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Daniyel

(or Daniyel)

Introduction

This document is about *Daniyel* (originally spelt as 'Daniyyel'). He was captured as a young man in Yehudah (Judah) and taken to serve in Bavel (Babylonia). He wrote this at a time when the Jewish people were suffering a lot of mocking and persecution by those who worshipped false gods. Daniyel became one of the highest officials in Bavel and we learn here about his obedience in serving God during the reigns of King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar), Belshatsar (Belshazzar), Dareyavesh (Darius), and Koresh (Cyrus). This document also has some brief but important sections telling about his three friends Hananyah, Meyshak, and Azaryah (perhaps better known as Shadrak, Meyshak, and Aved-Nego).
God's revelations which Daniyel prophesied are also included here, concerning the strengthening or destruction of other nations starting with Bavel. It's also prophesied here about what would happen in the 'end-times'.
One of the themes of this document is about how God determines everything that happens in this world. He's the one who forms nations, and he's the one who determines their end. He also looks after his people.
This document about Daniyel was written with around 44% written in Hebrew (1:1–2:4a; 8:1–12:13) and the middle 56% in Aramaic (2:4b–7:28). (Modern Syria is in the former Aram region. Aramaic is most closely related to Hebrew, Syriac, and Phoenician, and was written in a script derived from the Phoenician alphabet.)

Main components of this account

God's help for Daniyel and his friends *1:1–6:28*
God's revelations to Daniyel through visions *7:1–12:13*
a. The four creatures *7:1-28*
b. The ram and the goat *8:1–9:27*
c. The heavenly messenger *10:1–11:45*
d. The time of the end *12:1-13*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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The account about Daniyel and his friends[1] · Daniyel and his friends in Bavel

1:1 In the third year of Yehudah's (Judah's) King Yehoyakim's reign, Bavel's (Babylon's) King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) came to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and besieged the city.[2] **2** After two years, the master allowed King Yehoyakim to be defeated by Nevukadnetsar who then took some of the items out of the temple and took them to Shin'ar where he placed them in his god's temple storerooms.[3]

3 Some time later, King Nevukadnetsar commanded his chief official Ashpenaz to bring him some of the young Israeli men, from both their royal family and from some of the prominent families. **4** They had to be good-looking young men without obvious defects, wise and well-educated, who would be competent for future work in the palace. They would be taught the language and literature of the Kasdim (Chaldeans), **5** and the king assigned a daily portion of food and wine for them from his own table. They would be trained for three years before entering the king's service.

6 Among the young men from Yehudah who were chosen were Daniyel, Hananyah, Mishael, and Azaryah, **7** but Ashpenaz named them Belteshatsar (Belteshazzar), Shadrak, Meyshak, and Aved-Nego respectively.

8 However Daniyel decided that he wouldn't eat the king's fancy food or drink his wine because it wasn't all 'kosher', so he requested permission from Ashpenaz to eat an alternative diet. **9** Now God had caused the chief official to like and respect Daniyel, **10** but he queried, "I'm afraid of my master the king, who's assigned your food and drink—if he saw you guys looking worse than the others of your own age then I'd risk losing my head if the king got angry."

11 So Daniyel asked the steward that Ashpenaz had assigned over the four of them, **12** "Please test your servants for ten days: let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink, **13** then after that, see how we look compared to the other young men who eat the king's choice food. Then you can make the best decision from the evidence."

14 So the steward agreed to that and started the ten-day trial. **15** At the end of the ten days, they looked better and healthier than all the young men who'd been eating the king's fancy food, **16** so after that, the steward just gave them vegetables to eat instead of the choice food and wine.

17 So God gave those four young men knowledge and insight into all literature, and wisdom, and Daniyel was able to interpret any dreams and visions.

18 At the end of the three years[4] when the king ordered them to be brought in, the chief official Ashpenaz brought them in to King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar). **19** The king talked with each of them and realised that none of the others were as capable as Daniyel, Hananyah, Mishael, and Azaryah, so they ended up in the king's service— **20** in every matter of wisdom and understanding which the king asked them about, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers from throughout his entire kingdom. **21** Daniyel continued serving there through to the first year of the reign of King Koresh (Cyrus).

Nevukadnetsar's dream

2:1 Back in the second year of King Nevukadnetsar's (Nebuchadnezzar's) reign, the king had had some dreams that troubled him—leaving him unable to sleep. **2** He summoned the magicians, fortune-tellers, sorcerers, and astrologers to explain the dreams to him, so they came in and stood in front of the king. **3** "I've had a dream," the king told them, "and my spirit is anxious to understand it." **4** The as-

1 RV 1:1 · Parallel 1:1–6:28

2 RV 1:1 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 24:1; 2Ch 36:5-7.

3 RV 1:2-4 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 20:17-18; 24:10-16; 2Ch 36:10; Isa 39:7-8.

4 RV 1:18 · Cross-ref. 1:5.

Readers' Version

trologers spoke to the king in Aramit,[5] "Long live King Nevukadnetsar. Tell us what you dreamt, and then we'll give you the interpretation."

5 "I've already made my decision," the king replied. "If you all can't tell me the dream and then give its interpretation, you'll all be torn limb from limb and your houses made into a rubbish heap. **6** But if you all explain the dream and its interpretation, you'll receive gifts from me, and a reward and great honour. So tell me the dream and its interpretation."

7 "Let the king tell his servants the dream," they insisted, "and we'll give the interpretation."

8 "I know for certain that you're all trying to gain time," the king answered. "However, I've made up my mind **9** that if you all don't tell me what my dream was, then your fate is already clear because you've obviously agreed together to keep feeding me with lies and made-up stories until I give in. So then, tell me what my dream was, and then I'll be confident that you can give me its interpretation."

10 "There's no one in the whole world who could tell the king that," the astrologers answered the king. "No great and powerful king has asked any magician or enchanter or astrologer to do that before! **11** What you're requesting, your majesty, is difficult, and no human can tell you what you dreamt—only the gods." **12** That angered the king, and he got so furious that he ordered for all the Babylonian wise men to be executed.

13 When the decree went out that all the wise men were to be rounded up to be executed, Daniyel and his friends were included.
14 Areyok was the captain of the king's guards who'd been sent to execute the Babylonian wise men, but Daniyel spoke to him with wise and prudent caution.

15 He asked the king's commander Areyok, "Why did the king come to that sudden decision?" Areyok explained what had happened, **16** so Daniyel went to the king and requested some time so he would be able to give the interpretation to him.

17 Then Daniyel went back to his house and told his companions Hananyah, Mishael, and Azaryah **18** so they might beg for mercy from the god of the heavens concerning the mystery of the dream, so that all of them might not be executed along with the rest of the Babylonian wise men. **19** Then the mystery was revealed to Daniyel in a vision during the night. Afterwards, Daniyel blessed the god of the heavens **20** saying, "Let God's name be blessed forever and ever, because all wisdom and power belong to him. **21** He moves the times and seasons forwards. He removes some kings and gives power to others. It's him who gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. **22** He reveals the deep and hidden things—he knows what is in the darkness, and the light lives with him. **23** Oh God of my ancestors, I thank you and praise you for the wisdom and power you have given to me. Now you've revealed to me what we asked you about because you've told us what the king is wanting to know."

Daniyel explains the king's dream

24 So Daniyel went to Areyok, the man that the king had appointed to execute Bavel's (Babylon's) wise men, and told him, "Don't hurt the wise men in Bavel. Take me in to the king and I'll tell him the dream and its interpretation."

25 Areyok quickly took Daniyel in to the king and told him, "I've found a man among the exiles from Yehudah (Judah) who will reveal the interpretation of your dream."

26 "Are you able to tell me the dream that I saw, and its interpretation?" the king asked Daniyel (also called Belteshatsar (Belteshazzar)).

27 "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers are able to do what the king has demanded," replied Daniyel. **28** "However, there is a god in the heavens who reveals mysteries,

5 **RV 8:1 · Note** At this point, the original text switches from Hebrew to Aramaic (right through until the end of chapter 7—around 56% of this document).

Readers' Version

and he's the one who's shown you, King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar), what will happen in the days to come. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while you were in your bed: 29 Oh king, as you lay there your thoughts turned to what would happen in the future, and the one who reveals mysteries showed you what is going to happen. 30 As for me, this mystery was revealed to me, not because I'm wiser than anyone else, but so that the interpretation could be revealed to the king, and so that you can understand what you saw in your mind.

31 "What you were looking at, your majesty, was an incredible, huge statue. It was heavy and shone brightly as it stood there in front of you—a terrifying sight. 32 The statue's head was made of pure gold, its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze, 33 its legs were made of iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and clay. 34 You continued looking until a stone was supernaturally cut out from a mountain, and it tumbled down and struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and it smashed them to pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like the small pieces of dry straw at harvest time in the summer. Then the wind carried them away so that no trace of them could be found, but the stone that struck the statue became a huge mountain that then filled the whole world.

36 "That was the dream, and now we'll tell the king its meaning: 37 You, your majesty, are the king of kings who has been given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the splendour by the god of the heavens. 38 Wherever people live, he's placed you in charge of them, and he's even put you over the animals in the countryside and the birds in the skies, so you're the statue's gold head. 39 But another less prominent kingdom will follow yours, then another kingdom of bronze to rule over all the earth after that. 40 Then there'll be a fourth kingdom that's strong as iron—because iron crushes and shatters all things. Like an iron sledge-hammer that smashes things into pieces, it will smash all those others into broken pieces. 41 And as you saw the feet and toes, a mixture of iron and potter's clay, it will be a divided kingdom—some of the iron's strength will be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. 42 As the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so that kingdom will be partly strong and partly weak. 43 As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so various peoples will make alliances with each other, but they won't stick together just as iron doesn't integrate with clay. 44 In the days of those kings, the god of the heavens will establish a kingdom that will never be destroyed or taken over by others. It will crush all those kingdoms and put an end to them, but it will stand forever. 45 Just as you saw that a stone was supernaturally cut out of the mountain, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the powerful God has revealed to the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy."

Daniyel is rewarded by the king

46 Then King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) fell to his knees with his face to the ground to worship Daniyel, and he commanded that a burnt offering and incense be offered up to him. 47 The king said to Daniyel, "It's true that your god is the god of gods and the master of masters, and the one who reveals mysteries, because you've been able to reveal this mystery." 48 Then the king gave Daniyel high honours and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Bavel (Babylon) and chief supervisor over all of Bavel's wise men. 49 Daniyel asked the king to appoint Shadrak, Meyshak, and Aved-Nego over the administration of the Babylonian province, but Daniyel remained at the king's court.

The command to worship the statue

3:1 King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) had a gold statue made that stood nearly thirty metres high and was almost three metres wide, and it was erected on the Dura plain in the Babylonian province. 2 Then King Nevukadnetsar sent for the various levels of governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the judges, the

magistrates, and all the provincial officials, to
all come to the dedication of the statue that
he'd erected. 3 So all those officials assembled
in front of the statue that the king had set up,
ready for the dedication. 4 Then the herald
loudly proclaimed, "You peoples, nations, and
languages are commanded 5 that any time you
hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, harps,
pipes, and other instruments, you all must bow
down and worship the gold statue that King
Nevukadnetsar has erected. 6 Anyone who re-
fuses to bow down and worship it at that time,
will be thrown into a blazing furnace." 7 So
when all those people who had gathered heard
the sounds made by the musical instruments,
they all bowed down to worship the gold
statue.

Daniyel's three friends get tattled on

8 But some Chaldean astrologers went to the
king to make trouble for the Yehudim (Jews). 9 They reported to King
Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar), "Long live
the king. 10 Oh king, you've made a decree that
every man who hears the sound of the musical
instruments, must bow down and worship the
gold statue, 11 but anyone who doesn't bow and
worship will be thrown into a fiery furnace.
12 Now, there are certain Yehudim who you've
appointed over the administration of the
province of Bavel (Babylon): Shadrak, Meyshak,
and Aved-Nego. These men, your majesty, don't
take any notice of you: they don't serve your
gods, or worship the gold statue that you've set
up."

13 Then Nevukadnetsar in a furious rage com-
manded that Shadrak, Meyshak, and Aved-Nego
be arrested. Then they were brought to the
king 14 who questioned them, "Shadrak,
Meyshak, and Aved-Nego, is it true that you
won't serve my gods or worship the gold statue
that I set up? 15 Now if you're ready, as soon as
you hear the musical instruments of music, if
you all bow down and worship the statue I
erected, everything will be okay. But if you
don't, you'll immediately be thrown into a blaz-
ing hot furnace. Then what god could rescue
you from my punishment?"

16 "Oh Nevukadnetsar," the three of them an-
swered the king, "we don't need to answer that
last question. 17 If that's what happens to us,
the god that we serve is able to rescue us from
the blazing fire and from your punishment. He
will save us, your majesty. 18 But just so it's
clear your majesty, even if he doesn't, we won't
serve your gods or worship that gold statue."

Shadrak, Meyshak, and Aved-Nego thrown into the fire

19 That made Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar)
absolutely furious and it could be seen in his face. He ordered that the
furnace be made seven times hotter than usual
20 and commanded some of his top warriors to
tie up Shadrak, Meyshak, and Aved-Nego and
then to throw them into the blazing furnace.
21 So while still fully dressed even with their
turbans still on, they were tied up and thrown
into the middle of the furnace where the fire
was blazing. 22 Unfortunately, because of the
king's insistent command, the furnace was ex-
tremely hot and the flames killed the men who
threw them in, 23 but Shadrak, Meyshak, and
Aved-Nego fell into the roaring flames while
still securely tied up.

24 Then King Nevukadnetsar was startled and
jumped up and asked his counsellors, "Wasn't it
three who were tied up that were thrown there
into the middle of the fire?

"Certainly, your majesty," they replied.

25 "Look there, then!" he responded. "I can
see *four* men walking in the middle of the fire,
and they're not tied up and they're not hurt,
and the fourth one looks like a young god."

26 Then Nevukadnetsar went over by the fur-
nace door and called out, "Shadrak, Meyshak,
and Aved-Nego, servants of the Most High God,
come out, and come over here!" Then the three
men walked out from the middle of the fire.
27 All the king's officials gathered around them
and saw that the fire hadn't harmed
them—their hair wasn't even singed, their
cloaks weren't damaged, and they didn't even
smell like smoke.

28 Nevukadnetsar spoke, "Praise the god of
Shadrak, Meyshak, and Aved-Nego. He sent his
angel and rescued his servants who had put

Readers' Version

their trust in him. They took objection to the king's command at the cost of their own lives, rather than serve or worship any god except their god. **29** I hereby make a decree that any people, nation, or language that speaks anything offensive against the god of Shadrak, Meyshak, and Aved-Nego will have their houses made into rubbish heaps and they'll be torn limb from limb, because there's no other god who's able to save people like that."

30 Then the king gave Shadrak, Meyshak, and Aved-Nego more important positions in Bavel (Babylon) province than they had before.

Nevukadnetsar's second dream

4:1 King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) sent this message to all people groups, nations, and languages that live all over the world:

May you have peace and prosperity. **2** It seemed good to me to let you all know about the amazing miracles that the supreme God has done for me.

3 The miracles he does are incredible,
and his acts of creation are powerful.
His kingdom will last forever,
and his authority goes from one generation to another.

4 I, Nevukadnetsar, was doing well at home, and prospering at my work in my palace, **5** but one night as I lay in bed, I had a dream that scared me—the images and visions in my head terrified me. **6** So I summoned all of Bavel's (Babylon's) wise men to come and tell me the interpretation of the dream. **7** When those magicians, fortune-tellers, sorcerers and astrologers arrived, I told them the dream, but they didn't know the interpretation.

8 Finally, Daniyel came in—he'd been named Belteshatsar (Belteshazzar) after my god's name. The spirit of the holy gods is in him, and I told him the dream: **9** "Oh Belteshatsar, chief of the magicians, since I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, go through the visions of my dream and tell me their interpretation.

10 This is the vision that was in my mind as a lay in bed: I was looking and was surprised to see a very tall tree growing in the middle of a field. **11** The tree kept growing taller and stronger until its top reached the sky and it could be seen from all over the world. **12** It had beautiful leaves were beautiful and lots of fruit on it. It provided food for everything, the animals in the countryside found shade under it, and the birds of the sky lived in its branches. Every living thing benefitted from it.

13 I was looking at the visions in my mind as I lay in bed, and then, wow, a holy sentinel came down from the heavens. **14** He shouted loudly, 'Chop that tree down and cut its branches off, strip off its leaves, and scatter its fruit. Let the animals run away from under it and the birds from its branches. **15** But leave the stump with its roots in the ground, and bind it with a band of iron and bronze. Let it become wet with the dew in the tender grass of the field, accompanied only by those animals that live in the grass. **16** Let his mind[6] be changed from a man to an animal as seven periods pass over him. **17** That sentence is by the decree of the sentinels, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, so that the living may know that the highest one is ruler over human kingdoms and gives them to whoever he wants—even to those who seem unimportant.'

18 I, King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar), had this dream. Now you, Belteshatsar (Belteshazzar), tell me the interpretation, because none of the wise men in my kingdom can tell me the interpretation. But you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

The saving/explaining of Daniyel of dream of King

19 Daniyel (also known as Belteshatsar (Belteshazzar)) was appalled for a while at the meaning of the dream, and worried how to present it. The king saw this and said, Belteshatsar, don't hold back on being honest about the dream its interpretation."

"My master," he answered, "If only the dream was for those who hate you, and its interpreta-

6 **RV 4:16 · Note** It seems now that the tree represented a man.

tion was for your enemies. 20 You saw that tree
that grew and became strong, and whose top
reached the sky and was visible all over the
world, 21 with its beautiful leaves and plentiful
fruit. It provided food for everyone, and the an-
imals from the countryside lived under it, and
the birds lived in its branches. 22 That was you,
your majesty. You've grown and become
strong—your greatness has grown and reaches
to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of
the earth. 23 Then the king saw a holy sentinel
coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop
down the tree and destroy it, but leave the
stump and the roots in the ground, bound with
a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass
of the countryside, and let him be wet with the
dew, and let him live with the animals of the
fields until seven periods of time pass over
him.'

24 "Your majesty, this is the interpretation:
It's actually the decree of what the supreme
God has declared will happen to you, my mas-
ter the king. 25 You will be driven away from
society and you'll live with the animals in the
countryside. You'll be forced to eat grass like a
bull, and you'll sleep on the ground and be wet
with dew in the morning for seven years until
you acknowledge that the highest one is ruler
over humankind and learn that he gives king-
doms to whoever he wants. 26 But just as it was
commanded to leave the stump of the tree with
its roots, so too your kingdom will be restored
to you from the time you recognise that heaven
rules over earth. 27 Therefore, your majesty,
please consider my advice: stop sinning and do
what is right, and stop disobeying God by start-
ing to show mercy to the oppressed, so that
perhaps your prosperity might be prolonged."

28 But all of that did happen to King Nevukad-
netsar (Nebuchadnezzar). 29 Twelve months
later, he was walking on the upper terrace of
the royal palace in Bavel (Babylon) 30 when he
looked across and said, "Isn't that the great
Bavel, which I've built as a royal residence by
the strength of my power and for the glory of
my majesty?"

31 He'd only just finished saying that when he
heard a voice in the sky, "It's now decreed to
you, King Nevukadnetsar: you've just lost your
kingdom. 32 You'll be driven away from other
people, and you'll live will be with the animals
out in the countryside where you'll have to eat
grass like a cow. Seven years will pass before
you acknowledge that the highest one is ruler
over mankind and he gives kingdoms to who-
ever he wants."

33 Immediately what had been said in ad-
vance happened to Nevukadnetsar. He was
driven away from society. He ate grass like a
cow, and his body was wet with dew each
morning after sleeping on the ground. Eventu-
ally his hair had grown long like eagles' feath-
ers, and his nails were long like birds' claws.

Nevukadnetsar praises God

34 "After the seven
years, I, Nevukadnetsar
(Nebuchadnezzar) looked up toward heaven
and my reason returned to me. Then I praised
and honoured the highest one who lives for-
ever, because his authority is everlasting and
his kingdom endures through the generations.
35 Compared to him, all the inhabitants of the
earth are insignificant like ants—he issues his
commands to the heavenly army and to earth's
inhabitants. No one can hold back his hand or
has any right to ask him, 'What have you
done?' "

36 "At that time my sanity returned to me,
and I was reestablished in my kingdom. My
majesty and my splendour was restored to me
as I became again the respected leader of my
kingdom. My counsellors and my leading citi-
zens wanted to be in my company, and I be-
came even more powerful than I was before.
37 Now I, Nevukadnetsar, praise, extol, and hon-
our the king of the heavens, because every-
thing he does is, and his methods are just, and
he's able to humble those who become proud.

The writing on the wall

5:1 Several years later
when Belshatsar (Bels-
hazzar) was king, he put on a feast for a thou-
sand of his leading citizens, and he was drink-
ing wine with them all. 2 As Belshatsar was
drinking the wine, he remembered the gold
and silver cups that his father Nevukadnetsar

Readers' Version

(Nebuchadnezzar) had taken from the temple in Yerushalem (Jerusalem), and ordered that they be brought in so that the king and his leading citizens, and his wives and his concubines, could drink from them. **3** So they brought in the gold cups that had been taken out of God's residence in Yerushalem, then the king and his leading citizens, his wives and his concubines, drank from them. **4** They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

5 Suddenly, the fingers of a human hand appeared and started writing on the plaster on the king's palace wall, opposite the lampstand. When the king saw the back of the hand that was writing, **6** he was very frightened and the colour drained from his face. His legs felt weak and his knees started knocking together, **7** and he called out for the enchanters, the Kasdim (Chaldeans), and the astrologers to be brought in. The king told those Babylonian wise men, "Anyone who can read this writing and tell me its interpretation will be dressed in royal robes and will have a chain of gold placed around his neck, and he'll become the third ruler in the kingdom." **8** When all the king's wise men of the king got there, none of them could read the writing or tell the king what it meant. **9** Then King Belshatsar became more afraid, his face went whiter still, and his leading citizens also had no idea what to do.

10 My now the queen[7] had heard about what the king and his leading citizens had been saying, so she came into the banquet house and said, "Long live the king. Don't let this get under your skin. Don't let it drain you. **11** There's a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the days of your father, this man has illumination and insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods. Your father King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) appointed him chief of the magicians, sorcerers, Kasdim, and astrologers, **12** because this Daniyel had an excellent spirit, knowledge, and insight for interpreting dreams, explaining riddles, and solving problems. So summon Daniyel who the king named Belteshatsar (Belteshazzar) and he'll tell you the interpretation."

13 So Daniyel was brought in to the king who said to him, "So, you're that Daniyel—one of the exiles that my father the king brought from Yehudah (Judah). **14** I've heard about you—heard that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that you have illumination and insight and excellent wisdom. **15** Now the wise men and enchanters were brought in here to read this writing on the wall and tell me its interpretation, but they couldn't interpret it. **16** But I've heard about you—that you're able to give interpretations and solve problems. Now, if you're able to read that writing and tell me what it means, you'll be clothed with kingly robes and have a chain of gold placed around your neck, and you'll be made the thirdhighest ruler in the kingdom."

17 "I'm not after your gifts, and your rewards can be given to someone else," Daniyel responded. "But, I'll read the writing to the king and I'll tell you the interpretation.

18 "As for you, your majesty, the highest god gave the kingship, power, honour, and majesty, to your father Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar). **19** Because of that power, all peoples, nations, and ethnic groups trembled and were afraid when his army approached. He killed whoever he wanted, and he kept alive those he wanted. He promoted whoever he wanted, and he humiliated others when he wanted to. **20** But when he became proud and stubborn and started acting presumptuously, he was disqualified from the throne, and his splendid reputation was deflated. **21** He was driven right out of the community, and he started behaving like an animal—he ended up living with wild donkeys and eating grass like a cow. He slept on the ground, and in the morning his body was wet with dew, until he finally recognized that the highest god is ruler over all mankind and that

7 RV 5:10 · Note Possibly 'the previous queen', i.e., the queen mother (as the next verse displays her knowledge of past events).

Readers' Version

he appoints whoever he wants as leaders over the kingdoms.

22 "Yet you, Belshatsar (Belshazzar), his son, haven't humbled yourself despite already knowing all that. 23 On the contrary, you've proudly promoted yourself as being greater than the master of the heavens. You brought the temple cups in here and you and your leading citizens, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. You praised the gods made from silver and gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which can't see, or hear, or know anything, yet you haven't honoured the god who decides your future and every breath that you take.

24 "So then it's from his presence that the palm of a hand was sent, and this message was written. 25 This is how it reads, 'Numbered, numbered, weighed, and divided,' 26 and this is what it means:

Numbered: God has numbered your days of leadership and brought them to an end,

27 **Weighed**: You've been weighed on the scales and found deficient, and

28 **Divided**: Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Madim (Medes) and the Persians."

29 Then Belshatsar (Belshazzar) gave an order, and they placed a purple robe over Daniyel's shoulders and a gold chain was placed around his neck, and an official announcement was made that he would now be the thirdhighest ruler in the kingdom.

30 However, the Chaldean King Belshatsar was killed that very night, 31 and Dareyavesh (Darius) the Madi (Mede) became the new ruler at an age of around sixty-two.

Daniyel gets fed to the lions

6:1 The new King Dareyavesh (Darius) decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces with a governor over each one. 2 Over them were three higher officials (Daniyel was one of them) that those governors were accountable to so that the king wouldn't be ripped off, 3 but because Daniyel was exceptionally talented, he became noticed above the other high officials and governors, and the king decided to appoint him over the whole kingdom. 4 That led the high officials and the governors to try to find some fault with Daniyel with regard to his administrative duties. However, they weren't able to find any misdemeanours or corruption that he could be accused of because he was honest, reliable, and diligent. 5 Then these men concluded, "We won't find any grounds for making an accusation against this Daniyel unless we find something against him to do with the laws of his god."

6 So those high officials and governors made a plan and went as a group to the king and made this suggestion, "Long live your majesty, King Dareyavesh. 7 All the high officials of the kingdom, the various leaders, the counsellors, and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish and enforce a law that for thirty days, anyone who makes a request of any god or of any man other than you, your majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den. 8 Now, your majesty, sign the document and establish this law so that it can't then be revoked according to the law of the Madim (Medes) and Persians." 9 So King Dareyavesh signed the document and it became law. 10 However although Daniyel knew that that law had been passed, he still went into his house (with the windows in his upper room open toward Yerushalem (Jerusalem)), and he continued to kneel three times a day to pray and give thanks to God, just as he'd always done.

11 Then those officials went as a group and found Daniyel praying to his god and presenting him with his requests. 12 Then they approached the king and reminded him about the law, "Didn't you introduce a law that within thirty days, any man who makes a petition to any god or man, except to you, your majesty, must be thrown into the lions' den?"

"Yes, that's correct," answered the king. "It can't be revoked now according to the law of the Madim and Persians."

13 Then they informed the king, "Daniyel who was exiled from Yehudah (Judah), pays no attention to you, your majesty, or to the law that you introduced, because he petitions his god

Readers' Version

three times a day."

14 When the king heard that, was very upset
and for that entire day, he actively tried to
think of a way to get Daniyel out of it. 15 How-
ever, the group of men returned to the king and
said, "You know, your majesty, that it's a law of
the Madim and Persians, that no rule or law
that the king establishes can be changed."

16 So the king gave an order, and Daniyel was
brought in and the king responded and told
him, "May your god, who you serve continu-
ally, save you." Then Daniyel was thrown down
into the lions' den. 17 A stone was brought and
laid over the opening of the den, and the king
sealed it with his own signet ring and with the
signet rings of his leading citizens so that no
one could sneak Daniyel out. 18 Then the king
went to his palace and spent the night without
eating. He refused all entertainment, and he
couldn't sleep.

Daniyel's saved from the lions

19 Then the king got up
at dawn, and hurried out
to the lions' den. 20 As he approached the den,
he called out in a worried voice, "Daniyel,
Daniyel, servant of the living god. Has your god,
who you serve continually, been able to save
you from the lions?"

21 "Long live the king," Daniyel called back.
22 "My god sent his angel and shut the lions'
mouths, and they haven't hurt me, because he
saw that I wasn't guilty of anything. Also, your
majesty, I haven't wronged you in any way."

23 Then the king was very happy, and ordered
that Daniyel be pulled up out of the den. So
Daniyel was lifted out of the den, and he didn't
even have a scratch on him, because he had
trusted in his god. 24 Then the king ordered the
arrest of the men who had maliciously accused
Daniyel, and had them and their wives and chil-
dren thrown into the lions' den—they didn't
even reach the bottom of the den before the li-
ons overpowered them and tore them to pieces.

25 Then King Dareyavesh (Darius) wrote to all
the peoples, nations, and ethnic groups right
across his kingdom: "May you all be enjoying
peace and prosperity. 26 I decree that everyone
throughout my kingdom is to obey and respect
Daniyel's god, because he is the eternal, living
God. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and
his rule will continue forever. 27 He delivers
and rescues, and he does all kinds of miracles in
the heavens and on earth. He's rescued Daniyel
from the strength and power of the lions."

28 So Daniyel prospered during the reign of
Dareyavesh and during the reign of Koresh
(Cyrus) the Persian.

Daniyel's visions[8] · Daniyel's vision of four creatures

7:1 Previously, in Baby-
lonian King Belshatsar's
(Belshazzar's) first year,
Daniyel had seen a dream and visions in his
mind while lying on his bed. Then he wrote the
dream down and gave a summary of it. 2 He ex-
plained:

In my vision at night I was looking, and sud-
denly, the four winds were stirring up the mas-
sive ocean, 3 and four huge creatures, each one
different from the other, were coming up out of
it.[9]

4 The first one was like a lion[10] but had the
wings of an eagle. But as I watched, its wings
were torn off, and it was lifted up and made to
stand on two feet like a man, and then it was
given a human mind.

5 The second creature resembled a bear with
one arm raised. It was chomping on three ribs
and it was told to go and gorge itself on more
meat.

6 Next I saw another creature that resembled
a leopard, but with four wings (like birds'
wings) attached to its back, and with four
heads. It was given the authority to rule people.

7 The final creature that I saw in the vision
was dreadful and terrifying. It was extremely
strong with large iron teeth and it was devour-
ing things then trampling and crushing the re-
mainder. Another difference from the other

8 **RV 7:1 · Parallel** 7:1–12:13

9 **RV 7:3 · Cross-ref.** Rev 13:1; 17:8.

10 **RV 7:4-6 · Cross-ref.** Rev 13:2.

Readers' Version

creatures was that it had ten horns on its head.[11]

8 While I was considering the horns, suddenly another horn, a little one, came up among the others and three of the first horns that were in its way got pulled completely out. Incredibly, this new had eyes like a person and a mouth that had a lot of incredible things to say.[12]

9 I kept looking in the vision while thrones were set up[13] and the ancient one took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow, and his hair looked like pure wool.[14] His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were burning fire. **10** A river of fire was coming out and flowing along in front of him. Thousands and thousands served him, and myriads upon myriads were standing in front of him.[15] The court sat in session and the documents were opened.[16]

11 Then I continued looking because of the amazing things that the horn was saying. I kept looking until that final creature was killed and its body destroyed in the fire. **12** As for the other creatures, their authority to rule was taken away, but an extension of life was given to them for a season and a time.

13 I was looking in the visions of the night, and suddenly, someone like a human male was coming with the clouds,[17] and he came to the ancient one and was presented to him. **14** He was given authority to rule and splendour and a kingdom, so that all the peoples, nations, and ethnic groups will serve him. His authority will never end, and his kingdom will never be destroyed.[18]

The meaning of the visions

15 As for me, Daniyel, my spirit was distressed inside me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. **16** I approached one of those who were standing there and asked him what was going on, so he told me, and then he revealed the interpretation of those things to me:

17 Those four large creatures, they represent four kingdoms that will come to be in the world, **18** but the dedicated followers of the highest one will receive the kingdom, and they will take possession of the kingdom forever.

19 But I still wanted to know more about the fourth creature that was different from all the others, absolutely dreadful, with its iron teeth and bronze claws, and which devoured, then crushed and trampled down with its feet what was left. **20** I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head, and the other horn that came up later, with three other horns falling. That horn had eyes and a mouth that said amazing things, and it looked stronger than the others. **21** I kept watching, and that horn was waging war with those followers and gaining over them[19] **22** until the ancient one arrived and judged in favour of his followers. Then the time arrived when they took possession of the kingdom.[20]

23 Then he said:

The fourth creature will be a fourth kingdom in the world which will be different from all the other kingdoms. It will devour the whole world, and trample it down and crush it. **24** As for the ten horns, ten kings will become prominent in that kingdom,[21] and then another king will ap-

11 RV 7:7 · Cross-ref. Rev 12:3; 13:1; 17:3.

12 RV 7:8,11 · Cross-ref. Rev 13:5.

13 RV 7:9 · Cross-ref. Rev 20:4.

14 RV 7:9 · Cross-ref. Rev 1:14.

15 RV 7:10 · Cross-ref. Rev 5:11.

16 RV 7:10 · Cross-ref. Rev 20:12.

17 RV 7:13 · Cross-ref. Mat 24:30; 26:64; Mrk 13:26; 14:62; Luk 21:27; Rev 1:7,13; 14:14.

18 RV 7:14 · Cross-ref. Rev 11:15.

19 RV 7:21 · Cross-ref. Rev 13:7.

20 RV 7:22 · Cross-ref. Rev 20:4.

21 RV 7:24 · Cross-ref. Rev 17:12.

Readers' Version

pear. He will be different from the previous kings, and he will overcome three of them.
25 He will speak out against the highest one and will wear out the highest one's followers. He will intend to change the times and the law, and indeed he'll be allowed to for a two times and a half.[22] 26 But the court will sit, and then his authority to rule will be taken away—to perish and be forever destroyed. 27 Then the kingdom and the authority to rule and the greatness of the kingdoms under all the heavens will be given to the people who are the followers of the highest one.[23] His kingdom will continue forever,[24] and all earthly rulers will serve and obey him.

28 That's everything that I saw in my visions. As for me, Daniyel, my thoughts made me very upset and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.

Daniyel's sheep and goat vision

8:1 In[25] the third year of King Belshatsar's (Belshazzar's) reign, I, Daniyel, had another vision—different from the previous one. 2 In the vision, I saw that I was at the fortress in Shushan (Susa) (often called Shushan, in Eylam province), beside the Ulay Canal. 3 Then I looked up, and to my surprise, there was a ram standing beside the canal. It had two horns and both horns were long, but one was longer than the other, and the longer one had grown last.
4 I saw the ram charging westward, and northward, and southward—no animal could stand against it—there was no one to rescue anything from it. The ram did whatever it wanted, and it became very powerful.

5 As I was observing, suddenly a billy goat was coming from the west, crossing the entire world without touching the ground. The goat had a prominent horn between its eyes. 6 In a powerful rage, it charged at the two-horned ram that I had seen standing in front of the canal. 7 I saw the furious goat reach the ram and strike it, shattering the ram's two horns. The ram wasn't strong enough to stay standing so it was knocked to the ground and trampled on—there was no one who could rescue the ram from the goat's power.

8 Then the billy goat became even more powerful, but at its peak, the large horn was broken, and in its place, four prominent horns came up facing in the four different compass directions. 9 Then a small horn grew out of one of them—it grew very long towards the south, towards the east, and towards the beautiful land of Yisrael (Israel). 10 It grew up to the army in the heavens, but it threw some of the army and some of the stars down to the earth and trampled on them.[26] 11 It became as powerful as the general leading the heavenly army. It took the regular burnt offering away from him, and his sanctuary place was overthrown. 12 Because of sinfulness, it will be allowed to take control of the army, along with the regular burnt offering. It will overthrow truth, but it will be active and will prosper.

13 Then I heard a holy one[27] speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, "How long until this vision about the regular burnt offering will be fulfilled, and about the transgression that makes desolate, the giving over of the sanctuary and the army to be trampled on?"

14 "For 2,300 evenings and mornings," he said to me, "Then the sanctuary will be restored."

Gavriel explains Daniyel's vision

15 While I, Daniyel, was still trying to make sense of the vision that I'd seen, suddenly someone who looked like a man was standing in front of me. 16 Then I heard a human voice call out

22 **RV 7:25 · Cross-ref.** Rev 12:14; 13:5-6.

23 **RV 7:27 · Cross-ref.** Rev 20:4.

24 **RV 7:27 · Cross-ref.** Rev 22:5.

25 **RV 8:1 · Note** Now the text has switched back from Aramaic to Hebrew.

26 **RV 8:10 · Cross-ref.** Rev 12:4.

27 **RV 8:13 · Note** Presumably these 'holy ones' are angels in the heavens (not 'saints' like in 7:27)???

Readers' Version

from the Ulay canal, "Gavriel (Gabriel),[28] help that man to be able to understand the vision."
17 So he came over near where I stood, but I was frightened and fell to my knees with my face to the ground. However, he said to me, "You, human male, that vision concerns the end of the world."
18 While he was speaking with me, I fell into a trance with my face still on the ground. Then he touched me and made me stand up **19** and he said, "Listen, I'm going to tell you what will happen towards the end of God's indignation, because it refers to the appointed time of the end.
20 The ram that you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Maday (Media) and Paras (Persia), **21** and the shaggy goat is the Yavan's (Greece's) king, and the large horn between his eyes is their first king. **22** The horn that was broken, and the four that grew in its place, represent four kingdoms that will rise from his nation, but not with the same power that he had.
23 At the latter end of their rule, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a defiant king who understands riddles, will come to power. **24** His power will increase, but it won't be his own power. He bring about horrific destruction, and he'll succeed in what he does. He'll destroy powerful men and some of God's people. **25** Using his cunning, he'll prosper by being deceitful. He'll be proud of himself, and will destroy many while they're living peacefully. He will even attack the prince of princes, but it's him who'll be broken, but not by human strength. **26** That vision of the evenings and mornings that has been told is true. But lock the vision away for now, because it refers to the distant future."
27 Then I, Daniyel, was overwhelmed and lay sick for days. Then I got up, and went about the king's business, but I was appalled at the vision and didn't really understand it.

Daniyel prays for his people

9:1 It was when Dareyavesh (Darius) (Dareyavesh, the son of Ahashverosh (Ahasuerus), a descendant of the Madim (Medes)) was made king over the realm of the Kasdim (Chaldeans) (perhaps better known by Westerners as Babylonians), **2** and during that first year of his reign that I, Daniyel, understood from the sacred books that Yahweh had told the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) that Yerushalem (Jerusalem) city would be destroyed and remain in ruins for seventy years.[29]
3 Then I turned my focus to the Lord God, to make my requests known to him, as I fasted, wore sackcloth, and sprinkled myself with ashes. **4** I prayed to my god Yahweh, and I confessed to him, "My master, the powerful and awe-inspiring God, who keeps his agreement and shows loyal commitment to those who love him and keep his commands. **5** We Israelis have sinned and done wrong. We have done wicked things and rebelled against you, not wanting to obey your rules and instructions. **6** We ignored the challenges from your servants the prophets who spoke to our kings, our generals, and our ancestors on your behalf, and to all the people of the land. **7** Perfect goodness can only be found in you, my master, but we have shame on our faces, as we have today. Yes, the men of Yehudah (Judah), the inhabitants of Yerushalem, and all Yisrael (Israel) whether near or far away, in all the countries where you've driven them because of their treachery against you. **8** We've sinned against you, Yahweh, and we deserve the shame that's on our kings, our generals, and our ancestors.
9 "Yet you, our god and master, continue to show compassion and forgiveness, even though we've rebelled against you **10** and haven't obeyed your words, Yahweh our god, by following the instructions that you gave us through your servants the prophets. **11** All Yisrael has broken your law and turned away—not obeying your words. The curse and oath that are writ-

28 RV 8:16 · Cross-ref. Luk 1:19,26.
29 RV 9:2 · Cross-ref. Jer 25:11; 29:10.

Readers' Version

ten in the law given through your servant Mosheh (Moses), have been applied to us, because we have sinned against you. **12** You have confirmed your words, which warned both us and our rulers about the potential of a great calamity. Yes, what has happened to Yerushalem hasn't happened anywhere else in the world. **13** As it's written in the Mosheh's law, we've undergone all that calamity, yet we haven't tried to earn our god Yahweh'a favour our god by turning away from our disobedience and giving attention to your truth. **14** Therefore Yahweh kept pondering the need for calamity and then eventually brought it on us, because our god Yahweh is always does what is right and yet we haven't obeyed what he said.

15 "Now, my master, our god, who used his amazing power to bring his people out of Mitsrayim (Egypt), and have made a reputation for yourself which stands until today, we have sinned against you and been wicked. **16** My master, because you always do what is right, turn your anger from your city Yerushalem—your holy mountain, because Yerushalem and your people have become an object of scorn to all those around us due to our own sins, as well as those of our predecessors. **17** So now, our god, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy. For your sake, my master, show favour to your devastated sanctuary. **18** My god, turn your ear and listen. Open your eyes and see our terrible state here in exile, and the state of the city that is called by your name. We aren't asking all this because we're good enough to deserve it, but because of your extensive mercy. **19** Master, master, listen to us and forgive us. Master, pay attention and take action. Don't delay, my god, for your own sake, because your city and your people are called by your name."

Gavriel explains God's revelation

20 While I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Yisrael (Israel), and presenting my requests to my god Yahweh on behalf of his holy mountain, **21** while I was still speaking in prayer, God's man Gavriel (Gabriel)[30] who I had seen in the earlier vision, came speedily flying to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. **22** He told me, "Daniyel, I've come here now to give you insight and to help you understand. **23** An order was given right at the beginning of your prayer and fasting, and I've come personally to tell you, because you're highly valued, so then consider the message and understand the vision:

24 It's been decreed that there'll be 490 years for your people and your holy city, to stop the transgression, to put an end to sin, to pay the price for disobedience, to bring in righteousness that will then last forever, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place. NEEDS MORE WORK **25** Know and understand that from the issuing of the command to restore and build Yerushalem (Jerusalem) until an anointed one (a prince) comes, there will be 49 years and 434 years. It'll be built again with a plaza and a moat, but in distressing times. **26** After those 434 years, the anointed one will be killed and be left with nothing. The followers of that coming prince will destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end will come with a flood, and then there'll be war until the end with much destruction having been decreed. **27** He'll make a firm agreement with many people for seven years. In the middle of that time, he'll put an end to sacrifices and offerings. On the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate,[31] until the complete destruction that is decreed is poured out on the desolator." NEEDS MORE WORK

God's terrifying revelation to Daniyel

10:1 In the third year of the reign of Persian King Koresh (Cyrus), a message was revealed to Daniyel (also named Belteshatsar (Belteshazzar)). The message was true, and it concerned was a large conflict. He understood the message and had an understanding of the vision.

30 RV 9:21 · Cross-ref. Luk 1:19,26.

31 RV 9:27 · Cross-ref. Dan 11:31; 12:11; Mat 24:15; Mrk 13:14.

Readers' Version

2 At that time, I, Daniyel, had been mourning
for three weeks. 3 I hadn't eaten any tasty food
or meat, and no wine had been near my lips. I
hadn't even put any perfumed oil on my hair or
face during those three weeks.
4 Then on that day in late April, I was stand-
ing on the bank of the great river, i.e., the
Hidekel. 5 When I looked up, to my surprise
there was a man there dressed in linen with a
belt of pure gold from Ufaz around his waist.[32]
6 His body sparkled like a jewel, his face was
brilliant like lightning, his eyes were like flam-
ing torches, his arms and his feet were like the
gleam of polished bronze, and his voice was
loud like the sound of a huge crowd.
7 I, Daniyel, alone saw the vision, because the
men with me didn't see anything. However,
they started trembling and ran away to hide,
8 so I was left alone and saw this incredible vi-
sion. My strength deserted me and my face
went deathly pale, and I couldn't move. 9 Then I
heard the man start speaking, and as he did I
fell to my knees then laid with my face to the
ground in a deep sleep. 10 Then suddenly, a
hand touched me and set me trembling back on
my hands and knees.
11 The man spoke to me, "Daniyel, you're a
man who's greatly valued. I've been sent to you,
so stand up and listen to what I'm about to tell
you." When he said that, I stood up trembling
12 and he told me, "Don't be afraid, Daniyel, be-
cause your prayer was heard from the very first
day that you started investigating these mat-
ters. You humbled yourself before your god, so
I've come in response to your words. 13 But the
protector of the Persian kingdom held me back
for twenty-one days. Then wow, Mika'el
(Michael), one of God's chief protectors,[33] came
to help me, because I'd been stuck there with
the kings of Paras (Persia). 14 "Now I've come to
make you understand what will happen to your
people in the days near the end, because this
vision is for the future."
15 While he was telling me all that, I faced the
ground and wasn't able to speak. 16 Then sud-
denly, someone who resembled a human
touched my lips and I opened my mouth and
was able to speak. I said to the one standing in
front of me: "My master, that vision gave me an
anxiety attack and I feel weak. 17 How can a
servant of my master like me be able to talk to
someone like you, my master? As for me, I've
got no energy left, and I can barely breathe."
18 Then the one who looked like a human
touched me again and strengthened me,
19 then he said, "Don't be afraid, you human
who's greatly valued. May peace be to you! Be
strong and be strong!"
While he was speaking to me, I felt stronger
and said, "Go ahead and speak, my master, be-
cause you've given me some energy again."
20 Then he asked, "Do you know why I've
come to you? But now I will return to fight
against the protector of Paras (Persia). When I
go out, the protector of Yavan (Greece) will
come. 21 But I'll tell you what's inscribed in the
Book of Truth. There's no one standing strong
with me against them, except your protector
Mika'el (Michael)."
11:1 As for me, in the first year of King
Dareyavesh (Darius) the Madi (Mede), I stood
up to support and protect him.

The kings of Mitsrayim and Aram

2 Now I'll tell you the
truth: Three more kings
will reign in Paras (Persia), then a fourth one
will gain far more riches than all the others.
When he becomes strong through his wealth,
he'll stir up everyone against the kingdom of
Yavan (Greece). 3 Then a powerful king will
come to the throne, and he'll rule with great
authority and do whatever he wants. 4 But as
soon as he's reached his peak, his kingdom will
be uprooted, then broken and divided into the
four compass directions. But it won't be his de-
scendants reigning but those kingdoms will be
given to others, and they won't rule with that
same authority.
5 Then the southern (Egyptian) king will be-

32 **RV 10:5-6 · Cross-ref.** Rev 1:13-15; 2:18; 19:12.

33 **RV 10:13,21 · Cross-ref.** Rev 12:7.

Readers' Version

come strong, but one of his generals will become stronger than him and will take over—he will rule a larger region. 6 After some years, they'll forge an alliance—the daughter of the southern king will come to the northern (Syrian) king to make an agreement. But she won't be able to retain her power, and he won't be able to continue in his strength. She'll be handed over, along with her attendants and her child, and the man who supported her in those times. 7 But one of her relatives will step up to become the southern king. He will attack the army of the northern king and invade his fortress, defeating them. 8 He'll also take their gods away to Mitsrayim (Egypt) as plunder, along with their cast metal images and their precious gold and silver utensils. Then he'll stay away from the northern king for several years. 9 Then that northern king will come into the southern king's region, but will return again to his own land.

10 However, his sons will assemble a huge army and wage war. It will keep coming and overflow like a flood and pass through, and will carry the war as far as his fortress again.
11 Then the southern (Mitsri (Egyptian)) king will be furious and go out and fight against the northern (Syrian) king who'll assemble a large army, but that large army will be defeated.
12 Defeating all of them will result in that southern king becoming proud and he'll be responsible for the death of tens of thousands, but he won't triumph.

13 Then the northern (Syrian) king will again assemble a huge army, even larger than previously. After a few years, he'll certainly want to attack with a huge well-equipped army. 14 In those times, many will try to rebel against the southern (Mitsri) king. Men of violence from among your people (Yisrael (Israel)) will also rebel in order to fulfill the vision, but they'll all fail. 15 Then the northern king will come, heap up siege ramps, and capture a fortified city. The forces of the south, not even their best troops, will have enough strength to be able to resist them. 16 So the invader will be able to do whatever he wants—no one will stand against him. The northern king will stand in the beautiful land of Yisrael, ready to destroy it.

17 He'll make the decision to use the strength of his entire kingdom to invade. He'll forge an agreement, yet he'll give him a daughter as a wife in order to ruin it, but it won't work or be to his advantage. 18 After that, he'll focus on the coastlands and will capture many, but a commander will end his insolence against him—in fact he'll cause his insolence to bounce back onto him. 19 Then he'll focus his attention on the fortresses in his own land, but he'll stumble and fall and drop off the scene.

20 Then another man will succeed the northern king and he'll send a tax collector to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) so he can make his kingdom more prosperous, but in a few days he will be broken, although not in anger or in battle.

The evil Arami king

21 In his place, a despicable person without any royal lineage will come to power. He'll come unexpectedly and will seize the northern (Arami (Syrian)) kingdom by intrigue. 22 The overflowing forces will be swept away before him and broken, and also the prince of the agreement. 23 After an alliance is made with him, he'll act deceitfully then he'll go up and become powerful with a small number of people. 24 He'll come into the richest parts of the province in a time of peace, and he'll do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers did. He will distribute plunder, booty, and possessions among them. He'll make plans against fortresses, but only for a time.

25 He'll use his courage and power to raise a large army against the southern (Egyptian) king. The southern king will amass an exceedingly large, powerful army to respond in battle, but he won't be able to make headway because plots will be devised against him. 26 Even those who sit at his table and eat his fine food will work against him. His army will be swept away with large numbers of casualties. 27 The two kings with their evil intentions, will sit at the same table but tell each other lies. However, it won't succeed, because the end won't come until the time appointed by God. 28 Then the

northern king will return to his own country with valuable plunder, but his heart will be set against the holy agreement. He'll take action, and then return to his own country.

29 At the appointed time the northern (Arami (Syrian)) king will come back into the south, but he won't be successful like he had been the previous time. **30** Ships will come against him from Kitim, and he'll withdraw in fear. He'll be angry about the holy agreement and will take action. He'll come back and take the advice of those who forsake the holy agreement. **31** Some of his forces will attack and defile the sanctuary fortress. They'll prevent the regular burnt offerings, and they'll set up something revolting that causes people to be appalled.[34] **32** Using flattery, he will corrupt others who oppose the agreement, But the people who know their god will be strong and will take action. **33** Those among the people and have insight will teach others, But they'll be killed in battle or burnt during the attacks, or be plundered for several days or taken captive. **34** When they fall, they'll receive a little help. Many will join themselves with them in hypocrisy. **35** Some of those who have insight will fall but the others will be refined, purified, and cleaned until the time of the end, because it'll continue until the appointed time.

36 The northern (Arami) king will do whatever he wants. He'll boast and claim to be greater than any god,[35] and he'll say terrible things against the god of gods,[36] . He'll be successful until the indignation is accomplished, because everything will happen just as it's already been determined. **37** He won't pay any attention to his ancestors' gods, or to the one desired by women, or for that matter, to any other god, because he'll think he's better than everyone and everything else. **38** Instead of those, he'll honour the god of fortresses—a god his ancestors had never even heard of. He'll honour that god with gold and silver, and with precious stones and treasures. **39** He'll take action against the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. He'll increasingly honour those who acknowledge him and will make them influential leaders, and he'll divide up the land for a price.

40 At the time of the end, the southern (Mitsri (Egyptian)) king will attack the northern king, but that northern (Syrian) king will fight back aggressively with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. He'll invade several countries like how a flood overflows then passes through. **41** He will come into the beautiful land of Yisrael (Israel), killing many, but Edom, Moav (Moab), and the bulk of the Amonim will escape from his power. **42** That northern king will invade other countries, and even Mitsrayim (Egypt) won't miss out. **43** He'll accumulate the treasures of gold and of silver, and everything in Mitsrayim that's valuable, and then the Luvim (Libyans) and the Kushim will be in his footsteps. **44** But reports coming in from the east and the north will terrify him, and he'll go out to fight furiously and kill many. **45** He'll erect his royal tents between the seas and the beautiful holy mountain, but that northern king will come to his end, and no one will help him.

The ending of time

12:1 The one who looked like a human also told me: At that time Mika'el (Michael), the powerful prince who stands guard over your people, will become active.[37] There'll be a time of distress such as never has been since there was a nation until that time,[38] but at that time your people will be rescued—everyone whose name is found written in the book. **2** Many of those who've already been buried will come back to life—some to go on and live forever, and some to endure shame

34 RV 11:31 · Cross-ref. Dan 9:27; 12:11; Mat 24:15; Mrk 13:14.

35 RV 11:36 · Cross-ref. 2Th 2:3-4.

36 RV 11:36 · Cross-ref. Rev 13:5-6.

37 RV 12:1 · Cross-ref. Rev 12:7.

38 RV 12:1 · Cross-ref. Mat 24:21; Mrk 13:19; Rev 7:14; 12:7.

Readers' Version

and everlasting contempt.[39] 3 Those who have insight will shine like the brightness of the Milky Way, and those who lead many people to righteousness, like the stars shining forever.

4 But you, Daniyel, keep these words secret, and seal up the book until the time of the end.[40] Many will rush back and forth, and knowledge will increase.

5 Then I, Daniyel, looked, and to my surprise, two others were standing there—one on this side of the river and one on the opposite bank. 6 One of them asked the man dressed in linen, who was above the river itself, "How long will it be until the end of those incredible events?"

7 I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the river—he raised both arms and promised in the name of him who lives forever[41] that it would be for a time, times, and half a time.[42] When the destruction of the power of the holy people has come to an end, all those things will have been completed.

8 I heard, but I didn't understand, so I asked, "My master, what will be the outcome of all those things?"

9 "Just carry on, Daniyel," he responded, "because those matters are closed and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many people will be purified, cleaned, and refined, but the wicked will behave wickedly.[43] None of the wicked will understand these things, but those who have insight will understand.

11 From the time that the regular burnt offerings are taken away and the revolting thing that causes people to be appalled is set up,[44] there will be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is any person who's patient and arrives at the 1,335 days.

13 But as for you, carry on with your life until the end. Then you'll be able to relax and receive your allocated inheritance at the end of the days."

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39 RV 12:2 · Cross-ref. Isa 26:19; Mat 25:46; Yhn 5:29.

40 RV 12:4 · Cross-ref. Rev 22:10.

41 RV 12:7 · Cross-ref. Rev 10:5.

42 RV 12:7 · Cross-ref. Rev 12:14.

43 RV 12:10 · Cross-ref. Rev 22:11.

44 RV 12:11 · Cross-ref. Dan 9:27; 11:31; Mat 24:15; Mrk 13:14.