

Introduction to Daniel

- Introduction

- The Book of Daniel is written in two languages.
 - Hebrew is the language of God's chosen people Israel.
 - Aramaic was the common (bridge) language of the Gentile world at the time this book was written.
 - Hebrew is used for both Dan 1:1 – 2:4a and 8:1 – 12:13 which focus on Israel and the effect of the Gentile nations on the people of Israel.
 - Aramaic is used for Dan 2:4b – 7:28 which focuses on God's program for the Gentile nations.

- Historical Background

- 612 B.C. – Forces of Babylon and Media conquered the Assyrian capital of Nineveh (prophesied by Nahum).
 - Some Assyrians fled to Haran and setup a temporary seat of government there.



- 611 B.C. – The king of Babylon, Nabopolassar, made advances against the Assyrian remnant in Haran.
- 610 B.C. – Babylon and Media drove the Assyrians out of Haran and beyond the Euphrates river.



- 609 B.C. – The Assyrians asked Egypt for help and Pharaoh Neco II led an army to join the Assyrians.
- Hoping to find favor with the Babylonians, Josiah (the king of Judah) met the Egyptian army at Megiddo in an attempt to prevent them from joining the Assyrians.
 - Josiah was killed and his army was defeated [2 Kings 23:28-30; 2 Chr 35:24].



- Pharaoh Neco joined the Assyrians and they attacked the Babylonians at Haran – an attempt that failed.



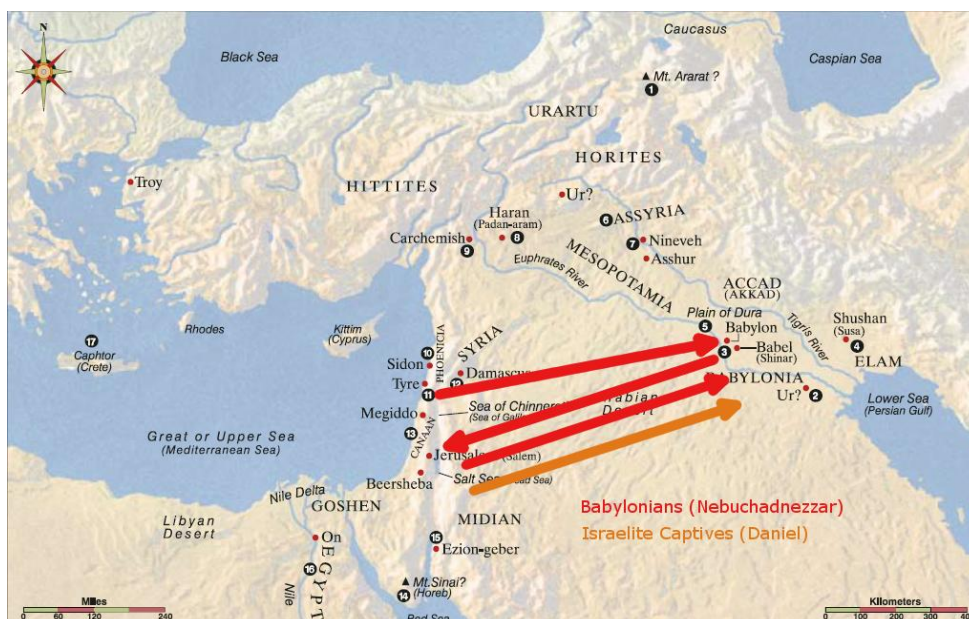
- The Assyrians disappear from the picture at this point, but Egypt and Babylon continue to have conflict.
- 605 B.C. – Nebuchadnezzar led Babylon against Egypt (the battle of Carchemish).



- Egypt was defeated and Nebuchadnezzar pursued them southward into Syria even approaching Palestine.



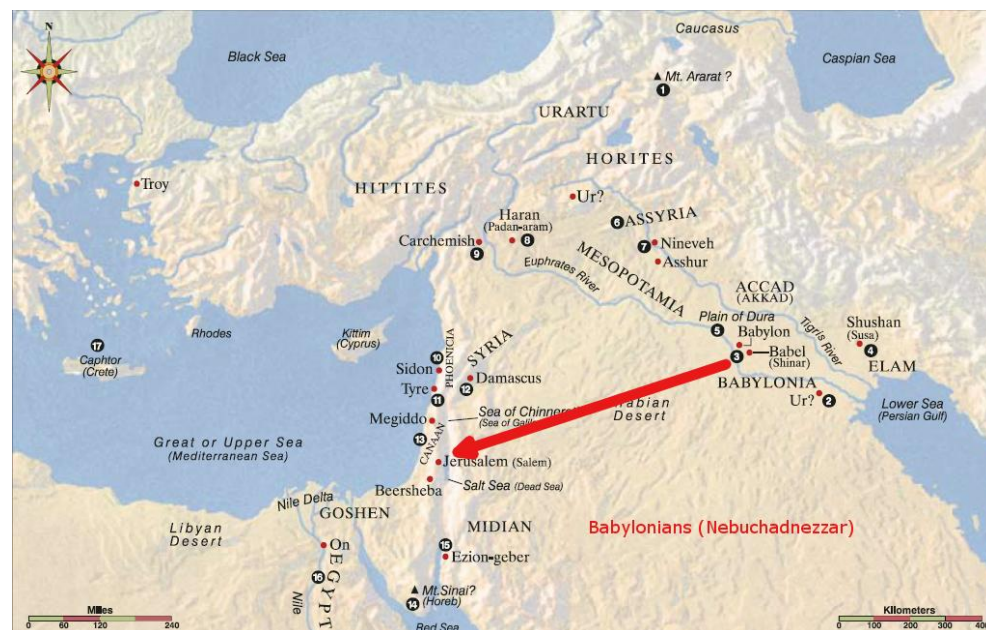
- Nabopolassar died, prompting Nebuchadnezzar to return from his pursuit of conquest in August of 605 B.C. to receive the crown.
- In September of 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar returned to Palestine and attacked Jerusalem.
 - At this time Daniel and his friends were taken captive.



- 597 B.C. – Nebuchadnezzar returned to Judah and brought Jerusalem under subjection.
 - This was in response to Jehoiachin's rebellion.
 - 10,000 captives taken to Babylon, including Ezekiel [Ezek 1:1-3; 2 Kings 24:8-20; 2 Chr 36:6-10].



- 588 B.C. - Nebuchadnezzar returned to Judah a third time and a long siege ensued.



- 586 B.C. – Jerusalem destroyed and the temple burned.
 - Most Jews that survived this assault were taken captive [2 Kings 25:1-7; Jer. 34:1-7; 39:1-7; 52:2-11].



- 539 B.C. – Cyrus overthrew Babylon and establishes the Medo-Persian empire.
- 538 B.C. – Cyrus issued a decree allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem [2 Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4].
- 536 B.C. – The Jews returned to Jerusalem and begin the rebuilding of the temple foundation.



- 516 B.C. – The construction of temple is completed and this is celebrated [Ezra 6:14-16].
- Jeremiah's prophecy of a 70-year exile [Jer 25:11-12] was literally fulfilled.
- 70 year intervals

Start Date	End Date
609 B.C. Josiah confronts Egypt	539 B.C. Cyrus Overthrew Babylon
605 B.C. Babylonians first take Jews captive	536 B.C. Jews first return to Jerusalem
586 B.C. Jerusalem destroyed, Temple burned	516 B.C. Temple construction completed