

Name _____

Day 246 – Ezekiel 29:17-21; Daniel 4; Jeremiah 52:31-34; 2 Kings 25:27-30; Psalm 44 •

Daniel 4 is a public decree or state paper of Nebuchadnezzar.

In this passage, Daniel interprets the king's dream, revealing that Nebuchadnezzar would go insane for seven years - imagining himself to be an animal and acting accordingly. What was Nebuchadnezzar's sin?

Evil-merodach king of Babylon, son of Nebuchadnezzar, reigned from 562 to 560 B.C. Tablets recovered from the Ishtar Gate in Babylon confirm the Jeremiah 52:31-34 act of kindness shown to Jehoiachin king of Judah. ¹

Day 247 – Psalm 74; 79-80; 89 •

Against the backdrop of the Babylonian captivity and the destruction of the Temple in 586 B.C., Psalm 74 relates the nation's cry for help, the conditions of the havoc, and the confidence of their hope. Psalm 80 reveals the shock that event had in Jerusalem (where the Asaph singers lived). ¹

In Psalm 79, Asaph bemoans the desecration of Jerusalem and beseeches God to destroy Israel's enemies. ¹

The writer of Psalm 89 praises the Lord for His covenant with David and for His character; he then rehearses the Davidic covenant in poetic form; laments the king's present humiliating defeat; and petitions the Lord to remember His covenant. ¹

Fill in the blanks, using the words of Psalm 89:5-18 which praise the Lord for his character.

- _____ and _____ are the foundation of Your throne; (v. 14)
- _____ and _____ go before You.
- The _____ are Yours, the _____ also is Yours; (v. 11)
- the _____ and all it contains, You have _____ them.
- The north and the south, You have _____ them; (v. 12)

Day 248 – Psalm 85; 102; 106; 123; 137 •

Psalm 85 was written during some setback in the fortunes of the nation. ¹

In chapter 102, the psalmist prays to God in his distress and finds confidence in the sovereign purposes of God and in His unchangeableness. ¹ Two features of the millennial kingdom stand out in vv. 12-22: Jerusalem will be restored and the entire world will worship the Lord.

Who will praise the Lord, per Psalm 102:18?

In chapter 106, the psalmist laments and confesses Israel's sins.

Psalm 137 is a Song of the Exiles (the captive Jews).

Day 249 – Daniel 7-8; 5 •

In 553 B.C. Daniel saw the prophetic dream and visions of chapter 7. The four beasts represent the rulers of the four world empires previously described in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 - Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. ¹

The ten horns are explained in verse 24, and the little horn (Antichrist) in verses 24-25. The final form of the Roman world power will be a confederation of 10 nations who will arise simultaneously in the tribulation days. Antichrist will march to power by subduing three of the ten nations, will speak out against God, will intend to make alterations in times and law, and will persecute God's saints for the last 3½ years of the Tribulation. ¹

In 551 B.C. Daniel saw the vision of chapter 8, concerning the second and third world empires - Medo-Persia and Greece.

The small horn of Daniel 8:9 is different from that of Daniel 7:8. It refers to Antiochus Epiphanes, who came to power out of Greece in 175 B.C. and plundered the Temple in Jerusalem. Antiochus's persecution of the Jews lasted for 2,300 days. ¹

Until recently King Belshazzar was unknown except for mention in Daniel 5. Contemporary records have been discovered that report that Nabonidus, the last king of Babylon, “entrusted the kingship to his son, Bel-shar-usus” while he retired to Arabia.

Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 B.C. and was succeeded by his son, Amelmarduk (the Evil-merodach of Jer. 52:31).

He in turn was murdered by his brother-in-law (the Negal-sharezer of Jer. 39: 3, 13), who was enthroned in August 560.

He in turn was succeeded in 556 by his son Labashi-marduk who was assassinated that same year by a group that included Nabonidus, who was king from 556 to 539 B.C. ¹

What is the interpretation of the message handwriting on the wall (Daniel 5)?

Day 250 – Daniel 9; 6 • Daniel 9:3-19 is a prayer of confession in which Daniel associates himself with the sins of his people 32 times.

Chapter 9 vv. 20-27 describes Daniel's prophecy of seventy weeks (literally seventy sevens) of years. Jerusalem is to be rebuilt in seven weeks (49 years). The crucifixion of Messiah and the destruction of Jerusalem occur after 69 weeks (483 years). There must be a space of time between the 69th and 70th week.

What happens in the seventieth week?

Daniel chapter 6 is the account of the Lions' Den.

“Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.” Daniel 6:4

Note that what got Daniel into trouble was his routine of kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God. (Daniel 6:10)

Day 251 – 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4:5 •

The book of Ezra records the fulfillment of God's promise to restore Israel to her land after the 70 years of captivity in Babylon. This was accomplished through the help of three Persian kings (Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes) as well as Jewish leaders such as Zerubbabel, Joshua, Haggai, Zechariah, and Ezra. ¹

In 539 B.C., Persian king Cyrus overthrew Babylon.

In 538, he issued a decree to allow the Jews to return to their homeland.

The foundation of the Temple was laid under the leadership of Zerubbabel, though it was not completed until 515 during the reign of Darius. Ezra chapters 1-6 describe these events.

“They sang, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, saying, “For He is good, for His lovingkindness is upon Israel forever.” And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.”

Ezra 3:11

Many older men who remembered the grandeur of Solomon's Temple wept because this Temple was smaller and less magnificent. The same reaction occurred 15 years later when construction was renewed. (Haggai 2:3) ¹

How many people returned from Babylon to Jerusalem in 536 B.C., as recorded in Ezra chapter 2?

Day 252 – Daniel 10-12 • Daniel was not among those who returned to build the Temple in Jerusalem. At this time he was in his mid-80s and still active in governmental duties.

The man dressed in linen of Daniel 10:5 was a good angel sent to strengthen Daniel.

Note that the prince of the kingdom of Persia (a supernatural creature, ie. a demon) withstood (delayed) the good angel's visit for 21 days.

Evil angels seek to influence the affairs of nations. Michael is the special guardian of the affairs of Israel. The good angel, with Michael's help, was able to influence Persia.

The battle between good and evil angels over the control of nations continues. See Daniel 10:20 and Revelation 20:3. ¹

Daniel 11:2-35 contains detailed prophecy, first about Persia and Alexander the Great, the Ptolemies and Seleucids until Antiochus Epiphanes. All the details of these predictions have since been fulfilled accurately.

Daniel 11:36-45 is a prophecy about Antichrist yet to be fulfilled.

What does Daniel 12:2 predict in regard to the second coming of Christ (See also Rev. 20:4-6)?

Believers of the church age will already have been changed and raised at the rapture. The resurrection of the wicked does not occur at the same time, but after the Millennium.

“But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.” Daniel 12:4

This verse means that this book is to be kept intact so as to help those living in the future tribulation days.

Day 253 – Ezra 4:6-6:13; Haggai •

“You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes.” Haggai 1:6

Haggai was the first prophetic voice to be heard after the Babylonian Exile.

What is the message from the Lord in Haggai chapter 1?

Day 254 – Zechariah 1-6 •

Zechariah predicted more about Messiah than any other prophet except Isaiah. Prophecies concerning His first coming include 3:8; 9:9, 16; 11:11-13; 12:10; 13:1, 6; and prophecies to be fulfilled at His second coming include 6:12; 14:1-21. ¹

Zechariah saw all eight visions (1:8 to 6:8) in one night. Unlike a dream, in a vision the person is awake.

The man of Zechariah 1:8 was “the angel of the LORD”, different from the angel who interpreted the vision. ¹

Who is cleansed by whom in the vision documented in Zech. 3:1-10?

| Vision | Meaning |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Horses and Riders | Though Israel is oppressed, God is still greatly concerned for His people and will restore them. ¹ |
| Four Horns and Four Craftsmen | This vision reinforces the warning and promise of Genesis 12:3 - Abraham's relation to God was so close that to bless or curse him was, in effect, to bless or curse God. ¹ |
| Surveyor | This vision signifies the assured restoration and blessing of Israel and Jerusalem. |
| | This vision had personal, priestly, and prophetic significance. |
| Golden Lampstand | Zerubbabel, the civil leader, is encouraged in this vision. The Temple would be finished by the power of the Holy Spirit. The point of this vision is that of light bearing, or witness. Israel is God's witness; Joshua and Zerubbabel witnessed to His power in seeing to the completion of the Temple; and in the tribulation days two mighty witnesses will yet arise (Rev. 11:4). All true witness must be done in the power of the Spirit. ¹ |
| Flying Scroll | The large flying scroll symbolized God's judgment against sinners. |
| Woman in the Ephah | A woman sitting in a ephah (like a barrel and large enough for the woman to sit in) with a lead cover represents Wickedness. She is banished appropriately to Babylon. |
| Four Chariots | A vision of God's judgment on the nations of the world, especially Babylon. This vision may also depict the final subjugation of the world during the Tribulation. |

Day 255 - Zechariah 7-8; Ezra 6:14-22; Psalm 78 •

The question of Zechariah 7:3 was this: Since the Temple was being rebuilt, was it now necessary to keep the fast in the fifth month, which commemorated the burning of the first Temple by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C.?

- The fast of the fourth month commemorated Nebuchadnezzar's entering Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
- The fast in the seventh month commemorated the assassination of Gedaliah, the Jewish governor of Judah.
- The fast in the tenth month recalled the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem in 588 B.C.

Though done with good motives, these fasts were nevertheless man-made, were not commanded by God, and were observed self-righteously (7:6). Had the people heeded God's word through the prophets, they would not have experienced captivity and would have had no need for the fasts. ¹

In Zechariah 8:16-17, the LORD told them to do two things and not to do two other things. Fill in the blanks.

Should Do: _____

Don't Do: _____

The Temple was completed on March 12, 515 B.C., per Ezra 6:15.

In Psalm 78, Asaph recites the early history of the nation in order to warn future generations against a repetition of unfaithfulness. ¹

References

¹ *Ryrie Study Bible*, Moody Press, 1995.

² *Questions and Answers on the Sacred Scriptures*, Universal Book and Bible House © 1946, The John C. Winston Company.