, in verse 24, to happen in 490 weeks, 490 months, or 490 years?

Verse 25 says there would be 7 weeks and 62 weeks, equaling 69 weeks (sevens) or 483, from the issuing of a decree / word until Messiah the Prince (ESV—an anointed one, a prince).

Did Messiah / anointed one come in 483 weeks, months, or years from King Artaxerxes' decree issued in 445 or 446 B.C.?

If the sevens are years, then that would be 49 years and 434 years totaling 483 years, roughly the same time from the decree to Jesus' first coming.

¹ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), H7620.

In verse 25, Gabriel told Daniel that Jerusalem would be rebuilt, even in times of distress (ESV—a troubled time). The first seven weeks, 49 years, probably refer to the time of rebuilding Jerusalem.

Daniel knew the Lord would answer his prayer—Jerusalem would be rebuilt.

What did Gabriel tell Daniel in verse 26?

He told him what would happen after that. After the 62 weeks, 434 years, Messiah (an anointed one) would be cut off, the crucifixion, and again the city and sanctuary would be destroyed.

Who destroyed Jerusalem shortly after Jesus' time?

Luke 21:20-24

Jesus warned that Jerusalem would be surrounded by armies in days of vengeance to fulfill all that was written. Jerusalem would be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Titus, the Roman general, destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70. From that time, Jerusalem has been trampled by the Gentiles.

So the “people of the prince who is to come” is a reference to the Romans, which is why some think the fourth kingdom in Daniel is Rome.

There are two opinions about when the “times of the Gentiles” began – either 605 B.C. with the domination by Gentile nations starting with Babylon, or A.D. 70 with the Roman destruction of Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:26 says “to the end there will be war.” That is what has happened to Jerusalem since the time of the Romans.

Who is the “he” of verse 27?

“He” is the “prince who is to come” from verse 26. Therefore, he would be part of the “Roman” kingdom. He will make a covenant with “many,” probably referring to Jews at that time, for one week or seven years.

The firm / strong covenant he will make has to do with sacrifice and offering implying there is another temple in Jerusalem where offerings and sacrifices will be made.

But in the middle of the week, 3 ½ years later, he will break the covenant by stopping the sacrificing. He is the “one who makes desolate,” the one who brings in the abominations until a complete destruction—he will suffer the complete destruction decreed for him.

He is the “antichrist” of 1 John 2
the “man of lawlessness” and “son of destruction” of 2 Thessalonians 2
the “little horn” of Daniel 7

All but the last seven of the seventy weeks were fulfilled by the time of Jesus’ crucifixion. The last seven is the seven years before Jesus’ second coming.

The prince who is to come will make a firm covenant with Israel; there will be another temple in Jerusalem for sacrifices. 3 ½ years later, he will stop the sacrifices, speak out against the Most High God, and reveal himself as the man of lawlessness, taking his seat in the temple and declaring himself as God.

He is the one whose coming is with Satan’s activity, the dragon.

He’s the first beast of Revelation 13.

The second beast, the false prophet, might be the deluding influence of 2 Thessalonians 2.

After the last 3 ½ years complete destruction will be poured out on him.

Encourage your group to hold on to the main events they’re sure of. But also challenge them to study more to learn as much as they can. There is more to prophecy, and God gave it for His people to understand.

The New Testament Church needs to remember that Daniel is about Israel, not the church.

DANIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis

- Daniel 10
- Daniel, the man of high esteem / greatly loved

REVIEW

To begin your discussion, you can have your group look at their At a Glance charts to see how Daniel 10–12 fits into the whole of Daniel. You can also have them look at “Daniel’s Time Chart.” Question them about the setting of Daniel 10–12.

God Most High rules over the realm of mankind / kingdoms of men.
He bestows / gives rulership on / to whom He wishes.

Daniel 1–6 chronological to and during the time of Darius the Mede
Daniel 7–12 some chapters fit into chronology of 1–6

Daniel 1–6 Daniel interprets for kings about future kingdoms
Daniel 7–12 Daniel’s visions of the future of his people

The message of Daniel 10–12 was given in the third year of Cyrus king of Persia.
That was up to 2 years after Daniel 9.

Daniel 10 was in the first month of the 3rd year, but chapter 9 does not say when in the 1st year of Darius it was that Gabriel spoke with Daniel. So the time difference between the two chapters might have been just a little over a year or up to 2 years.

Daniel 10 was only two complete years after Daniel 5 when Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon, fell to the Medo-Persian Empire.

And a message of great conflict regarding his people was revealed to Daniel.

DANIEL 10

Verses 1-3

How does this chapter begin?

Verse 1 seems to give an overview or summary of what happened in all of Daniel 10–12. Daniel saw a vision, and a message / word was revealed to him. The message / word was of great conflict, and Daniel understood it. Compare with 8:27.

Verses 2-3 give information about the historical setting for this last of Daniel's visions. Daniel had been mourning and fasting for three weeks. Relate this to verse 12. Daniel had set his heart on understanding, evidently praying while mourning and fasting.

There are two short lists at the end of this lesson's guide which you might use as a visual aid for this discussion.

Verses 4-9

What was the "messenger" like? Who was he, and how did he relate to Daniel?

Daniel was by the bank of the Tigris River on the 24th day of the 1st month when he had the vision of the man dressed / clothed in linen.

Although there were others with him, he alone saw the vision of the man. That the man dressed in linen was an angel is obvious from the description and Daniel's reaction to him. Also, the men who were with Daniel experienced a great dread / trembling and hid.

When Daniel fell into the deep sleep, a hand touched him and set him on his hands and knees while he was trembling.

Verses 10-14

Ask your group what these verses are about. Tell them to look at "What I Learned about Daniel" as they discuss what they learned for their lives from his.

Three times angels called Daniel a man of high esteem / greatly loved. Daniel held his integrity firm throughout his captivity in Babylon under two foreign kingdoms.

He was a man of prayer and was gifted by God with understanding, even of dreams and visions.

When falsely accused and facing the lions, he did not give in to temptations.

He ministered humbly to Nebuchadnezzar and to Darius.

He faced Belshazzar with confidence, knowing that what God said was to happen.

He confronted sin and lived a righteous life without compromise.

Verse 12 says he set his heart on understanding, and the man in linen came in response to his prayer.

Ask your group what they think, based on their study, about "the prince of the kingdom of Persia" withstanding the man in linen.

The prince of Persia was not the king of Persia. Cyrus was the king.

The prince of Persia who had been withstanding the man in linen for 21 days, the 3 weeks of Daniel's mourning, fasting, and praying, was also an angelic being.

If he was against the Lord's messenger and over an ungodly kingdom, then he was not a being who served God.

Michael, "one of the chief princes" helped the man in linen against the prince of Persia. That is a reference to a heavenly conflict.

Who is Michael and what does he do? Ask your group what else they learned about him.

Relate verse 21 to 12:1.

The great prince who stands guard (ESV—has charge) over Daniel's people, Israel
He's Israel's guardian angel.

He stands firmly against spiritual forces attacking Israel.

He will arise for them also at the time of the end.

Some in your group might also remember from Revelation 12 that Michael and his angels war with the devil and his angels in heaven. Michael wins.

NOTE: Tell your group they'll study more about this in their next lesson.

Michael helped the man in linen against the spiritual prince of Persia, so that he brought understanding of the message of great conflict. Although it took three weeks for the man in linen to come to Daniel, it was in response to his prayers.

Verses 15-21

What are these verses about?

As a result of the vision, Daniel had no strength.

The man gave Daniel understanding of what will happen to his people, Israel, in the latter days. Verse 20 again explains why he came to Daniel.

Relate verse 20 to the third kingdom of the statue and beasts. Greece is again named as the third kingdom in Daniel. It also had a "prince" in the angelic realm.

Verse 21 says he will tell Daniel what was inscribed in the writing / book of truth, but then the chapter ends. Relate this to 11:2. Though the chapter ends, the event and message / word do not.

DANIEL 11–12

How does the explanation continue?

The man in linen was still talking to Daniel in verse 1. He is "I" in verse 1.

The man in linen said that in the first year of Darius the Mede, two years before, he was an encouragement and protection for (ESV—to confirm and strengthen) Michael.

That was the time when the Darius the Mede took the kingdom from Babylon, Daniel 6. Maybe the man in linen strengthened Michael to protect Israel during that time.

This reference to the first year of Darius does not give the timing of a vision in Daniel 11, although it might seem like it without careful observation of the text.

The man in linen spoke to Daniel the message of great conflict from Daniel 10 to the end of chapter 12. Relate this to Daniel 12:6-9; he was still at the river speaking to Daniel.

11:2 is when the man in linen began to tell the message / word of truth to Daniel.

Ask your group what they have on their lists about Daniel's people from Daniel 11 and 12.

It has already been established that the message / word was about Israel, Daniel's people in the future, 10:14.

11:14 says that at the time of the events in the immediate context, some violent ones of Daniel's people would lift themselves up to fulfill the vision. Not all of Israel are or ever have been true servants of God. They were in captivity for 70 years because of the evil most of them had done. The reference to the "violent ones" might mean those willing to fight then. This needs more study for proper interpretation.

Verses 32-35 of chapter 11 mention the people who know God—they have insight like Daniel.

Chapter 12 says the same: in the end times those who have insight (ESV—the wise) will shine and lead many to righteousness. When the time of distress comes on Daniel's people, verse 1, those whose names are in the book will be rescued / delivered.

Verse 10, during the last 3 ½ years of distress for Israel, many will be purged, purified, and refined, but the wicked ones of Israel will continue in wickedness. None of the wicked will have understanding.

The insight comes from knowing what their Lord God has spoken for them, the Book of Daniel. If they know and understand Daniel at that time, then they'll know what is happening, why, and when it will end.

Relate this to your group—they'll have insight by studying Daniel.

They'll understand the kingdoms of the world and the kingdom of God.

They've learned about integrity in very hard times.

They've learned about prayer based on the Word of God.

They've learned about godly living by example.

They've learned how to confront sin.

They've learned who the Most High God is.

DANIEL	THE MESSAGE / WORD
<p>Man of high esteem / greatly loved</p> <p>Sought understanding</p> <p>Mourned, fasted, prayed 3 weeks</p> <p>Humbling himself before God</p>	<p>One of great conflict</p> <p>True</p> <p>What will happen to Daniel's people at the end of the days</p> <p>Daniel 10–12</p>

DANIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7

Lesson emphasis

- Angelic beings and conflict
- Daniel's prayer

REVIEW

You could begin your discussion by asking for the main points of Daniel 9 and 10. Tell your group to look at the chart in Day Five as they discuss Daniel's prayer and desire for understanding. Give time for them to discuss application, also.

Daniel read in Jeremiah that 70 years of Babylonian captivity were prophesied for Judah. Since those 70 years were coming to an end, Daniel sought the Lord to confess his sin and Israel's sin.

He asked the Lord to listen to his prayer on behalf of his people Israel and his holy city Jerusalem. Daniel prayed for God to end the captivity as He had said.

His prayer was based on God's Word.
It was also based on God's character, Daniel 9:17-19.

According to verses 20-21, Gabriel then came to Daniel.

Daniel 10 says he'd been mourning for three weeks waiting for the answer to his prayer. During that time the angelic messenger sent with his answer was withheld by another angelic being until Michael came to help. Then the answer got to Daniel.

As a visual aid for this lesson, you could make a stick drawing of Daniel praying on earth and angels engaged in warfare in heaven, all under God.

ANGELS

Ask your group what they learned about Gabriel and Michael.

Daniel 8:16; 9:21

Gabriel was told to give Daniel understanding of the vision in chapter 8. He looked like a man when he appeared to Daniel. In chapter 9, again he gave Daniel insight and understanding of the vision.

Luke 1:19; 26-27

Gabriel is an angel who stands in God's presence.

He was sent to speak good news to Zacharias / Zechariah, John the Baptist's father.

Gabriel was also sent by God to announce Jesus' birth to Mary.

So he's an angel of God who brings messages to the Lord's people.

Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1

Michael is called "one of the chief princes" and the great prince who stands guard / has charge over Daniel's people. Michael is the guardian angel for Israel. His power is seen in Daniel 10 when he helped another angelic being when the "prince of Persia" withstood him for 21 days.

He was able to stand firm with the other angel against those forces, the princes of Persia and Greece.

Revelation 12:7

Michael has such strength that he and his angels will overpower the devil and his angels in a future heavenly war.

Jude 9

This is the only record in the Bible of this event. Michael is the archangel. He disputed / contended with the devil over Moses' body. But he didn't pronounce a railing / blasphemous judgment against the devil; he called on the Lord to rebuke him.

Michael existed in Daniel's time and will also arise to guard Israel at the end time, just as Gabriel existed in Daniel's time and just before Jesus was born.

The significance of angels to life in modern times, not just past and future times, can be an interesting discussion for your group. Ask what they learned.

Hebrews 1:12-14; Matthew 18:10

The nations and Israel have angels connected with them; so do believers. Angels are spiritual beings who serve or minister to believers and children.

They are always, continually, watching or before God's face, in His presence.

Ask what they learned about Satan and his angels.

Isaiah 14

Verses 1-3 of Isaiah 14 give the time of this passage as being in the day when the Lord gives Israel rest from their pain, toil, enemies—specifically Babylon. In the context of Isaiah, this can also point to the time of the end Daniel and Revelation speak of.

Verses 4-21 are a taunt against the king of Babylon. This refers to the king of Babylon at the time of the end.

Verses 12-15 seem to refer to a spiritual being, but verse 16 says that he is a man. It's possible this is the beast of Revelation 13 empowered by the dragon of Revelation 12, the devil.

He wants to ascend to heaven and make himself like God, but he'll be thrust down to the recesses of the pit. Relate this to the king of Daniel 7.

Ask what your group learned from the word study on king.

“King,” is the most common translation of the Hebrew *melek*, which is also the most common word for chief magistrate.¹ *Melek* can refer to “a king, a ruler, a prince; god, a false god; an idol-king. Officials of many levels were designated by this title.”² “*Melek* does not suggest a specific office or form of government.”³

Twice Isaiah 14 refers to stars. This might refer to angels as in Revelation 1 and 9 and Job 38.

Ezekiel 28

Verses 1-10 speak of the *leader* of Tyre, who was a “man” according to verses 2 and 9. Then verses 11-19 turn to the *king* of Tyre, referring to an angel. The same Hebrew word for “king” is used in verse 12 as in Isaiah 14.

In Daniel 10 there are spiritual beings, princes, over the nations of Persia and Greece. Also, Michael the great prince is over Israel. Therefore, this passage in Ezekiel probably is speaking of the spiritual being over Tyre at that time.

Some scholars take this part of the chapter as information about the devil himself—his creation, fall, and end. He was created perfect in beauty and full of wisdom as the anointed covering cherub and was in Eden and on the holy mountain of God.

Because of his sin he was cast to the earth from the mountain of God, put before kings, and turned to ashes on the earth.

Ask your group what they learned about spiritual power and authority structure.

Psalm 99:1

God is enthroned above the cherubim, plural form of “cherub”.

Satan is a created being, the “anointed cherub,” Ezekiel 28:11-19.

God has always been over the devil in power and authority.

¹ Robert D. Culver, “1199 גלגל” in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. (Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1999), p. 507.

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), p. 2332.

³ Lawrence O. Richards, *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985), p. 376.

God Most High rules not only over the realm of mankind and earthly kingdoms, but also over the whole heavenly and spiritual realm.

NOTE: Encourage your group that this study can help them grow in faith if they live in the light of truth about God's complete sovereignty.

Luke 22:31

Satan had to get permission from God to sift Peter.

2 Corinthians 4 and 1 John 4

These refer to the devil as the god of this world and the spirit who is in the world. But 1 John 4 says the Holy Spirit in believers is greater than the spirit in the world—the devil.

Ephesians 1 and 6; 2 Peter 2

This speaks of rulers, powers, world forces, as in Daniel, of darkness, spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenlies.

Peter calls them angelic majesties and says there are angels, like Michael, who have greater might and power than some.

Jesus is seated far above all of those who rule and have power and dominion. He is far above every name not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Psalm 78:49; 2 Chronicles 32; Revelation 9:13-15

When Pharaoh would not let Israel leave Egypt, God sent His burning anger on the Egyptians—a band of destroying angels.

In the future when the sixth angel sounds his trumpet, four other angels specifically prepared for the very day and hour will kill a third of mankind.

Chronicles also speaks of God sending an angel to destroy the mighty warriors and commanding officers in the Assyrian camp to save Hezekiah, king of Judah.

Judges 5:19-20

The song of Deborah and Barak says the stars—possibly a reference to angels as in Isaiah 14—fought from heaven against Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite army.

Daniel 8:23-24 and Revelation 13:1-3 speak of “a king” or “the beast” who gets his power from Satan. Revelation 16:13-14 says that out of his mouth and the mouths of the dragon (Satan) and the false prophet (the 2nd beast) will come three spirits of demons who will gather the kings of the world for the war of the great day of God.

Give your group time to discuss how knowing this applies to them.
Then ask what they learned about the effect the spiritual realm has on them.

The devil can blind unbelievers' minds from hearing the gospel and use them to do his bidding, but not believers.

Ephesians teaches that Christians are seated with Christ in the heavenly places far above demonic powers and rulers.

Although the spirit of antichrist is already in the world, the Holy Spirit who indwells believers is greater.

The armor of God protects believers against the schemes of the devil. Christians need to stand firm.

Nothing can separate Christians from their God, from His love. In all things, believers are overwhelming conquerors because of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To end your discussion, go back to prayer.

This is a privilege and responsibility of believers, and Daniel is a wonderful example. He was a man of high esteem in God's eyes and a man of prayer.

He prayed for himself, for understanding and made confession with constant praise and thanksgiving.

Christians should pray for those in authority as Paul commanded Timothy.

He also commanded the Ephesian believers to pray for all saints. This prayer is to be in the Spirit or led by the Spirit of God. Daniel was alert and persevered in prayer.

Pray for the spread of the Gospel, for those who speak it to others.

Pray for people's eyes to be opened to see the light of the gospel.

Pray for healing as James directed.

Elijah is also an example of prayer. During a time of great rebellion against God, Elijah prayed that the rain would stop and it did. He prayed based on the Word of God just as Daniel did.

Believers can pray effectively when they know God's Word and are led by His Spirit.

Colossians 1:9-14 is an example of a great prayer straight from the Word to pray for other believers.

Encourage your group to look for other prayers in the Bible to pray for people.

God is in control of this world and the spiritual realm. Christians don't need to fear what the devil and his angels, demons, can do to them. They need to stand firm in the armor of God as He commands in His Word. To be people of high esteem before God, they need to be people of prayer—but *biblical* prayer.

DANIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8

Lesson emphasis

- Daniel 11

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group about the main segments of Daniel. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart if they need help remembering.

Daniel 1–6 Daniel interpreted kings' dreams; chronological order; Babylon

Daniel 7-12 Daniel had dreams, visions about future; not chronological

Then ask about the main themes of the last segment.

Daniel 7 Daniel's vision of 4 beasts, kingdoms

Daniel 8 Daniel's vision of ram and goat, Persia and Greece

Daniel 9 Daniel's prayer; 70 weeks for his people and city

Daniel 10 Message / Word of conflict; princes

Daniel 11 Kings of North and South

What is the connection of Daniel 10–12?

10:1 gives the setting for the message / word of great conflict.

Daniel received this message in the 3rd year of Cyrus king of Persia.

Verse 14 tells what the message is about.

It's what will happen to Daniel's people, Israel, in the latter days, literally, "end of the days."¹

Chapters 11 and 12 are part of this message / word of great conflict.

Ask about the one giving the message to Daniel in chapters 10–12.

10:5, a certain man dressed / clothed in linen

12:5-7, two others with the man in linen

10:16-18, one who resembled a human being touched Daniel to strengthen him

¹ New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (Dan 10:14) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

It could be that the first and third references are descriptions of the same spiritual being or they could be two different “men.”

Either way, one of them gave the interpretation, the truth, 10:21; 11:2, to Daniel.

But chapters 11 and 12 continue Daniel 10. Though Daniel 10 speaks of spiritual forces behind earthly empires, chapters 11 and 12 speak of earthly rulers and events.

DANIEL 11

Verse 1

What was the timing of this part of the message, and who was speaking?

Daniel was not speaking; the angel gave him understanding of the message / word of great conflict for his people.

This chapter expands on what began in 10:20. Persia was the ruling empire over Daniel’s people at the time of 10:1, but Greece was about to come and take control.

In the 1st year of Darius the Mede, the one giving the understanding to Daniel arose to be an encouragement and protection to Michael (ESV—to confirm and strengthen him). This is similar terminology to 10:21 that Michael stands firmly / contends with him against the spiritual powers of Persia.

Ask your group how the overall theme of Daniel relates to all of this.

The Most High God is the ruler over the realm of mankind (ESV—kingdoms of men) and bestows it on / gives it to whomever He wills. He’s in charge of both heavenly and earthly realms.

Daniel 5:30-31 and 9:1 mention the 1st year of Darius, which was also the 1st year of Cyrus. So the message of chapters 10–12 was only 2 years later. Daniel 6:25-28 also mentions the reigns of Darius and Cyrus.

Daniel lived through almost 70 years under Babylonian rule and was then under Medo-Persian rule when he received this message, primarily about the last two kingdoms to rule over Israel. And Daniel knew Greece was the next one to come.

Tell your group to look at “History of Israel’s Relationship to the Kings of Daniel 11” and the maps in the lesson as visual aids for this discussion.

Verse 2

Ask about the interpretation.

There would be four more Persian rulers
Cambyses, Pseudo-Smerdis, Darius I Hystaspes, and Ahasuerus [Xerxes]

Esther's husband Ahasuerus (Xerxes) attacked Greece with an army of hundreds of thousands and was defeated.

Since Daniel was now an old man and 6:28 says that he enjoyed success in the reigns of Darius and Cyrus, he probably did not live into the reigns of subsequent Persian kings.

Verses 3-4

Who are these verses about?

Greece

Alexander the Great. He was the mighty king whose kingdom was broken up and parceled out / divided but not to his descendants / posterity.

Alexander's only son was killed at an early age, and four of his generals (Lysimachus, Cassander, Ptolemy and Seleucus) eventually won control after 20 years of conflict.

Ask your group to compare this description of Alexander with the third kingdom represented in the statue / image, the beasts, and the goat of Daniel 2, 7, and 8.

In Daniel 2, the bronze belly / middle and thighs of the statue / image were interpreted as a kingdom which would rule over all the earth.

In Daniel 7, the third beast was a leopard, known for speed, having wings and four heads, the four generals or the four kingdoms they formed. Dominion was given to the leopard—Alexander's dominion was given by God, and it was taken away by Him when He chose.

Daniel 8's goat symbolized Greece and the conspicuous horn between his eyes was Alexander. Greece came from the west with great speed to conquer Persia.

When Greece became mighty, the horn was broken off, Alexander died, and four other horns, four generals, came up in its place.

Verses 5-19

Who were the kings of the South and the North?

The kings of the South were the Ptolemies of Egypt.

The kings of the North were the Seleucid kings of Syria.

Ask about the various events and kings in this prophecy and the fulfillment of them based on the historical chart.

A marriage alliance was broken which led to wars between Egypt and Syria during the years of 285-221 B.C. Other wars followed until another marriage alliance was made between Ptolemy V Epiphanes and Antiochus III the Great.

The land of Daniel's people—Israel—was in between Egypt and Syria. Israel was under the dominion of the Ptolemies until Antiochus III the Great, who conquered Ptolemy V Epiphanes. Then Israel was under the Seleucids.

You might ask your group what they think about the detail of the prophecy in verses 2-25. How much has been fulfilled?
Was it fulfilled just as it said?
Can they trust the rest of prophecy which has not yet been fulfilled?

Verses 20-35

What do these verses say about the despicable / contemptible person, the king of the North?

He took the kingdom of the North, Syria, by intrigue; he wasn't supposed to become king because he was the youngest son of Antiochus III the Great. He took the name Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

He stirred up trouble in a time of tranquility / without warning.

Verse 22's prince of the covenant may be a reference to Onias the high priest of Israel who was murdered on Antiochus's orders in 172 B.C.

Verse 27 describes a time when Antiochus and the king of Egypt lied to each other when making alliance. Antiochus was fulfilling prophecy.

Verse 28—his heart was set against the holy covenant, the people of Israel. At the appointed time, he took action against Israel according to Daniel's prophecy.

After a battle with Egypt, Antiochus returned to Israel, enraged against the holy covenant and showing regard for the Jews who forsook the covenant at that time.

He then set up the abomination of desolation (ESV—abomination that makes desolate) in the sanctuary, an idol of Zeus in the holy place.

He turned many Jews away from the truth, but those with insight / wisdom gave understanding to those who didn't turn away. Tens of thousands of Jews perished in Israel during the Maccabean revolt.

Verses 36-45

How does the king relate to Antiochus Epiphanes?

Antiochus foreshadows the king of the end times, the evil one who will attack Israel with fury. He was the king of Daniel 8 who pictures the king at the end.

Verse 35 spoke of the time of the end, and verse 36 continues from that.

This is the king of the fourth kingdom before God sets up His eternal kingdom—the last kingdom to rule Daniel’s people before God’s judgment comes.

Ask your group to compare this king to the king of Daniel 7.

Ask how his end will come according to verse 45 and compare it with Daniel 7:26.

Verses 40-45 tell of battles he’ll fight near the end.
He’ll be between the sea and the beautiful / glorious Holy Mountain—Jerusalem.
He comes to his end and none helps.

Daniel 7 says the stone will shatter all the kingdoms. God will destroy him.

DANIEL 12

Verse 1

How does this chapter begin?

At that time referring to the appointed time of the end, Daniel 11:36-45

Who is mentioned again and in relation to whom and what?

Michael, the angel who stands guard / has charge over the nation of Israel, arises.
That’s why he was mentioned when Darius the Mede took control from Babylon and why he helped in the heavenly conflict over Persia and Greece. His job is to protect Israel.

Verses 1-13

What is going to happen?

There will be a time of distress / trouble such as has never occurred since Israel was a nation until the time of the end. It will last for “a time, times, and half a time.”

Those of Israel whose names are in the book of life will be rescued / delivered then; the rest will perish. It’s a time of purging, refining and purifying, 11:35.

Just as there were some with insight / wisdom during the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, there will also be some with insight / wisdom during the end times, 12:3,10.

Just as there was an abomination of desolation (that makes desolate) during the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, there will also be an abomination of desolation at the end time, 12:11.

There will be 1,290 days until the completion of these events and then another 45 days for those who attain blessing.

This was the message of great conflict Daniel saw and wanted to understand. When he understood it meant a long time for his people to be in conflict, it caused him distress. It will take a long time for Israel to be purged and refined so that they return to their God.

Encourage your group to keep their eyes on Israel as a nation. Current times fall between Daniel 11:35 and 36.

You might close by asking what those with insight in those days will do. Even if they're not all Jews, what can they do? Ask your group if they have insight. What should those with insight do today?

DANIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 9

Lesson emphasis

- the abomination of desolation (ESV—the abomination that makes desolate)
- the time of the end

REVIEW

To begin your discussion, you can have your group look at their At a Glance charts to see how Daniel 10–12 fits into the whole of Daniel. You can also have them look at “Daniel’s Time Chart.” Question them about the setting of Daniel 10–12.

God Most High rules over the realm of mankind / kingdoms of men.
He bestows / gives rulership on / to whom He wishes.

Daniel 1–6 chronological to and during the time of Darius the Mede
Daniel 7–12 some chapters fit into chronology of 1–6

Daniel 1–6 Daniel interprets for kings about future kingdoms
Daniel 7–12 Daniel’s visions of the future of his people

The message of Daniel 10–12 was given in the third year of Cyrus king of Persia.
That was up to 2 years after Daniel 9.

Daniel 10 was in the first month of the 3rd year, but chapter 9 doesn’t say when in the 1st year of Darius it was that Gabriel spoke with Daniel. So the time difference between the two chapters might have been a little over a year or up to 2 years.

Daniel 10 was only two complete years after Daniel 5 when Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon, fell to the Medo-Persian Empire.

And a message of great conflict regarding his people was revealed to Daniel.

There is a simple time line at the end of this guide which you can use as a visual aid.

DANIEL

According to Daniel 8:19 and 11:36, what is the final period / latter end of the indignation and the abomination of desolation / that makes desolate?

The context of the phrase the final period / latter end of the indignation is the vision Daniel had about the king who comes from one of the four minor kingdoms which formed out of Greece. History tells that he was Antiochus Epiphanes, king of Syria.

In Daniel's vision the small horn trampled many. The interpretation included Antiochus going against his people, Israel.

In verse 19, Gabriel told Daniel he would let him know what will happen at the final period / latter end of the indignation at the appointed time of the end.

Since the small horn was Antiochus Epiphanes, if that pertained to the end, the vision of Daniel 8 foreshadowed what is to come at the end.

Daniel 11:35 speaks of the end time which is still to come at the appointed time. Connected with that is verse 36 about the king of that time prospering until the indignation is finished / accomplished.

Daniel 11:27-35 describes Antiochus Epiphanes, and Daniel 11:36-45 describes the king at the end time.

The indignation at the end time is focused on Israel because of their rebellion against God and His law, His covenant.

God said there will be a time of final indignation against His people, when this king will overpower / prevail over the saints for time, times, and half a time.

So the "end" is still to come at the appointed time, after Antiochus Epiphanes who set up the first abomination of desolation / that makes desolate in the temple. There is a king to come at the end who will be a lot like Antiochus Epiphanes in his dealings with other nations, especially Israel. He will also set up an abomination of desolation / that makes desolate.

Daniel 9:27 mentions the abominations of the one who makes desolate. A complete destruction will be poured out on him, the desolater.

MARK 13:3-33

Ask your group what they learned from their observations of this passage and how it relates to what they've studied in Daniel. How does it relate to the period of the end and the abomination of desolation?

Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Jesus some questions after He had said the temple standing at that time would be destroyed, verses 1-2.

In verse 4 they asked Him when the temple would be destroyed.

The most repeated statements in this passage are about not being misled or frightened. He said there would be many who would come in His name to lead astray. There would be wars and rumors of wars, but this would not be the end.

There would be earthquakes, but those will be the beginning of birth pangs.

Jesus was speaking to Jewish men, His disciples.
Relate that to the Daniel's audience—it's about his people, Israel.

Verses 9-13 are specifically directed to the disciples. He told what would happen to them because of His sake. The Jews persecuted them as they had Him. But the disciples would also preach the Gospel.

In verse 14, the abomination of desolation is mentioned, standing where it / he should not be.

According to Daniel, the abomination of desolation will be set up in the sanctuary, the temple.

When the people living in Jerusalem at that time see it, then those in Judea should flee.

Verse 19 says there will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation, and there will never be anything like it.
Compare this description to Daniel 12:1.

During this time, there will be false Christs, false prophets showing signs and wonders to lead astray. Relate to Daniel 11 and 12.

After this tribulation, which begins with the abomination of desolation, the Son of Man will come in the clouds with great power and glory. Then He gathers His elect from everywhere. This is when the stone hits the toes of the statue / image and it crumbles—the beginning of His earthly kingdom.

Jesus said the generation who sees these signs won't pass away until He comes.
But no one knows the exact day or hour of His return except the Father.

MATTHEW 23:37–24:31

Ask your group what this passage is about.

Jesus was talking about Jerusalem.

The temple in Jerusalem was about to become desolate. Jesus came out from the temple and made the statement that it would be torn down.

NOTE: This destruction took place in A.D. 70 when the Roman general Titus destroyed the temple and Jerusalem.

This passage parallels Mark 13, but some things Matthew wrote Mark omitted.

Since the main focus in these verses is the end times, then you could ask what your group learned from verses 15-31 specifically.

Jesus mentioned the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel. He also said that it would stand in the holy place—that's in the temple in Jerusalem. Like Mark 13, the warning is specifically to those in Judea; they should flee.

Notice the mention of the Sabbath—this is a warning to Jews at that time.

From the time of the abomination of desolation there will be a great tribulation such as has never happened. It's the same description as in Daniel 12 and Mark 13. They all speak of the same time near Jesus' second coming.

The same warning about deception by false Christs is here.

Jesus' coming will end that great tribulation.

Comparing this to Daniel 7 especially, it seems that this will be the time when the king of the fourth kingdom wars with the saints and overpowers them—for 3 ½ times, years.

It's equivalent to the middle of the covenant week when the sacrifices and offerings will be stopped in Daniel 9.

It is also equivalent to the time of the king in Daniel 11:36-45 and the tribulation against Israel in Daniel 12.

You might ask your group to give the different descriptions or names for this same time period.

The final period of the indignation

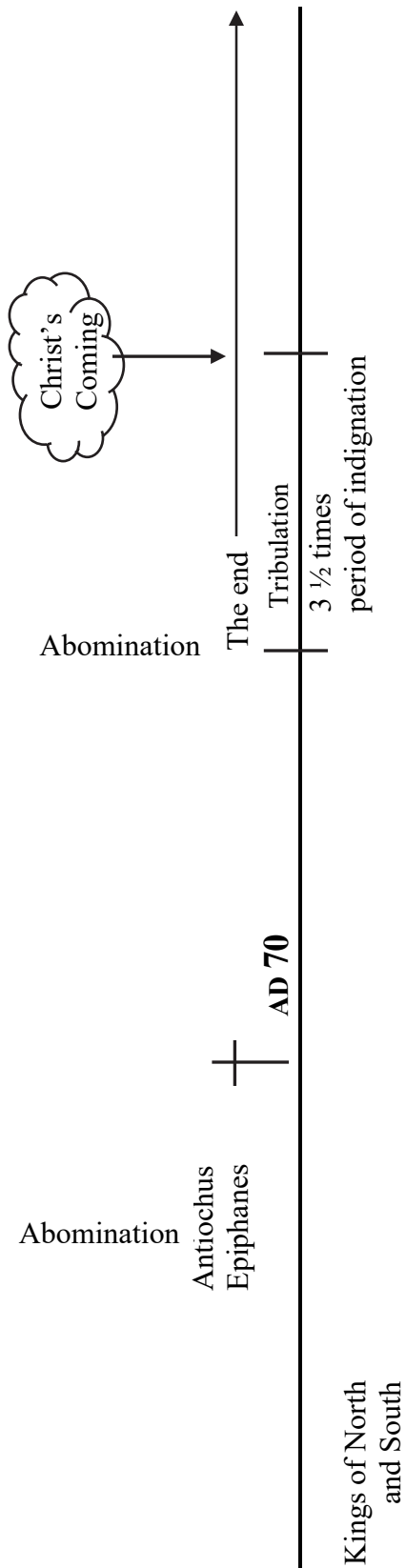
The great tribulation

The time of the end

The last half of the 70th week

But it all centers on Israel as a nation.

You could end this discussion by asking your group how they can apply the knowledge they gained from God's Word in studying this lesson.



DANIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 10

Lesson emphasis

- Daniel 11:36–12:13
- The kingdom of God

REVIEW

To begin your discussion, ask your group how Daniel 10–12 fits into the whole of Daniel. You can tell them to look at their At a Glance chart. Question them about the setting of Daniel 10–12.

God Most High rules over the realm of mankind / kingdoms of men.
He bestows / gives rulership on / to whom He wishes.

Daniel 1–6 chronological to and during the time of Darius the Mede
Daniel 7–12 some chapters fit into chronology of 1–6

Daniel 1–6 Daniel interprets for kings about future kingdoms
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The message of Daniel 10–12 was given in the third year of Cyrus king of Persia.
That was up to 2 years after Daniel 9.

Daniel 10 was in the first month of the 3rd year, but chapter 9 does not say when in the 1st year of Darius it was that Gabriel spoke with Daniel. So the time difference between the two chapters might have been just a little over a year or up to 2 years.

Daniel 10 was only two complete years after Daniel 5 when Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon, fell to the Medo-Persian Empire.

And a message of great conflict regarding his people was revealed to Daniel.

While discussing this lesson, tell your group to look at their chart, “A Comparison of the Kings of Daniel 8 and 11” and “Prophetic Overview of Daniel.”

NOTE: Your group might have discussed much of the information in this lesson in previous discussions, so they don’t need a lot of time here. But if they haven’t, then let them take as much as a third of your discussion time for this part.

DANIEL 8

Which kingdom does the “small horn” or king of Daniel 8 come from?

The king of Daniel 8 came from the third kingdom, Greece.
That kingdom divided into four, then one of them produced this king.
History shows this horn to be Antiochus Epiphanes.

Daniel 8 says he grew exceedingly great toward the south (of Syria), east, and toward the Beautiful Land—Israel. He removed the regular sacrifice, and Israel was given into his hand because of transgression. God was and is in control of the affairs of mankind, especially Israel.

The regular sacrifice was stopped, then 2,300 evenings and mornings later the holy place was properly restored, 8:14.

Daniel 8:17-19 says the vision pertains to the time of the end, and will occur at the final period of the indignation. Although this vision prophesies Antiochus Epiphanes, he pictured another one who will destroy to an extraordinary degree mighty men and the holy people / saints, magnify himself to be equal to the Commander / Prince, and oppose (ESV—rise up against) the Prince of princes.

Daniel 8:27 says there was none to explain the vision to Daniel. He was astounded / appalled at the vision. Consider the historical context of where he was and why. God told him His holy place would again be defiled.

He knew there would be a king at the end who would gain control over his people from Daniel 7, and then he had a vision which indicated there will be another time like that before the end.

The vision of Daniel 8 was in the third year of Belshazzar’s reign of Babylon.
Daniel had the dream of chapter 7 two years earlier.

Then in the 1st year of Darius, about 11 years after Daniel 8, God again told Daniel what would happen to his people and city, Daniel 9:24-47.

Two years later in the 3rd year of Cyrus Daniel received the final vision and explanation, Daniel 10–12, of what would happen to his people and city in the future.

Maybe Daniel waited for 13 years for the complete explanation of his vision in Daniel 8.

DANIEL 11

Ask for a review of what your group has already discussed about Antiochus Epiphanes in Daniel 11. The last two discussions should have prepared them to discuss this rather quickly.

Verses 21-35

The despicable / contemptible person, king of the north, in these verses, is Antiochus Epiphanes.

He was a king of Syria, the north. He came during a time of tranquility to take the kingdom by intrigue / flatteries. His heart was set against Israel. His forces desecrated the sanctuary fortress (ESV—profaned the temple), did away with regular sacrifices, and set up the abomination of desolation.

Verse 35 says that it was not the end time because it is still to come at the appointed time (ESV—the time of the end still awaits the appointed time).

Verses 36-43

At the appointed end time, the king (Daniel 7) will do as he pleases.
Exalt and magnify himself above every god
Speak monstrous / astonishing things against the God of gods
Prosper until the indignation is finished

Compare with 2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation 12 and 13.

The man of lawlessness, the son of destruction
Opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god
Says that he is God

He takes his seat in the temple—the abomination of desolation. His reign is in accord with the activity of Satan—the dragon—and the beast of Revelation 12–13.

His end will come when the Lord slays him with the breath of His mouth at His second coming. He is the last horn, king, of Daniel 7.

The saints of Daniel's people at that time will be given into his hand for 3 ½ years before the second coming of Jesus.

From the time he sets up the abomination of desolation, there will be 1,290 days and those who attain to the 1,335 days will be blessed, Daniel 12.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Ask what your group learned about this last and eternal kingdom?

Daniel 12

Verse 1 says, “at that time”—the time of the last king in Daniel 11—Michael will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has never been, and Daniel’s people whose names are in the book will be rescued. It will be the last 3 ½ years—when the saints are given into the hand of the last king.

One of the two standing on the bank of the river asked how long it will be until the end of these things, and the answer was for 3 ½ times, as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people. These holy people will be Jews, Daniel’s people. Many will be purged, purified, and refined, but the wicked will face everlasting contempt.

To evaluate the 1290 days, 30 more than 3 ½ years, and the 1335, another 45 days, your group needs to discuss what else they studied about the kingdom of God.

Matthew 25

According to Matthew 24, after the abomination of desolation there will be a great tribulation for Israel; then the Son of Man will come. This great tribulation lasts 3 ½ years. According to Matthew 25:31, Jesus the king then sits on His throne. Relate this to Daniel 2.

All nations, excluding Israel, will come before Him for judgment. Some refer to this as “the judgment of the nations.” Maybe this will take 30 days.

Their judgment will be according to how they treated Israel during the great tribulation, the time of distress / trouble for Daniel’s people, the time of the shattering of the holy people.

Jesus said that if they took care of His brethren during this time, then they took care of Him. The righteous of the nations will help the Jews during this tribulation, but the “goats,” the accursed ones, those who don’t believe according to 2 Thessalonians 2, won’t.

The righteous inherit the kingdom of God, eternal life, but the others go away into eternal punishment.

So in the kingdom of God there will be those of Israel whose names are in the book, like Daniel, and also those of the nations who are righteous.

Revelation 20:4

At the second coming when the kingdom of God is set up, there will be thrones for those who didn’t worship the beast during his 3 ½-year reign, those who had been beheaded for believing in Jesus. They’ll be resurrected at that time.

In the kingdom of God, they will reign with Christ for 1,000 years on the earth.

Revelation 2:26-29; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3

This section from Revelation is one of Jesus' messages to the churches. Overcomers, those who have faith in Christ, will be given authority to rule over the nations. Corinthians says that saints, Christians, will judge the world.

In God's kingdom, the Church will rule over the nations, the righteous who enter the kingdom. Those who believe during the last 3 ½ years will also reign during the 1,000-year kingdom on earth.

Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 19:11-27

Only the faithful will be put in charge of things during the time of the earthly kingdom. The wicked end up in outer darkness—eternal contempt, everlasting punishment.

Jesus taught the parable of Luke 19 because those listening to Him near Jerusalem thought that the kingdom of God was imminent.

Jesus explained in the parable that it would not occur until He returns. Then He will give authority to the faithful of Israel over ten cities, five cities, etc. But He will take from the faithless the things they have.

His enemies, who didn't want Him to reign over them, will be slain in His presence.

Are the last 45 days for setting up the rule for His earthly kingdom, the millennium?
Is there a connection between the last 45 days and rewarding the saints?

Matthew 16:27 and Revelation 22:12

When Jesus comes, He will repay every man according to his deeds. This applies to the wicked as well as to the righteous.

Luke 6:23

There is great reward in heaven for believers.

2 John and Revelation 11:18

The time for the dead to be judged will also be the time for God's servants to be rewarded according to what they have done, their deeds / works.

To end this discussion, ask what your group learned about God in this study and how it has affected their lives. Does it cause them to want to be more faithful? Are they moved to be like Daniel, a man of high esteem in God's eyes?

You can encourage them to use what they've learned by leading others in a study of Daniel. Precept Ministries International has produced two simpler studies on Daniel: the New Inductive Study Series, *God's Blueprint for Bible Prophecy* and the 40-Minute study, *Discovering What the Future Holds*.