

The book of Daniel was written by the prophet Daniel. Daniel prophesied after he was taken to Babylon with the first captives. He was chosen out to learn the language, and to work in the king's palace. He was chosen, along with other young men from prominent families, to serve in the Babylonian court. He was made a eunuch to serve the king. It appears, he was just a youth when taken captive, and had never married.

Daniel's prophecies were different from Isaiah's, and Jeremiah's. Their prophecies were usually begun by saying, "Thus saith the Lord". Daniel did not use that expression when giving his. His ministry was involved in interpreting dreams and riddles. The most prominent of ministries, possibly, were the visions he had himself of events future to even our day. Revelation and Daniel have much in common. Some future events are mentioned in both. Daniel had three friends who were fellow captives. We will see all four of these young men, standing up for God under great stress.

The book of Daniel must be understood through the spirit, if we are to understand anything it says. As many prophecies, this covers the time they lived in, and covers times future to us, as well. The sovereignty of God is revealed in this book.

We will now begin the verse by verse study of the book of Daniel in Daniel 1:1 "In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it."

Jehoiakim began to reign after Josiah. Josiah did right in the sight of God, but Jehoiakim was evil. This is a setting of the time on the attack of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. Eliakim and Jehoiakim are the same person. II Chronicles 36:5 "Jehoiakim [was] twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and he did [that which was] evil in the sight of the LORD his God."

Daniel 1:2 "And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god."

"Lord", in the verse above, means Adonai. LORD, means Jehovah. This is not speaking of the time later on, when Jerusalem is destroyed. This is speaking of the overthrow of Jehoiakim. At this time, the temple is not completely ravaged, but some of the vessels of the house of God are taken. The land of Shinar was a portion of Babylon. The god, spoken of here, is the false god of Nebuchadnezzar. II Chronicles 36:6 "Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon." II Chronicles 36:7 "Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon."

Daniel 1:3 "And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring [certain] of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;"

We see from this, that those young men, who were taken were princes and seed of the king, and Israelites who were very prominent. Nebuchadnezzar

wanted eunuchs for the court. II Kings 20:18 "And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

Daniel 1:4 "Children in whom [was] no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as [had] ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans."

These young men, that were chosen to take back to Babylon to work in the court, had to be the well educated. They had to be intelligent enough to learn the language, and to conduct themselves with good manners. The Chaldeans and the Babylonians are the same. The young men needed to be nice looking to represent the king well. He wanted only the best in the court of the king.

Daniel 1:5 "And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king."

They were sent to training school for 3 years to prepare them for work in the court of the king. They were fed and housed as part of their training. In fact, they were fed the same food and wine as the king. This was a time of preparation. The king was having them schooled in the ways of Babylon. He, also, wanted them to know what was required of them in their duties. He might even use them as interpreters to communicate with the captured Hebrews.

Daniel 1:6 "Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:"

The name "Daniel" means judge of God. "Hananiah" means Jah has favored. "Mishael" means who is what God is. "Azariah" means Jah has strengthened. It appears from this verse, these 4 were of the tribe of Judah.

Daniel 1:7 "Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel [the name] of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abed-nego."

When they are called into service of the king, they must take on Babylonian names. Daniel's new name, Belteshazzar, is very similar to the name of a later king of these Babylonians, Belshazzar. Sometimes, these names were given to cut connection with their old lives. Sometimes, they were named for the false gods of their captors.

Daniel 1:8 "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

We see from this, that Daniel's faith in God made him know that God would protect him. He remembered the dietary laws that were given in Leviticus. Daniel did not want to anger God by eating unclean food. This defilement would have been because of the law in Leviticus. Leviticus 11:47 "To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten." Daniel would

rather die than break the Levitical law. This is not true now, since Jesus fulfilled the law. Food is cleansed by prayer. I Timothy 4:5 "For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." The prince of eunuchs was over Daniel. This is a bold request of Daniel. It might even cost him his life.

Daniel 1:9 "Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs."

We see this very same thing happened to Joseph, when he was captive in Egypt, in the following verse. Genesis 39:21 "But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison." You see, God ultimately is in control of everyone. God tenders the heart of the prince of the eunuchs, so that he loves Daniel.

Daniel 1:10 "And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which [are] of your sort? then shall ye make [me] endanger my head to the king."

The prince of the eunuchs is just sure that Daniel will look terrible, if he stops eating the food and wine the king has provided. When Daniel begins to look bad, the prince of the eunuchs will be in trouble with the king, and the king might have him killed. The Hebrews, that were not in the palace, got very little to eat, and they were not very healthy looking. The king wanted his eunuchs to be the best looking people in the land.

Daniel 1:11 "Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,"

"Melzar" means butler, or steward. We see from this, there were several ranks even among the eunuchs.

Daniel 1:12 "Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink."

"Pulse" means a vegetable. We can easily see that Daniel was trying to avoid eating an unclean animal from the king's table. This 10 days symbolizes a time dealing with worldliness, since 10 means world government. This is not a total fast, but God will bless Daniel for taking this stand for Him.

Daniel 1:13 "Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants."

We see that Daniel gives Melzar a way out of this. He explains that, if he looks any different than the people eating and drinking the king's food and drink, the prince can punish him. Servants is plural here, so Daniel is, probably, speaking for himself and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Daniel 1:14 "So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days."

Since this will not get him in trouble, Melzar agrees to it.

Daniel 1:15 "And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat."

God intervenes and feeds Daniel and his friends food that the steward knows not of. This is food from God. Exodus 23:25 "And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." It is better to obey God, than to have a feast of unclean food. They are in great shape at the end of the 10 days. This is the first of the great manifestations of God in Daniel.

Daniel 1:16 "Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse."

When the steward saw they were no worse for their restricted diet, he allowed them to continue on that diet.

Daniel 1:17 "As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams."

Notice, where their skill and knowledge came from. God gave it to them as a gift. Their faithfulness to God was overwhelming. God gave them gifts to help them in this hostile place. Daniel's gifts were even more. He received the gift of interpretations, along with the understanding and wisdom. God would, also, communicate with Daniel in dreams. The things these 4 received from God are very much like the gifts of the Spirit the Christians receive. I Corinthians 12:7 "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." I Corinthians 12:8 "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;" I Corinthians 12:9 "To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;" I Corinthians 12:10 "To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another [divers] kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:"

Daniel 1:18 "Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar."

They were to be trained and groomed, before they were brought before the king. It appears this time has elapsed here, and it is time to bring them to the king for his approval.

Daniel 1:19 "And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king."

From this, we see there were many more than these 4, but the king was the most impressed with Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. He chose these 4 to serve close to him.

Daniel 1:20 "And in all matters of wisdom [and] understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians [and] astrologers that [were] in all his realm."

Magicians and astrologers have a little power, but their power comes from another source other than God. Their wisdom and understanding does not measure up to the 4 headed up by Daniel. Daniel and his friends get their wisdom and understanding from God. We see the comparison in the Scripture above is 10 to 1. Satan has a little power that God allows him to have. He does not have unlimited power. God's power is unlimited. God controls Satan. These men who had stood up for God were representing God to this court. God's power through them was unlimited.

Daniel 1:21 "And Daniel continued [even] unto the first year of king Cyrus."

While Babylon stands, Daniel continued. Daniel 6:28 "So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian." Verse 21 above, does not say Daniel stopped at the first year of Cyrus. It says he continued unto his reign. Daniel continued many years under several kings.

Daniel 1 Questions

1. When Daniel was captured, where did he go?
2. Why was he made a eunuch?
3. How did his prophecies differ from Ezekiel's and Isaiah's?
4. What was Daniel's ministry involved in?
5. What other book in the Bible has much in common with Daniel?
6. The book of Daniel must be understood through the _____.
7. What time did his prophecy cover?
8. The _____ of God is revealed in this book.
9. Who reigned before Jehoiakim?
10. How did they differ?
11. How old was Jehoiakim, when he began to reign?
12. How long did he reign?
13. Who gave Jehoiakim into the hands of the Babylonians?
14. Where were some of the temple vessels carried?
15. Where was Shinar?
16. What does "Lord" mean?
17. Who was master of the eunuchs?
18. Who were the young men who were taken for eunuchs?
19. What were some of the qualifications they must have to be a eunuch in the king's court?
20. How were they fed?
21. How long were they in training, before they were presented to the king?
22. What were they being trained in?
23. Who were three others, who were named, that were with Daniel?
24. What does "Daniel" mean?
25. "Hananiah" means _____ >
26. "Mishael" means what?
27. What does "Azariah" mean?
28. These 4 were of what tribe?
29. What was Daniel's new name?
30. What names were given to his 3 friends?
31. What was a reason for changing their names?
32. What did Daniel refuse to do?
33. Quote Leviticus chapter 11 verse 47.
34. Was Daniel allowed to do what he requested?
35. What is "pulse"?
36. What does the number 10 mean?
37. Quote Exodus chapter 23 verse 25.
38. What special gifts did God give Daniel and his friends?
39. What is this similar to for a Christian?
40. Who did the king choose, of all the eunuchs, to serve him?
41. How much better were they than the magicians and astrologers?
42. How long did Daniel continue?

We will begin this lesson in Daniel 2:1 "And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him."

We would believe that a person, who was as successful as Nebuchadnezzar, would not dream bad dreams. Wealth and fame do not make a person happy. In this particular case, the dream is an intervention from God. God directs men, sometimes, by dreams and visions. Not all dreams are from God, but this one is. This dream is to elevate Daniel in the kingdom, as the dreams of the king of Egypt elevated Joseph to the second in command in the land.

Daniel 2:2 "Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king."

The subjects of the land are at the beck and call of the king. When the king called them, they came. These astrologers were thought of as the wise men of the day. The job of these astrologers, magicians, and sorcerers was to advise the king on things of a spiritual nature. They told of future events, as well as giving advice. They do have some power, but it is limited. Their source is the devil. Read, with me, what all believers are to do about things pertaining to this, in the following verse. Acts 19:19 "Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all [men]: and they counted the price of them, and found [it] fifty thousand [pieces] of silver." God will not share your love. You must be loyal to God and not earthly astrologers, magicians, and sorcerers.

Daniel 2:3 "And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream."

The king was aware this bad dream was not caused by eating the wrong food for dinner, but was, in fact, a warning. He cannot continue on, without knowing the meaning of this dream.

Daniel 2:4 "Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation."

These worldly wise men were smart enough to begin by saying something nice to the king. "Syriack" means they spoke in Syrian. This seems like a reasonable request for the king to give them the dream, so they might interpret the dream.

Daniel 2:5 "The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill."

Even though the king has forgotten the details of the dream, he is still greatly troubled by the dream. The astrologers, sorcerers, and magicians were supposed to be able to read the minds of their people. If they had the power they claimed to have, this would be no problem for them.

The truth is, they do not have power. The threat of death should cause them to use all the power available to them to try to know the dream and its meaning. It is in the power of the king to kill them, if they do not please him.

Daniel 2:6 "But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof."

We saw in the previous Scripture, threat of cruel death, if they did not know and bring the meaning of the dream to the king. Now, we see they will be blessed greatly, if they can bring the king his dream. This is a time of proving for them. They must prove their powers to the king.

Daniel 2:7 "They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it."

This is the second time they have requested the king to tell the dream to them. They have not understood his previous answer. He has forgotten the details of the dream. Their mention of the fact they are servants to the king, is to show their willingness to interpret the dream, if it is in their power to do so.

Daniel 2:8 "The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me."

We can all relate to the king in this. At some time in our life, each of us have had a troubling dream, that we could not recall, when we woke up. We are aware that the dream troubled us, but we cannot remember the dream. This is what has happened to the king.

Daniel 2:9 "But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, [there is but] one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof."

Astrology is calculated by the position of the moon and stars, and time is wasting away here. This one incident will prove to the king for all time, whether they have been lying about their powers, or whether they truly do have supernatural power. This is much like the challenge that Elijah gave to the prophets of Baal. If they have power, prove it right now. The only thing that will save them, is the dream and its interpretation.

Daniel 2:10 "The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore [there is] no king, lord, nor ruler, [that] asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean."

They have now made a truthful statement. No man can do these things. This can only be revealed by the True God. They were used to being asked about interpretations, but never to tell what the dream was, as well. They are almost scolding the king for even asking for such a thing. They remind him, that no previous king has asked such an impossibility.

Daniel 2:11 "And [it is] a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

We see in the following Scripture that even true interpretations are from God alone. Genesis 40:8 "And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and [there is] no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, [Do] not interpretations [belong] to God? tell me [them], I pray you." God is the dream giver, and God is the true interpreter. An impossibility with man is possible with God. Matthew 19:26 "But Jesus beheld [them], and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

Daniel 2:12 "For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise [men] of Babylon."

The king's eyes were opened, and he realized these worldly men had no power at all. He had placed his faith in them, and they had failed him. He demanded that they be killed.

Daniel 2:13 "And the decree went forth that the wise [men] should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain."

Now, we see the command to kill all of the wise men extends to Daniel and his companions. The king has grouped them all together as liars and deceivers.

Daniel 2:14 "Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise [men] of Babylon:"

It seems, that "Arioch" was the chief executioner. He was seeking out all the wise men to kill them, on orders from the king. The wonderful thing about God is the fact He can turn an impossibility into a miracle. What was impossible for the worldly wise, will not be impossible for someone like Daniel. Daniel speaks the Words of God that flow through him. God caused Daniel to be brave enough to speak up to Arioch, here.

Daniel 2:15 "He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why [is] the decree [so] hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel."

Daniel and his friends were not even aware of what had taken place with the king and the {worldly wise men}. This is a request from Daniel to give him and his friends a chance to see what they could do. Daniel knew that his God was the real God, and could reveal these secrets. The question, "Why is the decree so hasty from the king?" is a very legitimate question. God had to intervene for Daniel to be able to ask this question. The haste was because the king was angered.

Daniel 2:16 "Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation."

Notice, Daniel speaks for himself. We know that the executioner would not speak for Daniel, fearing for his own life. Daniel has confidence that God will reveal this to him. The men who had been asked at first, did not ask for extra time. They had said, it was impossible. They, also, said the

king was in error asking for such a thing. Kings do not like to hear they are in error.

Daniel 2:17 "Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:"

Daniel believed God would save them by revealing this dream to him. He, also, knew the importance of the prayer of agreement. Daniel knew how he believed, but he also had confidence in the prayers of his friends. These 3 are the same as Shadrach, Meshek, and Abednego.

Daniel 2:18 "That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise [men] of Babylon."

In the book of Genesis, we see that many times the sinful are saved from death along with the righteous. God will do whatever necessary to protect His own. Genesis 18:28 "Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for [lack of] five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy [it]." In verse 18 above, Daniel believes that God will stay the hand of the executioner for these 4 men.

Daniel 2:19 "Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven."

God hears the prayers of the righteous. James 5:16 "Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." The prayers of Daniel, and his 3 friends, have been answered. God reveals the dream to Daniel. Whether this night vision is like a dream, I cannot tell. Notice, Daniel praised God for the dream.

Daniel 2:20 "Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:"

Daniel is recognizing that the praise goes to God. Daniel is fully aware that his abilities lie in the abilities of God that flow through him. It is God's wisdom and strength.

Daniel 2:21 "And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:"

Notice, with me, where the power, and wisdom, and gifts come from. Exodus 31:3 "And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship," God sends His Spirit within us to empower us to do the task He has set before us. I Corinthians 1:30 "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:"

Daniel 2:22 "He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what [is] in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him."

God reveals the secrets to His children. Psalms 25:14 "The secret of the LORD [is] with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant."

Those who are true believers in God, are not in darkness. We dwell in the Light. Darkness symbolizes evil. Light symbolizes truth in God. Christians are filled with the Light of God, because He dwells within us. We are not in darkness, that we might stumble and fall.

Daniel 2:23 "I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast [now] made known unto us the king's matter."

Daniel is quick to recognize where this knowledge came from. True wisdom is a gift to man from God. God has revealed the king's dream and the interpretation to Daniel. God has manifest Himself to Daniel, and He will manifest Himself to the king through Daniel. The gods of this world are nothing compared to Almighty God. God brings the false religions of the world down, and elevates the One True God in this revelation.

Daniel 2:24 "Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise [men] of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise [men] of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation."

The execution of the wise men of Babylon has been stopped. God will help His children. Many times the world around them is blessed by the overflow. That is the case here. God's answer to Daniel's prayer not only saves him and his 4 friends, but saves the worldly wise men, as well. Daniel, now, desires to see the king, and tell him the dream and interpretation. We will resume with that in the next lesson.

Daniel 2 Questions

1. When did Nebuchadnezzar dream dreams that troubled him?
2. What is a false concept we have of wealth and fame?
3. Are all dreams from God?
4. What is the purpose of this dream?
5. Who did the king call to interpret his dream?
6. What were the astrologers thought to be?
7. Quote Acts chapter 19 verse 19.
8. What had the king realized about this dream?
9. What were these worldly wise men smart enough to do?
10. What did they ask the king to do, before they could interpret the dream?
11. Why can the king not tell them about the dream?
12. Why did the king believe they could do this for the him?
13. What would cause them to try harder than usual?
14. What will happen, if they cannot interpret the dream?
15. What do they ask the king the second time?
16. Why did they mention they were servants of the king?
17. How can we relate to the king in this?
18. If they cannot tell him of his dream, what is the decree against them?
19. How is astrology calculated?
20. What will their inability to interpret this dream prove to the king?
21. What was their answer to the king, when he wanted them to tell him what his dream was?
22. Who, among fleshly people, could do what the king asked?
23. Who did Joseph say interpretations belong to?
24. Quote Matthew chapter 19 verse 26.
25. How did the king react to their answer?
26. What did the king say to do with the wise men?
27. Who was "Arioch"?
28. How did Daniel find the courage to speak to Arioch?
29. What did Daniel ask Arioch?
30. Who went to ask for extra time from the king?
31. Who did Daniel share the news of the dream with?
32. What did they all do?
33. How was the secret revealed to Daniel?
34. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man _____ .
35. Quote Daniel chapter 2 verse 20.
36. Name some of the things God does in verse 21?
37. Quote Exodus chapter 31 verse 3.
38. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 30.
39. Who are the secrets of God revealed to?
40. Who did Daniel go to, to get permission to see the king?

We will begin this lesson in Daniel 2:25 "Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation."

In the last lesson we saw the king have a troubling dream. He called for the so-called wise men, and they could not tell him of his dream. He pronounced death on all of the wise men in the land, including Daniel and his 3 friends, because of the dream. Now we see, God has given the dream and its interpretation to Daniel. Arioch was in charge of the executions. He did not want to kill all of them, but had to, or lose his own life. He was happy to report to the king that one of the captives of Judah had the dream for him.

Daniel 2:26 "The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name [was] Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?"

We remember, from a previous lesson, that Nebuchadnezzar had changed Daniel's name to Belteshazar. The king had not wanted to kill the men either. He just wanted to know about his dream.

Daniel 2:27 "Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise [men], the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;"

Daniel first tells Nebuchadnezzar the impossibility of man to do what the king had asked. Only God could reveal this dream. He is, in a sense, defending the wise men.

Daniel 2:28 "But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;"

This was Daniel's opportunity to tell Nebuchadnezzar of his God. Daniel will give God the glory for it all. God reveals these secrets to His own. Daniel belonged to God, so he has the dream and interpretation. This vision is for the latter days, not for the next few days. First, Daniel tells him he dreamed of his head upon the bed.

Daniel 2:29 "As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came [into thy mind] upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass."

Notice, Daniel puts the emphasis on Nebuchadnezzar inquiring of God. Daniel also says, it is not he that has the answer, but God.

Daniel 2:30 "But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for [any] wisdom that I have more than any living, but for [their] sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart."

Daniel is an humble man. He says, this was not for his own benefit this happened, but because God wanted to reveal something to Nebuchadnezzar.

Perhaps, that was the main reason, but God also wanted to elevate Daniel in the eyes of Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel is not looking for wealth or fame from this. He is not even wanting them to think of him above others. He wants to save the lives of his friends, himself, and the other men who had been condemned to die.

Daniel 2:31 "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness [was] excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof [was] terrible."

This great image in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, and in the night vision of Daniel, is symbolic of 4 great world powers, which soon come on the scene. "Terrible" speaks of the great power associated with this image.

Daniel 2:32 "This image's head [was] of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass," Daniel 2:33 "His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay."

I put these two Scriptures together to get the full picture of the image. This is like a giant of a man. In the spiritual sense, we know that God is above all. God is symbolized by gold, and also, is the head of the body of Christ. Silver speaks of redemption, and is between the gold and the bronze. Redemption is always between God and judgment. "Bronze" symbolizes judgment. The "iron" symbolizes hardness, and "clay" speaks of the earthy. In this particular case, one of the meanings that stands out the most is given later in the chapter, and explains these are different empires represented. The gold of the head is speaking of the Babylonian empire. The silver is speaking of the empire of Media and Persia. The bronze speaks of the Greek empire, and the feet of clay and iron speak of the Roman empire.

Daniel 2:33 "His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay."

The first thing we must notice in the legs is that they are divided. There were two sides to the old Roman Empire. The clay speaks of the worldliness of this empire. We do know there were very poor morals of the people during this time. This empire was strong enough to stand against Persia, but their foundation was of clay.

Daniel 2:34 "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet [that were] of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces."

This "Stone" is the Cornerstone, Jesus Christ. Rome was in power when Jesus came to the earth as the Saviour of the world. Mark 12:10 "And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:" Jesus was rejected of His Hebrew family. He actually defeated sin and Satan on the cross, and defeated death in His resurrection. Rome, or any other government, cannot stand against God. Matthew 21:44 "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Jesus is King and Lord to all who believe. His kingdom is not of this world. John 18:36 "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." In a sense, all believers are His kingdom, because He dwells in us.

Daniel 2:35 "Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

All of these earthly kingdoms give way to that heavenly kingdom headed by Jesus Christ. The "mountain" is speaking of the multitude of believers, who have become servants to Jesus and His kingdom. The whole earth is filled with the knowledge of God. We will see from the following Scripture, the people that have been affected by the Lord Jesus. Revelation 7:9 "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;"

Daniel 2:36 "This [is] the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king."

All that had been said before was in the dream that Nebuchadnezzar had. Now, Daniel will start his interpretation of that dream.

Daniel 2:37 "Thou, O king, [art] a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory."

This is spoken to Nebuchadnezzar. Notice, he is a king of kings, and not the King of kings. God made Nebuchadnezzar king. His power, and strength, and glory all came from God. We see from the following Scripture that a king is king, because God made him king. Proverbs 8:15 "By me kings reign, and princes decree justice."

Daniel 2:38 "And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou [art] this head of gold."

Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful king. The Babylonian rule was over all the nations they conquered. The men, women, and children were subject to him. Even the animals became his to command. It seemed, during the greatness of this empire, that even the animals and birds were his to command. He was the head of gold. He was like a god to these people.

Daniel 2:39 "And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth."

Gold is a more precious metal than silver, and silver is more precious than bronze. The position on the body of the image, also, showed their value. The gold was higher up the body than the silver, and the bronze was below the silver. This kingdom that the silver represents is the Persian empire. The bronze represents the Greek empire. Alexander the great did almost conquer the known world at that time.

Daniel 2:40 "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all [things]: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise."

This 4th kingdom is speaking of the Roman empire. I prefer to say both sides of the Roman empire. They were an empire that ruled with an iron hand. It was actually officials of that Roman empire who were involved in the crucifixion of Jesus.

Daniel 2:41 "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay."

We said earlier, how the clay spoke of their worldliness. They were a people of poor morals. Their armies were strong, but true strength comes from moral fiber.

Daniel 2:42 "And [as] the toes of the feet [were] part of iron, and part of clay, [so] the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken."

This empire will rise again in the end times. We read a little about it in the following verse. Daniel 7:7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it [was] diverse from all the beasts that [were] before it; and it had ten horns." We will deal with this more fully in the 7th chapter.

Daniel 2:43 "And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."

In all the lands the Romans conquered, they really did mingle with the people of the foreign lands. They brought heavy taxes upon those they conquered. The Jews really hated them. Even though the Jews were the ones in captivity, they still looked down at the Romans as immoral people.

Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

This kingdom is of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is King of kings and Lord of lords. All the gates of hell cannot prevail against this kingdom. The subjects are the people of all nations, who are followers of, and believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Luke 1:33 "And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." When Jesus was on the earth as our Saviour, His kingdom was spiritual. There is a time coming, when He will set up a physical kingdom, and reign upon this earth. Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." He will reign even longer than the thousand years, as we see in the next verse. Revelation 11:15 "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

Daniel 2:45 "Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream [is] certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

The stone being cut out of the mountain without hands speaks of the deity of Christ. He was of the people, and yet, He was not by man, but by God. There is no power that can stand against God. Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;" Nebuchadnezzar knows the dream is true. He will believe the prophecy, because the dream was true. Daniel has no hesitation. He knows the prophecy is true.

Daniel 2:46 "Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him."

The king believes everything Daniel has said. He, also, knows that no fleshly man could have brought him this dream and interpretation. He worships Daniel, because of God in Daniel. We find the same thing happening to Peter in the following verse. Acts 10:25 "And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped [him]." King Nebuchadnezzar did not know God, and he worshipped Daniel, because of the supernatural ability God had given Daniel.

Daniel 2:47 "The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth [it is], that your God [is] a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret."

This clarifies the king worshipping Daniel. He could not see God, so he worshipped the representative of God. All the time, he was truly worshipping God for His greatness in revealing the dream to Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar is aware it was Daniel's God who revealed this secret to Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar recognized God, and said so in the Scripture above.

Daniel 2:48 "Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise [men] of Babylon."

God was sovereign in all of this. The glory went to God, but the benefits came to Daniel. Daniel's faithfulness to God is now rewarded. He has moved up in position in the land, as Joseph did when he interpreted Pharaoh's dream. Daniel did not ask for rewards for himself, but they came as a blessing from God. Now, Daniel will have access to the king.

Daniel 2:49 "Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel [sat] in the gate of the king."

Daniel did not forget his friends, but requested they be put over the affairs of the province of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar agreed, and also, sat Daniel in the gate of the king. He would be close to the king for advice, or counsel. The following Scripture could have had a great deal to do with why Daniel was put in the gate of the king. Amos 5:15 "Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of

hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph." Judgment must be just. They must hate evil, and love good. Daniel does this very thing. God rewards those who are faithful to Him. Daniel found that out.

Daniel 3 Questions

1. Who brought Daniel before the king?
2. Why did he bring him?
3. What was Daniel's name?
4. What defense did Daniel give for the astrologers, magicians, and soothsayers?
5. Who was the only One who could reveal the dream?
6. When is the dream for?
7. This was Daniel's opportunity to tell Nebuchadnezzar of his _____.
8. Who does Daniel put the emphasis on?
9. Why was this revealed to Daniel?
10. What was another reason God did this?
11. What did Nebuchadnezzar dream of?
12. What did it represent?
13. What does "terrible" speak of in verse 31?
14. Describe the image.
15. God is symbolized by what metal?
16. Bronze symbolizes _____.
17. What empire is the gold of the head speaking of?
18. What empire does the silver represent?
19. What empire does the bronze represent?
20. What empire is represented by the iron and clay?
21. What is the first thing we must notice about the legs?
22. Who is the "Stone" in verse 34?
23. Quote Mark chapter 12 verse 10.
24. What did Jesus defeat on the cross?
25. Quote Matthew chapter 21 verse 44.
26. Who are the Kingdom of Christ?
27. What did the Stone do to the other empires?
28. What is the "mountain" speaking of in verse 35?
29. What countries' people have been affected by Jesus?
30. Who is Daniel speaking to in verse 37?
31. Quote Proverbs chapter 8 verse 15.
32. What was Nebuchadnezzar like, to his people?
33. What empire does the silver represent?
34. The bronze represented the _____ empire.
35. The feet of clay and iron represent what empire?
36. The clay spoke of their _____.
37. Quote Daniel chapter 7 verse 7.
38. Who sets up the kingdom, that shall never be destroyed?
39. This kingdom is of the _____ _____ _____.
40. Quote Philippians chapter 2 verse 10.
41. What effect did the interpretation have on Nebuchadnezzar?
42. What did he say about Daniel's God?
43. What did he do for Daniel?
44. What did Daniel get the king to do for his 3 friends?
45. Quote Amos chapter 5 verse 15.

We will begin this lesson in Daniel 3:1 "Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height [was] threescore cubits, [and] the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon."

This image of gold is 90 feet high and 9 feet wide. This image is the size of a fairly large tree. If it was made of pure gold, it was extremely heavy. The gold could have been a covering over some other metal or material. "Dura" means circle, or dwelling. This just means that it was within the boundary of Babylon. Gold is symbolic of God, so he made a false god.

Daniel 3:2 "Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up."

Nebuchadnezzar had recognized the God of Daniel, as being the greatest of all gods in the last chapter. He built this to a false god in the verses above. He still believes in the false gods of Babylon, even though he recognized the One True God. Now that this golden image is erected, he sends for all the dignitaries in the country to come to the dedication of the false god. He even called for those of the provinces around, as well. I would like to mention again, here, that anything you can see with your physical eyes is not God. If you can see it with physical eyes, it is a false god.

Daniel 3:3 "Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up."

It seems all the surrounding world has come to worship this false god. Man, throughout all ages, seems to be eager to worship some false god that he can see. These people are no different. Look, with me, at what Paul had to say about this very thing. Romans 1:21 "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Romans 1:22 "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools," Romans 1:23 " And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."

Daniel 3:4 "Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,"

This leaves no one out. It includes all people who are near enough to hear the herald. Notice, also, this is not a request, but a command.

Daniel 3:5 "[That] at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:"

The children of Israel worshipped the golden calf on the way to the promised land. They danced, and sang and the Bible speaks of revelry going on. The music seems to accompany worship of false gods, as well as the True God. Music prepares the heart to receive a message. We are told over and over to worship God with songs of praise. There is nothing wrong with music. There could be something wrong with the type of music we listen to. To fall down and worship a false god, is the height of abomination.

Daniel 3:6 "And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

We see a very similar Scripture in the following. Revelation 13:15 "And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." The forced worship of this image, here, or even the forced religion of any kind is no good at all. Christianity is not really a religion, but a relationship with Jesus. God wants men's hearts, not their formality of worship. Many will fall down before this image to save their lives, not to worship.

Daniel 3:7 "Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down [and] worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up."

Fear of death caused them to worship this false god. It bothers me, even today, for a person to worship, even the One True God to avoid hell. True worship consists of loving God with everything that is within you, and Him loving you. Anything else is far from the truth.

Daniel 3:8 "Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews."

Perhaps, there was some jealousy, because Daniel and his 3 friends had been raised to such a high position in the kingdom. These Chaldeans were carefully watching, to find anything they might accuse them of.

Daniel 3:9 "They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever."

This is a statement very similar to "long live the king". They must pay honor to Nebuchadnezzar, before they went on with their real purpose for coming.

Daniel 3:10 "Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image:"

The king really did not need them to remind him of his decree. This, possibly, is mentioned to him, to tell him there is no way out of punishing these Jews.

Daniel 3:11 "And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, [that] he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

The punishment had been set from the beginning for those who would not worship this false god.

Daniel 3:12 "There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

These accusers were trying to say that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were not honoring Nebuchadnezzar, or his image. They were pretending to be for Babylon and the king, and they were not loyal to him. Someone in so high a position should be leading others to carry out the wishes of the king, not rebelling against his commands. Their jealousy of these Jews is showing. First, they called them Jews, even though they used their Babylonian names. This is slight indication they wanted the king to believe they were faithful to Jerusalem, and not to him. They, also, point out that the king had put them in their high positions. It is as if they are saying, he should not have placed them above Babylonians. There, also, is a progression of accusations. First, they did not regard Nebuchadnezzar. Second, they did not worship his gods. Third, they did not bow down to the image.

Daniel 3:13 "Then Nebuchadnezzar in [his] rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king."

The anger of Nebuchadnezzar was so great, it was spoken of as rage and fury. It is interesting to me, they did not accuse Daniel. They were afraid Daniel had already proven himself, and the king might punish them instead. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego are brought to the king.

Daniel 3:14 "Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, [Is it] true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?"

The king was fair in asking them personally, if they were guilty of breaking his commandment.

Daniel 3:15 "Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; [well]: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who [is] that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"

Nebuchadnezzar is giving them one more chance, here, to conform to his command. He reminds them once more, that to disobey his command meant they would be thrown into the fiery furnace. He almost mocks God with his statement; "Who is the God that shall deliver you out of my hands. He is saying, no god is more powerful than he is.

Daniel 3:16 "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we [are] not careful to answer thee in this matter."

This is simply saying, they do not need time to think about this, they have already made up their mind. They can give him their answer immediately.

Daniel 3:17 "If it be [so], our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver [us] out of thine hand, O king."

They are not afraid of the fiery furnace, or of Nebuchadnezzar. They know God is their very present help in trouble. They are not speaking in an arrogant manner to the king. They are speaking their confidence in their God. If that is the way it is, they are more willing to face the furnace than to bow to a false god. This type of faith is what we need, as well. The world beckons. It is our choice. Will we follow our God, even into the fire? Will we become afraid, and follow false gods of the world?

Daniel 3:18 "But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

This is another way of saying, "We will serve God and no other". They will not worship things made with human hands. They have made their decision to follow the One True God and no other. Joshua 24:15 "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Each person must make this decision. We cannot serve God and the world. We, too, must choose.

Daniel 3:19 "Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: [therefore] he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated."

"Visage" means face. This just means that he was so full of fury, that his whole face changed. The normal amount of fire would have burned anyone up who was thrown into it, but his anger caused him to say, "make it seven times hotter than usual". He did not want anything left of these he thought had betrayed him. Seven speaks of perfection, so that might have been the idea of the seven times, as well.

Daniel 3:20 "And he commanded the most mighty men that [were] in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, [and] to cast [them] into the burning fiery furnace."

The mightiest men in his army bound them, and put them into the fire. Nebuchadnezzar, perhaps, thought they might escape, if he used lesser men for the task. It would, also, take a very brave man to get this close to the fire.

Daniel 3:21 "Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their [other] garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace."

This is just saying they were fully clad, even to having on their hats. They were not naked.

Daniel 3:22 "Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego."

The men who put them into the fire were slain by the fire. The flame which burned in the furnace lapped out and caught the mighty men of Nebuchadnezzar on fire, and killed them. They did what they were commanded to do, but it killed them.

Daniel 3:23 "And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace."

A fire this hot would ordinarily have burned them beyond recognition in a matter of seconds. Notice, they were in the middle of the fire. I would remind you here, God saved Noah in the flood, and not from the flood. God saved Joseph in Egypt, not from Egypt. God saved Joseph in the famine, not from the famine. God saved Elijah and the widow in the famine, not from the famine. Read about this in 1 Kings chapter 17. God does not always spare us from our problems He helps us with those problems.

Daniel 3:24 "Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, [and] spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king."

Something of great magnitude has caught the eye of Nebuchadnezzar. Some early versions of this Scripture say, that they were singing praises in the middle of the fire. "Astonied" means he was astonished. He ran to see, if he was remembering correctly, that there were three men in the fire. His attendants agreed with him.

Daniel 3:25 "He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

God is ever present with those who trust Him. This fourth person in the fire is the Son of God. Look, with me, at the beautiful promise that was fulfilled, here, for these 3 men who pleased God. Isaiah 43:2 "When thou passest through the waters, I [will be] with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." God is a consuming fire, so fire is nothing to Him. They put their faith in the Lord, and He did not fail them. He was in the fire with them, protecting them from its flames. This divine presence will be with us in all of our troubles, if we will continue to trust in the Lord. God promises us supernatural protection in time of trouble, if we trust in Him. Psalms 91:7 "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; [but] it shall not come nigh thee." There were several things to be gained from this. More faith for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. There was, also, a world looking on, seeing how they would handle this problem. This was a witness to them. The king's heart will be changed.

Daniel 3:26 "Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, [and] spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come [hither]. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire."

The king recognizes their God. He, also, recognizes they are in good standing with that God. Nebuchadnezzar will have great respect for them

standing up to him in this. They are men of great faith. It is Nebuchadnezzar, himself, who calls them from the fire.

Daniel 3:27 "And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them."

This was an eye opener for all of these people. They see the might of the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. This was a great witness to all of them. They might have been in the fire, but God had been with them and protected them. No false god could do this. There must have been conversions that day to the One True God. They had been protected so well, there was no smell of smoke upon them. It was as if God had them in a fire-proof capsule. He did, in a sense. They were covered with His robe. The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ covers us, and protects us from the devil.

Daniel 3:28 "[Then] Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed [be] the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God."

Again, Nebuchadnezzar recognizes God as being their help. You remember, he had mocked God at the beginning, saying their God could not protect them from his judgment. Now, he realizes their God can protect them. There is no other god that can save like their God. Nebuchadnezzar blesses the One True God. He was right the first time. It was the Son of God that saved them.

Daniel 3:29 "Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort."

The sad thing in all of this, is the fact that Nebuchadnezzar does not say this is the Only God. He does say, no other has the power of God. He does recognize Him as the most powerful God. He, also, allows the worship of God by anyone who desires, without persecution for that worship. The punishment will be great for those who speak against God.

Daniel 3:30 "Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, in the province of Babylon."

We see that they were greatly blessed by standing up for what is right. The message we can get from this is; we may be going through a tunnel of problems, but God is with us. The sun is shining at the end of that tunnel of problems. Stay faithful, and God will reward you in the end.

Daniel 4 Questions

1. What was the size of the image Nebuchadnezzar made?
2. What was it made of?
3. Dura means _____, or _____.
4. Where was this image located?
5. Who did the king call to help dedicate this image?
6. Anything you can see with your physical eyes is not _____.
7. Quote Romans chapter 1 verses 21 through 23.
8. Who cried aloud, the command of Nebuchadnezzar, concerning this image?
9. What would happen, just before they were to bow down?
10. Music prepares the heart to receive a _____.
11. Quote Revelation chapter 13 verse 15.
12. Christianity is not really a religion, but a _____ with Jesus.
13. Fear of _____ caused them to worship the false god.
14. Who accused the Jews?
15. What would happen to those, who did not fall down and worship the false god?
16. Who were the accused by name?
17. Why had these accusers done this?
18. How did Nebuchadnezzar feel about this?
19. How do we know the king tried to be fair to the three men of God?
20. What does he do in verse 15?
21. How does he almost mock God?
22. How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego answer the king?
23. Why are they not afraid of the king, or the fire?
24. Quote Joshua chapter 24 verse 15.
25. What does "visage" mean?
26. How much hotter than normal did they make the fire?
27. Who bound them, and threw them in the fire?
28. What happened to them?
29. What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego?
30. What must we remember about Noah, Joseph, and Elijah?
31. What does "astonied" mean?
32. Who did Nebuchadnezzar see in the fire?
33. Who was the fourth man?
34. Quote Isaiah chapter 43 verse 2.
35. Quote Psalms chapter 91 verse 7.
36. Who is helped, besides Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego?
37. What effect did this have on Nebuchadnezzar?
38. What decree did he make?
39. What is sad about this?
40. What happened to the three men, who had been in the fire?

We will begin this lesson in Daniel 4:1 "Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you."

Nebuchadnezzar is sending a message to all the world, and not just to his people.

Daniel 4:2 "I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me."

Nebuchadnezzar is convinced the things that Daniel did, and the things that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego did, were signs from God to cause him to believe. He is convinced that God is the high God, and now, he will proclaim it to all who will believe.

Daniel 4:3 "How great [are] his signs! and how mighty [are] his wonders! his kingdom [is] an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion [is] from generation to generation."

Nebuchadnezzar is elevating God the only way he knows how. His words are praising God, and all of His deeds. The statements are true. God's kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. His dominion is of all men, and reaches from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:4 "I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace:"

This is the beginning of the account of his dream and Daniel's interpretation of that dream. It is an understatement to say that his reign was flourishing. He was the undisputed ruler of Babylon, and all of their captives. He was safe in his bed in his palace.

Daniel 4:5 "I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me."

These is speaking of the dream he had of the image that had the golden head. He not only was frightened by the dream, but forgot the details of the dream, as well.

Daniel 4:6 "Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise [men] of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream."

It was urgent for him to know the meaning of his dream, and he called all of those he knew that interpreted dreams to him. Surely one of them would be able to tell him of his dream.

Daniel 4:7 "Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof."

We discussed in a previous lesson, that their power was from Satan, and was very limited. They were depending on flesh and Satan. Neither thing

helped with the dream. They were about to be killed, because they did not know the meaning of the dream.

Daniel 4:8 "But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name [was] Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom [is] the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, [saying],"

Belteshazzar was the name Nebuchadnezzar had given Daniel to honor a false god. We see that Nebuchadnezzar is still believing in many gods at this point. This reminds us, that it was Daniel who tells the king the meaning of his dream. It is God in Daniel who tells of the dream.

Daniel 4:9 "O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods [is] in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof."

This is the beginning of a new dream. This has nothing to do with the last few verses, except they showed why Nebuchadnezzar had confidence in Daniel to interpret this dream. Notice the title, master. He had given Daniel that title after he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Nebuchadnezzar has recognized that God is with Daniel and will give him the interpretation. It is interesting that he used the term {the spirit of the holy gods is in thee}. He feels that no dream is too hard for Daniel to interpret.

Daniel 4:10 "Thus [were] the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof [was] great."

This is a night vision, or perhaps, a dream. In dreams, trees sometimes mean men. This, of course, is speaking of Nebuchadnezzar, himself, who has found such greatness as king of Babylon.

Daniel 4:11 "The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth:"

We see in this, that Nebuchadnezzar had become great, not only in his own land, but in many other countries that he had conquered, as well.

Daniel 4:12 "The leaves thereof [were] fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it [was] meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it."

This great land under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar had flourished. God had used them to win battles against His beloved Israel. They had brought great wealth and many people back with them as captives. It seemed everything they did prospered. There was plenty of food for the captives, as well as for the Babylonians.

Daniel 4:13 "I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven;"

God sees and knows everything that goes on, on the earth. He is the all seeing Eye. He is the Watchman.

Daniel 4:14 "He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches:"

This speaks of God looking down on Nebuchadnezzar, and judging him. It is God who elevates a man up to be king. It is, also, God who judges him, and brings him down.

Daniel 4:15 "Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and [let] his portion [be] with the beasts in the grass of the earth:"

This speaks of judgment without total destruction. "Brass" always symbolizes judgment. "Iron" is speaking of worldly strength. This is speaking of a time, when Nebuchadnezzar will be no more than an animal. He will eat grass, and drink of the dew that falls.

Daniel 4:16 "Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him."

This is really speaking of a man who has lost his power to reason. Perhaps, it is speaking of a mental collapse. The "seven times" is speaking of seven years, or at least seven periods of time. This illness that brings this about, is a judgment from God {it drops like dew from heaven}.

Daniel 4:17 "This matter [is] by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."

This is somewhat interpreted by Nebuchadnezzar. He is aware of the judgment of God. He is, also, aware that God is proving that it is He that elevates a man to be a king. It is, also, God who brings a man down. God was with Nebuchadnezzar, when he attacked Judah. The attack was actually a judgment of God. He went too far in his attack. He did things God had not told him to do. Now, it is his turn to be judged.

Daniel 4:18 "This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise [men] of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou [art] able; for the spirit of the holy gods [is] in thee."

Nebuchadnezzar is confident that Daniel can interpret this dream accurately. He has seen that Daniel interpreted his other dream, when no one else could. He recognizes the fact that Daniel's power to interpret is from God.

Daniel 4:19 "Then Daniel, whose name [was] Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream [be] to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies."

The astonishment of Daniel was at the meaning of the dream. For one hour he waited to give the interpretation, because he knew it was not a good

dream for Nebuchadnezzar. His thoughts were troubled, because of the reaction Nebuchadnezzar might have to the interpretation. Nebuchadnezzar encourages Daniel. He, probably, already knows the dream is a bad one. Daniel explains to him that this dream would please his enemies, and not him.

Daniel 4:20 "The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth;" Daniel 4:21 "Whose leaves [were] fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it [was] meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation:" Daniel 4:22 "It [is] thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth."

This part of the dream will be pleasing to Nebuchadnezzar. He knows that the message is true. He has conquered, and become great in the known world. He was thought of as one of the most powerful kings who had reigned to that time. There was no more beautiful city anywhere, than Babylon with their hanging gardens. There were people of many nations living in Babylon at this time. There was food enough for all.

Daniel 4:23 "And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and [let] his portion [be] with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;"

Nothing escapes God. He knows all that happens in the earth. The tree is Nebuchadnezzar. God has judged him, and found him guilty. He will not die, but will lose his mind, and go to the field as an animal, and eat grass. The seven times could be 7 years, 7 months, or 7 days. I really believe it is speaking of years.

Daniel 4:24 "This [is] the interpretation, O king, and this [is] the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:"

The decree in this is speaking of the judgment of God. God speaks it, and it will be. It is not the world that judged Nebuchadnezzar, or even Daniel; it is God.

Daniel 4:25 "That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."

The purpose in this is that Nebuchadnezzar will recognize God for who He really is. He must learn that a man is king, because God made him king, and for no other reason. Grass and water is to be his menu. The word "times" is sometimes used to mean a year. A very good example of that is time, times, and half a time; later on in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 4:26 "And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule."

Nebuchadnezzar will not be killed. God will just humble him. He will not even lose the kingdom. He is not banished. He must learn that God rules everything on the earth, as well as in heaven. When he learns his lesson, he will be sound of mind again.

Daniel 4:27 "Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity."

This is Daniel encouraging Nebuchadnezzar to repent and receive righteousness in his life. He must do good, and not evil. Daniel wants Nebuchadnezzar to accept this interpretation with as much eagerness as the first one. Daniel says, if he will quickly repent and show mercy, then God will let him live in peace.

Daniel 4:28 "All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar."

This is not for the nation and its people, this is for Nebuchadnezzar as an individual.

Daniel 4:29 "At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon."

It appears from this, that nothing happened in the next twelve months. Probably, Nebuchadnezzar thought the interpretation would not come about, since it had been this long. God does not regard time, as you and I do.

Daniel 4:30 "The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?"

Nebuchadnezzar is almost mocking God in this statement. He says Babylon is still here, and I am still king. Where is the fulfillment of this dream you interpreted? Notice, in the verse above, Nebuchadnezzar gives himself credit for building his kingdom. It is interesting, too, that all of this was not done for the glory of God, but for the glory of Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 4:31 "While the word [was] in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, [saying], O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee."

He did not heed the voice of Daniel, who interpreted his dream. This voice does not speak through Daniel. This voice came from heaven itself. This judgment is unquestionable. It does not come from the mouth of man, but the mouth of God.

Daniel 4:32 "And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling [shall be] with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."

These are the same Words Daniel had given him. He will eat grass and live like an animal, until he realizes it is God who makes kings.

Daniel 4:33 "The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' [feathers], and his nails like birds' [claws]."

This is an instant fulfillment of the judgment. Nails, that have not been cut for seven years, would be like bird's claws. His hair would grow extremely long and straight in a period of seven years, also. This is the description of a man who has lost his mind. Seven speaks of spiritual completeness.

Daniel 4:34 "And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom [is] from generation to generation:"

When the judgment was complete, Nebuchadnezzar's mind was restored, and he worshipped God. His spiritual growth is complete. He now worships and praises the One True God.

Daniel 4:35 "And all the inhabitants of the earth [are] reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and [among] the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"

Now, Nebuchadnezzar knows that nothing, or no one, has any control, except God. God commands the sun to shine, and it does. Heaven and earth must bow before Him. He alone is God. Deuteronomy 4:39 "Know therefore this day, and consider [it] in thine heart, that the LORD he [is] God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: [there is] none else." Ephesians 4:6 "One God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all."

Daniel 4:36 "At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me."

The root of the tree {Nebuchadnezzar} has been watered from heaven. He now springs to life. His kingdom is restored to him, as well as honor as king. The difference is that Nebuchadnezzar, now, knows God. His wisdom, now, is of God. God will greatly bless him.

Daniel 4:37 "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works [are] truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase."

We, now, see an humble man who happens to be king. He is, now, aware that what we are is because of God. He brings us up, or takes us down. God does whatever it takes to make us realize our need for Him. God punished him for his own good. He did it to make him seek God. He, now, understands the sovereignty of God.

Daniel 5 Questions

1. Who sends the message in verse 1?
2. What does Nebuchadnezzar believe were signs to him from God?
3. Quote Daniel chapter 4 verse 3.
4. What understatement does Nebuchadnezzar make in verse 4?
5. Who had Nebuchadnezzar first called to interpret his dream?
6. Who interpreted the dream?
7. What was Daniel's Babylonian name?
8. What request does Nebuchadnezzar make of Daniel in verse 9?
9. In dreams, trees sometimes are speaking of _____.
10. Who is the tree speaking of?
11. Who is the Watcher of verse 13?
12. What did the Watcher say to do to the tree?
13. Who elevates kings, or brings them down?
14. What is verse 15 speaking of?
15. What does "brass" symbolize?
16. How do we know Nebuchadnezzar will be no more than an animal?
17. Having a beast's heart is saying, he has lost his power to _____.
18. Judgment comes on him like what?
19. Why is this happening to Nebuchadnezzar?
20. The attack on Judah was actually a _____ of God.
21. Why does Nebuchadnezzar believe Daniel can interpret his dream?
22. Why was Daniel astonished at the dream?
23. How long did he wait to give the interpretation?
24. Who is the tree in the dream?
25. "Times" often means what?
26. What is the decree?
27. Why is this judgment coming against Nebuchadnezzar?
28. What is Daniel encouraging Nebuchadnezzar to do?
29. How many months passed with nothing happening?
30. How does he nearly mock God?
31. Describe how the judgment came?
32. What happened to Nebuchadnezzar's hair and nails during this long time?
33. These are descriptions of a man who has _____ his _____.
34. When was his mind restored?
35. Quote Deuteronomy chapter 4 verse 39.
36. What was restored to Nebuchadnezzar?
37. How was he restored?
38. What is different about Nebuchadnezzar, now?
39. Why did God punish him?
40. He, now, understands the _____ of God.

We will begin this lesson in Daniel 5:1 "Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand."

We must quickly make note that this is not Daniel, whose name had been changed to Belteshazzar. Belshazzar, the king, was not the son of Nebuchadnezzar, but the grandson. History tells us his mother, Nitocris, was the daughter of Nebuchadnezzar. Belshazzar is the last king of Babylon. It appears, they are having a great feast. A thousand people are in attendance, so this is a very big party. They were drinking wine at the feast, so we may assume it was a festive occasion.

Daniel 5:2 "Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which [was] in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein."

This calls Nebuchadnezzar his father, but he was his grandfather, as we said in the verse above. These atheists had no idea what they were doing. The silver and the gold vessels were holy, and dedicated to God alone. To drink from these vessels, would be a terrible sin before God.

Daniel 5:3 "Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which [was] at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them."

This is such a terrible thing to do, that judgment will be swift. Look, with me, at the following New Testament Scripture about the same thing. I Thessalonians 5:3 "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." God will not overlook this act of disrespect for His holy things. They have sealed their own fate, by this terrible thing they have done.

Daniel 5:4 "They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone."

As if defiling His holy things is not enough, they worship false gods using God's vessels. All of these idols made of earthly things do not bring life. They have no power to help anyone. They can only destroy. Even the destruction does not come directly from them. God brings the destruction, as judgment against them.

Daniel 5:5 "In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote."

These fingers and hand came out of the total darkness, and came to a lighted area of the wall near the lamp to write. This is where the statement {handwriting on the wall} came from. This is the hand of God. The finger of God had written the Ten Commandments. This is the same finger, but with an entirely different purpose. This judgment is for the eyes of the king.

Daniel 5:6 "Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another."

The fear of the king is so great, when this happens, that horror came upon his face, and his knees began to quake. He was quaking so badly that the joints of his hips come loose. The Scripture is similar to the following from the New Testament. Luke 21:26 "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."

Daniel 5:7 "The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. [And] the king spake, and said to the wise [men] of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and [have] a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."

This king is unfamiliar with Daniel. He calls for all the wise men, to see if anyone can tell him what this means. "Scarlet", here, is speaking of purple. Purple symbolizes royalty. This robe would be showing the wearer to be of very high rank. The third ruler of the kingdom is saying he would rule over one-third of the kingdom. This "chain of Gold" shows the power of authority he would have. We must realize that Daniel had been in the court of the kings for nearly 70 years at this point. Daniel had been one of the first captives, and this happens near the end of the captivity. The captivity was for 70 years.

Daniel 5:8 "Then came in all the king's wise [men]: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof."

These wise men were speaking of the sorcerers, and the astrologers, and the soothsayers. They had no real power, so certainly they could not tell of this message from God.

Daniel 5:9 "Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished."

Their astonishment was at the hand that wrote.

Daniel 5:10 "[Now] the queen by reason of the words of the king and his lords came into the banquet house: [and] the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:"

This is speaking of the queen mother, who remembers the interpretations of the king's dreams by Daniel. Perhaps, this king was unfamiliar with Daniel, since it was Nebuchadnezzar who had benefited from the interpretations of Daniel. She, at least, brings hope.

Daniel 5:11 "There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom [is] the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, [I say], thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, [and] soothsayers;"

Again, Belshazzar, the king is called the son of Nebuchadnezzar, when, in fact, he is his grandson. It appears from this, Daniel had not been prominent in this king's court. This is, also, different from interpreting dreams. Perhaps, this is why he did not call for Daniel before. This queen recognizes the fact that Daniel is a man of God.

Daniel 5:12 "Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation."

We see from this, that Daniel had done much more than interpret two dreams for the king. He was in charge of the eunuchs, after he had interpreted the first dream for Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar had renamed him Belteshazar. She has no doubt that Daniel can tell them what this handwriting is. He has made a good reputation, as being a man of God.

Daniel 5:13 "Then was Daniel brought in before the king. [And] the king spake and said unto Daniel, [Art] thou that Daniel, which [art] of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?"

We see that this king was not acquainted with Daniel at all. Daniel had, probably, been demoted after the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. The king wants to make sure he is the right Daniel.

Daniel 5:14 "I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods [is] in thee, and [that] light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee."

Even the unsaved world recognizes a person who is in good relationship with God. We can see from the verse above, that this king's information is hear-say. He has heard of Daniel. Notice, light is mentioned in connection with wisdom and understanding. Isaiah 9:2 "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." II Corinthians 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." This is all saying, that Daniel is inhabited of his God. His power is God's power in him.

Daniel 5:15 "And now the wise [men], the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing:"

The wise men, spoken of in this verse, are the worldly wise. They have no power of God working within them. They would be of no help.

Daniel 5:16 "And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and [have] a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom."

Again, this is back to Daniel. He will be greatly rewarded of the king, when he tells what this writing is. All of the things mentioned, like the scarlet robe and the gold chain, show his authority to rule.

Daniel 5:17 "Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation."

Daniel is saying to him, forget the gifts. He will interpret the writing on the wall. Not only will Daniel read the writing, but he will explain the interpretation of it, as well, to the king.

Daniel 5:18 "O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour:"

This first statement is, probably, a shock to the king. He had not given the most high God credit for anything. In fact, they had many false gods in Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar's power to conquer was because God used him to fulfill His purpose.

Daniel 5:19 "And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down."

This power had seemed to be unlimited. He was a very powerful king, as long as he was doing the will of God.

Daniel 5:20 "But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:"

When he went further than God had wanted him to, he was removed as king. Pride comes before a fall. This is what Jesus had to say about those who exalt themselves. Luke 18:14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

Daniel 5:21 "And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling [was] with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and [that] he appointeth over it whomsoever he will."

This experience happened to him, to make him realize that it was not by his own might he had become so powerful. He was left to eat grass as an animal, until he recognized God. It is God who makes a man king. It is, also, God who brings them down. John 19:11 "Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power [at all] against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin."

Daniel 5:22 "And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;"

Now, we see Daniel explaining to Belshazzar that it will be no different with him. He is so proud, he has not given God credit for making him king. He is not an humble man. God will bring him down.

Daniel 5:23 "But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath [is], and whose [are] all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:"

The things of God are to be holy. They are not to be used by common man. This was blasphemy to use his holy vessels in such a manner. Belshazzar, and all these people, worshipped things of this world. They did not worship the One True God. God breathed the breath of life into man, before man could even live. The man's very life depends upon God. Things you can see with your eyes are part of God's creation and are not to be worshipped. They have worshipped God's creation and not the Creator God.

Daniel 5:24 "Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written."

Daniel explains, first, that this hand is God's hand. This writing is a judgment of God. God has weighed Belshazzar in the balance, and found him guilty.

Daniel 5:25 And this [is] the writing that was written, "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN."

This was a miracle of God that Daniel could read the words. The more wonderful miracle is that Daniel knew this language, even in the natural. God can write in any language. He wanted Daniel to interpret the message, so he wrote it in a language Daniel knew. Jesus spoke a very similar message to this. Luke 12:20 "But God said unto him, [Thou] fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

Daniel 5:26 "This [is] the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it."

The fact that this judgment was pronounced twice, showed it was soon to happen.

Daniel 5:27 "TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

God is a just God. He does not judge, before He carefully considers. He has considered, and now the judgment has come.

Daniel 5:28 "PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians."

We have studied in previous lessons, the great fortification of Babylon. This must seem impossible to the king, because of that. UPHARSIN, means divided. We must remember that Daniel was not only reading the words

on the wall, but interpreting them, as well. God told Daniel the Medes and the Persians would take Babylon.

Daniel 5:29 "Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and [put] a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom."

Daniel had not asked for these gifts, but Belshazzar gave them anyway. One thing we must realize here, Belshazzar did not reject the interpretation of Daniel. He knew what Daniel said was true.

Daniel 5:30 "In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain."

That very night the fulfillment came, and Belshazzar was killed. Babylon fell to Darius. Jeremiah 50:24 "I have laid a snare for thee, and thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught, because thou hast striven against the LORD."

Daniel 5:31 "And Darius the Median took the kingdom, [being] about threescore and two years old."

Babylon has fallen into the hands of the Medes. Darius is 62 years old, when he took the kingdom of Babylon.

Daniel 6 Questions

1. What was the new king's name?
2. What must we quickly take note of about this name?
3. Who was his mother?
4. Who was her father?
5. What had the thousand people gathered for?
6. What did the king command to be brought to drink from?
7. Why should they not drink from these vessels?
8. Quote 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 3.
9. Who drank from the vessels?
10. What did they do, besides drink wine from the holy vessels?
11. What power do false gods have?
12. What unusual thing happens in verse 5?
13. Who saw it?
14. What are these fingers?
15. What effect did this have on the king?
16. Quote Luke chapter 21 verse 26.
17. What will the king do, for the person who can tell him what this means?
18. Who did the king call for, to interpret the meaning of this for him?
19. What is "scarlet" speaking of?
20. What does the chain of Gold show?
21. Could the men Belshazzar called give him the interpretation?
22. Who came to the king, and told him of Daniel?
23. How did she describe Daniel?
24. Belshazzar is Nebuchadnezzar's _____.
25. Did Belshazzar take her advice?
26. Quote Isaiah chapter 9 verse 2.
27. Quote 2 Corinthians chapter 4 verse 6.
28. What power does Daniel have?
29. What was Daniel promised by Belshazzar?
30. What was Daniel's answer to Belshazzar?
31. Who had made Nebuchadnezzar king?
32. Why did God bring him down?
33. Quote John chapter 19 verse 11.
34. Why is God against Belshazzar?
35. Who gives man life?
36. What did the hand write on the wall?
37. What does MENE mean?
38. What does TEKEL mean?
39. What does UPHARSIN mean?
40. When was the judgment fulfilled?
41. Who became ruler?

We will begin this lesson in Daniel 6:1 "It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;"

This was a very large kingdom, and these men were set up to keep order in the land.

Daniel 6:2 "And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel [was] first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage."

These three men were of higher rank than the 120, and were closer to the king. It is unusual for a Hebrew to be over these Medes. Perhaps, the word had come to them of Daniel's reading the handwriting on the wall and interpreting it. These three presidents were next in command under the king. It appears, that each of them was over 1/3 of the kingdom.

Daniel 6:3 "Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit [was] in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm."

Daniel found favor with the king, and the king was about to make Daniel alone over all the kingdoms. This was sure to cause jealousy. We must remember that the spirit in Daniel was of God. All of his answers to problems were right, because they came from God. It is no wonder the king wanted to set him above all the rest.

Daniel 6:4 "Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he [was] faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him."

It appears, the jealousy of the others set them against Daniel. They tried every way they could to find fault with Daniel, that they might report it to Darius. Daniel had been a faithful servant of king Darius. They could find no fault with his work, or his loyalty to the king. They plotted together to try to get Daniel in trouble.

Daniel 6:5 "Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find [it] against him concerning the law of his God."

Everyone who knew Daniel, knew that he was more loyal to his God than to anyone, or anything else. They decided to trap him, by finding fault with his worship of God.

Daniel 6:6 "Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever."

Notice, they began by flattering the king. They really did not care whether he lived or not, unless it would help them get their way.

Daniel 6:7 "All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to

establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions."

The king was proud of his accomplishments, and he thought it nothing but right for his subjects to consult him first. He loved Daniel, and had no idea these presidents and princes were conspiring against Daniel. Notice, in this petition to the king, they appealed to the vanity of the king. The customs of heathen people, many times, will not be the same as Godly men. These presidents and princes were aware of Daniel's loyalty to his God. They knew this was the only way to trap him. Notice, also, these evil men set the punishment. They thought they would be rid of Daniel.

Daniel 6:8 "Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not."

Advice from worldly people can cause much harm. A king should be more careful who he takes council from. Their flattery is what caused the king to listen to them. They remind him that once he has signed this paper, there will be no turning back. The law of the Medes and Persians was carried out when it was signed.

Daniel 6:9 "Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree."

Their persuasion was so great, he just signed the paper.

Daniel 6:10 "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."

One thing we must quickly see here, the law of God is above the laws of any land. If the law of the land puts you in a position of sinning against God, you disobey the law of the land and keep God's law. That is the only reason to disobey the law of the land. We must be like Daniel, and do right at all cost. He was willing to suffer whatever consequence came. He must worship God. Daniel did not hide. He prayed 3 times a day. How many times have you prayed today? Look, also, at the humbleness of Daniel. He bowed on his knees, before his God. By opening the window toward Jerusalem, he was saying, his loyalty was to the God of Israel.

Daniel 6:11 "Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God."

They knew he would, so they just waited to catch him praying. Supplication is another way of asking for favor, or asking God to have mercy.

Daniel 6:12 "Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask [a petition] of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing [is] true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not."

This had been the purpose of the decree in the first place. They wanted to get rid of Daniel. They are the same thing as a tale-bearer. Children would call them a tattle-tale.

Daniel 6:13 "Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which [is] of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day."

The king would not have accepted this accusation, if it had been from one person. Several came as witness to this thing Daniel had done. They cleverly put in the fact that Daniel was of the captives of Judah, as if that made him a lesser person. Probably, they used that to say his loyalty lay elsewhere. They are accusing Daniel of ignoring the decree of the king. Not once, but three times a day he prays.

Daniel 6:14 "Then the king, when he heard [these] words, was sore displeased with himself, and set [his] heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him."

King Darius loved Daniel. He tried to find some way that he could get out of throwing Daniel into the lion's den. Now, the king knew he had been trapped into signing this decree. He was angry with himself for signing this into law. He did not immediately do this terrible thing. His hope was there would be some way out of this. Quick decisions get us all in trouble from time to time.

Daniel 6:15 "Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians [is], That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed."

These evil, jealous men come to the king again, and tell him he has to carry out the law he has signed. He has no choice. He needed no reminding, but they did anyhow.

Daniel 6:16 "Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast [him] into the den of lions. [Now] the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee."

It is interesting that Darius, the Mede, would tell Daniel that Daniel's God would save him. I believe this was almost like a prayer the king prayed. He did not want to harm Daniel. He was trapped. The king threw Daniel into the lion's den.

Daniel 6:17 "And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel."

The king's signet was pressed into wax to show his seal. This signet was usually on a ring. We can see a type of the Lord Jesus, when they put the stone on the tomb, here. Daniel is in the den of lions. There is seemingly no way out.

Daniel 6:18 "Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep went from him."

We see a very troubled king. His thoughtless act of signing this decree has brought this terrible thing about. He was so troubled, he fasted. Kings usually had fine food and drink at their disposal. This night, Darius wanted none of this. He did not listen to the soft music to put him to sleep, as he usually did. He did not sleep, in fact. He wanted Daniel's God to save Daniel.

Daniel 6:19 "Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions."

We see, again an example of very early in the morning. The women went to the tomb of Jesus very early in the morning. Darius must go and see for himself.

Daniel 6:20 "And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: [and] the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?"

Darius believed that Daniel's God could save him, but in the physical he knew it would be impossible. He reminds me of the man who came to Jesus to heal his boy. He said, I believe, but help thou mine unbelief. This is the way Darius is here. He wants to believe, but it is hard to believe under these circumstances. He cries out to Daniel, hoping Daniel will answer. Darius reaffirms his belief in Daniel's God.

Daniel 6:21 "Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever."

This had to be the sweetest sound Darius had ever heard. Daniel was not angry with Darius.

Daniel 6:22 "My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt."

Daniel was not guilty of sin against God, or against Darius. God sent His angel to help Daniel. I have said this so many times before, but we must take note here again. God did not save Daniel from the lion's den. He saved him in the lion's den. God will not remove all trouble from you either, but He will be there to help you through those problems.

Daniel 6:23 "Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God."

The most important statement in the verse above is why Daniel was not hurt. He believed in his God. Faith in God saved Daniel from the mouth of the lion. The greatest trials of life require the greatest faith in God. The king's joy was overwhelming. His faith was helped on this day, as well. He has them release Daniel from the den. God protected Daniel in the lion's den.

Daniel 6:24 "And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast [them] into the den of lions, them, their

children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den."

This is a sad scene for those who accused Daniel. They were eaten of the lions, even before their bodies hit the ground in the den. Their families were destroyed, also. This seems cruel, but perhaps it was so this would never happen in their families again. They had spoken their own punishment on Daniel. The king just gave them the same opportunity as Daniel. They had no God to call on, and they were eaten. Those who accused Daniel unjustly, have brought about their own ruin.

Daniel 6:25 "Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you."

This had a tremendous effect on Darius. Now, we see that he wants peace with all the people of the earth.

Daniel 6:26 "I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he [is] the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion [shall be even] unto the end."

This is the statement of peace that Darius sent to all the people. This is a statement that Daniel's God is God. Belief in God cannot be legislated, but that is what Darius wants here. He believes, and he wants all of his subjects to believe in the one true God. He, probably, does not know Him personally, so he speaks of Him as Daniel's God. Darius has fulfilled the Scripture in Romans chapter 10 verse 9. Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." He has believed in his heart, and confessed with his mouth the God of Daniel. He is aware that this is the Eternal God.

Daniel 6:27 "He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."

Darius is very impressed with Daniel's God, because He did the seemingly impossible, by saving Daniel from the lions. Psalms 46:1 "God [is] our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Daniel 6:28 "So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian."

Something intended for bad had turned into something really great. Darius elevated Daniel to the very highest position next to himself. Daniel prospered greatly under his rule. It appears, that Cyrus saw great potential in Daniel, as well. Daniel prospered in his reign, too. You remember, the Medes and the Persians were the conquerors here.

Daniel 7 Questions

1. How many princes did Darius set over the kingdom?
2. How many presidents did he set up?
3. Which of these categories did Daniel fit into?
4. What was unusual about Daniel receiving this honor?
5. Why was Daniel preferred above them all?
6. What set the others against Daniel?
7. What did they try to do, to no avail?
8. They decided the only way to find anything against Daniel was how?
9. How did these evil men approach the king?
10. What decree did they ask the king for?
11. They appealed to the _____ of the king to get him to listen.
12. The law of the _____ and _____ would be carried out once it was signed.
13. The law of _____ is above the _____ of the land.
14. How often did Daniel pray?
15. Did he hide to pray?
16. What showed Daniel's humbleness before God?
17. What is "supplication" in verse 11?
18. What was the punishment to be for one who broke the decree?
19. Who was Darius displeased with, when he heard what Daniel did?
20. What did Darius do to Daniel?
21. What statement of faith did Darius give in front of Daniel?
22. Why could the king just not punish Daniel?
23. How did they make sure Daniel could not get out of the lion's den?
24. What did the king do the night of Daniel's imprisonment in the lion's den?
25. What did the king do very early the next morning?
26. How did Daniel answer Darius?
27. Why was Daniel safe?
28. What happened to Daniel's accusers?
29. What was the decree that Darius made to all people under his rule?
30. Quote Romans chapter 10 verse 9.
31. Quote Psalms chapter 46 verse 1.
32. What happened to Daniel?
33. Who was the other ruler, besides Darius, that accepted Daniel?

We will begin this lesson in Daniel 7:1 "In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, [and] told the sum of the matters."

We see this is dated at the beginning of the reign of Belshazzar, but it is not the dream of Belshazzar. This is Daniel's own dream and visions. This is written down of Daniel.

Daniel 7:2 "Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea."

In this dream, or vision, of Daniel's, he saw the wind coming from 4 directions at once. This would create a tornado, or something very similar to that. The great sea is speaking of the people of the earth. The number 4 is speaking of universal. Whatever this is, has to do with the entire human race. This just means there was a great turmoil going on upon the earth.

Daniel 7:3 "And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another."

These 4 beasts are, possibly, very similar to the kingdoms of the image in an earlier chapter of Daniel. Notice, these 4 beasts came up out of the people {sea}. Each one of them was very different. 4 has to do with the universe. This is universal, then. These beasts are nations, or kingdoms. My own personal belief is that these are speaking of these same nations that were in the image, but at a much later time. Perhaps, nearer our own time.

Daniel 7:4 "The first [was] like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it."

This first beast like a lion with eagle wings is, possibly, speaking of Babylon. The eagle's wings, many times, symbolize aggressiveness. The Babylonians had been very fierce in their conquests. They, also, had settled down, and become a more civilized nation. This could be the meaning of the wings being plucked. They became more like a man, when their viciousness was gone. Some of the kings even recognized God for His mighty feats. I would believe the heart of a man would mean that it was possible to reach it. Daniel's own protection from the lions could have helped change their heart to the heart of a man. I would tend to set these 4 beast's operation at the end of the Gentile age. Babylon then, and Iraq now, is the same country.

Daniel 7:5 "And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and [it had] three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh."

In the image, this would be the Media Persian empire. Persia then, and Iran now, is the very same place. The bear symbolizes Russia. We read in Ezekiel 38:5 "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:" We know that there is to be a great battle, when these 4 forces-Russia, Persia {Iran}, Ethiopia, and Libya shall come against Israel.

There will be the destruction of much flesh. Could Iran, Ethiopia, and Libya be the three spoken of above?

Daniel 7:6 "After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it."

This is Greece in the image. Most people believe this is Alexander the Great spoken of here. He did divide the rule to his 4 generals.

Daniel 7:7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it [was] diverse from all the beasts that [were] before it; and it had ten horns."

In the image, I believe this is speaking of the Roman empire. The Roman empire was very strong, and also, was dreaded and feared by all. The ten toes of the image, and the ten horns here, I believe indicate the same. There were ten European nations which were part of the Old Roman empire. The Roman empire has been reconstructed in our day with the common market nations. I believe the ten horns are the nations which make up the common market. The horn speaks of power. This is a powerful organization headquartered in Rome.

Daniel 7:8 "I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn [were] eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."

The membership in this common market is changing daily. This speaks of a spokesman, who speaks for the entire group. Eyes speak of wisdom. This wisdom is of a man. His mouth speaking great things indicate he is in control, and speaks for the whole group.

Daniel 7:9 "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment [was] white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne [was like] the fiery flame, [and] his wheels [as] burning fire."

This is dating this vision. There is a time coming, when the thrones will be thrown down. "Ancient of days" is speaking of Eternal God. The "white as snow" speaks of the righteousness of God. Our God is a consuming Fire. This fire is speaking of the presence of God. We read of the wheel in Ezekiel chapter 1. This wheel, and the fire in it, both are the presence of God. This throne of fire is God's throne.

Daniel 7:10 "A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened."

The numbers multiplied out here are a million, or one hundred million. This, however, is not what this is speaking of. It is speaking of a number so great it is impossible to count. God keeps a record in heaven, and that is what is spoken of by the books were opened.

Daniel 7:11 "I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld [even] till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame."

The above is a companion Scripture to the following. Revelation 19:20 "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."

Daniel 7:12 "As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time."

These beasts were speaking of Babylon {Iraq}, Persia, and Greece. They were no longer ruling powers as they had been represented in their place in the image. The kingdoms of this world have fallen. They were not totally destroyed, but lost all power.

Daniel 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, [one] like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him."

This Son of man is the One we call Jesus. This is the same that we read about as the Stone which destroyed the image. Matthew 24:30 "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Daniel 7:14 "And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed."

Isaiah 9:7 "Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." Philippians 2:9 "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:" Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;" Philippians 2:11 "And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father." There is no question at all, that this is the One we call Jesus who will be King of kings and Lord of lords. He is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. I Timothy 1:17 "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, [be] honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Daniel 7:15 "I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of [my] body, and the visions of my head troubled me."

We could surely understand this, because his vision had jumped over 2000 years. Visions and dreams are seldom dated. Possibly, Daniel was concerned that he might be losing touch with reality.

Daniel 7:16 "I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things."

This is still part of the vision, or dream. One that stood by was an angel. The interpretation was given Daniel.

Daniel 7:17 "These great beasts, which are four, [are] four kings, [which] shall arise out of the earth."

These beasts, as we had said before, are very similar to the beasts in the image. They are great powers, which were on the earth. The name of the kings is unimportant. They are of an evil nature.

Daniel 7:18 "But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever."

The following is a companion Scripture. Revelation 2:26 "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:" It is the spoken and the written Word of God which overcomes the world. The saints weapon is the two-edged sword. Revelation 11:15 "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." You can see from the following Scripture, just how long we reign with Him. Revelation 22:5 "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."

Daniel 7:19 "Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth [were of] iron, and his nails [of] brass; [which] devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;"

"Iron" speaks of strength, and "brass" speaks of judgment. They had even judged the Son of God. The Romans were in power, when Jesus was crucified. They were strong in their rule of all the people.

Daniel 7:20 "And of the ten horns that [were] in his head, and [of] the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even [of] that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look [was] more stout than his fellows."

This one who had eyes {worldly wisdom}, and a mouth that he spoke for all the horns, is speaking of the antichrist. He rose out of these ten horns. He was their leader.

Daniel 7:21 "I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;"

Revelation 13:5 "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty [and] two months." The saints are the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. The antichrist will be in power for 3 and 1/2 years, and he is opposed to everything they do. Revelation 13:7 "And it was given unto him to make war

with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

Daniel 7:22 "Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom."

I Corinthians 6:2 "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?" I Corinthians 6:3 "Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?" Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

Daniel 7:23 "Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces."

Again, this is speaking of the Old Roman empire, which has been revived. This power is really control.

Daniel 7:24 "And the ten horns out of this kingdom [are] ten kings [that] shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings."

I believe the ten horns are actually ten nations, which have made an alliance. They altogether make up the Roman empire. The one is separate from the ten. The one is representing the antichrist. It is interesting to note at this time, that the antichrist system is made up of the antichrist, the false prophet, and the beast.

Daniel 7:25 "And he shall speak [great] words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

The antichrist has great power over all the peoples of the earth. The people of the earth will not recognize him as the antichrist, until he begins to blaspheme the most high God. He will seem to have the answer for all the problems of life. Notice, in this, the saints are under his jurisdiction for 3 and 1/2 years. The first part of his reign, he will pretend to be a great peacemaker. The antichrist will control the people through his power to purchase goods. It is interesting that a new international currency has, now, been made, and these common market nations will all use it. There will come a time when no currency will be necessary. The master computer {named the beast} will handle all transactions in the world by electronic transfer. There are two master computers, that are capable of doing just that right now. Revelation 13:16 "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:" Revelation 13:17 "And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Read our study on the 13th chapter of Revelation to get more insight into this. This changing of time shows he wants to be as God. There have been men throughout ages that have wanted to be as God. Julius Ceasar would have been one, Hitler would have been another. This is

not speaking of a type of antichrist, but the antichrist. He is a personification of Satan himself.

Daniel 7:26 "But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy [it] unto the end."

The judgment is taken away from him by our King Jesus, and by His saints. He has been judged, and found guilty.

Daniel 7:27 "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom [is] an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."

Hebrews 12:28 "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:" Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

Daniel 7:28 "Hitherto [is] the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart."

The details of this vision, or dream, of Daniel's would trouble anyone. He saw the rise and fall of the antichrist. Cogitations means thoughts. Deep thought does change our facial expression. He remembered it in his heart. More dreams and visions will make even these more understandable.

Daniel 8 Questions

1. When did Daniel have this dream, or vision?
2. Quote Daniel chapter 7 verse 2.
3. What were these 4 winds like?
4. What does the number 4 mean?
5. What does this mean?
6. Who are these 4 beasts very similar to?
7. Where did they come from?
8. Who does the first beast symbolize?
9. What was the meaning of the wings being plucked?
10. What had helped change the hearts of the Babylonians?
11. Babylon and _____ is the same.
12. This second beast was like unto a _____.
13. Persia, and modern _____ is the same.
14. Quote Ezekiel chapter 38 verse 5.
15. Who is the leopard representing?
16. Who do many scholars believe this is speaking of?
17. Who is the fourth beast speaking of?
18. Who are the ten horns?
19. Who is verse 8 speaking of?
20. Who is the "Ancient of days"?
21. What does "white as snow" tell us?
22. The wheel, and the fire in it, are both speaking of the presence of _____.
23. What is a companion Scripture of Daniel chapter 7 verse 11?
24. Who came in the clouds of heaven?
25. Quote Isaiah chapter 9 verse 7.
26. At the name of _____ every knee will bow.
27. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 1 verse 17.
28. Why was Daniel troubled?
29. Who did Daniel ask of the vision?
30. What two things overcome the world?
31. "Iron" speaks of _____.
32. "Brass" speaks of _____.
33. Who is the one who spoke, and had worldly wisdom?
34. How long did the antichrist rule over the saints?
35. Where is the kingdom of God?
36. Who are the ten horns?
37. Who will the antichrist speak against?
38. Quote Revelation chapter 13 verses 16 and 17.
39. The antichrist is a personification of _____ himself.
40. Quote Revelation chapter 20 verse 6.

We will begin this lesson in Daniel 8:1 "In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, [even unto] me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first."

This is another vision. It is not the same as the vision in chapter 7. The last vision was of the end times. This vision deals with Media, Persia, and Greece leading up to the end times.

Daniel 8:2 "And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I [was] at Shushan [in] the palace, which [is] in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai."

Shushan was one of the capitals of the Persian Empire. It was the capitol of the land of Elam. Elam was named for the first son of Shem. There is very little known about the river Ulai.

Daniel 8:3 "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had [two] horns: and the[two] horns [were] high; but one [was] higher than the other, and the higher came up last."

Verse 20 of this chapter tells us the two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. It appears, that Persia was the more prominent of the two. The fact there was just one animal, shows the unity of Media, and Persia. The two horns show they were of two peoples.

Daniel 8:4 "I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither [was there any] that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great."

We do know from history, there was a great conquest of nations who surrounded them. They were so powerful, they had conquered even the Babylonians.

Daniel 8:5 "And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat [had] a notable horn between his eyes."

This is speaking of Greece, and the horn {symbolizing power} is speaking of Alexander the great.

Daniel 8:6 "And he came to the ram that had [two] horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power."

This is just explaining that Alexander the great fought against the Medes and the Persians.

Daniel 8:7 "And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand."

This powerful ruler {Alexander the Great} fought with the Medes and Persians, and defeated them in battle. "Choler" means bitter. The Medes and the Persians were no match for Alexander.

Daniel 8:8 "Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven."

Alexander was thought of as great. When he died, 4 of his generals took over in his place. Macedonia and Greece were under the rule of Cassander; Asia Minor under the rule of Lysimachus; Syria and the east ruled by Seleucus; and Cyrene under Ptolemy.

Daniel 8:9 "And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant [land]."

This is, possibly, speaking of Antiochus. This is all leading up to the persecution of the Jews by Epiphanes. The "pleasant land" was, probably, Palestine.

Daniel 8:10 "And it waxed great, [even] to the host of heaven; and it cast down [some] of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them."

Revelation 6:13 "And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind." The fig tree symbolizes the house of Israel. The "host of heaven" could be speaking of Israel. The "stars" could be speaking of their leaders. We do know that the Jews were persecuted. This particular Scripture could have two messages. One would be to the time very near to when Daniel lived, and the other could reach to the end of time.

Daniel 8:11 "Yea, he magnified [himself] even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily [sacrifice] was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down."

The "Prince of the host" would have been the Lord. In 70 A.D., the temple was destroyed and the sacrifice stopped. I believe this has to do with the similar Scriptures following. Daniel 11:31 "And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily [sacrifice], and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate." Daniel 12:11 "And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, [there shall be] a thousand two hundred and ninety days." These last two Scriptures have to do with the time of the antichrist.

Daniel 8:12 "And an host was given [him] against the daily [sacrifice] by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered."

The transgressions would have made the sacrifice unacceptable to God. There was no truth prevailing. They seemed to prosper, even though they were evil.

Daniel 8:13 "Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain [saint] which spake, How long [shall be] the vision [concerning] the daily [sacrifice], and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?"

Mark 13:14 "But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:" There is something sitting, even today, where the temple of God should sit. The city will be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Daniel 8:14 "And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

These 2300 days would figure out to 6 years and 110 days, figuring a 365 day year. It is interesting to note that Judas Maccabaeus cleansed the temple on December 25th 165 B.C. I will leave you to decide when this cleansing took place, mentioned here.

Daniel 8:15 "And it came to pass, when I, [even] I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man."

Notice, this was not a man. He appeared to be a man. Daniel was seeking an interpretation of this dream, or vision, from God.

Daniel 8:16 "And I heard a man's voice between [the banks of] Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this [man] to understand the vision."

The word "Ulai" is speaking of a river in Persia, possibly the Eulaeus. The man's voice was the voice of God. Gabriel is under direct orders of the Father. Gabriel is an archangel. He is to explain the vision to Daniel.

Daniel 8:17 "So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end [shall be] the vision."

This vision, even though it had near fulfillments, also was set for the end times. This would be a frightening experience, to be this close to Gabriel. The worst fear would be the fact that God sent him, and told him what to say. He opens Daniel's understanding to the vision. The name "Gabriel" means hero of God.

Daniel 8:18 Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright.

This is very similar to being overcome by the Spirit. Being in the presence of heavenly beings, brings this type of reaction. At the mount of transfiguration, Peter, James, and John went into a deep sleep. This is a special privilege to be in the presence of heavenly beings.

Daniel 8:19 "And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end [shall be]."

The time for the end of the world has been set since the foundation of the earth. This is speaking, however, of a nearer time, as well. The end of the indignation could be speaking of the end of the indignation for those specific people. The near meaning speaks of the Jews struggle against Epiphanes.

Daniel 8:20 "The ram which thou sawest having [two] horns [are] the kings of Media and Persia." Daniel 8:21 "And the rough goat [is] the king of Grecia: and the great horn that [is] between his eyes [is] the first king."

These are both discussed earlier in the lesson. The two horns are because Media and Persia are two. The rough goat is Alexander the great of Greece.

Daniel 8:22 "Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power."

The four that stood up were 4 generals.

Daniel 8:23 "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up."

This has jumped to an entirely different time element. Notice, it does not say in their later time, it says in the latter day of their kingdom. It is the kingdom's latter day. This king is evil. He is using things of Satan to make him understand. Dark sentences have no light of God in them.

Daniel 8:24 "And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people."

His strength is not his own. He is operating under the influence of Satan. He is totally opposed to God's people. God has allowed this, because of the unfaithfulness of His people.

Daniel 8:25 "And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify [himself] in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand."

The Prince of princes is speaking of Jesus. Destroying by peace is a trick of the antichrist. If this is not speaking of him, it is certainly speaking of a type of antichrist. This is speaking of a spiritual battle. Jesus does defeat Satan and all of his fellows.

Daniel 8:26 "And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told [is] true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it [shall be] for many days."

This appears to be real days, because it uses the expression evening and morning, which is generally speaking of a 24 hour period of time. We must remember that God's time and our time are not the same. He lives in one eternal day. Just as 70 weeks is speaking of 70 years, this could be speaking of months or years. In 24 hour days {figuring the 365 day year, this would be 6 years and 110 days. This could be a hidden indication of how

long the earth will remain before the 1000 year day of Sabbath begins. There is no proof of this, just speculation. It could, also, symbolize the 7 years of tribulation. God could have used a different number of days for a year. Anything we might say about this is pure speculation. Gods knows.

Daniel 8:27 "And I Daniel fainted, and was sick [certain] days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood [it]."

I believe God does not reveal this to man, because it is His secret. There are some things not intended to be understood.

Daniel 9 Questions

1. Where was Daniel in this vision?
2. Who was Elam named for?
3. How many horns did the ram have?
4. What did they symbolize?
5. Which was the most prominent?
6. The horn symbolizes _____.
7. Who is this horn speaking of?
8. What does "choler" mean?
9. Macedonia and Greece were under which of the 4 Generals?
10. Asia Minor was under whose rule?
11. Who ruled Syria?
12. Cyrene was ruled by _____.
13. What was the "pleasant land" speaking of?
14. Quote Revelation chapter 6 verse 13.
15. Who does the "fig tree" symbolize?
16. Who is the "host of heaven", possibly?
17. Who is the Prince of the host?
18. In _____ A.D., the temple was destroyed and the sacrifice stopped.
19. Daniel chapter 11 verse 31 and Daniel chapter 12 verse 11 have to do with the time of the _____.
20. What would have made the sacrifices unacceptable to God?
21. Quote Mark chapter 13 verse 14.
22. How long will the city be trodden down of the Gentiles?
23. What is interesting to note about Judas Maccabaeus?
24. The man's voice, in verse 16, was whose?
25. Who had God sent with the message to Daniel?
26. When is this vision for?
27. What does the name "Gabriel" mean?
28. The sleep, in verse 18, is very similar to what?
29. How long has the time for the end of the world been set?
30. Dark sentences have no _____ of _____ in them.
31. Why has God allowed this evil one to destroy?
32. This evil one is operating under the influence of _____.
33. The Prince of princes is speaking of _____.
34. Destroying by peace is a trick of _____.
35. What are some of the things the vision of evening and morning could be?
36. Who understood Daniel's vision?

We will begin this lesson in Daniel 9:1 "In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;"

Darius, the Mede, had been a friend of Daniel, and elevated him to high office in his kingdom. He ruled over Babylon, after Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians.

Daniel 9:2 "In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem."

We remember from the study on Jeremiah, that God had revealed to him the Hebrew children would be in captivity about 70 years. Jeremiah had written this down, and it appears that Daniel had read of this. You remember, Daniel was an educated man.

Daniel 9:3 "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:"

Daniel was a very humble man, who knew his true wisdom came as a gift from God. The fasting, sackcloth, and ashes, tell us of the seriousness of Daniel's prayer. He was reaching out to God with an humble spirit, knowing that all truth comes from God.

Daniel 9:4 "And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;"

Daniel began his prayer by telling God he was aware of His greatness. This is very similar to the way Jesus taught the disciples to pray. "Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name". In both instances, recognition of God and His power came first. He knows God does not break covenant with man. Man breaks covenant with God. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments". Daniel has kept God's commandments.

Daniel 9:5 "We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:"

Daniel includes himself in the confession of his fellow Hebrews. He admits guilt for their sins first. He knows that sins of omission are sin, as well as sins of commission. Recognizing the fact that we have sinned, comes even before repenting of that sin to God. This is what Daniel is doing for all of the Hebrews.

Daniel 9:6 "Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land."

God had sent prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah to warn them, but they had not heeded the warning. They had actually chosen to believe the false

prophets over the prophets of God. They could have repented before all of the problems arose, but they did not.

Daniel 9:7 "O Lord, righteousness [belongeth] unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, [that are] near, and that are] far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee."

Israel had committed spiritual adultery, by worshipping the false gods of the heathen people around them. God is holy. Israel was driven out of their homeland, because they trespassed greatly against their God. Their "confusion of face" meant they did not know what to believe anymore.

Daniel 9:8 "O Lord, to us [belongeth] confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee."

Their loyalty was to no god. They wanted to worship God, but all at the same time they worshipped false gods. Their confusion was obvious to everyone, but themselves. Romans 6:21 "What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things [is] death."

Daniel 9:9 "To the Lord our God [belong] mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;"

God's people rebelled and rebelled, but God is merciful. He never let them all be destroyed. He forgave them, and started them all over again. Psalms 130:7 "Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD [there is] mercy, and with him [is] plenteous redemption." Micah 7:18 "Who [is] a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth [in] mercy."

Daniel 9:10 "Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets."

One thing that set the Hebrews aside as being different, is they had the law of God. God had promised to bless them mightily, if they kept His law. If they did not keep His law, there would be curses. God had sent prophet after prophet to warn them, they were not keeping His law. Daniel is admitting to God, they had not kept the law.

Daniel 9:11 "Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that [is] written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him."

They transgressed the law and followed false gods. Daniel is aware the captivity came to cause them to repent of their sins, and turn back to God. God had given His Word. He had sworn by Himself that He would bless them, if they kept the law, and curse them, if they did not keep the law.

Daniel 9:12 "And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem."

To whom much is given, much is required. Zechariah 7:12 "Yea, they made their hearts [as] an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts." God does exactly what He says He will do. He gave them ample time and warning to repent, and they did not. They sinned in full knowledge of the law, and God greatly punished them for it.

Daniel 9:13 "As [it is] written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth."

They brought all the trouble upon themselves. The law was plainly written down, that they might know God's will. They disregarded God's law, and did what was pleasing in their own sight. Daniel is speaking of Israel as a whole, and not individually of himself. He knew, had they repented in sackcloth and ashes and returned to God, He would have forgiven them.

Daniel 9:14 "Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God [is] righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice."

God is loving, kind, forgiving, and merciful; but He is also the Righteous Judge. He cannot, and will not, overlook their unfaithfulness to Him. They were not obedient to God, and their punishment is justified.

Daniel 9:15 "And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly."

We must remember from the lessons in some of the other prophetic books, that even the heathen, who were fighting them, knew their problems were a judgment of God upon them. When God delivered almost 3 million of them from Pharaoh of Egypt, all the countries around knew it was God. They were God's chosen people. Their sins have gotten them in this situation they are now in.

Daniel 9:16 "O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people [are become] a reproach to all [that are] about us."

Daniel is pleading for Jerusalem and all of God's people. Where they had been highly respected, because of their God before, now they are ridiculed. Daniel says, that even Jerusalem is falling to some ridicule. Notice, Daniel asks forgiveness according to God's righteousness, not the people's righteousness. Daniel knows when God stops being angry with them, He will turn and bless them.

Daniel 9:17 "Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake."

The sanctuary in Jerusalem had been a place where all the believers in the world had looked to. Daniel, himself, opened his window toward

Jerusalem, when he prayed. Notice, Daniel calls himself, servant of God. The beautiful part of this prayer is the reason; for the Lord's sake.

Daniel 9:18 "O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies."

No one, then or now, want to be judged by his own righteousness. We do not want justice, we want mercy. Daniel appeals to the mercy of God toward His people and His city. Daniel cries out, "O my God". Whatever the answer, God is still Daniel's God.

Daniel 9:19 "O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name."

Daniel intercedes in prayer to God with all the strength he has. Look at the progression of the prayer. Hear, forgive, hearken and do, don't put it off, is his request. He knows God still loves them, so Daniel says, for thine own sake. All the people of the world associate the Hebrews and Jerusalem with God.

Daniel 9:20 "And whiles I [was] speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;" Daniel 9:21 "Yea, whiles I [was] speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation."

What a wonderful way to know that God has heard your prayer. We do not know how long Daniel prayed, but we do know this prayer was accompanied by fasting and wearing of sackcloth. God heard his prayer, while it was still coming from his mouth. Gabriel is an archangel, who seems to be associated with Father God. He is like the Father's top General. The Father sends messages to the earth by Gabriel.

Daniel 9:22 "And he informed [me], and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding."

This will be a gift of understanding. His understanding will be far above the natural man's. God will equip Daniel to do the job He has sent him to do.

Daniel 9:23 "At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew [thee]; for thou [art] greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision."

God heard his prayer immediately, and sent Gabriel to him. The commandment that came forth, was God commanding Gabriel to bring the message to Daniel. One of the most wonderful things any of us could hear, is that we are greatly beloved of God. I am sure this was the greatest thing Daniel could ever hope to hear. Daniel is to carefully consider the vision, and then understand.

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."

This seventy weeks is actually four hundred and ninety years. Each week is actually seven years. Seventy is seven times ten. Seven means spiritually complete, and ten has to do with world government. This seventy could be saying, that worldliness would be removed, and they would be spiritually complete again. The perfect High Priest who will come is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus reconciles the Father to fallen man. Jesus fulfills the law, and brings in grace. God not only forgives the sinner, but makes provision for his forgiveness to be lawful. Jesus became the substitute for all of mankind. He reconciles us to the Father with His precious shed blood.

Daniel 9:25 "Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times."

The temple was 49 years in the building {7 weeks}. From Nehemiah building the temple till the coming of Messiah is 434 years {62 weeks}. These were very troublesome times. Nehemiah and Ezra, both, were involved in the reconstruction of the temple.

Daniel 9:26 "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [shall be] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."

This does not mean that Jesus was cut off immediately after the 434 years. It just means, that after that time He was cut off. Notice, He was cut off not for Himself. He did it for all who would believe and receive the gift of salvation. The prince that comes and destroys the sanctuary is the destruction in 70 A.D. He was, possibly, Titus. This flood is, possibly, speaking of numerous wars, which are still going on today.

Daniel 9:27 "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make [it] desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

The antichrist stops all worship of the one true God at the middle of the 7 years of tribulation {one week}. He will appear to bring peace, but he will cause true Christianity to stop. He will set himself up in the temple in Jerusalem to be worshipped the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation period. The wrath of God will come upon the earth during this period.

Daniel 10 Questions

1. Where did Darius reign?
2. What kind of relationship did he have with Daniel?
3. What other prophet is mentioned in verse 2?
4. What had Daniel read, that made him know of the 70 years of Babylonian captivity?
5. Daniel was an _____ man?
6. Where did Daniel's wisdom come from?
7. What do the fasting, sackcloth, and ashes tell us of Daniel's prayer?
8. What is the first thing to do in prayer?
9. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my _____".
10. Who was Daniel confessing for?
11. What two types of sin does he specifically mention in 5?
12. Who had the people chosen to believe, instead of the prophets of God?
13. What sin had Israel committed?
14. Quote Romans chapter 6 verse 21.
15. Quote Psalms chapter 130 verse 7?
16. Why does God not retain His anger forever?
17. What made the Hebrews different from the countries around them?
18. Why was God's curse poured out on them?
19. Quote Zechariah chapter 7 verse 12.
20. God is loving, kind, forgiving, and merciful; but He is the _____.
21. When God delivered them from Egypt, who noticed?
22. Daniel asks forgiveness according to what?
23. No one, then or now, want to be judged by his own _____.
24. We do not want _____, we want _____.
25. Explain the progression of Daniel's prayer.
26. What happened, while Daniel was speaking his prayer?
27. How long had Daniel prayed?
28. When had God heard the prayer?
29. What association does Gabriel appear to have with God?
30. What is different about Daniel's understanding?
31. What wonderful thing did Gabriel tell Daniel?
32. How many years do the 70 weeks symbolize?
33. Who is the perfect High Priest?
34. God not only forgives the sinner, but makes provision for that forgiveness to be _____.
35. How did Jesus reconcile us to the Father?
36. How many years did it take to build the temple?
37. From the building of the temple to Messiah, there were _____ years.
38. Who was Messiah cut off for?
39. Who destroyed the temple?
40. What is meant by the sacrifice and oblation stopping in the middle of the week?

We will begin this lesson in Daniel 10:1 "In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing [was] true, but the time appointed [was] long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision."

Cyrus was the leader of the Persians which overthrew the Babylonian Empire. Belteshazzar was the name Daniel had been given, while he was captive in Babylon. It is explained that by a vision God revealed to Daniel, things which would take place far in the future.

Daniel 10:2 "In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks."

Mourning was accompanied by wearing sackcloth and throwing ashes upon your head. These weeks were not speaking of a long period of time, like the weeks in the previous chapter. These weeks were made up of seven, twenty four hour days. Even at that, this is a long time to mourn.

Daniel 10:3 "I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled."

We see this mourning was accompanied by self-sacrifice upon Daniel's part. This was not a total fast, but was indeed a fast. He was totally devoted to prayer at this time.

Daniel 10:4 "And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which [is] Hiddekel;"

The Hiddekel river is the same as the Tigris river. Their first month is Nisan or Abib, which is about the same as our April. So this is in early spring.

Daniel 10:5 "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins [were] girded with fine gold of Uphaz:"

"Linen" speaks of righteousness. "Gold" symbolizes the nearness of God. The only thing known of this Uphaz is that it was a region of gold. This appearance is as a man. Daniel sees the figure of a man. I believe this is speaking of a presence reflecting the Lord to Daniel.

Daniel 10:6 "His body also [was] like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude."

Look, with me, at the similarities of this figure and the following One. Revelation 1:13 "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks [one] like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle." Revelation 1:14 "His head and [his] hairs [were] white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes [were] as a flame of fire;" Revelation 1:15 "And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters." Revelation

1:16 "And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance [was] as the sun shineth in his strength." Revelation 1:17 "And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:" Both of these are describing the One we call Jesus, who is the Word of God, who is Alpha and Omega. He is also King of kings and Lord of lords. The eyes speak of great wisdom. The feet of brass speak of judgment. He is the Light of the world so Light would show forth from Him. Water and multitude speak of large numbers of people. His voice is like many. We know that the Lord Jesus does not need assistance from anyone, so this must be someone that reflects the presence of the Lord, rather than being the Lord Himself. He is the Lord's representative upon the earth. We must keep in mind this is a vision.

Daniel 10:7 "And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves."

The vision was not for the other men with Daniel. Even though they did not see the vision, the nearness of the heavenly being caused them to shake uncontrollably. They fled. This reminds me of those who heard God's voice from the mountain, and then were so afraid they asked Moses to represent them to God. They could not stand the presence. Possibly, the men with Daniel were not believers in God, but men who accompanied high officials wherever they went. Visions are generally for just one person to see.

Daniel 10:8 "Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength."

We see that even though Daniel was a godly man, the contact with this heavenly being, representing God, was almost more than mortal man could endure. All of his strength left him. "Comeliness" means beauty. I believe Daniel was so overwhelmed, that he became very pale.

Daniel 10:9 "Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground."

Daniel was lying prostrate before Him. His face was toward the ground, so as not to see the face of the Lord. He was not exactly asleep, because he heard the Words of God, through this heavenly being.

Daniel 10:10 "And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and [upon] the palms of my hands."

This would have put Daniel in a crawling position. This does not mean that Daniel was to look up. It means that God strengthened Daniel by touching Him, possibly, through this being.

Daniel 10:11 "And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling."

The power of God flowing through Daniel gave him strength to stand. He was trembling, but standing. How beautiful to hear that he was greatly beloved of God. We know, because this being was sent to Daniel, he is not God. He is revealing Himself as God, because of the message he brings. God can speak from a burning bush, or anything, or anyone else He desires to.

Daniel 10:12 "Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words."

This being, which looks like a man, was sent of God with a message to encourage Daniel. His appearance reveals to Daniel that he is sent of God.

Daniel 10:13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."

Whoever this is representing God to Daniel, was not powerful enough to break through the Satanic forces to Daniel. There is a great spiritual warfare going on. The forces of God are fighting against the forces of the devil constantly. The devil {Satan} does not want Daniel, or any other believer, to receive help from God. It is possible this was an angel, sent of God to represent Him to Daniel. Angels are ministering spirits to help the saints. Perhaps, Michael {an archangel} had more authority and broke through for him. Today the authority to fight these evil forces lies in the name of Jesus.

Daniel 10:14 "Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision [is] for [many] days."

Gabriel had brought a similar message earlier to Daniel. The vision is for the end.

Daniel 10:15 "And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb."

"Dumb" means unable to speak. Again, Daniel was humbled by this presence and the Words of God he brought.

Daniel 10:16 "And, behold, [one] like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength."

Angels are spirits, but can appear as men. Hebrews 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." This touch on the lips of Daniel came from God, but was through this being appearing as sons of men. In other words, he looked like a man.

Daniel 10:17 "For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me."

Whoever this appearance is of, Daniel associates him with the Lord. He truly is representing the Lord to Daniel. Daniel's strength and breath have left him, because of the nearness of this presence.

Daniel 10:18 "Then there came again and touched me [one] like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,"

This again, is like a touch of the Lord. It is the Lord's strength that comes into Daniel. The being, appearing as the Lord, is the one bringing the strength. Of course, the strength comes from the Lord.

Daniel 10:19 "And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace [be] unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me."

This is telling Daniel to be strong mentally and physically to do the work of the Lord. This is almost as if this being is saying, receive the strength the Lord has given you, and apply it to your actions. In the beginning of this lesson, we knew that Daniel was fasting. Fasting, in the natural, makes you very weak. In the spirit, the Lord strengthens us when we fast. He receives the strengthening, because he said I was strengthened.

Daniel 10:20 "Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come."

It is God who fights the battles for all of His children. The Persians were in control, when Daniel had this vision. Soon after the Grecians had control. God sets kingdoms up, and pulls them down. Both the Persians and the Greeks will be fallen, when God gets ready for their fall. There is a warfare in the Spirit world, as well. Ephesians 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places]." The prince of Persia and the prince of Grecia were speaking of a warfare with Satan's army.

Daniel 10:21 "But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and [there is] none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince."

Michael is the Archangel associated with the one we call Jesus. Perhaps, the one speaking here to Daniel is Gabriel. The visions of the 11th and 12th chapter are revealed to the mind and spirit of Daniel. We know that Gabriel and Michael are archangels who stayed with God when Lucifer fell. They are over the other good angels. Their words are truth, because they come directly from God.

Daniel 11 Questions

1. What was Daniel's Babylonian name?
2. When did Daniel have this vision?
3. How long was Daniel mourning?
4. What type of food did Daniel give up in this fast?
5. What is another name for the Hiddekel River?
6. What is the Jewish first month?
7. Which of our months is it similar to?
8. Who did Daniel see?
9. What does "linen" speak of?
10. What does the "gold" symbolize?
11. Who does the author believe this to be?
12. Describe this being that looked like a man.
13. Where do we read a similar description?
14. Who are these both descriptions of?
15. Since the Lord Jesus does not need assistance from anyone, who is this figure?
16. Who, besides Daniel, saw the vision?
17. What happened to the men with Daniel?
18. What happened to Daniel, when he had this vision?
19. What does "comeliness" mean?
20. What did Daniel hear?
21. A _____ touched Daniel, and brought him upon his knees.
22. What gave Daniel the power to stand?
23. When was help sent to Daniel?
24. Who withstood the help God sent?
25. Who came to help break through to Daniel?
26. How does a Christian fight these evil forces?
27. When is this vision for?
28. What does dumb mean?
29. Quote Hebrews chapter 13 verse 2.
30. Whose strength comes into Daniel?
31. What does he call Daniel in verse 19?
32. Who would he return to fight with?
33. Quote Ephesians chapter 6 verse 12.
34. The vision is revealed to the _____ and _____ of Daniel.

We will begin this lesson in Daniel 11:1 "Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, [even] I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him."

This is the beginning of the things that Daniel was told to understand in the vision. Some believe this was actually Cyrus, instead of Darius. For our study here, it makes no difference who was king. We are looking at the spiritual side of these lessons, not the technical.

Daniel 11:2 "And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than [they] all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia."

These Persian kings are speaking of those who reigned after Babylon was taken by Cyrus. Cambysis, the second, could be one of the 4 kings. He was a son of Cyrus. Darius followed Cambysis. Xerxes followed Darius. Possibly, Xerxes is the great king {4th}. It was actually Xerxes that invaded Greece.

Daniel 11:3 "And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will."

This is speaking of Alexander the Great of Greece. Alexander the Great destroyed the armies of Persia. He was powerful in his rule. Many thought he might rule the world.

Daniel 11:4 And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.

Alexander the Great's rule was divided among his 4 generals. This was not members of his family that took over at his death. Even this great kingdom, falls to the Roman Empire.

Daniel 11:5 "And the king of the south shall be strong, and [one] of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion [shall be] a great dominion."

The king is of Egypt. He is the king of the south. One of the princes under the king rises to overthrow the king.

Daniel 11:6 "And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in [these] times."

The king of Egypt shall enter into the kingdom of the north to make an agreement. It appears, a daughter tries to marry, to help the agreement to be signed. She is not accepted, and neither is the agreement signed. The expedition is a failure.

Daniel 11:7 "But out of a branch of her roots shall [one] stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail:"

Someone who is an ancestor of the woman, in verse 6, takes rule and attacks the king of the north. The king of the north is, probably, speaking of Syria.

Daniel 11:8 "And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, [and] with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue [more] years than the king of the north."

This is speaking of Egypt prevailing over Syria. The precious things shall be carried as bounty back to Egypt. Ptolemy could have been the king that conquered Syria, here.

Daniel 11:9 "So the king of the south shall come into [his] kingdom, and shall return into his own land."

It appears, this battle was fought, and then, the king of the south immediately returned to Egypt.

Daniel 11:10 "But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and [one] shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, [even] to his fortress."

The prince that is spoken of as one of the sons, here, is, probably, Antiochus Magnus. He was not actually the son of Ptolemy, but of a later ruler.

Daniel 11:11 "And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, [even] with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand."

The word "choler" means bitter. His bitterness caused the king of Egypt to come against the king of Syria. The army, spoken of as a multitude, was about 75,000. The multitude falls into enemy hands. They were defeated here. For our spiritual study of the Scriptures, we have not gone into great discussion of who all of these kings are. It is important for history, but not for the spiritual study we are doing here.

Daniel 11:12 "[And] when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down [many] ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened [by it]."

Even though the multitude was captured, their captor is not strengthened. Great numbers do not make a great army. Great leadership and great causes, make a great army. Gideon's army of 300 caused the multitude {so many they were like grasshoppers}, of Amalekites and Midianites to flee. The size of an army is not important. God's blessing on that army is what is important.

Daniel 11:13 "For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches."

A king of Syria shall rise up and attack Egypt. This king will be very rich.

Daniel 11:14 And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall.

This happens almost as if it were to fulfill the prophecy.

Daniel 11:15 "So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither [shall there be any] strength to withstand."

The king of the north is Syria. It appears from this they come against Israel, as well as against Egypt. Egypt or Israel will not be able to withstand.

Daniel 11:16 "But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed."

The glorious land is speaking of the land of Israel. The land of Israel is consumed, as well as Egypt being attacked.

Daniel 11:17 "He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do: and he shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her: but she shall not stand [on his side], neither be for him."

Antiochus gathered all his forces together for the conquest of Egypt. When he realized the power of Rome, he tried to make a treaty with Ptolemy. He gave Cleopatra to him to wife, to help in the treaty. He thought she would act as a spy for him in the kingdom, but this did not happen. Cleopatra was true to her husband, instead of spying for her father. She, along with her husband, even sent congratulations to Rome, when they overthrew her father's army.

Daniel 11:18 "After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause [it] to turn upon him."

Antiochus took advantage of the defeat of Phillip of Macedon by the Romans, and he took the islands of the archipelago. He was later defeated by the Romans, himself.

Daniel 11:19 "Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found."

When he failed in his conquest, he ran home, but died.

Daniel 11:20 "Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes [in] the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle."

The Romans put heavy payment requirements on all those they controlled. This could have been connected with that. Whoever this was, raised taxes to pay Rome. He was removed by his own people, not in war.

Daniel 11:21 "And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries."

It is not clear who this king is, only that he is evil. He is a person who wins over the kingdom with a flattering tongue.

Daniel 11:22 "And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant."

The prince that had made covenant was on the side of this one, who took over without a fight. He came in swiftly like a flood.

Daniel 11:23 "And after the league [made] with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people."

This has to do with Epiphanes receiving the throne. This has nothing to do with power, but is trickery in action. It appears, he made an agreement and then did not keep his bargain.

Daniel 11:24 "He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do [that] which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: [yea], and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time."

This is, probably, speaking of the first entrance of Epiphanes into Palestine, or Egypt. His entrance was not by force, but with giving of gifts.

Daniel 12 Questions

1. What is verse 1 the beginning of?
2. Who is this 4th king of Persia, that verse 2 is speaking of?
3. Which of the kings attacked Greece?
4. Who is the mighty king, that rises up in Greece?
5. What happens, to his kingdom?
6. This great kingdom of Greece falls to _____.
7. The king of the south is king of what country?
8. What happens when the daughter tries to help get an agreement for Egypt?
9. They land of the north is _____.
10. Egypt prevails over _____.
11. What does "choler" mean?
12. What happens to the multitude mentioned in verse 11?
13. What makes a great army?
14. _____ army of 300 caused the armies of the Amalekites and Midianites to flee?
15. How many were in the army of the Amalekites and Midianites in the battle against Gideon?
16. The king of Syria comes against _____, as well as against Egypt.
17. What country is the glorious land?
18. Antiochus brought his army against whom?
19. What did he do, when he began to fear Rome?
20. Who was the woman given in marriage to Ptolemy?
21. Did she spy for her father, as he wanted?
22. What did Antiochus take, because of the defeat of Phillip of Macedon by Rome?
23. What happened to Antiochus?
24. When he fails in his conquest, what does he do?
25. They raised taxes for what purpose?
26. Verse 24 is speaking of _____ entering into Palestine, or Egypt.

We will continue in Daniel 11:25 "And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him."

The king of the south is; again probably, speaking of the king of Egypt. The leader of the war against Egypt, here, is, probably, Epiphenes {Antiochus}. In this battle, they advance as far as Memphis. Ptolemy was the leader of the Egyptians.

Daniel 11:26 "Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain."

It seemed, that treachery within their own ranks caused their great defeat. Ptolemy was taken prisoner by his uncle, and his brother took over the reign.

Daniel 11:27 "And both these kings' hearts [shall be] to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end [shall be] at the time appointed."

It appears, the two kings mentioned, here, dine at the same table. They both lie to each other. They, both, will soon face the Romans. They were unsuccessful with all their lies.

Daniel 11:28 "Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart [shall be] against the holy covenant; and he shall do [exploits], and return to his own land."

It was Epiphanes that plundered the temple, and carried the treasures home.

Daniel 11:29 "At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter."

It appears as if, Ptolemy and his brother have settled their differences this time, and the Syrians find a different situation than they expected.

Daniel 11:30 "For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant."

This has suddenly mentioned the Romans. They are opposed to Epiphanes going any further into Egypt. Rome has, at this time, become very powerful, and the Syrians listen to them, and go no further into Egypt. About this time, there was a systematic attempt to destroy the Jews and Judaism. They all believed, if they could destroy the religion of the Jews, they could completely take them over.

Daniel 11:31 "And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily [sacrifice], and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate."

This was an attempt to stop the worship of God. They would immediately stop the daily sacrificing and worshipping of the One True God. Antiochus had forbidden daily sacrifices. They, probably, erected an altar of Jupiter in the place, where the daily sacrifices had previously been made.

Daniel 11:32 "And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do [exploits]."

The people of God shall become even stronger, because of this persecution. Some of the priests had been influenced wrongly by the flatteries.

Daniel 11:33 "And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, [many] days."

Those who truly knew God instructed others one on one. Even their great faith did not save them from being killed by the sword. Those the sword did not get, the fire did.

Daniel 11:34 "Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries."

Even those who had been influenced by the flattery, helped those who were fallen. The things that happened immediately, prior to the coming of Messiah, are actually a shadow of things in the end time. We might say that Epiphanes was a type of the little horn {antichrist}.

Daniel 11:35 "And [some] of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make [them] white, [even] to the time of the end: because [it is] yet for a time appointed."

This has jumped to the time of the end. Those who are tried here, are speaking of the Christians. "White" indicates righteousness. I Peter 1:7 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" In this life, we have tribulation as we read in the next verse. Acts 14:22 "Confirming the souls of the disciples, [and] exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." The word "purge" means examine, select, or cleanse. It, also, means to make pure. Jesus is coming back for a bride [church] that is without spot or wrinkle. Our prayer should be, "Oh Lord, purge me and make me white as snow".

Daniel 11:36 "And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done."

This is speaking of that evil ruler, we call the antichrist. He will obtain power for a very short 7 years. He will proclaim himself god, and

demand all to bow down and worship him. He is in rebellion against God and all of God's followers. God determines all things. God allows him to do all of this for a short period. It is part of God's plan. The great tribulation is divided into two 3 1/2 year periods. The first 3 1/2 years are tribulation, and the last 3 1/2 years are spoken of as the wrath of God. Christians are saved from the wrath.

Daniel 11:37 "Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all."

The fact that the God of his fathers is mentioned, leads me to believe he is of Hebrew descent. He is either a eunuch, or a homosexual, or just a woman hater. The woman symbolizes the church throughout the Bible. This could, also, mean he does not regard Christianity. He is centered on self. He has no regard for any god. He proclaims himself god. II Thessalonians 2:4 "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." He is not God. He just wants to be God. He is antichrist. He is opposed to Christ. I John 2:22 "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."

Daniel 11:38 "But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things."

He places his trust in force and power. He is not a man of faith. Material things mean a great deal to him. The antichrist system is a counterfeit of God. Just as God the Father, God the Word, and God the Holy Spirit make up the One in God; the antichrist, false prophet, and the beast make up the antichrist system. His power comes from great wealth and power to cause people to take the mark of the beast. The antichrist will be a man of great financial connections. The false prophet will be someone pretending to be representing the church. The beast is something that gives the antichrist power to number the people. There is a master computer, today, that has the power to keep track of all worldly transactions. Strangely enough, it is named the beast.

Daniel 11:39 "Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge [and] increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain."

There will be great alliances with this antichrist. In fact, the first 3 1/2 years, it will seem as if he is the answer to the world's problems. Most people believe the world's problems are financial. If he were to release great wealth into the land, he could momentarily cause prosperity. It would seem to be the answer to the problems. This man will have to be someone who controls the greatest part of the money in the world. There will come a time, when it will not be necessary to have paper money. Everyone will have a number, and can transact with that number. Revelation 13:16 "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:" Revelation 13:17 "And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." The transfer of value could be handled electronically by the computer.

Daniel 11:40 "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over."

The king of the south could be Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, or any other country south of Israel. The king of the north, here, could be the area we used to call Russia, or any other country north of Israel. Notice, it appears the king of the north and the king of the south are both against the same man. This reminds me very much of the army in Ezekiel chapter 38.

Daniel 11:41 "He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many [countries] shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, [even] Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon."

Notice, this centers in the holy land {Israel}.

Daniel 11:42 "He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape."

This powerful ruler that has set himself up as god in the temple in Jerusalem, has control over many armies and many countries. At one point, they will all be subject to him.

Daniel 11:43 "But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians [shall be] at his steps."

We had mentioned earlier, that this was a man of great wealth and power. Nothing will be withheld from him. This ruler is against Christ, and all the believers in Christ. Many nations feel the same way he does about the Christians and Christ.

Daniel 11:44 "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many."

Any hint of any country being opposed to him, would bring their sudden destruction. He will set himself up to be ruler of the whole earth.

Daniel 11:45 "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."

The palace of the antichrist will be in Israel. Specifically here, it speaks of it being just away from the Mediterranean. The holy mountain is in Jerusalem. God will fight this antichrist. He will be overthrown by God.

Daniel 13 Questions

1. The king of the south, in verse 1, is speaking of the king of _____.
2. Who was the leader against Egypt?
3. How far into Egypt did they advance?
4. What does verse 26 indicate was going on?
5. What happened to Ptolemy?
6. What do the two evil kings' lies accomplish?
7. Who plundered the temple, and took the treasures home?
8. What caused the Syrians to have a more difficult time against Ptolemy?
9. Who is verse 30 speaking of?
10. Why did the Syrians turn back, and not go deeper into Egypt?
11. About this time, there was a systematic attempt to destroy the _____ and _____.
12. _____ had forbidden daily sacrifices.
13. What false god did they erect an altar to?
14. What made the people of God even stronger than they had been?
15. Their great faith did not keep them protected from what?
16. Verse 35 jumps to what time?
17. Who are the tried in verse 35?
18. White indicates _____.
19. Quote 1 Peter chapter 1 verse 7.
20. Quote Acts chapter 14 verse 22.
21. What does "purge" mean?
22. What should be the prayer of Christians?
23. Quote Daniel chapter 11 verse 36.
24. Who is this speaking of?
25. How long will he be in power?
26. The great tribulation is divided how?
27. What does the statement "God of his fathers" indicate?
28. This antichrist is either a _____, _____, or a woman hater.
29. Who could be the woman he hates?
30. He is centered on _____.
31. Quote 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 verse 4.
32. Quote 1 John chapter 2 verse 22.
33. What does he place his trust in?
34. What, or who, make up the antichrist system?
35. Who will the antichrist be?
36. Who will the false prophet be?
37. What will the beast be?
38. What will the first 3 1/2 years of the tribulation be like?
39. Quote Revelation chapter 13 verses 16 and 17.
40. Quote Daniel chapter 11 verse 43.
41. Where will the palace of the antichrist be?
42. Who will overthrow the antichrist?

We will begin this lesson in Daniel 12:1 "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

First of all, we must see that Michael is a ministering spirit to the believers. He is actually an archangel over the other angels. His ministry is directly under the instructions of the Lord Jesus Christ. We know the time mentioned, here, is the end of the Gentile age. In chapter 11, we were brought to the "time of the end". Notice the word "and" which connects this with the end of the last chapter. This time of trouble is speaking of the great tribulation. Notice, also, that the deliverance of those whose names are written in the Lamb's book, is not before this time, but during. To have your name written in the book, means you are saved.

Daniel 12:2 "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt."

You can read a great deal more of this in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, beginning with verse 13. This is actually when the dead come out of the grave to the great judgment of God. Actually, Jesus is the Judge of all the earth. Jesus separates them into those receiving everlasting life at his right hand, and those doomed for all eternity on his left. Matthew 25:46 "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

Daniel 12:3 "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

This is speaking of being wise unto salvation. The following is a companion Scripture to this. Matthew 13:43 "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." The greatest privilege any of us have, is leading someone to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Light of the world. When He comes and dwells within us, His Light shines forth through us. It is His Light that causes us to shine. James 5:20 "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." God gives special honor in heaven to those who work at saving souls on the earth.

Daniel 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

World knowledge is at an all time high right now. We have no problem seeing people running to and fro. The freeways are full of cars carrying people to different places. We are running to and fro at this very time. This message was not for Daniel's time. It is for our time. His book has been sealed to full understanding from his time to now. It is easier to look back over history, and see what Daniel talked about in the first few

chapters of this book. This 12th chapter looks into the future. The book of Daniel is easier understood today than ever before, perhaps because we are living in the time of the end. This better characterizes this time than all of the rest. This is the age of the coming of the Lord.

Daniel 12:5 "Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river."

These two are, probably, angel beings. Had the Lord wanted us to know their names He would have given them. The message is the important thing. The message carrier is not important. The bank of the River is unimportant, as well. It could have been the Tigris River. The fact there were two is for witness. By two, a thing is established. The two could, also, symbolize the spiritual house of Israel and the physical house of Israel.

Daniel 12:6 "And [one] said to the man clothed in linen, which [was] upon the waters of the river, How long [shall it be to] the end of these wonders?"

"Linen" speaks of righteousness. The man clothed in linen was of higher rank than the two. They were looking to Him for answers, as if He were the Lord. Notice, also, he was on the water, not in the water. We see in the following Scripture that the disciples asked the Lord Jesus the same question. Matthew 24:3 "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" When most people look at the Lord, they see the figure of a man. It could, also, be Michael representing the Lord Jesus.

Daniel 12:7 "And I heard the man clothed in linen, which [was] upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that [it shall be] for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these [things] shall be finished."

This is speaking of that 3 1/2 years period, we have mentioned before. Time is one year, times is two years, and half time is half a year. The following Scriptures are the same thing. Revelation 10:5 "And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven," Revelation 10:6 "And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:" He that liveth forever and ever is God. Notice, also, it is the power of the holy people scattered, not the holy people. This could be speaking of the time, when the God pours out His Spirit on all flesh.

Daniel 12:8 "And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what [shall be] the end of these [things]?"

Daniel is like so many of us. He heard the words, but he did not understand what they were saying. His only chance of understanding is in the Lord.

Daniel 12:9 "And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words [are] closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

The Words are sealed until the time of the end. These things will become more apparent to the generation this comes upon. I personally believe this is our generation. The reading of the book of Daniel was not sealed, but the understanding was sealed.

Daniel 12:10 "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."

True wisdom comes from God. Only those who belong to God will understand. The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ purifies the Christian. We are made white, because we have been washed in His blood. Revelation 7:14 "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." We must realize that the Christians will be tried. John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." The wicked are living for this life, and the pleasures they can get now. They are not looking to eternity.

Daniel 12:11 "And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, [there shall be] a thousand two hundred and ninety days."

This is a time when all worship, as we know it, will be stopped. This is in the middle of the 7 years of tribulation. 1290 days are approximately 3 1/2 years. This appears to be at the middle of the 7 year period. This abomination is something that is to be worshipped in the place of God.

Daniel 12:12 "Blessed [is] he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days."

The Christians are the blessed. Notice, this is approximately 3 1/2 years plus 45 days. Forty in the Bible is a time of testing. This could be saying, that the Christians will be on the earth the first 3 1/2 years of tribulation plus 45 days. This is approximately the time that all will be made to receive the mark of the beast, if they want to buy, or sell. We may even have to refuse the mark, and then be taken to heaven to safety, while the wrath of God falls upon the earth. Romans 5:9 "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." We are not saved from tribulation, we are saved from wrath. Wrath occurs the last half of the 7 years of tribulation.

Daniel 12:13 "But go thou thy way till the end [be]: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."

Luke 21:36 "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Every individual person, who ever lived, stands before Jesus to be judged. Those who did not receive Jesus as their Saviour will be judged guilty, and sent to everlasting torment. Those who are Christians will be judged to receive their rewards. They all receive

everlasting life, but some receive a reward for their work on earth. Salvation is a free gift. It does not need to be earned. Rewards are extras.

Daniel 14 Questions

1. Quote Daniel chapter 12 verse 1.
2. Who is Michael?
3. What time is mentioned here?
4. What one word connects chapter 12, and the last part of chapter 11?
5. Who are delivered?
6. What does it mean to have your name written in the book.
7. What do the dead rise to?
8. Where is a Scripture that makes this very clear?
9. _____ is the Judge of all the earth.
10. Quote Matthew chapter 25 verse 46.
11. Quote Daniel chapter 12 verse 3.
12. What kind of wisdom is this speaking of?
13. What is our greatest privilege?
14. _____ is the Light of the world.
15. Quote James chapter 5 verse 20.
16. What is Daniel to do with the words and the book?
17. Many shall run ___ and _____, and knowledge shall be _____.
18. This is the age of the _____ of the _____.
19. Who are the two on the sides of the river?
20. This river could have been the _____.
21. What are some of the things two symbolize?
22. Who held up his right hand and His left hand to heaven?
23. What does time, times, and half a time mean?
24. What is a companion Scripture to verse 7?
25. What did Daniel ask the Lord?
26. What was His answer to Daniel?
27. True wisdom comes from _____.
28. What purifies the Christian?
29. Quote Revelation chapter 7 verse 14.
30. Quote John chapter 16 verse 33.
31. What is meant by the daily sacrifice being taken away?
32. 1290 days are approximately how many years?
33. Who are the blessed?
34. How long must they wait?
35. Quote Romans chapter 5 verse 9.
36. Who are judged at the end of the world?

The prophet Hosea is the penman of the book of Hosea. He was a prophet about the same time as Isaiah and Micah of Judah, and Amos of Israel. He prophesied just before the fall of Israel to Assyria. The name "Hosea" means deliverance, or salvation. It is very similar to the name "Joshua". Hosea was the last of the prophets that God sent, to cause Israel to repent before her destruction. Israel fell to Assyria about 100 years, before Judah and Jerusalem fell to Babylon. These prophets, like Hosea, were sent to warn their people of what would happen, if they did not repent and turn back to God.

There is much discussion about whether the book of Hosea is to be taken literally. Some believe this is a book giving us a picture of Israel's relationship with God. It does not matter for our study here. We are looking into the spiritual side of the Scripture in these studies. We do know from studying previous prophets, that the prophet, many times, experiences in the flesh, what the nation is experiencing in the spirit.

His days of prophecy were considerably longer than most of the other prophets.

I personally believe the book is showing the unfaithful wife of God {Israel}. They sought false gods, which is spiritual adultery.

Let us now begin in Hosea 1:1 "The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, [and] Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel."

The kingdom has split at this time. Hosea is a prophet to the ten tribes, spoken of as Israel. The other two tribes were spoken of as Judah. It was hard for the people to hear his warnings, because there were good times in the land. This is Jeroboam the second, spoken of here. He raised Israel to great splendor, but was very evil. His father, Joash was evil, also. One tremendous difference in Judah and Israel, is that more of Judah's kings followed after God, than did Israel's evil kings. All of Israel's kings were evil. Hosea prophesied during the reign of all four of the kings of Judah, above mentioned. He prophesied in Israel, not in Judah, however. It is believed by some that he prophesied for about 70 years.

Hosea 1:2 "The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, [departing] from the LORD."

This seems like such a ridiculous thing for Hosea to do. We must remember, that the prophet experiences in the flesh, what is going on with the people in their relationship to God in the spirit. Israel was the harlot wife of God in the spirit, so Hosea, the prophet must experience this relationship in the natural. God plainly gives the reason for this {for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD}.

Hosea 1:3 "So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son."

The meaning of the people's names are very important in this. The name "Gomer" means completion. This means, then, that God has sent them final warning. They have gone too far, with their unfaithfulness to God. "Diblain" means two cakes. If we put the names together, we would see that the woman was a pleasure, but not a true wife. She was full of sin. Thank goodness the son, here, is Hosea's son.

Hosea 1:4 "And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little [while], and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel."

The name "Jezreel" means God will sow. "Israel" means prince with God, or he will rule as God. "Jehu" means Jehovah is He. The blood of Jezreel that was to be avenged, probably, had to do with Ahab and Jezebel, who were severely punished for their evil deeds. This is saying, that God will remove the house of Israel from their kingdom. In Isaiah, God named Isaiah's children for what was going on in the country at the time. This is true here, as well. God named these children to reveal an extra message to the people.

Hosea 1:5 "And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."

This valley of Jezreel has been the location of many battles. This is the very same place, where Gideon defeated the Midianites. We see in this Scripture above, that this is to be the location of Israel's defeat, as well. "The breaking of the bow" shows their helplessness in battle.

Hosea 1:6 "And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And [God] said unto him, Call her name Lo-ruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away."

The "she", in the verse above, is speaking of Hosea's wife. Perhaps, the reason this child is a female, is to show that not only the males in Israel are guilty of spiritual adultery and deserve to be punished, but the females as well. The name "Lo-ruhamah" means not pitied. This name tells us that God will not pity these evil people, {Israel}. He will let them go into captivity to punish them for their spiritual adultery {worship of false gods}.

Hosea 1:7 "But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen."

This is just saying, that Judah will not be overrun by Assyria. They will be spared from this, because they have not been as unfaithful to God as Israel {10 tribes} has been. They would be taken captive, but not by Assyria, and not until about 100 years later. They had a few godly leaders, and Israel did not. They will not be saved in battle, they will be saved from battle. Judah will not have to depend on weapons to save them. God will save them. Perhaps, this refers to the battle where Sennacherib, king of Assyria, lost 185,000 men in one night {2 Kings chapter 19 verse 35}. The angel of the Lord killed them. God won the battle for Judah. This was during the reign of Hezekiah. This is the very same army that had overrun Israel {10 tribes} and defeated them.

Hosea 1:8 "Now when she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son."

This period of time represented by the time she was weaning this baby, is showing God waited for the punishment, to see if they would repent. Mothers generally nurse their babies about two years, so this was an interval of about two years. God did not want to punish His people, but He could not let them continue worshipping false gods.

Hosea 1:9 "Then said [God], Call his name Lo-ammi: for ye [are] not my people, and I will not be your [God]."

In this, God had divorced them. He no longer wanted them as His wife. They were unfaithful. The name "Lo-ammi" means not my people. Because of their unfaithfulness to be His, He will no longer be their God. He will not overrule their will and be their God. There is a lesson in this for us. We must, of our own free will, invite God to be our God.

Hosea 1:10 "Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, [that] in the place where it was said unto them, Ye [are] not my people, [there] it shall be said unto them, [Ye are] the sons of the living God."

This speaks of a time, when God will forgive them, and take them back as His wife. God is faithful to keep every promise He ever made. He had promised Abraham that his seed would be as the sand of the sea, and He will do it. The punishment that Israel suffers, is to make them repent and return to God. In Jesus Christ, God makes a way of restoration for His people. To become sons of God, we must receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour. John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name:" Romans 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Hosea 1:11 "Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great [shall be] the day of Jezreel."

This is looking far into the future, until the time when Jesus is the head of both. The mention of Jezreel, here, is speaking of the same place we call the valley of Armageddon. This will be the time when Jesus will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. This is, also, the same thing spoken of as the two sticks that come together in Ezekiel chapter 37. The following Scriptures explain it very well. Romans 11:25 "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." Romans 11:26 "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:" Romans 11:27 "For this [is] my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."

Hosea 1 Questions

1. Who is the penman of Hosea?
2. What prophets in Judah were about the same time as Hosea?
3. What prophet in Israel was about the same time?
4. When did Hosea prophesy?
5. What does the name "Hosea" mean?
6. What name is it similar to?
7. How many years before Judah fell to Babylon, did Israel fall to Assyria?
8. What were the prophets sent, by God, to do?
9. What do many believe about the book of Hosea?
10. What do the prophets, many times, experience in the flesh?
11. What does the author personally believe about the book of Hosea?
12. To seek false gods is _____.
13. What has happened to the 12 tribes at this writing?
14. How were they split?
15. Why did Israel not believe Hosea's warning?
16. Which Jereboam is spoken of here?
17. Approximately how long did Hosea prophesy?
18. Who did Hosea prophesy to?
19. What did God tell Hosea to do, that seems ridiculous in the natural?
20. Why did God tell him to do this?
21. What does "Gomer" mean?
22. What does "Diblaim" mean?
23. If the two names are put together, what message is in them?
24. What does the name "Jezreel" mean?
25. What does "Jehu" mean?
26. The blood of Jezreel to be revenged, in verse 4, is possibly, speaking of whom?
27. The names of Isaiah's children showed what?
28. What does "the breaking of the bow" show?
29. What famous battle was fought at Jezreel?
30. Why was the second child a female?
31. How many years after Assyria attacked Israel, did Babylon attack Judah?
32. The angel of the Lord killed how many of Judah's enemy one night?
33. Who won the battle for Judah?
34. Why was there, approximately, 2 years between the second and third child?
35. What is verse 9 speaking of?
36. What lesson must we learn from verse 9?
37. What is verse 10 speaking of?
38. In _____, God makes a way of restoration for His people.
39. Quote John chapter 1 verse 12.
40. Quote Romans chapter 8 verse 14.
41. What time is verse 11 speaking of?
42. Jezreel and _____ are the same.
43. What is spoken of in Ezekiel chapter 37, that is the same as this?
44. Quote Romans chapter 11 verses 25 through 27.
45. What did you learn from this lesson?

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 2:1 "Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters, Ruhamah."

These two names tell us that God will not have pity on them, because He has ceased to call them His people. This is spoken to the Jezreel, who is spoken of as the seed sown. Not only is the physical house of Israel seed, but the Christians are, as well. This warning is to all who fall away from God.

Hosea 2:2 "Plead with your mother, plead: for she [is] not my wife, neither [am] I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts;"

The same message is in this chapter that was in chapter one. It is just expressed more fully. The "mother" is speaking of the harlot wife, Israel. Christians must remember, that Jesus is coming back for a bride that is without spot or wrinkle. He does not want a bride that is committing spiritual adultery either. The worship of false gods is spiritual adultery. We must be faithful to Him, if we are to be His bride. The "adulteries from between her breasts", possibly, speaks of hidden sin. This is just another warning to keep the first commandment. Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment." To not keep this commandment is spiritual adultery. Sins that are hidden are just as bad as those out in the open.

Hosea 2:3 "Lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst."

The house of Jacob was in this condition, when God sent Moses to bring them out of Egypt to the promised land. They had nothing. They became the wife of God, when they made covenant with Him to keep His commandments. This was, also, the condition of a sinner, before he was saved. We make covenant, when we receive Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. The righteous do not hunger and thirst, they are filled. Those who wander away from God, do not benefit from the things of God, because He withdraws from them. This is what this is saying here. They must repent or God will let them get back into the condition He found them in.

Hosea 2:4 "And I will not have mercy upon her children; for they [be] the children of whoredoms."

God greatly blesses the children of those who are faithful to Him. Let us see what happened to those who worshipped false gods. Exodus 20:5 "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me;" We see then what verse 4 above, is speaking of. These children can repent and come to God on their own, however. The mother generally has a great deal to do with the moral character of her children. She has not taught them correctly, in this particular instance. Sometimes, the mother could be speaking of the

church. In that case, a church which does not teach truth could cause the members to fail.

Hosea 2:5 "For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give [me] my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink."

The "mother", here, is Israel. It could, also, be the church. Israel had been unfaithful to God. The lovers, here, are, possibly, speaking of the countries around them. God did not want Israel mixing with the heathen nations around them, because they would pick up bad habits from them. The worship of false gods was introduced to them by the people around them. They made treaties with these nations and picked up much of their culture. Israel belonged to God, and He had provided for all of her needs, and had even fought her battles for her. Now, she is turning from God's help to worldly people's help. God was sufficient for them. He is sufficient for us today, as well. There is no need to look to the world for answers. The world does not have answers. Only God has answers to our problems.

Hosea 2:6 "Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths."

She was determined to go her own way. She does not follow in the path God has made for her. When she decides to do this, God covers His path, that He had left for her with thorns. She will not be able to find her way back, unless God removes the thorns. Christians know that Jesus is the Way. To try to get to heaven other than by Jesus is impossible. To walk in sin, even now, obscures the path that leads to God.

Hosea 2:7 "And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find [them]: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then [was it] better with me than now."

You cannot try out the world, and then come back to God anytime you want to. That is what Israel found out, and it is what Christians find out, also. God did not want part of their love, He wanted all. Loyalty to God involves forsaking all of the world. Israel suddenly realizes that she was much better off, when she was with God.

Hosea 2:8 "For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, [which] they prepared for Baal."

It was God that had provided her with all her needs. He had loved Israel so much that He gave her far beyond her need. He had showered her with silver and gold, as well. Since we are looking at this spiritually, we must remember that "silver" symbolizes redemption and "gold" symbolizes God. God had redeemed her, and provided all of her needs. She repaid Him by giving that gold to the false god Baal. She had great wealth, but did not appreciate the fact God had showered the wealth upon her. She took God for granted. The saddest thing was, she used the gold and silver to worship a false god.

Hosea 2:9 "Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax [given] to cover her nakedness."

Her unfaithfulness to God causes Him to remove all the blessings she had known before. She will be in the same condition she was in, when He saved her out of Egypt.

Hosea 2:10 "And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand."

"Lewdness" means disgrace. God does not want her anymore, because she has been unfaithful. No husband wants an unfaithful wife. He will bring punishment upon her for her sins. She deserves His punishment.

Hosea 2:11 "I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts."

All of these times were when she communed with God. All communication with God is cut off. These had been times set aside, when God and His people fellowshiped.

Hosea 2:12 "And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, whereof she hath said, These [are] my rewards that my lovers have given me: and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them."

God had given them the vines and fig trees. Since they had abandoned Him, He takes away the blessings He had given them. God will not cause them to be fruitful anymore. All of these things belong to God. He can do with them whatever He wishes.

Hosea 2:13 "And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the LORD."

The "days of Baalim" is speaking of the time when they were practicing idolatry. They had given the love that belonged to God to these false gods. The "burning of incense" in the temple of God symbolized the prayers of the saints rising to heaven. It appears, they had been praying to false gods. Outward show of beauty is not Godliness. True beauty comes from within. You may appear to the world to be in right standing with God, but God looks on the heart. They had become worldly, and forgotten God. They were lovers of pleasure, more than lovers of God.

Hosea 2:14 "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her."

God will draw her to Him again, is the message in this verse. God punishes His own, when they have sinned, but He is quick to forgive and restore them. He is like a loving parent, who whips a child in error, and then forgives him, and restores him, because he is his own.

Hosea 2:15 "And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt."

God's forgiveness is not just in words. He restores her vineyards again. He pours out His blessings on her again. There is hope. Just as God was the hope of the family of Jacob in Egypt, He is the hope of the Israelites here. Achor is not very far from the fertile land of Jericho. Achor is the entrance to that land. In Jericho today, the fruit and vegetables are far more than they need for themselves. It is so fruitful, they sell much of it. This is a prosperous area.

Hosea 2:16 "And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, [that] thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali."

The fact that she is to call Him Ishi, indicates that she is recognizing Him as her husband. She had acted like the false gods were her husband before. This will be no more. She is the wife of God.

Hosea 2:17 "For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name."

Just as God discredited the false gods of Egypt, He takes the names of her false gods away here. She will remember them no more. She will have totally forgotten them.

Hosea 2:18 "And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and [with] the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely."

Zechariah 2:11 "And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee."

This is speaking of that time when the Root of Jesse shall rule. This is that time of perfect peace, when the Lord Jesus Christ shall reign. The 11th chapter of Isaiah explains it in detail. There will no longer be one nation that belongs to God, but He will rule over all. Everyone who believes in Christ will be His bride. Revelation 21:3 " And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God."

Hosea 2:19 "And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies."

The law of commandments will be no more. Ephesians 2:15 "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, [even] the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, [so] making peace;" Read the rest of the chapter to get the full picture. "This is when He writes the law on the heart of man. Hebrews 10:16 This [is] the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;" "Righteousness" is being put in right standing with God. Jesus did it for us, all we have to do is believe. All of these; righteousness, judgment, lovingkindness, and mercy come from God to man.

Hosea 2:20 "I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD."

Hebrews 8:11 "And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest." This knowing is a free gift from God.

Hosea 2:21 "And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth;"

This is speaking of the time when the door to heaven is opened. God has access to the people, and we have access to Him.

Hosea 2:22 "And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel."

The relationship with God and Israel is restored. This time, it will never be separated again. When this great day comes, there will be no enemy. The land will abundantly produce for Israel.

Hosea 2:23 "And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to [them which were] not my people, Thou [art] my people; and they shall say, [Thou art] my God."

This could be the wife of God, Israel, who had been rejected of God. All relations had become new. God is starting all over again with Israel. This could, also, be speaking of the unbelieving world, which has been offered the opportunity to be God's people. Whosoever will, regardless of nationality or blood line, shall have the opportunity to be God's people, and Him be their God. Romans 3:29 "[Is he] the God of the Jews only? [is he] not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:" Romans 9:26 "And it shall come to pass, [that] in the place where it was said unto them, Ye [are] not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God."

Hosea 2 Questions

1. What do the two names, in verse 1, tell us?
2. Who is the warning to?
3. The mother is speaking of the _____.
4. Jesus is coming back for a bride that is without _____, or _____.
5. The worship of false gods is _____.
6. What speaks of hidden sin?
7. Quote Mark chapter 12 verse 30.
8. What was the condition of Jacob's family in Egypt?
9. When did they become the wife of God?
10. Why did God not have mercy upon her children?
11. Quote Exodus chapter 20 verse 5.
12. Who could the mother of verse 4 be, besides physical Israel?
13. Who are Israel's lovers in verse 5?
14. What was wrong with them turning to the nations around them for help?
15. Why can she not find the path?
16. To walk in sin, even now, _____ the path that leads to God.
17. When does she decide to come back to God?
18. Who had provided her with silver and gold?
19. "Silver" symbolizes _____.
20. Does God allow her, to come back, when she wants to?
21. What does "lewdness" means?
22. What were the feast days, new moons, and sabbaths?
23. What does God do with her vines and fig trees?
24. What is the "days of Baalim" speaking of?
25. What did the "burning of incense" in the temple symbolize?
26. True beauty comes from _____.
27. They were lovers of _____, more than lovers of _____.
28. What change takes place in verse 14?
29. Besides just saying He has forgiven her, what does God do?
30. What does her calling Him "Ishi" mean?
31. Quote Zechariah chapter 2 verse 11.
32. What is this time?
33. Where can we find a detailed explanation of this?
34. Quote Revelation chapter 21 verse 3.
35. Quote Ephesians chapter 2 verse 15.
36. What is righteousness?
37. Quote Hebrews chapter 8 verse 11.
38. Who are the people who belong to God?
39. Quote Romans chapter 3 verse 29.
40. Quote Romans chapter 9 verse 26.

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 3:1 "Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of [her] friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine."

Hosea is instructed to love this unlovable wife of his, as God loves Israel. God loves with unconditional love. While we were yet in sin, God sent His Son to save us. Man loves because of some reason, or the other. God loves in spite of, not because of. His love is the Agape love. The greatest love shown ever is spoken of in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Most husbands love their wives, because they are faithful to them, and because they see them as being beautiful. Israel was unfaithful to God, and yet, He loved them in spite of their Unfaithfulness. As far as the natural man could look, Israel was worthless. God loved them anyway. Remember, the prophet experiences in the physical, the same thing that is happening in the spirit with his people. Hosea must love her, in spite of her unfaithfulness and heavy wine drinking.

Hosea 3:2 "So I bought her to me for fifteen [pieces] of silver, and [for] an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley:"

"Silver" means redemption. Fifteen is five time three. 5 symbolizes grace and 3 symbolizes God. This is saying, by the grace of God, she was redeemed. An homer of barley seed sold for 50 shekels of silver. Leviticus 27:16 "And if a man shall sanctify unto the LORD [some part] of a field of his possession, then thy estimation shall be according to the seed thereof: an homer of barley seed [shall be valued] at fifty shekels of silver." An Homer was about 8 bushels. This homer and a 1/2 homer would have been 12 bushels of barley. Barley was thought of as the peasant's grain, because it was cheaper. Figuring this out in our money today, she brought less than 100 dollars. Perhaps, this has something to do with the fact that all who belong to God are bought and paid for. Christians are bought with the precious blood of the Lamb {Jesus Christ}.

Hosea 3:3 And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for [another] man: so [will] I also [be] for thee.

This is a very personal Scripture. "Abide", in this particular instance, means sit still. This is like a punishment for her unfaithfulness. He does not take a chance on her being unfaithful with another man during this time. She is in isolation. He Includes himself in this, as well. It seems for a period of time, she is totally separated from all contact with men. This, again, symbolizes the fact that Israel would be in captivity. She would not be able to play the harlot with her false gods, and she would be alienated from God at the same time. God would choose the length of time of her captivity, for her punishment for spiritual adultery.

Hosea 3:4 "For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and [without] teraphim:"

They have been stripped from all privileges of worship, as the harlot had been stripped of contact with her lovers. In the king and prince, we see they are stripped of their civil authority. All forms of religion had been stripped, as well. The image is representing the worship of false gods. The ephod was worn by the high priest, and was their connection to God. God spoke to the people through the Urim and Thummim of the ephod of the high priest. Soothsaying was done through the teraphim.

Hosea 3:5 "Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days."

This is clearly dated to happen in the latter days. When they seek the LORD, they will find Him. David, their king, is speaking of the One they call Messiah, and we call Jesus. There will be a day of repentance. They are bought and paid for with that precious blood. We see in the following Scripture that God is God of all, not just a few. I Timothy 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." He provided salvation for everyone. Some will not accept that salvation. There is much controversy about these 10 tribes {Israel}, and what happened to them. In the physical, they would be very hard to trace. In the spiritual sense, they are the lost world that comes to Christ. Every person, who ever lived, was a sinner, just like Israel, before they came to Christ. All Christians have been bought with the precious blood of Jesus, just like these of Israel were bought by God. Perhaps, this whole chapter has been speaking of all people who are away from God until, Jesus came and set them free. It is God's goodness and mercy that saves us, not some act upon our part. We actually deserve to die for our sins. The wages of sin is death. Jesus marked our bill Paid In Full.

I will give a selection of Scriptures that help on this. Romans 11:26 "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:" Romans 11:27 "For this [is] my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins." Romans 9:6 "Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they [are] not all Israel, which are of Israel:" Romans 9:7 "Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, [are they] all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called." Romans 9:8 "That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these [are] not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed." Galatians 3:29 "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Hosea 3 Questions

1. Who is Hosea instructed to love in verse 1?
2. How was he to love her?
3. God loves in _____ of, not _____ of.
4. Quote John chapter 3 verse 16.
5. Why do most husbands love their wives?
6. What was unusual about God's love for Israel?
7. The prophet experiences in the _____, what is happening to the people in the _____.
8. How much silver did Hosea pay for her?
9. What were the other items he gave in the purchase?
10. What does the silver, and the number 15, tell us?
11. What did an homer of barley sell for?
12. How large is an homer?
13. The total price paid for her, figured in our money would be less than _____.
14. What are Christians bought with?
15. What does "abide", in this particular Scripture, mean?
16. She is in _____.
17. She is not only separated from her lovers, but from _____.
18. What does this confinement of the woman symbolize of Israel?
19. Israel has been stripped of all form of _____, as the harlot had been stripped of contact with her _____.
20. What other things were stripped from Israel?
21. God spoke to His people through the _____ and the _____ of the ephod of the high priest.
22. What was done through the teraphim?
23. When is verse 5 clearly dated?
24. Who is spoken of as David, their King?
25. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 4 verse 10.
26. Who are these people in the spiritual sense?
27. It is God's _____ and _____ that saves us, not some act upon our part.
28. The wages of sin is _____.
29. Quote Romans chapter 11 verse 26.
30. Quote Romans chapter 11 verse 27.
31. The children of the _____ are counted for the seed.
32. Quote Galatians chapter 3 verse 29.

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 4:1 "Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because [there is] no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land."

We have stressed so much in these lessons, that wisdom is a gift from God, but knowledge takes an effort upon our part. Knowledge is accumulated learning. Notice, first they must hear the Word of God. The Word is spoken through the prophet Hosea, but he is like an "ambassador", who brings someone else's message to the people. In this case, it is God's message. The purpose of this very Bible study is so that we can accumulate more learning and understanding of God's Word. The land spoken of, in verse 1 above, is a perfect description of our land today. They are at odds with God. They are disobedient to His Word. Truth and mercy are both God's gift to mankind. The knowledge of the will of God for their lives was far from them, because they did not diligently seek the truth and knowledge.

Hosea 4:2 "By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood."

Again, we see so much of this in our society today, that there are not enough jail cells to hold the criminals. It is interesting to me, that this begins with swearing. In the loose society we live in, this has become so commonplace, it is not even considered a crime anymore. There was a time, when swearing got a person tied to a whipping post for 10 or 15 lashes of a whip. When people are out of the will of God, they commit all of these things and many more. Drugs and alcohol add to the immense number of crimes committed. Even drugs and alcohol are a sign of a society out of fellowship with God.

Hosea 4:3 "Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away."

The civil authorities may allow these things to happen and go unpunished, but God will not. "Languish" implies sickness, and is another way of saying mourn. There is a sickness, and it is called sin. When these things happen in any land, God removes His blessings from them. Zephaniah 1:3 "I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumblingblocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD."

Hosea 4:4 "Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people [are] as they that strive with the priest."

It appears, that no one was above sin, so no one was not in a position to judge, or reprove another. Even the people were trying to tell the priest what was wrong.

Hosea 4:5 "Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother."

It appears, from this, the prophet suffered with his people. The first part of the above sentence seems to be speaking of individuals who will not be spared. It will not matter whether it is day or night, the outcome is the same. The nation Israel is spoken of as "mother".

Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

This is almost like saying, they did not study the Word of God and hide it away in their hearts. When God says "my people", he is speaking of each individual in the nation of Israel. To reject the knowledge of the Word of God, is to reject God. We can see from the following Scriptures, that God speaks of all of His followers as priests. I Peter 2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." I Peter 2:9 "But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" I Peter 2:10 "Which in time past [were] not a people, but [are] now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." Those who do not remember God will be forgotten of God, as well.

Hosea 4:7 "As they were increased, so they sinned against me: [therefore] will I change their glory into shame."

God had blessed them, and they had increased, but they could not handle prosperity. The minute they were out of trouble, they sought false gods. He turned the blessings into cursings. Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, [that] I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:" Just as it was their choice, it is our choice to receive blessings, or cursings. God will not bless those who are unfaithful to Him.

Hosea 4:8 "They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity."

There was an offering for sin. Perhaps, this is speaking of the evil priest being pleased with their sin. He would receive more offerings to eat, instead of correcting their iniquity.

Hosea 4:9 "And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings."

God punishes the priests, the same as He does the people, when they sin. He, also, blesses the priests, as the people when they keep His commandments.

Hosea 4:10 "For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD."

When they eat and do not have enough, it means their food does not satisfy them. One of the ways God would punish those who followed false gods, was to cut off their food with a famine.

Hosea 4:11 "Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart."

Drunkenness and whoredom go together. Those who drink too much lose control of their own will.

Hosea 4:12 "My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused [them] to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God."

The "whoredom", spoken of here, is of a spiritual nature. This is speaking of the worship of false gods. They have left the One True God for the false gods.

Hosea 4:13 "They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof [is] good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery."

This is a description of the various types of false worship that went on in the country. God caused their wives to be unfaithful to them, as they had been to Him.

Hosea 4:14 "I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people [that] doth not understand shall fall."

Sin feeds upon itself. God was the husband of Israel in the spirit. They, who worshipped false gods, committed spiritual adultery against God. That sin was so terrible, that physical adultery paled in comparison. It had been the law to stone to death someone caught in the act of physical adultery, but why punish that individually, when the majority of the nation was guilty of spiritual adultery?

Hosea 4:15 "Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, [yet] let not Judah offend; and come not ye unto Gilgal, neither go ye up to Beth-aven, nor swear, The LORD liveth."

Israel got into this type of sin long before Judah did. In fact, Israel went into Assyrian captivity more than a hundred years, before Judah was taken captive by Babylon. Jereboam had set up a calf to worship in Beth-haven. Gilgal had become a place of worship of false gods. God did not want them mingling with those of Judah, for fear Judah would pick up their idolatry.

Hosea 4:16 "For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer: now the LORD will feed them as a lamb in a large place."

This gives a reason for the warning in the other verse. This shows that Israel is falling further into idolatry. She is slipping further and further in. When people, or nations slip further into sin, they go further and further from God.

Hosea 4:17 "Ephraim [is] joined to idols: let him alone."

Ephraim was the predominant tribe in Israel. They should have been the leaders. They are seemingly the deepest in sin. Idol worship was a rebellion against God, as well as being spiritual adultery.

Hosea 4:18 "Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers [with] shame do love, Give ye."

It appears, that the leaders, as well as the people, were continually sinning. It had become a way of life for the whole nation.

Hosea 4:19 "The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices."

The most ridiculous thing of all was the fact that they were still going through the formality of worshipping God. The wind, spoken of here, has to do with the wind of God's wrath. This type of sin leads no where, but to shame and disgrace.

Hosea 4 Questions

1. Why does God have a controversy with the people in the land?
2. How does knowledge differ from wisdom?
3. What is an "ambassador"?
4. What is the purpose of this very Bible study?
5. Truth and mercy are God's _____ to _____.
6. What are the sins mentioned in verse 2?
7. What is interesting to the author about swearing being listed first?
8. What are drugs and alcohol a sign of?
9. What does "languish" imply?
10. Quote Zephaniah chapter 1 verse 3.
11. Who suffers along with the people?
12. Who is "mother", in verse 5, speaking of?
13. My people are destroyed for _____ of _____.
14. Who is God speaking of, when He says, "my people"?
15. To reject the knowledge of the Word of God is to reject _____.
16. Quote 1 Peter chapter 2 verse 5.
17. Ye are a _____ generation.
18. Quote Deuteronomy chapter 30 verse 19.
19. Whose choice is it, whether you will be blessed, or cursed?
20. When they eat and it is not enough means what?
21. Those who drink too much lose control of their _____.
22. What kind of "whoredom" is verse 12 speaking of?
23. Describe some of the false worship?
24. What was worse than physical adultery?
25. Jereboam had set up a _____ to worship in Beth-haven.
26. Why did God not want Israel mingling with Judah?
27. How was Israel described in verse 16?
28. _____ is joined unto idols.
29. What was the most ridiculous thing of all about their worship?

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 5:1 "Hear ye this, O priests; and hearken, ye house of Israel; and give ye ear, O house of the king; for judgment [is] toward you, because ye have been a snare on Mizpah, and a net spread upon Tabor."

This is speaking of this judgment being not just on the people, but the king, as well. The sin in the land was so great, it had even reached the priests. Places that had been a great advantage to them, like Mizpah and Tabor, had now been converted into places to worship false gods.

Hosea 5:2 "And the revolvers are profound to make slaughter, though I [have been] a rebuker of them all."

It appears, there was much opposition to going up to Jerusalem to worship. There were people, who had revolted against God, lying in wait to kill them, as they passed by Tabor and Mizpah.

Hosea 5:3 "I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, [and] Israel is defiled."

Ephraim was the most prominent of the tribes of Israel. Just as many times, Judah was spoken of as both the tribe of Judah and Benjamin, and other times was separated out, so is Ephraim. It appears, Ephraim was even more idolatrous than the other tribes. They had received the right hand blessing, so perhaps, they were, also, more responsible.

Hosea 5:4 "They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms [is] in the midst of them, and they have not known the LORD."

We see, in this verse, not only were they practicing idolatry, but they had the spirit of idolatry, as well. They have turned their will over to evil, instead of to God. Plain and simply, they have fallen in love with false gods, and left the One True God.

Hosea 5:5 "And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them."

God had blessed Israel and Judah above other nations. Instead of this humbling them, they had become very proud, and thought themselves better than others. They had become so proud, they believed they could do anything, and God would still bless them. They had brazenly worshipped false gods. They thought they were above sin.

Hosea 5:6 "They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find [him]; he hath withdrawn himself from them."

All of the sacrifices they would make now, would be totally unacceptable to God. God warned them of the danger of worshipping false gods, and they had not taken heed. Now, it is too late.

Hosea 5:7 "They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a month devour them with their portions."

God had forbidden His people to marry the heathen people around them. This is, possibly, where they picked up their practice of worshipping false gods. This could, also, be speaking of their unfaithfulness to God, and then their children being unfaithful to God. The fact that a month is mentioned, here, could be telling them that it would be just a short time, until the enemy would come and overcome them. Note, God has to allow this to happen. They could not attack God's people without God's permission.

Hosea 5:8 "Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, [and] the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud [at] Beth-aven, after thee, O Benjamin."

These places mentioned are the line of attack. It shows the progression of the battle. The cornet was an instrument that could be heard from great distance, and the silver trumpet was blown to call the people to battle. Beth-haven was a place near, and the trumpet could be heard by Benjamin.

Hosea 5:9 "Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke: among the tribes of Israel have I made known that which shall surely be."

This just speaks of the surety of the coming battle and their captivity. God has given them ample warning, and they have not taken heed.

Hosea 5:10 "The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: [therefore] I will pour out my wrath upon them like water."

This is speaking of a time when God's fury has come up in His face, and He has poured His wrath on His unfaithful. It appears, they had moved the landmarks, that God had strictly forbidden them move. This automatically brings judgment from God.

Hosea 5:11 "Ephraim [is] oppressed [and] broken in judgment, because he willingly walked after the commandment."

God allowed Ephraim to be oppressed and broken by his neighbors, as judgment from God for his unfaithfulness to God.

Hosea 5:12 "Therefore [will] I [be] unto Ephraim as a moth, and to the house of Judah as rottenness."

A garment riddled by a moth is ruined. The moth eats away at the material, until it is of no use. "Rottenness" speaks of decay from within. For a long time, Judah's rottenness will not show. This is saying, their destruction will not come instantaneously, but will be progressive, until they are destroyed. We certainly know this to be true with Judah, because Babylon took many years to totally destroy them.

Hosea 5:13 "When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah [saw] his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound."

It appears, from the verse above, that Ephraim and Judah became aware they had a problem. The sad thing was that Ephraim did not go to God with

the problem, but went to the Assyrians. They, both, were not willing to admit that their problem, was because of their worship of false gods. The world has no answers to problems then, or now. The worldly king Jareb was no help at all.

Hosea 5:14 "For I [will be] unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, [even] I, will tear and go away; I will take away, and none shall rescue [him]."

The destruction of Ephraim is actually a little worse than the destruction of Judah. Perhaps, that is why God speaks of Himself as being as a lion to Ephraim, and a young lion to Judah. The young lion would not do as much damage as the lion. Notice, God tells them of the many battles that will take place, when He says, He will "tear and go away". This is a judgment of God, and no one will be able to stop it.

Hosea 5:15 "I will go [and] return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early."

This speaks of the time being extended for their captivity. The lion tears at its victim, and then carries it away. The lion then goes to his den and rests. This is, also, what this is speaking of here. God will allow all of these terrible things to happen to them. He will not intervene and stop it, as He has in the past. It is such a shame that they have to be in such destitute condition, before they reach out to God. The captivity is to cause them to repent and turn back to God. God will not seek them. They must seek Him. Because of the great affliction, they will seek God sooner than they would, had they not suffered so greatly.

Hosea 5 Questions

1. Who is verse 1 addressed to?
2. Name two places, that they had turned into places to worship false gods.
3. What were the revolters opposed to?
4. Why is Ephraim spoken of separately from Israel?
5. Why was it even worse for Ephraim to stray from God?
6. What had they done, that was even worse than practicing idolatry?
7. The _____ of Israel doth testify to his face.
8. What effect should it have had on Ephraim and Judah, when God blessed them above others?
9. They thought they were above _____.
10. What effect would their sacrifices have on their relationship to God?
11. Who had God forbidden them to marry?
12. What does the mention of a month, in verse 7, indicate?
13. Blow ye the _____ at Gibeah.
14. What instrument was blown to call them to war?
15. What does verse 9 speak of?
16. Why was God so angry with them in verse 10?
17. The oppression by Ephraim's neighbors was for what?
18. God will be to Ephraim as a _____.
19. He would be to the house of Judah as _____.
20. Who did Ephraim seek help from, when he saw his sickness?
21. Was he any help?
22. What was the difference in the destruction of Ephraim and Judah?
23. What does the statement "tear and go away" mean?
24. Where does God go, when all of this is happening?
25. When will God help them?

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 6:1 "Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up."

This is speaking as if their captivity has already taken place. It is the same God that tore them, who will forgive them and cause them to begin again. God chastises His people as a loving parent. He, also, is full of grace and love for the very same people. God is our Judge, but He is, also, our Redeemer.

Hosea 6:2 "After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight."

The "two days", here, is not speaking of two twenty-four hour periods. It is speaking of two relatively small periods of time in God's sight. With God, a day can be as a thousand years. II Peter 3:8 "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day [is] with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." If these are two one thousand year days, this is speaking of a time very near the day we live in. "Living in His sight" could mean living in the presence of the Lord during the 1000 year day of Millennium reign of Jesus on the earth, or the time in heaven with Him. Notice, raise us up.

Hosea 6:3 "Then shall we know, [if] we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter [and] former rain unto the earth."

This is a call to the study of God and His Word. The way to know the LORD, is to diligently study His Word. Colossians 1:28 "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:" Colossians 1:9 " For this cause we also, since the day we heard [it], do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;" Joel 2:23 "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first [month]." The former and the latter rain are speaking of a time when the Spirit of God falls on the people of the earth like rain. Acts 2:17 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:" The "former rain" was the day of Pentecost, and the "latter" rain is at the end of the Gentile age. James 5:7 "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."

Hosea 6:4 "O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness [is] as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away."

Ephraim, Judah, and in fact, all of mankind have no goodness of their very own. We all deserve to die, because of the sins we have committed. It

is only by the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, that any of us are saved. God is merciful. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God provided the way for us, that we could not provide for ourselves. We may act good for a moment, but our goodness goes away like the dew. Our righteousness is in Jesus Christ. He puts us who will believe in right standing with God.

Hosea 6:5 "Therefore have I hewed [them] by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments [are as] the light [that] goeth forth."

These arrogant people of God had tried to stand against the God that made them. The prophets cut them down with warnings from God, if they did not repent. God spoke judgment against them, and they were punished for their sins. The Light does away with darkness. The Light of God was applied to get rid of sin in their lives.

Hosea 6:6 "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."

God desired to be merciful to them. He saw their inability to live their way into heaven. He provided the perfect sacrifice, in Jesus Christ, to take away the sin of the world. Jesus became each individual's substitute on the cross. He paid the price in full for our sins. The sacrifice that God wants from the believers in Christ, is praise. Hebrews 13:15 "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to his name."

Hosea 6:7 "But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me."

These Israelites thought they were better than the rest of the people of the world. Every person who ever lived, whether Jew or Gentile, has sinned. Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" I John 1:10 "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

Hosea 6:8 "Gilead [is] a city of them that work iniquity, [and is] polluted with blood."

Gilead is spoken of, in the New Testament, as beyond Jordan. This really is speaking of the Israelites in their darker times, when there was much killing taking place. It could, also, be speaking of their connection with the crucifixion of Jesus.

Hosea 6:9 And as troops of robbers wait for a man, [so] the company of priests murder in the way by consent: for they commit lewdness.

"Troops of robbers" lie in wait hidden from view. Then, it seems, these priest appear to be godly men, when in fact they are very ungodly men. Jesus spoke the greatest indictment against priests, such as these, that was ever spoken against priest. Read the 23rd chapter of Matthew.

Hosea 6:10 "I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there [is] the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled."

The horrible thing they had done, was the worship of false gods. The whoredom they had committed was spiritual adultery. As we will see in the next verse, these are all 12 tribes of Israel, which got caught up in idolatry, not just Ephraim. Ephraim is mentioned separately, because he received the right hand {spiritual} blessing.

Hosea 6:11 "Also, O Judah, he hath set an harvest for thee, when I returned the captivity of my people.'

Judah had sinned like Israel, and they, too, would reap what they had sown. There is a great harvest at the end of the earth when all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ will be carried to heaven to live for God. Those who reject Jesus, will be the tares which are gathered and burned.

Hosea 6 Questions

1. Verse 1 is speaking as if their captivity _____
2. _____.
3. God chastises His people as a _____.
4. God is our Judge, but He is, also, our _____.
5. What does the author believe the two days, in verse 2, to be?
6. Quote 2nd Peter chapter 3 verse 8.
7. What is verse 3 a call to do?
8. How can we know the LORD?
9. Quote Colossians chapter 1 verse 28.
10. When was the "former rain"?
11. When will the "latter rain" be?
12. What is this rain speaking of?
13. _____, _____, and in fact, all of mankind have no _____ -
of their own.
14. Why do we all deserve to die?
15. What saves us?
16. Quote John chapter 3 verse 16.
17. Who makes us right in the sight of God?
18. How had the prophets cut down these arrogant people?
19. The Light of God was applied to get rid of what?
20. God provided the perfect sacrifice, _____.
21. What is the sacrifice God wants from believers?
22. Quote Hebrews chapter 13 verse 15.
23. Who have sinned?
24. Quote 1 John chapter 1 verse 10.
25. Gilead is spoken of, in the New Testament, as _____.
26. What do we learn about these priests as "troops of robbers"?
27. Where do we find the indictment Jesus spoke against priests, such as these?
28. What was the horrible thing they had done?
29. What happens at the great harvest at the end?

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 7:1 "When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, [and] the troop of robbers spoileth without."

God's desire, all along, was to heal Israel. We have talked a great deal about the will of man. Even though God wanted to heal them, they had to be willing to give up the worship of false gods. As we said, in an earlier lesson. In the time of Jereboam the second, they made a calf and put it in their place of worship as symbolizing God.

Hosea 7:2 "And they consider not in their hearts [that] I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face."

The heart of man is what he is. It is desperately wicked, or it is stayed upon God. In the case of those of Israel, they were desperately wicked. Their sins are the very things that cause this terrible judgment to come upon them.

Hosea 7:3 "They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies."

This was a corrupt society. The king was even pleased at the corruption. The king and the princes were just as involved as the people themselves.

Hosea 7:4 "They [are] all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, [who] ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened."

"Leaven" speaks of sin. The fact that it is leavened, means it has risen to the height of sin. This adultery, again, is spiritual adultery. They are unfaithful to God. The kneading speaks of working the leaven down. It does not stay down. The sin is too great.

Hosea 7:5 "In the day of our king the princes have made [him] sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners."

Drunkenness goes with sin. Wine dulls the senses, and causes one's will to be weak. At all sorts of celebrations, such as the birthday of the king, there were drunken parties. Not only did this wine make them not able to make correct decisions, but it gave them a false sense of security, as well. This wine dulled their senses for the evil sins they committed, as well. The sad thing is the fact, that the king joined the princes in this.

Hosea 7:6 "For they have made ready their heart like an oven, whiles they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it burneth as a flaming fire."

They have turned their hearts over to sinful lust. Lust feeds upon itself, and gets hotter and hotter. The lust of this sort springs into action, when it breaks forth in flame.

Hosea 7:7 "They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: [there is] none among them that calleth unto me."

Anyone who opposed them, they removed from authority. The judges and prophets were not supposed to be subject to the king, or the people, but they have all been done away with. There is no one to cry out to God for the people, when the religious leaders are removed. Sometimes people have fallen so far, it is difficult for them to reach out to God. This was certainly the case here.

Hosea 7:8 "Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned."

This is speaking of God's people mixing with the heathen people around them. It, also, is speaking of a cake that had been cooked with uneven heat. It was well done on the one side, and the other side of the cake was raw. This is speaking of a person whose life is not consistent. He proclaimed to love God and to live for God, but he played around with the worship of false gods at the same time. He was unstable in all of his ways.

Hosea 7:9 "Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth [it] not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not."

This is saying that the sin crept in without him being aware of it. Such a person turns gray one hair at a time, and does not realize he is gray until after it is complete. The sinful nature came in a little at a time and he was not even aware of it until it was too late.

Hosea 7:10 "And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this."

They were so sure of their standing with God, they did nothing to assure its continuance. They thought of themselves as God's chosen people, and they felt they were beyond being judged of God. Pride, of this kind, comes just before a fall. They had overlooked the necessity of maintaining their standing with God by their faithfulness. They took God for granted, and began seeking thrills with false gods.

Hosea 7:11 "Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria."

A "silly dove" is unaware of the danger of flying head long into a net. Ephraim has forgotten their help is in God. They seek help from Egypt {world}, and from Assyria. They are heading for their own trap.

Hosea 7:12 "When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard."

Just as the silly dove is caught in the net unexpectedly, they are caught in the trap of their own making. They were unaware that Egypt, or Assyria, was not where their chastisement would come from, but from God. God could use any country He chose to for the carrying out of His chastisement. They had angered God with their actions.

Hosea 7:13 "Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me."

They have left the safety of their God and sought others. The safest place for a bird is in his own nest. The destruction comes on them, because they have transgressed God's law. God was their redeemer. They have become unfaithful to Him. It appears their lying, here, is a denial of God.

Hosea 7:14 "And they have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, [and] they rebel against me."

It appears, from this verse, they cried upon their beds at night, but did not direct those cries to God. At least they did not cry for Him with their hearts. Their hearts were far from God. This "assembling themselves for corn and wine" could be speaking of some false worship they were involved in. To rebel against God, is to rebel against His authority. I Samuel 15:22 "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams." Jesus said the following, that is the same statement. John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments." They did not keep God's commandments, because they did not love God. They rebelled against Him.

Hosea 7:15 "Though I have bound [and] strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me."

It was God who had made them strong in the first place. They did not realize who had really helped them. They did not know who their friend was. They looked to the world for answers that only God had the answer to.

Hosea 7:16 "They return, [but] not to the most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this [shall be] their derision in the land of Egypt."

Their denying God got them into the difficulty they were in. A deceitful bow is one that sends an arrow in another direction other than to the target. You may aim at one thing, and hit another with a deceitful bow. You cannot trust that bow. They have missed the target. They are not even smart enough to come back to God for help. They have returned to their idol worship. "Derision" means speak unintelligibly.

Hosea 7 Questions

1. What was God's desire all along?
2. Why did God not heal them?
3. What terrible thing had they done in the time of Jereboam the second?
4. What reveals what a man is?
5. What causes the terrible judgment to come upon them?
6. What unusual thing is said, in verse 3, about the king?
7. Leaven speaks of ____.
8. The fact that it is leavened, means what?
9. The princes have made the king sick with _____ of _____.
10. What does too much wine do to you?
11. What have they turned their hearts over to?
12. What is verse 6 speaking of?
13. What did they do with those who opposed them?
14. What does verse 8 say Ephraim had done?
15. What is wrong with the cake of verse 8?
16. What type of person does this cake describe?
17. What happened to his strength?
18. What is meant by the gray hairs being here and there upon him?
19. What was their problem mentioned in verse 10?
20. What had they overlooked?
21. What does a "silly dove" do?
22. Where would their chastisement come from?
23. God redeemed them, and how did they repay Him?
24. Quote 1 Samuel chapter 15 verse 22.
25. Quote John chapter 14 verse 15.
26. Why did they not keep God's commandments?
27. _____ had made them strong in the first place.
28. Who had they looked to for answers?
29. They returned, but not to the _____ _____.
30. What got them into their difficulty?

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 8:1 "[Set] the trumpet to thy mouth. [He shall come] as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law."

The trumpet, in this case, would be the trumpet blowing to tell of impending doom. It would proclaim war in the land. It is Hosea who is to blow the trumpet to proclaim punishment upon these people. This is frightening to our generation, because the same apostasy, that was going on then, prevails in our society today. The people were unfaithful to God and His teachings. Even though they had been separated out as God's people and were the keepers of His law, they left God and started worshipping demon spirits. They committed spiritual adultery with their worship of false gods. The eagle is a mighty bird that strikes swiftly. The "eagle", is symbolic of God many times.

Hosea 8:2 "Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee."

They should have known Him, because they were entrusted with His law. They should have, also, known that He would not tolerate the worship of false gods. They have brought this upon themselves through their unfaithfulness. Now, they cry out to God, as if He should help them. Their flimsy excuse for Him helping them, is that they knew Him. I would prefer to say, they knew of Him. It reminds me very much of the following. Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 7:22 "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" Matthew 7:23 "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Hosea 8:3 "Israel hath cast off [the thing that is] good: the enemy shall pursue him."

They rejected the One true God and all the goodness that goes with Him. Now, God has rejected them.

Hosea 8:4 "They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew [it] not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off."

Israel was to be under the direction of God in their civil matters, as well as their religious matters. They have rebelled against God, and done what was right in their own sight. They have even used the silver and gold, that God had blessed them with, to make false gods {idols} with. The worship of false gods is what has cut them off from God. They are an unfaithful wife to God.

Hosea 8:5 "Thy calf, O Samaria, hath cast [thee] off; mine anger is kindled against them: how long [will it be] ere they attain to innocency?"

This is speaking of the calf they set up in the temple as a symbol of God. This is just plainly saying, that their worship of idols had gotten them cut off from God. They must repent and turn back to God.

Hosea 8:6 "For from Israel [was] it also: the workman made it; therefore it [is] not God: but the calf of Samaria shall be broken in pieces."

We have mentioned over and over in these lessons, that things you can see with your natural eye that have been made with human hands are not God. The Creator of it all is God, not His creation. God is Spirit. John 4:24 "God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth." He is the Great I Am. He is the self-existing One. The idol of the calf shall be destroyed.

Hosea 8:7 "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up."

When a man sows seed into the wind, it scatters and is not productive. We know that whatever we sow, that shall we reap. The Word of God is many times spoken of as seed. The problem with what they have done, is that it will bring no good results. Their production from their lives does not bring good things, but bad.

Hosea 8:8 "Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein [is] no pleasure."

This speaks of what most people think are the lost 10 tribes. They do not go back into the land as a whole, but are scattered in the Gentile nations around them. God does not completely shut the door to them, however. They become part of the Gentile world.

Hosea 8:9 "For they are gone up to Assyria, a wild ass alone by himself: Ephraim hath hired lovers."

A wild ass is of a very independent nature. They have gone up on their own to Assyria. God did not send them. They were doing what was right in their own sight. God did not want them seeking help from the worldly nations around them. That is just what they did, and found themselves alienated from God for it. The "hiring of lovers" shows that God looks on this as if they have committed spiritual adultery. They are His wife, and yet they have left Him and played the harlot with these heathen nations.

Hosea 8:10 'Yea, though they have hired among the nations, now will I gather them, and they shall sorrow a little for the burden of the king of princes."

We see from this, the Lord will allow all of this to happen, because they have broken His commandments. It is God that gathers them for their punishment. The kings and princes suffer with the people. They are all guilty. There will come a time, when Jesus comes to the earth, that they are offered salvation through Him.

Hosea 8:11 "Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto him to sin."

It appears, the tribe of Ephraim led the way in the worship of false gods. Since he has built altars to false gods, all the altars he builds will be considered evil.

Hosea 8:12 "I have written to him the great things of my law, [but] they were counted as a strange thing."

God had chosen the whole house of Israel to reveal His Word to. They were married to God on the way to the promised land. They made covenant with God to keep His commandment, and receive His blessings in return. They knew the law, and the consequences of not keeping that law. Their idolatry was with full knowledge. They disregarded the law of God and His commandments, and began to worship false gods.

Hosea 8:13 "They sacrifice flesh [for] the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat [it; but] the LORD accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt."

We mentioned in another lesson, that they were still going through the motion of worshipping God. They still sacrificed to God. Their sacrifices were unacceptable to God, because they were unfaithful to Him. Their hearts were not with God. Christians, be careful why you go to church. Do not go because you are obligated to go. You would be committing the same sin they are committing here. We must go to church because we love God and want to fellowship with Him. The return to Egypt, here, is symbolic of turning them back to the condition He found them in in Egypt. They were lost with no Redeemer. God sent Moses to bring them out of bondage from Egypt, now God is sending them back into bondage.

Hosea 8:14 "For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof."

We see, now, that the making of these idols to worship was just an outward expression of the rebellion that was in their hearts. Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." God loved them and wanted them to love Him, too. God had not abandoned them. They had abandoned God. God had loved Israel and provided a way for them to be His. They have, now, walked away from Him to worship false gods. The punishment that comes is of their own making. Reluctantly, God sends the fire of punishment to devour them.

Hosea 8 Questions

1. What does God tell Hosea to do in verse 1?
2. Why is he to do this?
3. What would the trumpet proclaim?
4. What had they left the worship of God and began doing?
5. What does the "eagle" symbolize many times?
6. Why should they have known God better?
7. Did they know Him, or know of Him?
8. Quote Matthew chapter 7 verses 21, 22, and 23.
9. They rejected the _____.
10. Israel was to be under the direction of God in their _____ matters, as well as in their _____ matters.
11. What terrible thing had they done with their silver and gold?
12. What calf is verse 5 speaking of?
13. What makes us know definitely that an idol is not God?
14. God looks on this unfaithfulness to Him as _____.
15. Because _____ hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto him to sin?
16. Who had God revealed His Word to?
17. When had they become the wife of God?
18. Why were their sacrifices to God unacceptable?
19. Why should Christians go to church?
20. God sent _____ to free them from bondage in Egypt.
21. Quote Ephesians chapter 2 verse 10.
22. God had not _____ them.
23. _____, God sends the fire of punishment to devour them.

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 9:1 "Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as [other] people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor."

There is no rejoicing in sin. Sin brings great sorrow. The instant the sin is committed, guilt sets in and sorrow from that guilt begins. This is almost as if God is saying, The least you could do is be sorrowful for your sin. This could have taken place at harvest time, which was generally a time of rejoicing, because the cornfloor was mentioned. They wanted all the blessings of God, but they were not willing to be faithful to God. God promised to bless them, if they kept His commandments. Since they had not kept His commandments, they did not deserve a blessing.

Hosea 9:2 "The floor and the winepress shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail in her."

This is just saying, that their sin has brought judgment from God, and their vineyards and their crops will fail.

Hosea 9:3 "They shall not dwell in the LORD'S land; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean [things] in Assyria."

We know from past lessons, that Egypt symbolizes the world. Notice, in the verse above, the LORD has taken the promised land back from Israel, since they did not keep their covenant with God. It really did not matter anymore about the eating of unclean things, because they had broken fellowship with God. God would not accept the fact they were keeping the dietary laws, anymore than He would accept them sacrificing to Him. They will actually be captive in Assyria.

Hosea 9:4 "They shall not offer wine [offerings] to the LORD, neither shall they be pleasing unto him: their sacrifices [shall be] unto them as the bread of mourners; all that eat thereof shall be polluted: for their bread for their soul shall not come into the house of the LORD."

In Assyria, they would not be able to keep any of the offerings and sacrifices. As we said, even if they did keep them, God would not accept these offerings of obligation. God has turned His back on them and their offerings. Worship, that is done out of obligation only, is unacceptable to God. Even the thought of sacrificing will just bring sadness for their lost fellowship.

Hosea 9:5 "What will ye do in the solemn day, and in the day of the feast of the LORD?"

There will be nothing for them to do on these special days, but mourn for the things that could have been. They would be away in a foreign land, away from their temple and their God.

Hosea 9:6 "For, lo, they are gone because of destruction: Egypt shall gather them up, Memphis shall bury them: the pleasant [places] for their silver, nettles shall possess them: thorns [shall be] in their tabernacles."

The world is not interested in continuing the worship in the temple. The temple and the temple grounds will grow up with weeds. The captors have no special desire to keep the temple grounds nice and pretty. They did not regard the God of the Israelites. Those of Israel, themselves, would be carried captive into a foreign land, far away from their temple.

Hosea 9:7 "The days of visitation are come, the days of recompense are come; Israel shall know [it]: the prophet [is] a fool, the spiritual man [is] mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred."

This "visitation" is speaking of the day of judgment which came upon them. God has judged them, and found them guilty of spiritual adultery. The prophet will not have to warn them any further. The prophet, spoken of here, is the false prophet who was still promising good times. The spiritual man and the false prophet had been bringing flattering messages to the people, and the people had accepted it for the truth. They were not only full of sin {idolatry}, but they were lacking in love, as well. They were an angry, unloving society. It sounds all too familiar, doesn't it? Preachers preaching to itching ears are not warning their people even now.

Hosea 9:8 "The watchman of Ephraim [was] with my God: [but] the prophet [is] a snare of a fowler in all his ways, [and] hatred in the house of his God."

We went into great depth on the watchman in the 33rd chapter of Ezekiel. This is speaking of the very same thing. Ephraim should have been the watchman, because he had received the right hand {spiritual} blessing from God. A good watchman informs the people of impending danger. A bad watchman sees no danger coming. The true prophet is always with God. His message is God's message. Those involved in sin hate the true watchman, or true prophet. They do not want to hear of the coming judgment.

Hosea 9:9 "They have deeply corrupted [themselves], as in the days of Gibeah: [therefore] he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins."

This is speaking of their corruption being as bad, as it had been in the days of Gibeah. There is an account of the terrible thing that happened at Gibeah in the 19th chapter of the book of Judges. It is a very foul blot on Israel's character. Read from verse 10 on, to get the full account. This is terrible that Israel has fallen to this low life-style. God must punish them for this evil.

Hosea 9:10 "I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time: [but] they went to Baal-peor, and separated themselves unto [that] shame; and [their] abominations were according as they loved."

When God heard the cry of the family of Jacob in Egypt and rescued them, they were like this wild grape. They were untamed. They lived as captives in a strange land. They had not received God's law at that time. The "fig tree" symbolizes Israel. God was pleased with them in the beginning. He had chosen them as His family. They did not stay faithful to God, but wandered away. Long before their sin in Gibeah, they sinned against God at Baal-peor. They chose to worship this false god, instead of the One

True God. This Baal was a Moabite false god. It seemed the sins connected with this worship were sensual sex sins.

Hosea 9:11 "[As for] Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird, from the birth, and from the womb, and from the conception."

God has given them many reasons why they should have this terrible thing happen to them. Ephraim had received the right hand blessing from God, and yet, they turned from God into terrible sin. They have grown into something horrible in the sight of God.

Hosea 9:12 "Though they bring up their children, yet will I bereave them, [that there shall] not [be] a man [left]: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!"

The name Ephraim means double fruit. They were a very fruitful nation. They were blessed with children from God. It appears, that their vast numbers would diminish greatly, because the Lord would take away their fruitfulness. The blessings of God were removed from them, because of their worship of false gods. When God departs from them, their blessings are replaced by curses.

Hosea 9:13 "Ephraim, as I saw Tyrus, [is] planted in a pleasant place: but Ephraim shall bring forth his children to the murderer."

The children of Ephraim will no longer be protected by God, and they will fall prey to the murderer. The land God had given them was beautiful, as the city of Tyre had been. God took His blessings away, and the young males in the land were killed.

Hosea 9:14 "Give them, O LORD: what wilt thou give? give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts."

When God removes from the people, the blessing of the womb removes, as well. One of the blessings God had promised, if they followed after Him, was to bless the fruit of their womb. When God removed His blessing, the womb was cursed. The mothers did not carry healthy children to full term, but lost the children to miscarriage.

Hosea 9:15 "All their wickedness [is] in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more: all their princes [are] revolters."

God first began to know of their evil ways at Gilgal. It seems, they were evil, even in their spirit. This had been the place Abraham made covenant with God. It had been the place of the renewal of that covenant by the people on the way to the promised land. The 12 memorial stones had been set up here, also. This place, where God had met with His people, had become a place of much sorrow to Him. They had developed the worship of the calf at this very place. Gilgal became the center for their sin. Suddenly, God's great love for Israel is turned to hate.

Hosea 9:16 "Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay [even] the beloved [fruit] of their womb."

God is so angry with them, that even the children they bear will not live. The wrath of God has come forth upon them. God even smote the root.

Hosea 9:17 "My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations."

They are scattered throughout many nations, because of God's great anger toward them.

Hosea 9 Questions

1. Why was Israel forbidden to rejoice?
2. Sin brings great _____.
3. What makes the author believe this might have been at harvest time?
4. Why did they not deserve a blessing?
5. What is verse 2 saying?
6. Egypt symbolizes the _____.
7. Why was it not important, if they ate unclean things at this time?
8. They will be held captive in _____.
9. God has turned His back on _____ and their _____.
10. Worship that is done out of _____ only, is unacceptable to God.
11. Answer the question asked in verse 5.
12. What will happen to their temple of worship?
13. What is the "visitation", of verse 7, speaking of?
14. What prophet is spoken of in verse 7?
15. What was wrong with their message?
16. Where do we find a good lesson on the watchman?
17. What does the right hand blessing symbolize?
18. Why do those in sin hate the true prophet or watchman?
19. Where do you find the story of Gibeah?
20. What is Israel spoken of, as being like, in verse 10?
21. When had Israel been like the wild grape?
22. The fig tree symbolizes _____.
23. The name Ephraim means _____.
24. Why were the blessings of God removed from them?
25. What happened to the young males of Ephraim?
26. What curse is spoken upon them in verse 14?
27. Why was Gilgal remembered?
28. When was God's love for them turned to hate?
29. Ephraim is smitten, their _____ is dried up.
30. Why will God cast them away?

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 10:1 "Israel [is] an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images."

Israel is the vine spoken of here. Israel is like a vine that empties out all of its good fruit. We saw in the previous lesson, where God had cursed the womb, and they produced no children. We see the very thing here, when God removes His blessing from a people, their crops and fruit do not produce. These goodly images were, probably, to Baal. They have left the worship of the One True God for false gods.

Hosea 10:2 "Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images."

The following Scripture has a great deal to say about the person whose heart is divided. I Kings 18:21 "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD [be] God, follow him: but if Baal, [then] follow him. And the people answered him not a word." God will not allow this. He wanted their total allegiance. He would not accept them worshipping Him and false gods at the same time. Matthew 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." We see from this, God requires 100% of our loyalty. He will destroy these false gods Himself.

Hosea 10:3 "For now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the LORD; what then should a king do to us?"

The king that they had chosen for themselves, who was not appointed of God, had no power at all to help them in their time of trouble. God had protected them from just such a problem, as long as they were obedient to Him. Now, they have placed their faith in others, and have no help at all. The fear of the LORD, here, is speaking of the great respect that was due Him. It is really speaking of reverence.

Hosea 10:4 "They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant: thus judgment springeth up as hemlock in the furrows of the field."

They had not kept their covenant with God. It appears, even their day to day life was full of deceit and lies. They made agreements, they had no intention of keeping. God had forbidden them to swear at all, but worse than that, they had sworn lies. "Hemlock" seems to be associated with bitter herbs. This is speaking of the chastisement of God, that comes upon them for their lies. Instead of producing sweet edible food, their land is full of bitterness.

Hosea 10:5 "The inhabitants of Samaria shall fear because of the calves of Beth-aven: for the people thereof shall mourn over it, and the priests thereof [that] rejoiced on it, for the glory thereof, because it is departed from it."

Samaria was the capital of Israel. Beth-aven is speaking of house of vanity. The calves, here, are speaking of the calf that Jereboam set up in the temple to worship. They had slipped into gross idolatry. This calf cannot help them in their time of trouble. The people shall mourn at the loss of the calf, and the priests will mourn with them. The people and the priests had accepted this calf to worship as their god. God allows it to be taken.

Hosea 10:6 "It shall be also carried unto Assyria [for] a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel."

This is speaking of the calf being carried into Assyria and given to the king. It had been proclaimed as god of Israel. This calf was helpless to itself, or these people. The calf is an idol. The name "Jareb" means he will contend. It is, probably, a symbolic name for Assyria. The counselors were just as evil as the ones they gave counsel to. All of the counsel led to shame.

Hosea 10:7 "[As for] Samaria, her king is cut off as the foam upon the water."

The foam on the water would be skimmed off, and done away with. This is speaking of the king being of no use to his captors.

Hosea 10:8 "The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us."

The high places had been where much of the worship of the false gods took place. Now, they will grow up with weeds. There will be no one to care for them. "Aven", here, is speaking of the Beth-aven we spoke of earlier. It had been Bethel {house of God}, but became a place where evil worship took place. The growing of the thorn and thistle show the lack of use. It was almost as if the altars, themselves, were ashamed. The battle would be so great, many would choose to die, rather than be captured.

Hosea 10:9 "O Israel, thou hast sinned from the days of Gibeah: there they stood: the battle in Gibeah against the children of iniquity did not overtake them."

Israel had sinned greatly at Gibeah. The sin was the shameful thing they had done to the Levite's concubine. We mentioned this briefly in a previous lesson. This is as if God has never completely forgotten about the terrible sin committed there. He is explaining, that what is going on here is just as bad, if not worse. Their punishment will surely come this time.

Hosea 10:10 "[It is] in my desire that I should chastise them; and the people shall be gathered against them, when they shall bind themselves in their two furrows."

God's wrath has come up in His face, and His desire is to chastise them for their terrible sins. God is holy, and He expects His people to be holy, also. Not anything, or anyone, can stop God from punishing them, now that He has judged them guilty. The two furrows could be speaking of the fact that

God will punish Judah, as well as Israel. They may try to hide from God, but there is no hiding place He cannot find.

Hosea 10:11 "And Ephraim [is as] an heifer [that is] taught, [and] loveth to tread out [the corn]; but I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, [and] Jacob shall break his clods."

The job of the heifer had been taught her. She was to tread out the corn. Ephraim had it better than his neighbors. Just as the heifer could eat the corn she tread and got really fat, Ephraim had been blessed abundantly. Ephraim had things so good, that she began to seek other gods. Ephraim is taken by Assyria, and put in bondage. It is as if a yoke has been placed on him and a rider makes him work. Judah will be captured by Babylon and caused to do hard work in bondage. Jacob speaks of all 12 tribes of Israel, Judah and Ephraim combined.

Hosea 10:12 "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for [it is] time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you."

This is one more call for them to repent, before it is too late. Even now, God would rain righteousness upon them, if they would turn from their false gods, and spread the true righteousness of God. Whatever you sow, you reap. They must be spreading righteousness and mercy, if God is to hear and forgive them.

Hosea 10:13 "Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men."

They had placed their faith in false gods. They lived wicked lives. They dealt unfairly with the people around them. They had planted wickedly, and they would reap iniquity. They would lie, or cheat or steal, if it would benefit them. They had left Holy God to worship false gods with no morals. They were doing whatever was right in their own sight. They looked to the outward might of men, and not at their hearts. They were respecters of persons, because of their position in the community.

Hosea 10:14 "Therefore shall a tumult arise among thy people, and all thy fortresses shall be spoiled, as Shalman spoiled Beth-arbel in the day of battle: the mother was dashed in pieces upon [her] children."

Even though this happened in battle, it was really a judgment of God against these people. This all happened, because of their sins. The attack was against the fenced cities. We can see from the mother being dashed to pieces upon her children, just how cruel and inhuman this conflict was. This was, possibly, the battle where Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, comes against Samaria three years. This was a very cruel time, when many died horrible deaths.

Hosea 10:15 "So shall Beth-el do unto you because of your great wickedness: in a morning shall the king of Israel utterly be cut off."

Bethel, which had been a place of God, had been turned into a place of calf worship. God's fury was kindled against them, because of this worship of a false god. The time this happened, was a time when it appeared they

were gaining in prosperity. They were prosperous in the flesh, but their spiritual lives were greatly lacking. The king was cut off and helpless. It happened so suddenly, it seemed like a morning.

Hosea 10 Questions

1. What is Israel compared to in verse 1?
2. What happens to the people, when God removes His blessings?
3. What were the goodly images, in verse 1, speaking of?
4. Quote 1 Kings chapter 18 verse 21.
5. Quote Matthew chapter 6 verse 24.
6. What are both of the above Scriptures saying to us?
7. Why could their king not help them?
8. What is the fear of the LORD, in verse 3, speaking of?
9. They had not kept _____ with God.
10. What were their day to day lives full of?
11. What was "hemlock"?
12. Instead of producing sweet edible food, their land was full of _____.
13. Samaria was the capitol of _____.
14. Beth-aven was speaking of _____ of _____.
15. Who would mourn at the loss of the calf?
16. What happened to the calf?
17. The calf had been proclaimed as _____ of Israel.
18. What does the name "Jareb" mean?
19. It is, probably, a symbolic name for _____.
20. What happens to foam on water?
21. What were the high places used for?
22. What is "Aven" speaking of?
23. O Israel, thou hast sinned from the days of _____.
24. What was the terrible sin?
25. Why was it God's desire to chastise them?
26. What is Ephraim spoken of as in verse 11?
27. What does Jacob speak of in verse 11?
28. Sow to yourselves in _____.
29. What is verse 12?
30. Describe these evil people.
31. Even though the terrible punishment comes in battle, where is it really coming from?
32. What does the mother being dashed to pieces on her children show us?
33. The battle happened so suddenly, it seemed like a _____.

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 11:1 "When Israel [was] a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt."

Israel was known as the family of Jacob for their stay in Egypt. They became known as the nation of Israel on their journey to the promised land. God had seen them in their destitute condition, and He had mercy upon them. God took them for His family, and brought them out of Egypt. God redeemed them from heavy bondage in Egypt, and declared them to be His son. God loved them above all other nations.

Hosea 11:2 "[As] they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images."

It seemed, that even from the beginning, they would fall away and worship false gods. God would forgive them, and start them again on the right path. It seemed, they could not handle good times. Each time they would fall away to worship other gods. It is a possibility that they began practicing the worship of false gods in Egypt, and never completely got rid of those bad habits. They were unfaithful from the beginning.

Hosea 11:3 "I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them."

Ephraim had received the spiritual blessing of the right hand. God had gone to extra trouble to teach Ephraim His ways. Part of the reason for the 40 years of wandering, was to teach them His ways. God healed their unfaithfulness over and over. God forgave them, and gave them another chance. He tried to lead them and guide them, but they did not learn their lesson well. God acted as a loving parent.

Hosea 11:4 "I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them."

These "cords of a man" mean that God had a hold on their guidance. God kept them close enough, that they could not completely wander away. All of this control that God kept over them was done in love. We see that even though God had controls on Ephraim, He still lifted the yoke, so that it would not be too heavy to bear. Matthew 11:30 "For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light." Notice, "I laid meat unto them". He blessed them with plenty to eat. God provided all their needs.

Hosea 11:5 "He shall not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to return."

We see that God has finally had enough of their unfaithfulness. God has stopped protecting them. They will not go back into Egypt where He found them, but their captivity will be even worse in Assyria. They refused to repent and return to God, so God has given them over to be punished.

Hosea 11:6 "And the sword shall abide on his cities, and shall consume his branches, and devour [them], because of their own counsels."

This is speaking of the invasion that comes. This will be bloody. All the cities will be joined in this battle. The sword will be in all the cities. They had taken counsel from the world, instead of from God. The "consuming of the branches" would be all their young men falling in battle.

Hosea 11:7 "And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt [him]."

They had been in right standing with God, and they of their own free will, have turned away from God. They are like many people today who walk with God for awhile, and the cares of this world cause them to fall away. God had called them to a special relationship with Him. They, of their own free will, refused to exalt Him as God.

Hosea 11:8 "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? [how] shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? [how] shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together."

The word "Admah" means earthy. "Zeboim" means gazelles. They were like wild animals, who were difficult to tame. God obviously loved Ephraim and Israel. He was like a loving parent that kept going back, forgiving them. They deserve to be totally destroyed, but God cannot bring Himself to do that. His heart is still upon them. God, even now, repents of the terrible punishment He had planned for them. Instead of total destruction, they are scattered. God never completely gives up on them. In the time of Jesus, He reaches out to them again. John 11:54 "Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples."

Hosea 11:9 "I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I [am] God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city."

God is not man, that He has to explain why He forgives someone. God never pours out His wrath upon His own. He loves them and will make a way out for them. He will not completely destroy Ephraim. He will leave a door open in this situation. They will have opportunity to accept Jesus as their Saviour, when God pours out His mercy on mankind. God never stops loving, and that is why He sent His Son to save whosoever will. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Hosea 11:10 "They shall walk after the LORD: he shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west."

The lion is a mighty powerful animal, that sounds fearful when it roars. The fear of the LORD causes them to tremble. Ephraim will return to the LORD, and walk in His ways. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

Hosea 11:11 "They shall tremble as a bird out of Egypt, and as a dove out of the land of Assyria: and I will place them in their houses, saith the LORD."

This is speaking of a time, when they will be eager to return to their home, as a bird is eager to return to his nest. This speaks of a time when they will return home, and receive their houses again.

Hosea 11:12 "Ephraim compasseth me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah yet ruleth with God, and is faithful with the saints."

Even though God will restore them, He still speaks of their unfaithfulness to Him. They are full of lies and deceit. Judah is the tribe that the Lord Jesus comes from. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Jesus rules with God the Father. He rules all the world from Jerusalem in the land of Judah.

Hosea 11 Questions

1. What does God call Israel in verse 1?
2. While they were in Egypt, they were spoken of as the family of _____.
3. What terrible things did they do in return?
4. What, possibly, was the cause of their false worship?
5. _____ had received the spiritual blessing of the right hand.
6. What was part of the reason they wandered 40 years in the wilderness?
7. God acted as a loving _____ toward them.
8. What did "the cords of a man" indicate?
9. Quote Matthew chapter 11 verse 30.
10. What does "I laid meat unto them" mean?
11. Who will rule over them?
12. They had taken counsel of the _____.
13. What was the "consuming of the branches"?
14. What is meant by "backsliding"?
15. What had they done of their own free will?
16. Quote Hosea chapter 11 verse 8?
17. What does the word "Admah" mean?
18. "Zeboim" means what?
19. In verse 8, what does God do that gives them a glimmer of hope?
20. Quote John chapter 11 verse 54?
21. Quote Hosea chapter 11 verse 9.
22. Does God have to explain why He forgives someone?
23. Quote John chapter 3 verse 16.
24. They shall walk after the LORD, he shall roar like a _____.
25. What happens to Ephraim?
26. They tremble as a _____ out of Egypt.
27. What does God speak of, again, in verse 12?

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 12:1 "Ephraim feedeth on wind, and followeth after the east wind: he daily increaseth lies and desolation; and they do make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt."

In this chapter, we see again, that God is reminding Ephraim of their faults. The worst thing they did, besides worshipping false gods, was the fact they made treaty with a worldly country.

Hosea 12:2 "The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him."

When Jacob is mentioned, it is speaking of all 12 tribes of Israel. God is not a respecter of persons. When they sin, they are judged of God, and made to pay whatever punishment God allots to them. He is a forgiving God, but He is, also, a just God.

Hosea 12:3 "He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God:"

This is speaking of Jacob and Esau, when they were born. We remember from previous lessons, the birthright belonged to Esau, but he traded it to his brother Jacob for a bowl of soup. Even in their mother's womb, before they were born, there was war going on between the two. It has never stopped, until this very day. Jacob tricked His father into giving him the right hand {preferential} blessing.

Hosea 12:4 "Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him [in] Beth-el, and there he spake with us;"

Jacob had wrestled all night with the angel of the Lord. Jacob won the battle, and caused the angel to bless him. God, through the angel, changed Jacob's name to Israel. All of this happened at Beth-el. "Beth-el" means house of God. Jacob's life was changed. He became the father of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Hosea 12:5 "Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD [is] his memorial."

We saw in the verse before this, Jacob was sorrowful for his past. We, now, see salvation has come to him through covenant with God. It is not Israel that is God's memorial, but God that is Israel's memorial.

Hosea 12:6 "Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually."

Their repentance has to do with man, but the greatest repentance for them, or us, is to repent and be brought back into right standing with God. God is never very far away. Turn to God, and He is there. This is saying, again, that salvation is a continual thing. Once a person receives salvation, they must continue to walk in that salvation. Psalms 27:14 "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."

Hosea 12:7 "[He is] a merchant, the balances of deceit [are] in his hand: he loveth to oppress."

God always cautioned His people to deal with just weights. Leviticus 19:36 "Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I [am] the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt." One of the ways you could determine who belonged to God, was by the way they conducted themselves in business. Proverbs 11:1 "A false balance [is] abomination to the LORD: but a just weight [is] his delight." Those who oppress their neighbor are not godly people.

Hosea 12:8 "And Ephraim said, Yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: [in] all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me that [were] sin."

There is not one place in the verse above, that God is given credit for making Ephraim rich. Ephraim thinks he has done this himself. Proverbs 30:12 "[There is] a generation [that are] pure in their own eyes, and [yet] is not washed from their filthiness." Ephraim thought he was perfect. He did not feel any guilt for the sins he committed. This is a dangerous place to be in. Those who know they are guilty of sin, seek a Saviour.

Hosea 12:9 "And I [that am] the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast."

During the time of the solemn feast, they dwelt in tabernacles. Sometimes, they are called booths. This could, also, be speaking of them dwelling in tents. This is just indicating an uncertain dwelling place. Abraham gave up his house, and dwelt in tents. He was looking for a city whose maker was God.

Hosea 12:10 "I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets."

The prophets did not speak their own words. They spoke the words God put into their mouths. God had given visions to warn them, as well. The similitudes in the ministry of the prophets were things, like Isaiah walking naked and barefoot in the street. The prophet was showing in the physical, the spiritual condition of the people. Another very good example of that, was Jeremiah wearing the yoke around his neck, when he ministered. The similitudes could be, also, speaking of the parables of things, like the vineyard that were given. God had used everything within His power to reach them, before it was too late.

Hosea 12:11 "[Is there] iniquity [in] Gilead? surely they are vanity: they sacrifice bullocks in Gilgal; yea, their altars [are] as heaps in the furrows of the fields."

Yes, there was iniquity in Gilead. Gilead was the mountain region east of Jordan. They have caused the anger of God to come against them, because they have sacrificed to idols in Gilead. They had sacrificed bullocks to strange false gods. They have made altars as memorials to false gods. "Heaps" have to do with establishing covenant, and heaping rocks up as a memorial.

Hosea 12:12 "And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept [sheep]."

Israel "served for a wife" could be speaking of the 14 years he spent working for his uncle Laban for a wife. Genesis 28:5 "And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padan-aram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother." He had not taken a wife of the heathen women around him, as his brother Esau did, but went to his uncle's, and found a wife of the same faith. He worked as a shepherd.

Hosea 12:13 "And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved."

The prophet that led them out of Egypt was Moses. Moses prayed, and God rained Manna from heaven for them to eat. God, through Moses, brought them 40 years through the wilderness with no lack in their life. God preserved them, to set them up as an example of His family to the whole world.

Hosea 12:14 "Ephraim provoked [him] to anger most bitterly: therefore shall he leave his blood upon him, and his reproach shall his Lord return unto him."

Instead of Ephraim being extremely grateful for what God had done for him, he rebelled against God over and over. God forgave him over and over and gave him another chance. Whatever happens to Ephraim, he has no one to blame but himself. His blood and punishment are brought on himself. His idolatry has gone too far. God has brought punishment.

Hosea 12 Questions

1. God is reminding Ephraim of their _____.
2. What was the worst thing they did, besides worshipping false gods?
3. What is God, besides a forgiving God?
4. When is verse 3 speaking of?
5. Who did the birthright belong to?
6. What was the preferential blessing?
7. Who had Jacob wrestled all night with?
8. Where did this happen?
9. What does the name mean?
10. Who is His memorial?
11. What advice did he receive in verse 6?
12. Quote Psalms chapter 27 verse 14.
13. God always cautioned his people about _____ weights.
14. Quote Leviticus chapter 19 verse 36.
15. A false balance was an _____ to the LORD.
16. What things could the tabernacles, in verse 9, imply?
17. What is the mention of the tabernacles indicating?
18. The prophet's words were actually _____ Words.
19. Name some of the similitudes given?
20. Is there iniquity in Gilead?
21. What terrible thing were they doing there?
22. What is meant, in verse 12, about "serving for a wife"?
23. Who did he work for?
24. What kind of work did he do?
25. What had Ephraim done?
26. What was his punishment for that?

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 13:1 "When Ephraim spake trembling, he exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended in Baal, he died."

As long as Ephraim kept great fear and reverence for God, He did just fine. It was when he got too proud, and started worshipping Baal, that God was offended. It does not mean to imply that all the other worship of false gods was unimportant. It just means it grew to its worst stage, when they worshipped Baal. The worship of the golden calf in the wilderness had been terrible, and many died in punishment for it, but this is speaking of the whole land being involved in the worship of Baal. Jereboam instituted the worship of the calf as God. The death of the nation was sounded, when this last offence against God came.

Hosea 13:2 "And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, [and] idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves."

The making of idols was just another sign of how far they had fallen from God. They used the precious metals of silver and gold, that God had blessed them with, to make these abominable idols. Anything that you can see, is not God. If it is made by human hands, it is not God. Even this calf was made by human hands, and was not to be worshipped. God is a Spirit. Kissing the calves just shows the degradation of their worship.

Hosea 13:3 "Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff [that] is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney."

All of these things are experienced for a moment and fade away. The "chaff" many times, symbolizes the lost of the world. Their terrible sin, they had committed, was bringing them to swift destruction.

Hosea 13:4 "Yet I [am] the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for [there is] no saviour beside me."

Exodus 14:13 "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more for ever." Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Hosea 13:5 "I did know thee in the wilderness, in the land of great drought."

God had protected them from the famine. He had caused water to come from the Rock to take care of their thirst. They should recognize His goodness, and be faithful to Him.

Hosea 13:6 "According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me."

God had led them to green pastures. He had provided for their every need. The most difficult time to stay in good fellowship with the Lord, is when everything is going great. We have a tendency to be like them, when things are running smooth. We take God for granted, and the first thing you know, we are backsliding. A believer in God never stands still. They are either pressing closer to God {usually in time of great trials}, or they are drifting away from God. They had become comfortable and wandered away from God.

Hosea 13:7 "Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe [them]:"

The end of all their sin is destruction. The lion, or leopard, stalks its prey, and then at a convenient time, pounces on them. The destruction that comes on them for their unfaithfulness to God, will be sudden.

Hosea 13:8 "I will meet them as a bear [that is] bereaved [of her whelps], and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them."

A mother bear, that has lost her whelps, is a ferocious animal. She will destroy everything that gets in her way. This is speaking of this ferocious animal grabbing at the heart area, and tearing an opening to the heart to kill it.

Hosea 13:9 "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me [is] thine help."

This is a cry for them to stop and consider all of this, before it is too late. Their only help is in the Lord.

Hosea 13:10 "I will be thy king: where [is any other] that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes?"

Israel had been unfaithful to God, when they sought the help of the worldly kings around them. God was their help. These worldly kings not only could not save them from destruction, but would not, if they could. They have made agreement with the world and left God. God is the only One that could, and would, save them.

Hosea 13:11 "I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took [him] away in my wrath."

God had never wanted Israel to have an earthly king. He wanted to be their only King. They kept insisting on having a king like the countries around them, until God gave them Saul to be their king. It turned out he was not a good king, and God {in His wrath} destroyed him, and put David in his place as king.

Hosea 13:12 "The iniquity of Ephraim [is] bound up; his sin [is] hid."

The sin of Ephraim had not been forgotten. He might believe it to be hidden, but God knew. God would bring judgment upon them.

Hosea 13:13 "The sorrows of a travailing woman shall come upon him: he [is] an unwise son; for he should not stay long in [the place of] the breaking forth of children."

This is speaking of the pain accompanied with child birth. The severity of the punishment is compared to the pain of childbirth. His sorrow will overcome him. It is very bad to stay in the sin, that got him into this trouble. His way out is through repentance.

Hosea 13:14 "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes."

This is a promise that God will redeem them. Jesus defeated death, when He rose from the grave. This is a promise of restoration to them. Not restoration to their homeland, but restoration to their God. God will not repent of their punishment, but will use it to change them.

Hosea 13:15 "Though he be fruitful among [his] brethren, an east wind shall come, the wind of the LORD shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up: he shall spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels."

The coming storm would not completely do away with them. Ephraim speaks of double fruit, and is thought of as being fruitful. The wind of an angry God can change that. The wind shows up in the Assyrians that take the land, but comes from God. The Assyrians do take the vessels for spoil.

Hosea 13:16 "Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up."

This is speaking of their capital. The severity of the war is shown in the infants being dashed to pieces, and the women with child being ripped apart. This is a very nasty war. We must remember, they actually bought it upon themselves, when they worshipped false gods.

Hosea 13 Questions

1. When Ephraim spake _____, he exalted himself in Israel.
2. When he offended in Baal, he _____.
3. Who instituted the worship of the calf as God in Ephraim?
4. What had they made with their silver?
5. God is a _____.
6. What things were they compared to in verse 3?
7. What did these things have in common?
8. What did the "chaff", many times, symbolize?
9. Quote Exodus chapter 14 verse 13.
10. Quote Acts chapter 4 verse 12.
11. When is the most difficult time to stay in fellowship with God?
12. Verse 7 says, God will be to them as a _____.
13. Describe a mother bear who has lost her whelps.
14. What is verse 9, really?
15. Who had Israel sought help from?
16. Who was the king God had given them in His anger?
17. Who did God replace him with?
18. What was their trouble compared to in verse 13?
19. What is his only way out of this trouble?
20. What is verse 14 a promise of?
21. What takes away the fruit of Ephraim?
22. How bad was the war?

We will begin this lesson in Hosea 14:1 "O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity."

This begins with a plea from God for Israel to repent, and return to God. The truth is that God would look for any signs of repentance from them, because He wants to forgive them. God mentions the reason for their fall as their iniquity.

Hosea 14:2 "Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive [us] graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips."

Verse 2 above, reminds me of the following Scripture. II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Both Scriptures are a call for prayer of repentance. I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." "Render the calves of our lips" would be an expression of the sacrifice of praise to God.

Hosea 14:3 "Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, [Ye are] our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy."

This is expressing the fact that no world ruler could save them. There is no one who can save them, but God. They renounce, also, the idols they had made with their own hands. They will no longer trust in the power of their horses in battle. They realize that only God is merciful.

Hosea 14:4 "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him."

This speaks of God, who has accepted their repentance, and set them in right standing with Himself. It is God's mercy and grace that saves them. God will cause them to love Him. They will no longer be tempted to backslide. They will rest in God. Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:" Ephesians 2:9 "Not of works, lest any man should boast." II Corinthians 5:21 "For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Hosea 14:5 "I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon."

This speaks of total restoration. Luke 12:27 "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Hosea 14:6 "His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon."

God has completely turned away His anger from Israel, and His blessings are upon him. The beauty of growth in the Lord is spoken of here. The olive tree speaks of the Spirit. They will be beautiful, and smell as Lebanon. This is speaking of them becoming the bride. Song of Solomon 2:13 "The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines [with] the tender grape give a [good] smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." Romans 11:24 "For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural [branches], be grafted into their own olive tree?"

Hosea 14:7 "They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive [as] the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof [shall be] as the wine of Lebanon."

God is the protector here. It is His shadow that protects. It is God who makes the earth produce from the grain of seed we plant. It is His rain and sunshine which brings growth. It is the blessing of God that makes it produce. The beautiful order of a productive plant is spoken of here.

Hosea 14:8 "Ephraim [shall say], What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard [him], and observed him: I [am] like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found."

Ephraim has totally abandoned idol worship. Ephraim has learned his lesson. His safety and help is in God. God's eyes are set on Israel to bless him. The green fir tree speaks of eternal life. God is the provider of all fruit. We must not depend upon anything on this earth for our source. God is our source.

Hosea 14:9 "Who [is] wise, and he shall understand these [things]? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD [are] right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein."

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Those who are wise accept the salvation offered to them by the Lord, and then walk in that salvation. Those who choose God live in the righteousness that He has provided. Those who reject the Lord, shall die in their sin.

Hosea 14 Questions

1. What is the plea of God in verse 1?
2. Why would God look for any signs of repentance?
3. Quote 2 Chronicles chapter 7 verse 14.
4. Quote 1 John chapter 1 verse 9.
5. What does "render the calves of our lips" indicate?
6. What is verse 3 saying about Asshur?
7. They renounce their _____ in verse 3.
8. I will heal their _____.
9. It is God's _____ and _____ that saves them.
10. Quote Ephesians chapter 2 verses 8 and 9.
11. Quote 2 Corinthians chapter 5 verse 21.
12. I will be as the _____ to Israel.
13. What does verse 5 speak of?
14. Quote Luke chapter 12 verse 27.
15. Verse 6 says, his beauty shall be as the _____ _____.
16. The olive tree speaks of the _____.
17. Quote Song of Solomon chapter 2 verse 13.
18. Who is Romans chapter 11 verse 24 speaking of?
19. Who makes the bare grain produce?
20. What statement does Ephraim make in verse 8?
21. The green fir tree speaks of _____ _____.
22. Quote Hosea chapter 14 verse 9.
23. The _____ of the _____ is the beginning of wisdom.

*Thank you for taking the time to study these lessons.
I pray that something in this study has blessed you.*

Your friend in Jesus,

Louise

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