

Daniel's Identity And His Decision

GLEF Bible Study Lecture 1

2/18/22

Key Verse

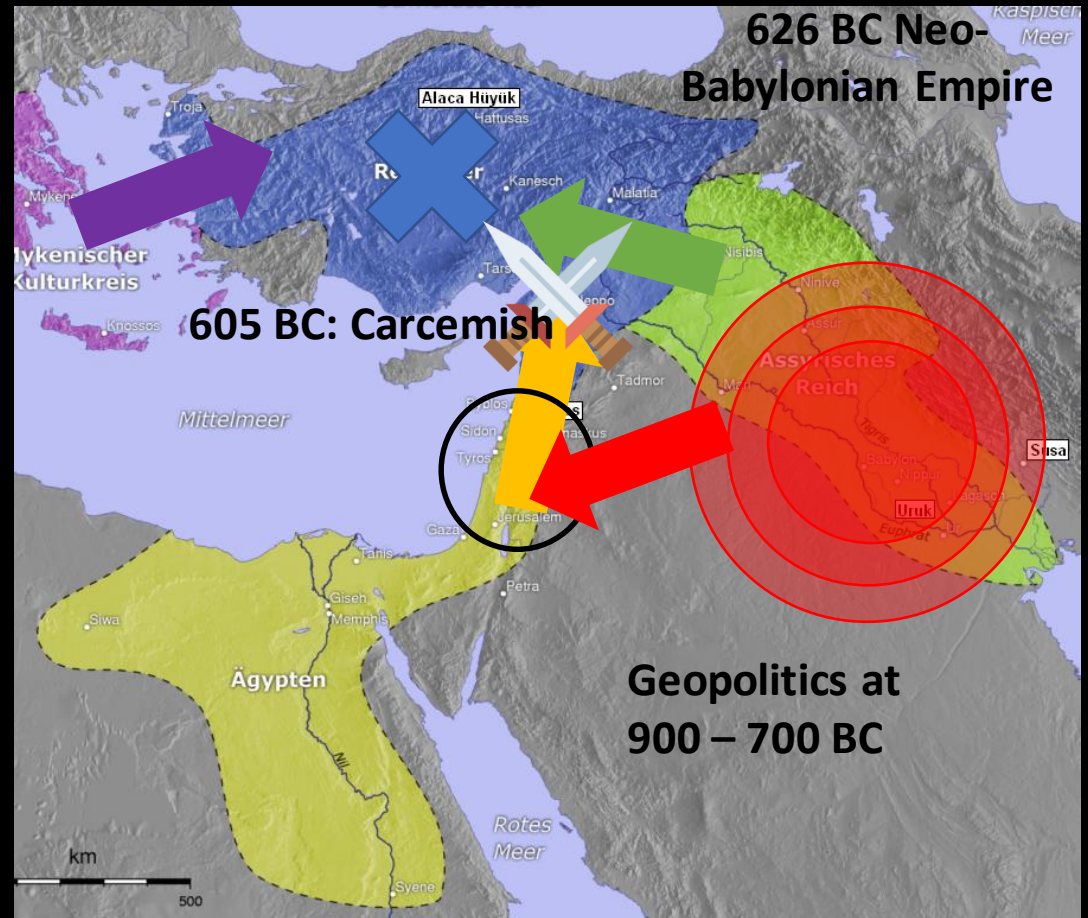
„But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.“ (Daniel 1,8)

1. Daniel's Captivity in Babel (1-7)



1a) What was the world's situation at that time?

Daniel's Captivity in Babylon



1b) What difficult situation was Judah in?

Daniel's Captivity in Babylon



Judah was intellectually, economically and financially hollowed out and completely dependent on the Babylonian empire.

1c) What was God's original plan for his people??

Daniel's Captivity in Babylon

- Ex 19,5.6: „ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all **nations you will be my treasured possession**. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation**.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”
- Deut 6:5: As God's people, they should love God with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their strength.
- But they should not forget God's great grace as He had led them out of Egypt.
- All the wealth they had was the grace of God alone.
- **God actually wanted to bless His people abundantly, and use them as an abundant blessing for all people on earth**

1d) Why did the deportation of the Jews to Babylon happen three times?

Daniel's Captivity in Babylon

- 2 Kings 24:3.4: „Surely these things happened to Judah **according to the LORD's command**, in order to remove them from his presence because of **the sins of Manasseh and all he had done**, including the shedding of **innocent blood**. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the **LORD was not willing to forgive.**”
 - Deut 28:15.16: „However, if you **do not obey the LORD your God** and do **not carefully follow all his commands and decrees** I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you: You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country.
- Because of the sin of the Israelites: their rebellion, because they **deliberately** sinned against God and did not keep His commandments
- ***A logical consequence of their actions***

1d) Who and how many people were taken captive?

Daniel's Captivity in Babylon

- **The intellectual elite of Judah**
- 3.4: “Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king’s service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— **young men for ever without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude y kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king’s palace.** He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.”
- Jeremiah 52:28-30: “This is the number of the people Nebuchadnezzar carried into exile: in the seventh year, 3,023 Jews; in Nebuchadnezzar’s eighteenth year, 832 people from Jerusalem; in his twenty-third year, 745 Jews taken into exile by Nebuzaradan the commander of the imperial guard. There were **4,600 people in all.**
- **Nebuchadnezzar ruled from 604 BC**

→ It really looked bad for Judah...

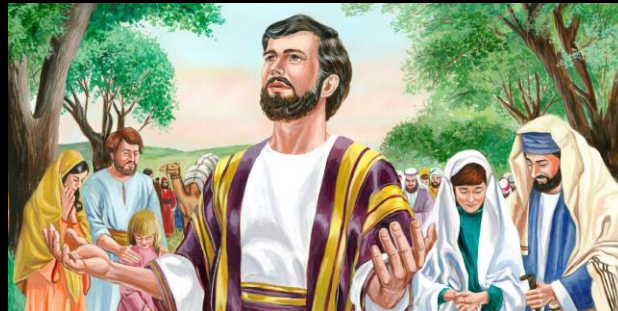
1e) What can we learn from God through Judah's History?

Daniel's Captivity in Babylon

- **God is a faithful God** who carried the Israelites no matter how much they sinned against him
- **God is a righteous God** who had to punish the Israelites when they disobeyed to the end and made things worse generation after generation.
- **God is a God of grace and hope** who did not destroy them immediately, but left a small remnant through which God wanted to save and restore His people:



Esther



Ezra

Nehemiah

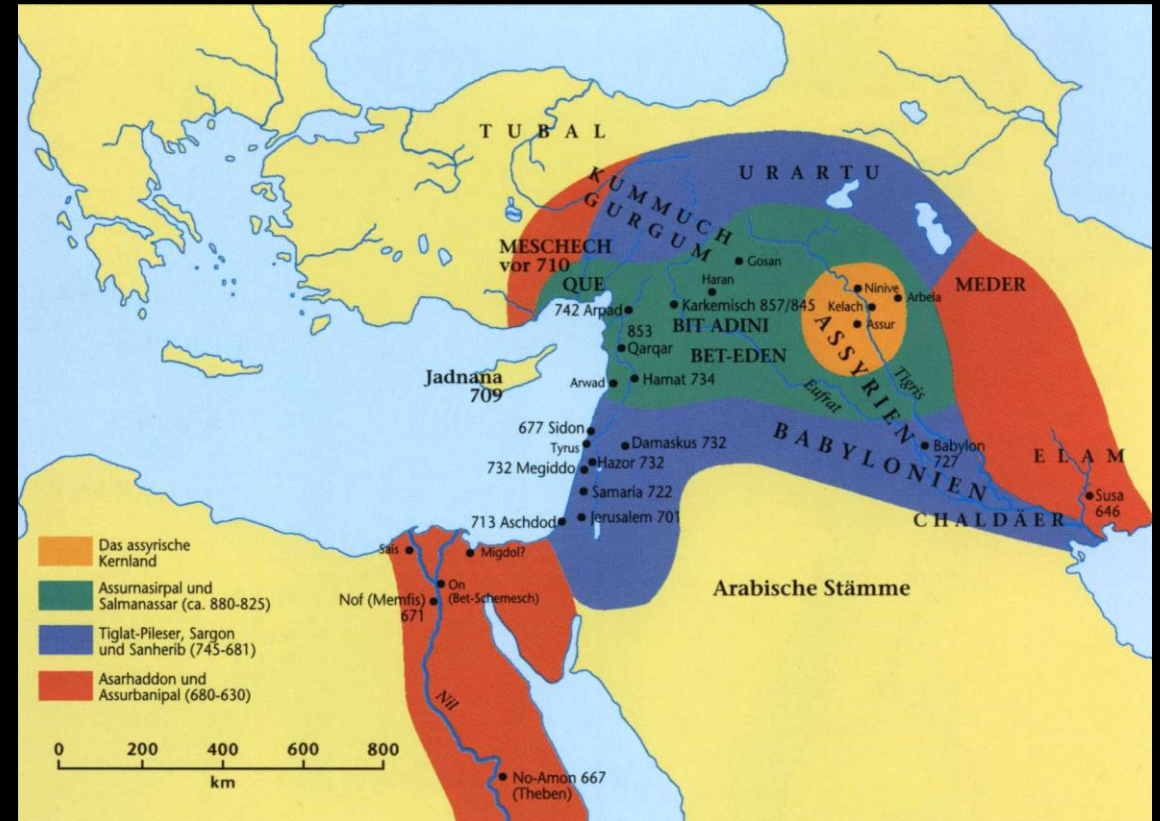


Daniel and his three friends

2a) What special plan did Nebuchadnezzar have concerning the young Jewish captives?

Daniel's Captivity in Babylon

- Isa 39:7: "And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."
- Nebuchadnezzar knew perfectly well that his **multi-ethnic empire** would break apart if he destroyed the various empires or suppressed them too harshly.
→ Integrate their elites into his government and minimize centrifugal forces in his empire



1b) In what situation did Daniel and his three friends find themselves in, when they were chosen by Nebuchadnezzar?

Daniel's Captivity in Babylon

- **Very strong pressure** → Nebuchadnezzar was a pagan who did not care about the religion of other peoples → What was **important was that his order was carried out**
- They should clearly be assimilated to Babylonian culture and were to accept their new identity of being Babylonians so that they would serve him loyally and be bound to the king.
- It would be very difficult for Daniel and his three friends to maintain their identity as God's people.
- You were faced with a difficult decision:
 - **I obey Nebuchadnezzar, but leave God and have God's wrath on me**
 - **I obey God, but are faced with death since rebelling against the king's order**
 - **Dilemma**
- No Self-confidence : they were all alone in a foreign country, helpless, practically at the mercy of the sword and the king's whim

2c) What new Babylonian names did they get and what is the significance of this naming for them?

Daniel's Captivity in Babylon

Hebrew Name	Babylonian Name
Daniel „ Gott is Judge“	Belteshazzar „ Baal protect the king“
Hanaiah „ Gott is great“	Shadrach „Reign of the Moon God “
Mishael „Who is like Gott “	Meshach „Who is like the Moon God ?“
Azariah „ Gott has helped“	Abednego „Servant of Nergal “

- Daniel and his friends had **to give up their meaningful Jewish names** and were given new names derived from the Babylonian gods and Babylonian culture.
- The temptation was strong to **give up their spiritual origins and to renounce their faith in God.**
- Nebuchadnezzar's goal was the **complete eradication of their own identity** and complete assimilation into the idol culture of Babylon

→ Daniel and his friends had to make a clear decision: It was not possible to go both ways...

2. Daniel's Decision of Faith (8-21)



3a) What decision did Daniel make?

Daniel's Decision of Faith

- Exodus 34:15: “Be careful **not to make a treaty with those who live in the land**; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices.”
 - 2 Cor 6:17: “Therefore, Come out from them and **be separate**, says the Lord. **Touch no unclean thing**, and I will receive you.”
 - Daniel made a clear decision...
 - ... **Not to compromise with the Babylonian idol culture** by drinking meat and wine...
 - ... But to **hold firmly to his true spiritual identity** as a holy nation and a royal priest...
 - ... And to eat water and vegetables for it...
 - ... **Whatever the cost.**
- **Daniel decided that he did not want to become an idolater, but a child of God.**

3b) What was the significance and danger of his decision?

Daniel's Decision of Faith

- **His life was at stake, he would potentially lose everything**
- He would be very different from all the others at Nebuchadnezzar's court
- He depended on the mercy of the king's arbitrariness – **he could have easily killed Daniel.**
- He had to consider this decision very carefully
- **But it was also a very important decision that one holy man made the decision to be on God's side.**



3e) What kind of faith did Daniel have?

Daniel's Decision of Faith

- Believing in the God who **opens a way even though it looks impossible** and hopeless
- Faith in God **who watched over him and his 3 friends** and would see and **bless their faith** decision

3f) What can we learn from Daniel?

Daniel's Decision of Faith

- **Nebuchadnezzar Today: Humanism, Zeitgeist and Genderism**, Relativism
→ Wants us to adapt, assimilate and lose our true spiritual identity
- **Meat and wine**: „You are the King of Life”, “Autonomous Freedom”, Materialism
- **From Daniel we learn not to give up, but to make the clear decision without compromise to firmly hold on to God's identity for us.**
→ **Even if everyone else does NOT! No matter what the cost might be!**
- Eating **spiritual vegetables and water** of Bible study, early prayer, fellowship, master courses, GLEF and Daniel-BS
- Even if this means losing our lives (persecution, ...), we may **risk our lives for God and remain faithful to our true spiritual identity under all circumstances.**



4a) How and why did God help these four young men in their trial before the King?

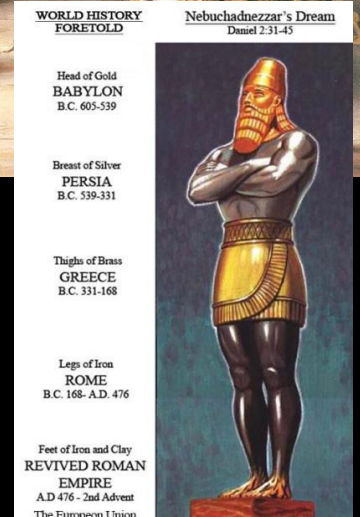
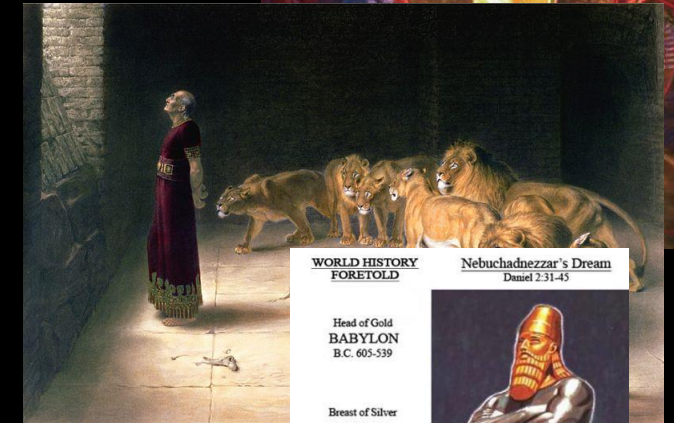
Daniel's Decision of Faith

- 17-20: „To these four young men God gave **knowledge** and **understanding** of all kinds of literature and **learning**. And Daniel could **understand visions and dreams of all kinds**. At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found **none** equal to **Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah**; so they entered the king's service. **In every matter of wisdom and understanding** about which the king questioned them, he found them **ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.**”

4b) How could Daniel receive God's help, protection and blessing during the time of captivity and be used as a shepherd leader for his people?

Daniel's Decision of Faith

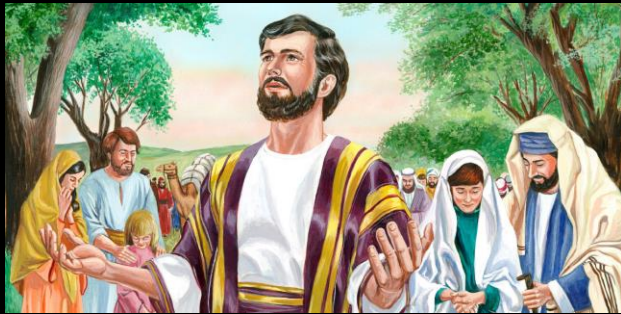
- **By not giving up in the time of affliction and strong pressure, but by holding firm to his true spiritual identity**
- Then he experienced God's protection and blessing:
 - 10x wiser than the experienced magicians(Daniel 1:6)
 - God Protected 3 Friends in the Fire (Dan 3)
 - God protected Daniel from hungry lions (Daniel 6)
 - God gave him the insight to interpret the king's dream(Dan 2)
- **Daniel could be used as a shepherd and leader for his people by interceding with God for his people**
- Like God's princes, he fought hard against the prince of Persia and Greece for 21 days **to be on the side of God and the people of God** (chap. 10).
- He sought to find **God's purpose for his people** and, **with God's hope and vision, prayed 3 times a day** to Jerusalem for Israel's spiritual restoration (chap. 11, chap. 6:11).
- **God used it as a shining star forever and ever.**



4c) To what extent was one man's, Daniel's, decision of faith so important?

Daniel's Decision of Faith

- **Through One Person: Hope for the Lost People of Israel**
- God used him to **show him God's counsel for the Israelites**; and **prepare the spiritual restoration** of Israel
- **The time of captivity was not a time of resignation or suffering, but a time when God was already preparing the spiritual restoration of Israel:**



4d) What kind of faith do we need to be used as spiritual leaders in this generation?

Daniel's Decision of Faith

- Like Daniel, we may **have faith in God who sees our decision to stay faithful** to our identity.
- Belief that God also uses this **one decision of faith from one holy stump** in order to prepare the **spiritual restoration** of Europe, CIS, America... as an exceedingly vast army of God according to Ezekiel 37:10

What have we learned?

- How we may live our lives of faith in this **secular world which is reigned by the Nebuchadnezzar of modern times**
- Like Daniel, making a clear **Life Decision to firmly hold on to our true spiritual identity**
- **No matter what the cost might be**
 - **Avoiding the meat and wine** of lustful desires, the wrong teachings of hedonism, Zeitgeist and humanism; of the distractions like Youtube, Netflix which indoctrinate us in the godless idol culture
 - **Rather eating water and vegetables** of the word of God: Bible Study, International Bible Seminar, GLEF, Common life

→ **God will truly bless us and will raise the NG like Daniel to be shepherds for the college students in Germany, Europe, CIS and Turkey, for the spiritual restoration as a vast army with Neh 2:17.18 and Ez 37:10**



Was habe ich gelernt?

- **God has always helped me not to seek the flesh and wine of this world, but to make the decision of faith to hold firm to my spiritual identity.**
- **My spiritual identity: Genesis 12:2 and 1 Samuel 3:19**
- God helped me through Hebrews 5:8, 9 and 1 Pet 4:13.
- This year through Gen 35:10 and Acts 2:36, when I only sought to improve my own life conditions.
- *In 2023, I may drink vegetables and water by...*

... Coworking for GLEF and I. B. S. with God's servants

... growing up as a spiritual leader through master courses and Daniel-BS

→ which God can use as shepherd starting with Dan, Friedrich, Hargun and for the spiritual revival of 12 universities.

Key Verse

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