# Daniel (2nd century CE)

Daniel is a history book and the record of the visions given to Daniel by Jehovah during the Babylonian captivity, and later, under the rule of the Persians.

**A 2nd century CE translation**

This version of Daniel was translated from Hebrew into Greek in the 2nd century CE (about 300 or 400 years after the rest of the Septuagint) by the Jewish scholar Theodotian. It gradually replaced the former Greek version of Daniel that everybody used. By the 4th century CE, the former version had been completely replaced by this version.

This is important, because the Hebrew text of Daniel (on which all Bibles are based) may have suffered deliberate corruption in the late 1st century CE, and this 2nd century Greek version is simply a copy of that corrupted Hebrew version.

In other words, you may not get much more insight into Daniel’s prophecies from this version than from a normal Hebrew-based Bible. However, the ‘Old Greek’ version could, perhaps, be a more authentic version of Daniel – if it really shows what Daniel originally said before the 1st century.

That ‘Old Greek’ version was lost for centuries until it turned up again in the 1770s. That document is now called the Codex Chisianus 88. Later, two more copies were discovered, including a translation into Aramaic.

The differences are generally small (perhaps quite meaningless to a modern reader), but considering the great interest people have in Daniel’s prophecies, even a small difference may have large implications.

Unfortunately, we didn’t appreciate the value of the Old Greek version when we first produced our translation of Daniel. So, for now, the *2001 Translation* only uses the 2nd century CE translation by Theodotion (just like other Septuagint translations). However, in the future, we’ll also provide a translation of the Old Greek version of Daniel at 2001translation.org/read/daniel-old-greek.

For now, you can download a side-by-side translation of both versions in a PDF over at the NETS project.

**The book**

The book of DaniEl, in its original form at least, was written by DaniEl himself. It covers the time from about 633 BCE to about 537 BCE.

Only Bible translators would notice when God or His spokesperson speak in the form of Hebrew poetry, since there’s a definite cadence to the language. Wherever that appears, we’ve tried to recreate a poetic style in English.

Speaking in poetry was a memory aid, which also allowed messages to be spread via the common medium of communication of that day: song.

### Daniel (2nd century CE)

## Chapter 1

1It was during the 3rd year of the reign of JehoiAkim (the king of Judah) that NebuChadnezzar (the king of Babylon) came to JeruSalem and attacked it.

2Then the Lord gave JehoiAkim into his hands, along with part of the things that were in the Temple of Jehovah, which thereafter he carried back to the land of Shinar and put into the treasury of the temple of his god.

3Then after that, the king told his Chief Eunuch AshPenaz to go get some of the sons of IsraEl that were descended from royalty and nobility, and bring them to him as captives. 4They were to be young, perfectly formed, good looking, wise in all things, knowledgeable, intelligent, and bold enough to stand in the palace of the king. And [when they arrived], he told him to school the young men in the language and writing of the Chaldeans.

5The king also arranged for them to eat at his table each day, to share in his banquet wine, and to be given special care for three years, after which they were to be brought before the king. 6Among these sons of Judah were DaniEl, HananiAh, AzariAh, and MishaEl. 7However, the chief eunuch renamed DaniEl to BelTeShazzar, HananiAh to ShadRach, MishaEl to MeShach, and AzariAh to AbedNego.

8Now, DaniEl had decided in his heart that there was no way he’d pollute himself at the table of the king, nor would he drink any of his banquet wine. So, he petitioned the chief eunuch not to be forced to pollute himself, 9and God granted DaniEl the chief eunuch’s mercy and compassion.

10However, the chief eunuch said to DaniEl:

 ‘I’m afraid of my lord the king, and since he’s the one who’s selecting your food and the things that you are to drink, I don’t want him to see your faces looking sadder than the faces of the other boys that are your peers. For if that happens, the king’ll have my head!’

11But DaniEl told MelZar (the man whom the chief eunuch had put in charge of DaniEl, HananiAh, MishaEl, and AzariAh) this:

 12‘Then test your servants for ten days. Give us just the seeds of the fields to eat and just water to drink. 13Then compare us to the other boys that eat at the king’s table. Whichever looks better is what you should choose for your servants.’

14So he did what they asked and tested them for ten days. 15Then at the end of the ten days, he examined them and noticed how they looked… And he found that they were stronger and in better shape than the other boys that were eating at the king’s table!

16As a result, MelZar did away with their suppers and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them just seeds to eat. 17Then God gave them understanding and intelligence in all their studies, and He made them wiser. And it was then that DaniEl came to have an understanding of visions and dreams.

18Well, the time finally arrived when they were to be brought before the king, so the chief eunuch took them to NebuChadnezzar. 19Then, after the king questioned them, he found that there were no others like these four boys, DaniEl, HananiAh, MishaEl, and AzariAh, and he allowed them to stand before him. 20In every matter of wisdom and knowledge (whatever the king asked them about), he found them ten-times greater than all the other dignitaries and sorcerers throughout his realm.

21Well after that, DaniEl went on to live all the way into the 1st year of the reign of King Cyrus.

### Daniel (2nd century CE)

## Chapter 2

1It was in the 2nd year of the reign of NebuChadnezzar that the king had a dream that so deeply disturbed his spirit that he couldn’t sleep. 2So he gave the order to call for [all his] officials, priests, sorcerers, and Chaldeans, to have them interpret the dream.

Then when they came and stood before the king, 3he said to them:

 ‘I had a dream that bothered me so deeply that I must know what it means!’

4Well, the Chaldeans replied to the king in the Syrian language, saying:

 ‘O king,

 ‘May you live throughout the ages! Just tell your servants what you dreamed, and we’ll announce the interpretation to you!’

5But the king told the Chaldeans:

 ‘I’ve forgotten what it was about… And if you can’t tell me the dream and give me its interpretation, I’ll have you all destroyed and have your homes torn down!

 6‘However, if you can tell me the dream and give me its interpretation, I’ll give you many gifts, do many favors for you free of charge, and I’ll honor you greatly… But first you must tell me the dream, and then you must explain what it means to me!’

7Well, they answered him a second time, saying:

 ‘May the king tell the dream to his servants, and then we’ll announce its interpretation!’

8And at that, the king said to them:

 ‘I know for a fact that you’re just buying time for yourselves, because I told you how every word of the dream has left me. So now, if you can’t tell me the dream, I’ll know that you’re corrupt and lying, and that you’ve agreed to keep speaking before me just to [buy more] time.

 9‘First tell me my dream, and then I’ll know that I can believe the interpretation that you give to me!’

10But the Chaldeans then said the king:

 ‘There’s no man on dry land that can make known what the king is asking, for this is something that no great king or ruler has ever asked of an official, a priest, or a Chaldean. 11What the king is asking is so difficult that no one can tell him such a thing… Other than the gods who don’t live here in the flesh.’

12And at that, the king flew into a rage!

He was so angry that he ordered all the wise men of Babylon to be destroyed, 13and he sent out a edict for them all to be put to death!

Well, when they went looking for DaniEl and his friends to do away with them, 14DaniEl asked this of AriOch, the king’s head-of-the-guards (who had come to execute all the wise men of Babylon). 15He said to him:

 ‘O [servant] of the king!

 ‘Why was such a presumptuous decree put before him?’

Then AriOch told DaniEl about all the things that had been said.

16Well at that, DaniEl went before the king and petitioned him to give him enough time to find the interpretation so that he could announce it to the king. 17Then DaniEl returned to his house and there he [met with] his friends HananiAh, MishaEl, and AzariAh, and he asked them to help him interpret [the dream]. 18And they then trusted in the compassions of the God of heaven [to help them unlock] this mystery, and to keep DaniEl and his friends from being destroyed along with the rest of Babylon’s wise men.

19Then that night, DaniEl had a vision in which the mystery of the dream was revealed to him. So he praised the God of heaven, and said this:

 20‘May the Name of The Great God be praised
 Throughout the age and into the age of the ages.
 To Him, understanding and wisdom belong…
 21He’s the One who changes the seasons and times.

 ‘He appoints kings and removes them…
 To the wise, He’s the One who gives wisdom
 As well as intelligence, so they’ll understand…
 22He uncovers the things that are hidden and deep.

 ‘He knows all that happens in the darkness,
 For, He is the source of all light.
 23So I acknowledge and praise You,
 O Great God of the ages.

 ‘For You’re the One who gave me the wisdom and power,
 And revealed what I petitioned from You,
 Regarding this matter of the king.
 Yes, You’ve revealed it to me!’

24Then DaniEl went to AriOch (the one whom the king had appointed to destroy all the wise men of Babylon) and said to him:

 ‘Don’t destroy the wise men of Babylon! I want you to take me before the king so I can announce the interpretation of the dream to him.’

25As a result, AriOch quickly took DaniEl before the king and told him:

 ‘I’ve found a man among the captive sons of Judah who can announce to the king the interpretation of his dream!’

26And the king asked DaniEl (whom he referred to as BelTeShazzar):

 ‘Are you really able to tell me the dream that I saw and then explain its meaning to me?’

27And there in the presence of the king, DaniEl said this:

 ‘The mystery that the king has asked the wise men, sorcerers, officials, and astrologers to announce to him isn’t theirs to explain. 28However, there’s a God in the heavens that can uncover mysteries, and He’s made known to King NebuChadnezzar what’s going to happen in the last days.

 ‘The dream that you saw in your head while you were lying in your bed was this:

 29‘You, O king, through the thoughts that you had in your bed, were elevated to see what will happen after this… For mysteries have been made known to you about things that will happen [in the future].

 30‘Now, I’m no wiser than any other living man; but this mystery has been uncovered to me so that the king may understand what it means, and so that you may know the thoughts that are in your own heart.

 31‘You looked, O king, and you saw a huge idol that was overwhelming in size… It stood right in front of your face and it frightened you!

 32‘This idol had:

 • A head of pure gold;
 • Its breast, arms, and hands were of silver;
 • Its belly and thighs were of brass;
 • Its legs were of iron; and
 • Its feet were part iron and part baked clay.

 33‘Well, as you were staring at it, a rock was cut from a mountain without any hands, which thereafter flew and hit the image on its feet of iron and baked clay, which completely shattered them… 34And everything else was shattered at the same time (the baked clay, the iron, the brass, the silver, and the gold). Then it all became like a cloud of dust from a threshing floor during the harvest, 35and thereafter a wind came and blew it all away, leaving nothing at all.

 ‘Then the stone that had struck the image [grew into] a huge mountain that covered the whole earth.

 36‘So, that was your dream… And now I’ll tell the king what it means.

 37‘You, O king, are the king of kings to whom the God of heaven has given a strong, fortified, and honorable kingdom. 38And in every place where the sons of men live, as well as in every place where the wild animals of the fields and flying creatures of the skies live, has been given into your hands by Him, for He’s made you the lord over it all. So you, O king, are the head of pure gold.

 39‘But after you, another kingdom will arise that’s inferior to yours, and then a 3rd kingdom (the one of brass) will come to dominate the whole earth. [It will be followed by] a 4th kingdom that will become as strong as iron… 40For just as iron can crush and tame all things, it will crush and tame everything.

 41‘Then the feet and the toes that you saw, which were partly of iron and partly of baked clay, will be a divided kingdom.

 ‘However, because you saw the iron mixed with the baked clay; [this means that] some of the roots of the iron will be in it. 42And since the toes of the feet are partly of iron and partly of baked clay, part of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be easily broken. 43For as you saw the iron mixed with the baked clay; [this kingdom] will be mixed with the offspring of mankind… And they won’t stick to each other, just as iron won’t stick to baked clay.

 44‘Then in the time of those kings, the God of heaven will establish a Kingdom that won’t be corrupted throughout the ages, and His Kingdom won’t be passed on to anyone else.

 ‘[First] it’ll crush and sift all the other kingdoms, and it will stand throughout the ages thereafter.

 45‘So, now that you’ve seen the stone cut from a mountain without hands, and how it crushed the baked clay, iron, brass, silver, and gold; the great God has revealed to the king what’s going to happen after this.

 ‘This dream is true, and you can trust its interpretation.’

46Well at that, King NebuChadnezzar fell to his face and bowed before DaniEl. Then he offered him some very nice cologne as a gift, and he [told his servants] to bring him something to drink.

47Then the king said this to DaniEl:

 ‘It’s a fact that your God is the God of gods, Lord of lords, and King of kings. For He alone can uncover mysteries… As you were able to uncover this mystery!’

48After that, the king honored DaniEl by giving him many great gifts, and he appointed him over all the [districts] of Babylon as the ruler over all the governors and wise men of Babylon. 49And because he then requested this of the king, ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego were appointed over the construction projects throughout all the regions of Babylon, and DaniEl [thereafter served] within the courtyard of the king.

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## Chapter 3

1It was during his 16th year that King NebuChadnezzar had a gold-[plated] idol made that stood 100 feet (30.5m) tall and 10 feet (3m) wide, which he placed in the plains of Dura, near Babylon.

2So he then called for all of his top officials, generals, lieutenants, governors, vassal kings, 3and everyone else of authority throughout all of his districts, and decreed that they should come and [celebrate] a holiday of dedication for the idol that he had erected.

So everyone came and stood before the idol that NebuChadnezzar had erected, 4and then the [king’s] herald yelled at the top of his voice:

 ‘O nations, peoples, tribes, and languages,

 ‘You’ve been told that 5when you hear the sound of the trumpets, woodwinds, harps, stringed instruments, and bagpipes playing the anthem, you must all fall to your faces and bow before the idol of gold that King NebuChadnezzar has erected.

 6‘And if anyone should choose not to bow before it, he will be immediately taken out and thrown into a blazing-hot furnace!’

7So when the people heard the sounds of the trumpets, woodwinds, harps, stringed instruments, and bagpipes playing the anthem, all the peoples, tribes, and languages bowed low before the gold idol that King NebuChadnezzar had erected.

8However, certain Chaldeans then went up and made an accusation against the Jews… 9They went to King NebuChadnezzar and said:

 ‘O king,

 ‘May you live throughout the ages!

 10‘However, the king gave an order that when we hear the sound of the trumpets, woodwinds, harps, stringed instruments, and bagpipes playing the anthem, 11any man who doesn’t fall and bow before the gold idol should be thrown into a blazing furnace.

 12‘Now, there were three Jewish men whom you’ve put over construction in Babylon – ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego – and they didn’t obey your decree, O king!

 ‘For they’ve chosen not to serve your gods or to bow before the gold idol that you’ve erected.’

13Well at that, NebuChadnezzar flew into an angry rage and he had them bring ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego before him.

14Then NebuChadnezzar said to them:

 ‘ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego, is it true that you won’t serve my gods, and that you won’t bow before the gold idol that I’ve erected?

 15‘Well now, when you hear the sound of trumpets, woodwinds, harps, stringed instruments, and bagpipes playing the anthem, it would be best for you to fall to your faces before the gold idol that I’ve made. Because, if you don’t bow to your faces before it, you’ll be taken out immediately, and then thrown into a blazing-hot furnace… And then we’ll see which God can rescue you from my hands!’

16But ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego said this to King NebuChadnezzar:

 ‘We don’t really have to answer you about this matter, 17for our God in the heavens (whom we serve) can rescue us from the fire in the furnace… And He will rescue us from your hands, O king!

 18‘Yet, even if He shouldn’t choose to do this, you must know, O king, that we won’t serve your gods, or the gold idol that you’ve set up and told us to bow before.’

19Well, NebuChadnezzar was furious! The way that he viewed ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego suddenly started to change. So he gave instructions to heat the furnace seven times hotter than usual… Until they couldn’t get it any hotter! 20Then he gave some powerful men instructions to shackle ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego, and then throw them into the blazing-hot furnace.

21So the three were shackled and then thrown into the midst of the blazing-hot furnace fully clothed, [wearing their] pants, underclothes, and official turbans. 22And following the instruction of the king, the furnace had in fact been made seven times hotter than usual.

23Well, the three men (ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego) fell into the midst of the blazing furnace wearing shackles… But then they started walking around in the midst of the flames, praising God and blessing their lord!

24And when NebuChadnezzar heard their praising, he was shocked! So he quickly got up and asked his mighty men this:

 ‘Didn’t you throw three men wearing shackles into the midst of the fire?’

And they replied:

 ‘Yes we did, O king.’

25But the king said:

 ‘I see four men here that are freely walking around in the midst of the flames, and none of them are being burned! And the vision that I’m having of the fourth one is as that of a son of God!’

26Then NebuChadnezzar leaned forward towards the top of the blazing furnace and said this:

 ‘O ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego!

 ‘You servants of the highest God, come here!

 ‘Come out of there!’

So ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego came out from the midst of the flames, 27and then all the governors, generals, lieutenants, and king’s officials were called over to see these men, and to [witness the fact] that the fire hadn’t consumed their bodies! For the hair on their heads hadn’t been singed, their [clothes] were still the same, and there wasn’t even the smell of smoke on them!

28Then, right there before them all, the king bowed to Jehovah and said:

 ‘Praise the God of ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego who sent His messenger and rescued His servants that put faith in Him. For these men changed the word of the king and then they offered their bodies in fire, because they wouldn’t serve any god other than their God!

29So thereafter, the king issued this decree:

 ‘Any people, tribe, or language that speaks blasphemously against the God of ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego will be destroyed and their houses will be pillaged… For there’s no other god who can rescue in such a great way.’

30Then the king promoted ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego to be over all regions of the [Empire of] Babylon. He also paid them more, and he put them in charge over all the Jews in his realm.

Then sometime later, the king [wrote this] about [something else that had happened to him]:

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## Chapter 4

 1‘NebuChadnezzar the king,

 ‘To all peoples, tribes, languages, and to all that live in the land:

 ‘May you have an abundance of peace!

 2‘I’m pleased to announce to you that the highest God has performed signs and miracles to me… 3And His signs are great, His wonders are mighty, His kingdom is throughout the ages, and His authority is through generations.

 4‘I, NebuChadnezzar, was prospering in my palace and my throne was thriving. 5But then I had a vision in a dream that struck me with fear and left me disturbed in my bed, for the vision that I saw in my mind really bothered me. 6So I decreed that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me so I could have them explain the meaning of the dream. 7Then all the sorcerers, priests, astrologers, and Chaldeans came to me, and I told them of the dream, but they were unable to explain what it meant.

 8‘However, DaniEl (who is called BelTeShazzar, and who truly has the Breath of God) came in the Name of my God, and I told him my dream. 9[I said to him]:

 ‘O BelTeShazzar, you leader of [my] wise men, and someone whom I know has the Breath of God, and is never powerless when it comes to understanding mysteries. Listen to the vision that I saw in my dream, and then tell me what it means. 10For this is the vision that I saw in my mind while I was in my bed:

 ‘{Look!} There was a huge tree that stood in the center of the earth… It was very tall, 11and the tree kept getting mightier and larger until it reached into the heavens and it spread to the ends of the earth.

 12‘Its leaves were beautiful and it was filled with enough fruit to feed everyone. So the wild animals of the fields camped under it, the flying creatures of the skies lived in its branches, and all flesh was being fed by it.

 13‘Then in the vision that I had in my bed that night, I saw a holy observer (a messenger) coming down out of the sky, 14and he shouted and said:

 *‘Now, you must cut down the tree…*
 *Yes, cut off its branches and shake off its leaves,*
 *Then scatter its fruit [on the ground].*
 *Thereafter, you must chase off all the wild beasts*
 *That are living under its branches,*
 *And drive the flying creatures away!*

 15*‘Leave nothing but its roots in the ground;*
 *Then, bind it with iron and brass,*
 *So that it will just lie there covered by grass,*
 *Surrounded by the wild beasts of the fields,*
 *And bathed by dew from the skies,*
 *Just like grass on the ground.*

 16*‘Then his heart will be changed from that of a man,*
 *And the heart of a beast will be given to him…*
 *For seven times, this is how he’ll be changed.’*

 17‘Then the observer said:

 *‘This is a [vision] from the Most Holy One,*
 *To show to all those who are living*
 *That Jehovah is over all kingdoms,*
 *And He gives them to whomever He chooses…*
 *He can even appoint men who are viewed with contempt*
 *To be in charge of it all.’*

 18‘So, this is what I saw in the dream (yes me, King NebuChadnezzar). Therefore, I [said to] BelTeShazzar:

 ‘Now, explain it to me… Tell me what it means! Although none of the other wise men in my kingdom have been able to interpret it for me, I know that you can, O DaniEl, because the Holy Breath of God is within you!’

 19‘Well, DaniEl was unable to say anything for an hour, because he was so disturbed by his thoughts. Then I asked:

 ‘O BelTeShazzar, why are you taking so long in interpreting the dream?’

 ‘And BelTeShazzar replied:

 ‘O lord, leave the interpretation to those who hate you and to your enemies! 20For the tree that you saw, which became so strong and so tall that it reached into the heavens and covered the whole earth, 21and which grew such great leaves and had such an abundance of fruit that it fed all the wild animals that lived under it, as well as all the flying creatures that lived in its branches is you, O king! 22Because, your fame and greatness has been made to grow so much that it now reaches into the heavens, since you rule to the ends of the lands!

 23‘And when the king saw a holy observer coming down from the sky who [was told] to [cut down] the tree and destroy it, but to leave its roots in the ground and to band the tree with iron and brass, then to let it lie there among the shoots of grass among the wild animals [where it is to be bathed by] the dew from the skies [and remain that way] for 7 times… 24This is what it means, O king:

 ‘It is the highest form of interpretation, for this is what’s going to happen to you, O my lord the king.

 25‘You’ll be driven away from mankind,
 And be forced to live among beasts in the plains,
 Where they’ll feed you with grass like an ox,
 And you’ll [be bathed by] dew from the skies.

 ‘For seven times, you’ll be changed,
 Until you accept that Jehovah is higher
 Than all the kingdoms of men,
 And to those He selects, He gives all this [power].

 26‘But, because they were told
 To leave the tree’s roots in the ground,
 Your kingdom will continue to be yours,
 Until the time that you realize
 That your power has come to you from the heavens.

 27‘But because of this, O king (and may my council be pleasing to you);
 You must pay for your sins by giving to the poor,
 And you must also pay for your errors
 By showing compassion to the needy.
 Then, God may be lenient with you for your sins.’

 28‘Well, all of these things happened to me (King NebuChadnezzar). 29For just 12 months later, while I was walking in the temple of my kingdom in Babylon 30and I was saying to myself:

 *‘Isn’t this the great Babylon that I’ve built as my royal home through my own power, strength, honor, and glory…’*

 31‘Yes, while those words were still in my mouth, a voice came from the sky that proclaimed:

 *‘To you, it is now being said,*
 *O King NebuChadnezzar,*
 *That your kingdom has been taken from you.*

 32*‘For men will drive you away,*
 *And you’ll have to live among the wild beasts,*
 *Where they’ll feed you grass like an ox.*

 *‘For seven times, you’ll be changed,*
 *Until you know that Jehovah*
 *Is the One who’s over all kingdoms,*
 *And He gives it to whomever He chooses.’*

 33‘Well, that’s what happened to me, King NebuChadnezzar, within that very hour! I was driven away from my people, I ate grass like an ox, I was bathed by the dew from the sky, my hair became as strong as that of a lion, and my fingernails grew long like bird’s claws!

 34‘Then, after those days had been fulfilled, I, NebuChadnezzar, raised my eyes to the sky, and my senses were returned to me.

 ‘So I praised the Most High who lives throughout the ages… I praised and spoke gloriously of His authority that lasts throughout the ages, and of His kingship [that lasts] through generations of generations.

 35‘For before Him, those of us who live on the earth are like nothing at all, since He rules the armies of the heavens and those who live on the earth in any way that He wishes! No one can resist His hand, or ask Him why He does the things that He does.

 36‘Then, after my senses returned, the honor of my kingdom was restored to me. My appearance returned to me, and my rulers and great men looked up to me once again. So thereafter, I went on to strengthen my kingdom, and more greatness was added to me.

 37‘Now, I, NebuChadnezzar, praise, honor, and glorify the King of the heavens, because everything that He does is righteous, all of His ways are fair, and He humbles those who become too proud.’

### Daniel (2nd century CE)

## Chapter 5

1[Well, several years later], BelShazzar [the last Babylonian king] had prepared a feast for 1,000 of his most important men, and they were each served wine.

2Then, while BelShazzar was tasting and drinking the wine, he told [his servants] to bring in the items of gold and silver that his ancestor NebuChadnezzar had taken from the Temple [of Jehovah] in JeruSalem, so that the king, his important men, and his concubines and mistresses could drink from them.

3So they brought in the items of gold and silver that had been taken from the Temple of God in JeruSalem. Then the king, his important men, and his concubines and mistresses 4started drinking wine from them, while they praised their gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone.

5But within that very hour, the fingers of a man’s hand appeared and started writing on the whitewashed wall near a lamp in the king’s palace!

When the king saw the knuckles doing the handwriting, 6his appearance changed… He was so deeply disturbed that he became incontinent and his knees started shaking! So the king called out to have the priests, Chaldeans, and astrologers brought in to him.

7Then he said to those wise men of Babylon:

 ‘Whoever can read this writing and interpret it for me will be dressed in purple, a gold necklace will be placed around his neck, and he’ll be appointed as the third ruler in my kingdom!’

8So thereafter, all the king’s wise men were brought in to him… But they were unable to read the writing or interpret it for the king. 9Therefore, King BelShazzar was still disturbed and his appearance was still changed. And of course, all of his important guests were also very disturbed.

10Then the queen entered the banquet room and said this to the king:

 ‘O king,

 ‘May you live throughout the ages!

 ‘Don’t allow this to bother your thoughts and change your appearance, 11for there’s a man in your kingdom who’s filled with the Breath of God.

 ‘Back in the days of your ancestors, he was found to be an insightful and understanding man. And it was because of this that your ancestor King NebuChadnezzar put him in charge of all his advisors, Chaldeans, and astrologers.

 ‘12This man has a greater measure of [God’s] Breath, and he’s the most intelligent and understanding when it comes to such things as interpreting dreams, reporting things that are [forgotten], and untying knots. [This man] is DaniEl, whom the king renamed BelTeShazzar.

 ‘You should call for him and he’ll interpret [these words] for you.’

13So DaniEl was thereafter brought before the king, and the king asked him:

 ‘Are you DaniEl, the one whom my ancestor the king brought here from among the captives from Judah? 14I’ve heard that the Breath of God is in you and that you’re insightful, understanding, and exceedingly wise.

 ‘15Now, my wise men, priests, and astrologers have come here and they all tried to read this writing and to interpret it for me, but they couldn’t explain what it means!

 ‘16However, I’ve been told that you’re able to interpret such judgments. So, if you can read this writing and interpret it for me, I’ll dress you in purple, I’ll place a gold chain around your neck, and I’ll appoint you to be the 3rd ruler in my kingdom!’

17However, DaniEl said to the king:

 ‘You can keep your gifts and you can give the [power] over your house to someone else… But I’ll read the writing and interpret it for you, O king.

 18‘O king,

 ‘It was the Highest God who gave the kingdom, greatness, honor, and glory to your ancestor, NebuChadnezzar. 19And it was because of this greatness that God put him over all the peoples, tribes, and languages, and made them tremble in fear before him. Therefore, he could destroy anyone he wished, beat anyone he wished, promote anyone he wished, and humble anyone whom he wished to humble.

 ‘20But when his heart became too haughty and his spirit became too proud, he was brought down from the throne of this kingdom and this honor was removed from him. 21Then he was driven away from among mankind and his heart became like that of a wild animal. So he lived among the zebras, he was fed grass like an ox, and his body was bathed and washed by the dew from the skies until he recognized that the Most High God is the One who really rules all the kingdoms of mankind, and He can give [the power] to whomever He chooses.

 22‘Now you, O BelShazzar, have not humbled your heart before God, which is something that you knew you should do, 23and you’ve acted haughtily before Jehovah the God of the heavens by having the items from His Temple brought before you, where you, your important men, and your concubines and mistresses drank wine from them as you were praising your gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone, who can’t see, hear, or know anything at all… Yes, you failed to glorify the God who holds your breath and everything you are in His hands.

 24‘So it’s because of this that the knuckles of a hand were sent from His presence… Yes, He’s the One who sent this writing to you.

 25‘This is what the writing says:

 *‘Mene, Tekel, Peres.’*

 26‘And this is what it means:

 ‘**Mene** means that God has measured your kingdom and brought it to an end.

 27‘**Tekel** means that He’s weighed you on a scale and found you to be lacking.

 28‘**Peres** means that your kingdom will now be divided among the Medes and Persians.’

29Well after that, BelShazzar gave the order to dress DaniEl in purple, to put a gold chain around his neck, and he proclaimed him to be the third ruler in his kingdom.

30However, that very night, BelShazzar (the king of the Chaldeans) was killed 31and Darius the Mede took the kingdom as his own at the age of 62.

### Daniel (2nd century CE)

## Chapter 6

1Darius thereafter appointed 120 governors to be in charge of his kingdom. 2Then he appointed three ministers to be over them (to whom the governors had to report), because the king didn’t want to be bothered… And DaniEl was one of these ministers. 3And because he had an extra portion of [God’s] Breath, DaniEl was placed over the other two ministers, so that he was in fact in charge of the whole kingdom.

4Of course, the other two ministers and the governors [weren’t pleased with this], so they kept looking to find some wrongdoing that they could use as an accusation against DaniEl. However, they couldn’t find any excuse, sin, or error against him, because DaniEl was always faithful.

5Well, the other two ministers soon came to realize that the only thing they could use against DaniEl was the Law of his God. 6So they and the governors went before the king and said this:

 ‘O King Darius,

 ‘May you live throughout the ages!

 7‘We, the generals, governors, and supreme leaders whom you’ve appointed over your kingdom – those whom you’ve appointed to royal positions – have met together, and we want you to enact [this law] to strengthen [your rule]:

 *‘Anyone who makes a request of any man or god other than you for the next 30 days, O king, must be thrown into the lion’s pit.’*

 8‘Please, O king, enact this law and write it for public display, since the decrees of the Medes and Persians can’t be changed.’

9As a result, King Darius gave orders for the decree to be written.

10However, when DaniEl found out about the decree, he just went home, and there in an upper room before open windows that faced JeruSalem, he bent down on his knees to praise and pray before his God. [He did this] three times, the same as he’d always done.

11Well, those men had been watching him closely. So when they saw DaniEl petitioning and begging before his God, 12they went to the king and said:

 ‘O king!

 ‘Didn’t you enact an order saying that anyone who makes a request of a god or a man other than from you for the next 30 days should be thrown into the lion’s pit?’

And the king replied:

 ‘What you say is true, and the decrees of the Medes and Persians may not be changed!’

13So they said to the king:

 ‘We wish to report to you that DaniEl – one of those who was brought as a captive from Judah – hasn’t followed your decree, for today he still prayed before his God three times!’

14Well, this really disturbed the king, and although he wanted to do something to save DaniEl, 15those men said to the king:

 ‘You must know, O king, that any decree of the Medes and Persians may not be altered once the king has enacted it, no matter what the circumstances or what position [the person] may hold!’

16So the king gave the order, and they took DaniEl out to throw him into the pit of lions. [But before they threw him in], the king asked DaniEl:

 ‘Will your God, whom you’ve served so faithfully, rescue you?’

17[Well after that, they threw him in], and they took a stone slab and placed it over the top of the pit. They then sealed it with the king’s ring, and with the rings of his top men, so that nothing could be changed for DaniEl. 18And thereafter, the king returned to his palace and went to bed without eating any supper… He had no food brought him, and he wasn’t able to sleep.

19Then, when the king got up the next morning (at daybreak), he went out to the lion’s pit. And as he was approaching it, he called out to DaniEl, shouting loudly:

 20‘O DaniEl… O servant of the Living God… Has your God whom you’ve served so faithfully been able to rescue you from the mouths of the lions?’

21And DaniEl replied:

 ‘O king,

 ‘May you live throughout the ages!

 22‘Yes, my God sent His messenger who blocked the mouths of the lions. They haven’t been able to destroy me, because [my God] has found me to be righteous… And I haven’t done anything against you either, O king.’

23Well, the king was overjoyed by this, and he gave the order that DaniEl was to be taken out of the pit. And when they lifted him out, they found that DaniEl hadn’t been harmed in any way, because he had trusted in his God.

24Then the king gave orders and they took the men who had accused DaniEl and threw them, their sons, and their wives into the lion’s pit… And they hadn’t even reached the floor before the lions had them! They even chewed up their bones, so all that remained of them was just dust!

25And after that, King Darius wrote a letter to all the peoples, tribes, and languages throughout the whole earth that said this:

 ‘May you have peace!

 26‘From my presence, I’ve sent this decree to all states throughout my realm:

 *‘Before the face of DaniEl’s God*
 *All should tremble and fear.*
 *For, He’s the one Living God*
 *And He exists throughout the ages.*

 *‘His Kingdom won’t be destroyed*
 *And it will last throughout the ages…*
 *He alone will rule ‘til the end.*

 *27‘He snatches away and He rescues;*
 *He sends us miracles and signs*
 *Both in the heavens and on the earth…*
 *For, this is the One who saved DaniEl*
 *From the mouths of the lions.’*

28So DaniEl continued to prosper during the reign of Darius, and on into the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

### Daniel (2nd century CE)

## Chapter 7

1It was during the 1st year of the reign of BelShazzar (the king of the Chaldeans) that DaniEl saw a vision in his head as he was lying in his bed, and this is what he wrote about the things that he saw:

 2‘In my vision during the night, I, DaniEl, saw the four winds blowing hard and stirring up the Great Sea. 3And four large animals came up out of the sea that were different from each other.

 4‘The first one looked like a **female lion**, and she had the wings of an eagle. But as I watched, her wings were plucked off and she was lifted away from the earth… Then she stood on feet that were like those of a man, and the heart of a man was given to her.

 5‘I also saw a second wild animal that looked like a **bear**. It was lying on one side and there were three ribs sticking out of its mouth from between its teeth. Then it was told to get up and devour much flesh.

 6‘{Look!} I also saw another wild animal that looked like a **leopard**, but it had four wings [like those of] of a bird on its back, and it had four heads. It was also given great power.

 7‘And as I was watching, I saw a **fourth wild animal** that was astonishing, frightening, and huge. It had teeth of iron that were mighty for eating and crushing, and it trampled the others with its feet. It was very different from the wild animals that had come before it, and this one had ten horns.

 8‘Then as I was looking at its horns, another **small horn** came up in the midst of them, which pushed out the three horns that were in front of it. {Look!} This horn had the eyes of a man, and it started saying grandiose things.

 9‘Well, as I kept on watching, a throne appeared upon which the Most Ancient One seated Himself. His clothes were as white as snow, the hair on His head was like pure wool, His throne was like flames of fire, and it had wheels that looked like flames. 10Also, a river of fire shot out from before Him, and there were millions that were serving Him and tens of millions more that were standing before Him.

 ‘Then a judgment seat was brought forward and scrolls were opened. 11And as I was watching, I heard a voice coming from the [animal’s] horn that was speaking those grandiose words.

 ‘However, after that, the wild animal was condemned and put to death, then its body was thrown into a blazing fire. 12And after that happened, the rulership of the other wild animals was returned to them, and their lives were extended for a time and a season.

 13‘Then as I was watching the things in the vision that night, {Look!} someone like a Son of Man arrived riding upon the clouds of the skies, and he went up in front of the Most Ancient One, 14who then gave him rulership, honor, and a Kingdom, so that from then on, all the peoples, tribes, and languages were to serve him. And [he was told that] the authority he was given was to last throughout the ages… It would never pass away or be destroyed.

 15‘Well at that, the spirit within me, DaniEl, shuddered (as often happens to me), because the visions that I saw in my head were so disturbing. 16So I went up to the one who was standing there, because I wanted him to explain the meanings of all these things… And he spoke to me plainly, making the interpretation very clear.

 17[‘He said]:

 *‘These four great beasts are four kingdoms,*
 *Which will arise on the earth…*
 18*But thereafter, they’ll be taken away.*

 *‘Then this [Son of Man] will take over the kingdom*
 *Of the holy ones of the Most High…*
 *Throughout the age and throughout ages of ages,*
 *He will be the one who’ll rule.’*

 19‘Then I wanted to find out more about the fourth wild animal, because it was so different from the other wild animals and it was so frightening because of its iron teeth and brass claws that it used to eat, crush, and trample.

 20‘I also wanted to learn more about the ten horns that were on its head, and about the [horn] that arose and shook off three of the [horns]… The one who had eyes and a mouth that spoke grandiose things, because it was the most disturbing of all the things that I saw. 21For as I was watching, that horn attacked the holy ones and conquered them.

 22‘But then the Most Ancient One came and gave these Holy Ones His most favorable judgment, and they were able to take over their Kingdom.

 23‘Then he told me this:

 *‘The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom*
 *That will also rule over the earth.*
 *It will be greater than all other kingdoms.*
 *For, it’ll devour all of the lands…*
 *It’ll trample upon them and cut them to bits.*

 24*‘His ten horns are ten kings who’ll come,*
 *And after them, another will arise*
 *That will conquer the previous kings…*
 *And three of them will be humbled.*

 25*‘Then, he will speak grandiose words*
 *And mislead the Holy Ones of the Most High.*
 *He’ll choose to change times and laws*
 *For 3-1/2 times.*

 *26‘But thereafter, the judgment seat will arrive,*
 *And his position of rule will be changed…*
 *He’ll be removed from view and destroyed*
 *Until the end has arrived.*

 *27‘Then the Kingdom, the authority, and the greatness*
 *Of all the kings under the heavens*
 *Will be given to the Holy One of the Most High,*
 *Whose Kingdom will last throughout the ages…*
 *Then these kings will serve and obey Him.’*

 28‘Well, that’s when [the dream] ended. But these thoughts disturbed me so much that they even changed my appearance. Therefore, I (DaniEl) remembered them and kept them in my heart.’

### Daniel (2nd century CE)

## Chapter 8

1It was in the 3rd year of the reign of King BelShazzar that I, DaniEl, had a vision that was like the previous one. 2In the vision, I found myself at the palace in Sushan (in the region of ElAm), and I was standing by the Ulai River.

3Then, when I looked up, I saw **a ram** standing at the river bank that had two long horns. One horn was taller than the other and it grew from behind it.

4Then I saw the ram butting towards the west, north, and south, so that none of the other wild animals could stand before him and none could be saved from his hands. So, he did whatever he wished and he became very powerful.

5Well, as I was watching, {Look!} **a male goat** came across the land from the southwest and [his feet] weren’t touching the ground!

This goat’s horn was very conspicuous, because it grew out from between his eyes. 6Then he rushed towards the ram that I saw (the one with the two horns), and butted him as hard as he could! 7Because he was furious with him, he ran as fast as possible and he hit the ram and broke off both of his horns, which left [the ram] weak and unable to oppose him. Then [the male goat] threw the ram to the ground and trampled him, and no one came to his aid.

8Thereafter, the male goat became extremely famous for his strength. But then, **his large horn was broken** and four horns grew up from beneath it. Each pointed towards one of the four winds of the skies.

9However, one of them became extremely powerful… It grew rapidly towards the south and east 10until it reached to the powers of the heavens! Then he threw [the other three horns] to the ground, and he also started trampling on the stars.

11For he became more powerful towards the commander-in-chief, so that through him, the sacrifices were to be disturbed and the Holy Place was to be destroyed. 12Yes, he was prepared as a sin-offering sacrifice that resulted in righteousness being tossed to the ground. And after he did that, he prospered.

13Then I heard the Holy One speaking. He asked:

 ‘How long will this vision stand…
 When the sacrifices are taken away,
 And the sin of destruction is allowed,
 As the Holy Place and its power,
 Will thereafter be trampled upon?’

14And he said:

 ‘After 2,300 mornings and evenings,
 The Holy Place will be cleansed.’

15Well, as I was seeing this vision, I (DaniEl) wanted to understand more. Then I saw what looked like a man standing before me, 16and I heard a man’s voice speaking from the midst of the Ulai [River].

He called out and said:

 ‘GabriEl! Let him understand the vision!’

17So he came over to where I was standing. As he was approaching, I became very disturbed and fell to my face. Then he said to me:

 ‘Pay attention, O son of man.

 ‘For this vision is of the time of the end!’

18Well, as he was speaking to me, I stayed there with my face to the ground. But then, he touched me, and stood me up on my feet.

19And he said:

 ‘{Look!} I’ll explain what will bring the end to [God’s] rage.
 For, these are the things that will happen
 In the time of the end:

 20‘The ram that you saw with [two] horns,
 Is the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians,
 21And the male goat is the king of the Greeks.

 ‘The great horn that stands between its [two] eyes
 Will be their greatest of kings.
 22And after he’s broken, the four horns that arise
 Will be four kings who succeed him;
 But, none will be as mighty as he.

 23‘Now, in the last days of their kingdom,
 They’ll be filled with sins.
 Then a king will arise that has a proud face…
 One who understands riddles.

 24‘Even though he’ll have great power, the strength won’t be his.
 Then he will prosper and corrupt in wondrous ways…
 He’ll take action and he will bring ruin
 To a people who are mighty and holy.

 25‘He will prosper by putting [others in] yokes,
 And in his hands, there’ll be treachery;
 For in his heart, he’ll think himself great.

 ‘His treachery will bring ruin to many,
 And he will destroy many to establish himself…
 He’ll break them like eggs in his hands.

 26‘As for the vision of the evenings and mornings...
 The things that you saw are all true!
 But, you must now seal up this vision,
 For it’ll all happen in some future time!’

27Then I (DaniEl) went to bed and I was sick for several days after that. But I [finally] got up and did my work for the king, and I wondered about the vision… But I was the only one who knew about it.

### Daniel (2nd century CE)

## Chapter 9

1Well, it was during the 1st year of Darius of Xerxes (a Mede who ruled the Chaldean kingdom), 2that I, DaniEl, came to understand that the number of years (from Jehovah’s words given to the Prophet JeremiAh) for fulfilling Jerusalem’s desolation [would be] 70 years [referring to Jeremiah 25:11-12].

3So I turned my face towards Jehovah God to ask Him about this through prayers, supplications, and by fasting in sackcloth and ashes. 4 I prayed to my God Jehovah, acknowledging Him and saying this:

 ‘O Lord,

 ‘O great and wonderful God who keeps His Sacred Agreements and is merciful to those who love Him and keep His commandments...

 5 ‘We’ve sinned, done wrong, and been godless,
 For from Your commandments and ways, we have turned.
 6 We’ve not listened to Your servants the Prophets
 (Those who spoke in Your Name),
 Or to our kings, rulers, ancestors, and kin.

 7‘Although You, O Jehovah, are just.
 The people of IsraEl and Judah,
 As well as those in JeruSalem,
 Have been covered with shame to this day…
 Yes, all the people who [lived there]
 And those who’ve been been [carried away]
 To all places, wherever You sent them,
 Because they had been in rebellion
 By annulling their Sacred Agreement with You.

 8‘The faces of our fathers, rulers, and kings
 Who’ve sinned against You are shamed.
 9 But from You, O Jehovah our God,
 Has come forgiveness and tender compassion,
 Despite our sin of withdrawing from You.

 10‘To Your voice, we’ve not paid attention,
 O Jehovah our God,
 Nor have we obeyed the Laws that you gave
 Through the hands of Your servants, the Prophets.

 11‘IsraEl has broken Your laws,
 And turned aside from hearing Your voice.
 So the curses and oaths that were written
 In the Law of Moses (the servant of God)
 Have now fallen upon us
 Because of our sins against You.

 12‘So the words that were spoken against us
 And against the judges that judged us
 Have now all come to pass…
 They’ve brought such evil upon us
 As has never been seen in JeruSalem’s skies.

 13‘In the Law that You gave to Moses,
 It was written that these bad things would happen
 If we failed to search for the face of our Lord,
 And turn away from our sins.

 14‘Since this was the concern of Jehovah our God,
 He sent upon us, our own evil ways.
 It was right for Jehovah to do all these things,
 For we’ve not paid attention to His voice!

 15‘Now, O Jehovah our God…
 You who led Your people from Egypt
 With Your great, mighty hand
 And established a Name for Yourself to this day...
 We’ve broken Your Laws…
 We’ve fallen into errors and sins!

 16‘Yet Lord,
 In your great loving care,
 Please turn away Your anger and rage
 From Your [holy] city, JeruSalem,
 And from Your most holy Mountain!

 ‘It was because we walked in the sins of our fathers
 That JeruSalem and Your people
 Have become an object of such ridicule
 By those who are living around us.

 17 ‘O Jehovah, our God,
 Hear the prayer of Your servant,
 And listen to the things that I’m begging!

 ‘May Your Face be seen in Your Most Holy Place
 Before those whom You’ve deserted…
 Do this for the sake [of Your Name]!

 18‘O my God,
 Lean Your ear and listen to me!
 Please open Your eyes and notice
 How we and the city where You’ve put Your Name
 Have now been brought to destruction!

 ‘So, we can no longer approach You
 And throw our worries before You
 Because of our unrighteous ways, O Jehovah…
 Yet we have many things that concern us.

 19‘Please listen, O Lord, and cover our sins…
 Do it quickly, because our city and its people
 Are the ones who are called by Your Name!’

20 Well, it was just as I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sins and the sins of my people (throwing my desire for mercy before my God Jehovah concerning His Holy Mountain), 21 that GabriEl (the person whom I saw flying in my first vision) touched me!

It was about the time for the evening sacrifice, 22 and then he helped me to understand. He spoke to me, and said this:

 ‘O DaniEl,

 ‘I’ve come here to teach you
 So that you can now understand.
 23 I’ve been coming since you started your prayer
 To tell you that you’ve been found to be
 A very desirable man.

 ‘So, you must now reflect on the things
 That you’ll see in this vision.
 2470 periods of 7 have been set
 On behalf of you and your people
 And for the Holy City on Zion

 ‘So as to bring an end to your sins,
 To set a seal on your errors,
 To wipe away all of your lawless deeds,
 And to atone for the [bad things you’ve done]…

 ‘To restore righteous ways throughout the ages,
 To set a seal on the prophecies and visions,
 And to anoint the holiest of the holy.

 25‘So, know this, and now understand:

 ‘From the delivery of the word and its response
 For JeruSalem to be built once again
 Until the Anointed (Greek: *Christou*) Leader arrives,
 Will be 7 periods of 7,
 Plus 62 periods of 7.
 They’ll rebuild the walls and the squares,
 But they’ll do it through difficult times.

 26‘And after the 62 periods of 7,
 The Anointed One will then be destroyed…
 For in that place, there’ll no longer be justice.

 ‘Then the Holy Place and the city
 Will be corrupted by a leader that will come
 And cut them off by a downpour…
 He’ll order an extinction upon them
 Until the end of his war.

 27‘He’ll strengthen the Sacred Agreement with many
 During one period of 7;
 But in half of that period of 7,
 Sacrifices and drink offerings will be lifted away.

 ‘Then, to the Temple will come the disgusting destroyer,
 And until that time is fulfilled,
 There’ll just be complete desolation.’

### Daniel (2nd century CE)

## Chapter 10

1Well, it was during the 3rd year of the reign of Cyrus, the king of Persia that these true words were uncovered to me DaniEl (who was also called BelTeShazzar), and I was able to gain a great understanding from this vision.

2At the time, I (DaniEl) had been in mourning for three weeks… 3I hadn’t eaten any meat or bread, nor drunk any wine. I also hadn’t rubbed myself with any oil during those three weeks.

4Then, (on the 24th day of the 1st month) as I was standing on the banks of the great Tigris River, 5I raised my eyes and I saw a man wearing linen clothes.

His hips were wrapped in the gold of Ophir, 6his body looked like stone, and his face looked like lightning, his eyes looked like burning lamps, his arms and legs looked like shining brass! When he spoke it was like the sound of a large crowd!

7I was the only one who saw this vision. The men who were with me at the time didn’t see anything. However, something came over them that frightened them, so they all ran away – 8leaving me alone.

Well, when I had this great vision, it left me weak… It took all my glory and corrupted it, leaving me without any strength. 9Then I heard a voice speaking words. When I heard what was being said, I was confused. So I fell with my face to the ground.

10Then, {Look!} a hand reached out and touched me and lifted me up on my knees and onto the palms of my hands.

11And this is what he said to me:

 ‘O DaniEl, you very desirable man...
 Understand the words I’m speaking to you.
 Get up and stand on your feet,
 For I’ve been sent here to help you!’

Well when he said that, I stood up, but I was still shaking.

12And he said to me:

 ‘Don’t be afraid, O DaniEl.
 For from the first day that you opened your heart
 So as to understand [all these things],
 And you started [your fast] to Jehovah your God,
 All of your words have been heard!
 And I’ve come here because of the things that you’ve prayed.

 13‘But the ruler of the kingdom of Persia
 Stood and opposed me for 21 days,
 Until MichaEl (one of the foremost rulers)
 [Finally] came to my aid.

 ‘So, that’s where I’d left him…
 With the ruler of the kingdom of Persia,
 14And I’ve come here so as to explain
 What will happen to your people in the last days.
 For, this is a vision of things that will be.’

15Well as he was saying that, I fell with my face to the ground once again, because I was so confused.

16Then {Look!} someone who looked like one of the sons of men came and touched my lips, and I was able to open my mouth and speak.

So, to the one standing in front of me I said:

 ‘O lord, seeing this vision of you has twisted my insides and left me weak. 17So, O Lord, how will your servant be able to speak to you, since I’m weak, I can’t stand up, and I can hardly breathe!’

18Then [somebody who] looked like a human came and touched me, and gave me strength.

19And he said:

 ‘Don’t be afraid, you most desirable man…

 ‘May you have peace!

 ‘But now you must be manly and strong!’

Well, as he was speaking to me, I did become stronger, so I said:

 ‘Now speak, O my lord, because you’ve given me the strength [I need]!’

20Then he asked:

 ‘Do you know why I’ve come here to you?
 Although I must now go back and fight a war
 Against the ruler of the kingdom of Persia,
 Before the ruler of the Greeks will arrive,
 21I’ve come here to help you write words of truth.
 And no one is with me when it comes to these things
 Other than MichaEl, your ruler.’

### Daniel (2nd century CE)

## Chapter 11

[Editor note: For a verse-by-verse commentary of the meaning of this prophecy, see A Comparison Chart of the Prophecy of DaniEl 11 with the History of the Greek World.]

 1‘Since the 1st year of Cyrus,
 I’ve been standing nearby in power and might…
 2And now, I’ll tell you the truth:

 ‘{Look!} In Persia, three kings will arise,
 Then a fourth will come who’ll be richer.
 And after he gains all his wealth,
 He will attack the kingdoms of Greece.

 3‘Then [from Greece], a mighty king will arise
 Who’ll gain a vast kingdom
 And he’ll do whatever he wishes.

 4‘But, after his kingdom has been established,
 It’ll be divided and broken
 Towards the four winds of the skies…
 And it won’t be as strong as during his rule.
 For his kingdom will then be plucked up
 And divided among the outsiders.

 5‘Then the king in the south will grow mighty,
 But another one will grow stronger
 And he’ll use the authority he’s given
 To rule a kingdom that’s vast.

 6‘However, after his time,
 They’ll all become allies;
 And the daughter of Egypt’s king
 Will go to the king in the north
 And she’ll make treaties with him.
 But his arm won’t be strong, and his offspring won’t survive.

 ‘Then, she’ll be handed over,
 Along with all those who brought her,
 As well as with her young women,
 And the one who made her strong in her time.

 7‘Then someone will arise from the root of her flower,
 And when he’s ready, he’ll attack
 The army of the king of the north
 And overrun his supporters…
 He will conquer and then win the war.

 8‘He’ll carry away all of their molded gods
 And all of their most desirable things
 (Including their silver and gold).
 Then, back to Egypt, he’ll take it…
 For he’ll dominate the king of the north.

 9‘Thereafter, [the king] of the north
 Will come and enter the kingdom
 Of the king of the south…
 But then, he will return to his land.

 10‘So his sons will gather an army,
 Which will quickly overrun and pass through.
 [In that land], they’ll thereafter settle,
 And they’ll fight all the way to his stronghold.

 11‘This will enrage the king of the south
 And he will raise a large army
 To fight against the king of the north,
 And he’ll take many captives.

 12‘Then his heart will become very proud,
 And thousands, he will cut to the ground…
 But the war that he will fight won’t be won.

 13‘Thereafter, the king of the north
 Will gather an army that’s larger,
 And towards the end of [his rule],
 He’ll attack and enter with power,
 Along with many [weapons of war].

 14‘But, during that time, there’ll be a rebellion
 Against the king of the south,
 As the rabble among your people grow many,
 So this vision will be proven true…
 But then, they’ll also get weaker.

 15‘Then the king of the north will attack,
 And he will build many siege mounds
 To capture their fortified cities.

 ‘And the chosen ones of the south will arise;
 Yet, they won’t be quite as strong.
 16So the one who enters will do what he wants,
 And none will be able to stop him.

 ‘Then he’ll stand in the glorious land,
 And with his own hands, he will destroy it.

 17‘Thereafter, he will set his face
 To march against their whole kingdom
 With those who have been proven upright,
 And this is what he will do:

 ‘They’ll give him the daughter of a woman,
 So that he can thereafter corrupt her,
 But she won’t stay and she’ll never be his.

 18‘So he’ll turn his attention to the islands,
 And many will be captured there.
 This will stop the ridicule of their kings…
 But, only for a short time.

 19‘At that time, he will turn his attention
 To making his land much stronger again;
 But then, he’ll get weaker and fall,
 And never be [heard from] again.

 20‘Yet, from out of his roots, will arise
 The shoot of a kingdom to oppose him,
 And demand all the glory of his kingdom.

 ‘Yet, in those days, he’ll be broken…
 But, not by rebellion or war.
 21There’ll be someone who’ll stand in his place
 Whom he once treated with great contempt
 And not given any glory in his kingdom.
 But, in prosperity, he will return,
 And through treachery, he’ll then take the kingdom.

 22‘So the strength of the one who was bringing the flood
 Will be broken and washed away from his face…
 The one who’s in charge of the Sacred Agreement.

 23‘For, after he’s made an alliance,
 He will then act in deceitful ways.

 ‘Through a nation that’s small, he’ll gain power,
 24And he will go to a prosperous place
 To do what his fathers and even their fathers
 Had been unable to do…
 He’ll plunder and divide up the loot.

 ‘Then, he will plot against Egypt,
 25And when he’s strong, he will set his heart
 Against the king of the south,
 And attack him with a great army.

 ‘But the king of the south will gather an army
 And beat him with their new weapons of war…
 26He’ll devour everything that he wanted to take,
 And then, he will destroy their whole army…
 He’ll break them and he will kill many.

 27‘So, both kings will have wicked hearts,
 And when they sit down at a table,
 They’ll lie and settle nothing at all
 Until the end has arrived.

 28‘Then, when he goes back to his country,
 He will do so with things that he’s plundered
 And with his heart set firmly against
 The Holy Sacred Agreement.

 ‘But, after he returns to [his] land,
 29He’ll invade the south once again…
 Yet it won’t be the same as he did at the first.

 30‘Then, [ships] of Cyprus will attack him
 And [teach him] that he must be humble;
 So he’ll return and show his rage once again
 Against the Holy Sacred Agreement.

 ‘He will launch an attack against those who supported
 The Holy Sacred Agreement,
 31Then [they’ll come] and profane the great Holy Place…
 And bring an end to the daily sacrifices.

 Yes he will bring the disgusting destroyer
 32Against all those who are breaking the Law
 And disregarding the Sacred Agreement.

 ‘But those who know God will grow stronger
 And they’ll do whatever needs to be done…
 33For they’ll come to know many things.

 ‘Yet, they’ll be weakened by swords and by fire,
 And as captives, they’ll be carried away…
 They’ll be ravaged for a very long time.

 34‘Then, after they’ve become weakest,
 They’ll be given some help;
 For, many will be added to them…
 But, they won’t have the same zeal.

 35‘They’ll drag down those who do understand
 And purify them as through fire
 Until the time of the end,
 Which will still be a long time away.

 36‘Thereafter, the king will grow in his might
 And put himself higher than all of the gods…
 Including the God of all gods.

 37‘He will forget the Gods of his fathers,
 And not notice the desires of women…
 He will ignore all the gods,
 And put himself higher than all.

 38‘A god of war from his country,
 He will then glorify
 (A god whom his fathers never knew)
 With silver, gold, and most precious gems,
 And many desirable things.

 39‘Within a fortress of refuge,
 He will act with a strange god
 (Whichever one he chooses)…
 He’ll make it grow in its glory,
 And cause many to bow down before it,
 And then, he’ll divide the land up as gifts.

 40‘Then, in the time of the end,
 He’ll lock horns with the king of the south…
 And the king of the north will gather to him
 Many chariots, horsemen, and ships.
 So, he will then enter their land…
 He will break it and he will pass through it.

 41‘And then, he will enter the glorious land,
 And many there, will be weakened.
 But these ones will be saved from his hands:
 Edom, MoAb, and the sovereignty of AmMon’s sons.

 42‘Then he’ll stretch his hand out over the land,
 And the land of Egypt won’t be saved.
 43He’ll dominate all with the hidden reserves
 Of their silver and gold,
 And the best things of Libya, Ethiopia, and Egypt…
 [Things that he’ll find in] their forts.

 44‘Then, out of the north and the east,
 He will hear things that disturb him.
 So he’ll leave in a rage, bringing many along,
 To wipe away and destroy.

 45‘His royal tent, he will then set up
 Between the sea and the Holy Mountain of Glory
 Until he comes to his end…
 When no one will be able save him.’

### Daniel (2nd century CE)

## Chapter 12

 1‘And in that very same hour,
 The Highest Messenger, MichaEl, will come
 (The one who keeps watch on the sons of your people),
 And a difficult time will arrive
 Such as has never happened before,
 And will never happen again.

 ‘At that time, your people will be saved
 (Those whose [names] have been written in the scroll),
 2And many that are sleeping in graves will arise,
 Some to life throughout the ages,
 And others to disgrace and ages of shame.

 3‘Then, those who understand what I’m saying
 Will shine like lights in the firmament.
 And the many that prove themselves righteous
 Will shine like stars throughout the ages.

 4‘And you, O DaniEl,

 ‘Cover these words and seal up the scroll
 Until the time of the end.
 [It’s a time when] many will be taught
 And knowledge will be multiplied.’

5Then I, DaniEl, looked and I saw two others that were also standing there, one on this side of the river, and the other on the opposite bank. 6 One of them asked the man in the linen clothes that was standing over the water in the river:

 ‘When will all these wonders of which you spoke reach their conclusion?’

7And the man in the linen clothes who was standing over the river raised both his right and left hands high towards the heavens, and he swore an oath to The God who lives throughout ages, saying:

 ‘The holy ones will be scattered
 For 3-1/2 times,
 Before these things reach their end.’

8Well, I heard it, but I didn’t understand it.

So I said:

 ‘O lord, when will these things that you’ve spoke about start to happen? And when will your judgment arrive?’

9And he said:

 ‘Go, O DaniEl,

 ‘Cover and seal up these words!

 10‘For, there’ll be many who are chosen
 And they’ll be [dressed] in white robes.

 ‘By fire, they’ll be purified…
 And thereafter, they’ll all be made holy.

 ‘But the sinners will continue to sin,
 And they won’t be seeking knowledge.

 11‘From the time the disgusting destroyer arrives
 And the sacrificing comes to an end
 Is 1,290 days.

 12‘And all of those will be blest
 Who endure all the way to the end,
 Of 1,335 days.

 13‘Now, [you’ll] go to your rest
 Until that day and hour arrives.
 For then, you’ll be resurrected,
 And you’ll receive your inheritance
 After those days reach their end.’