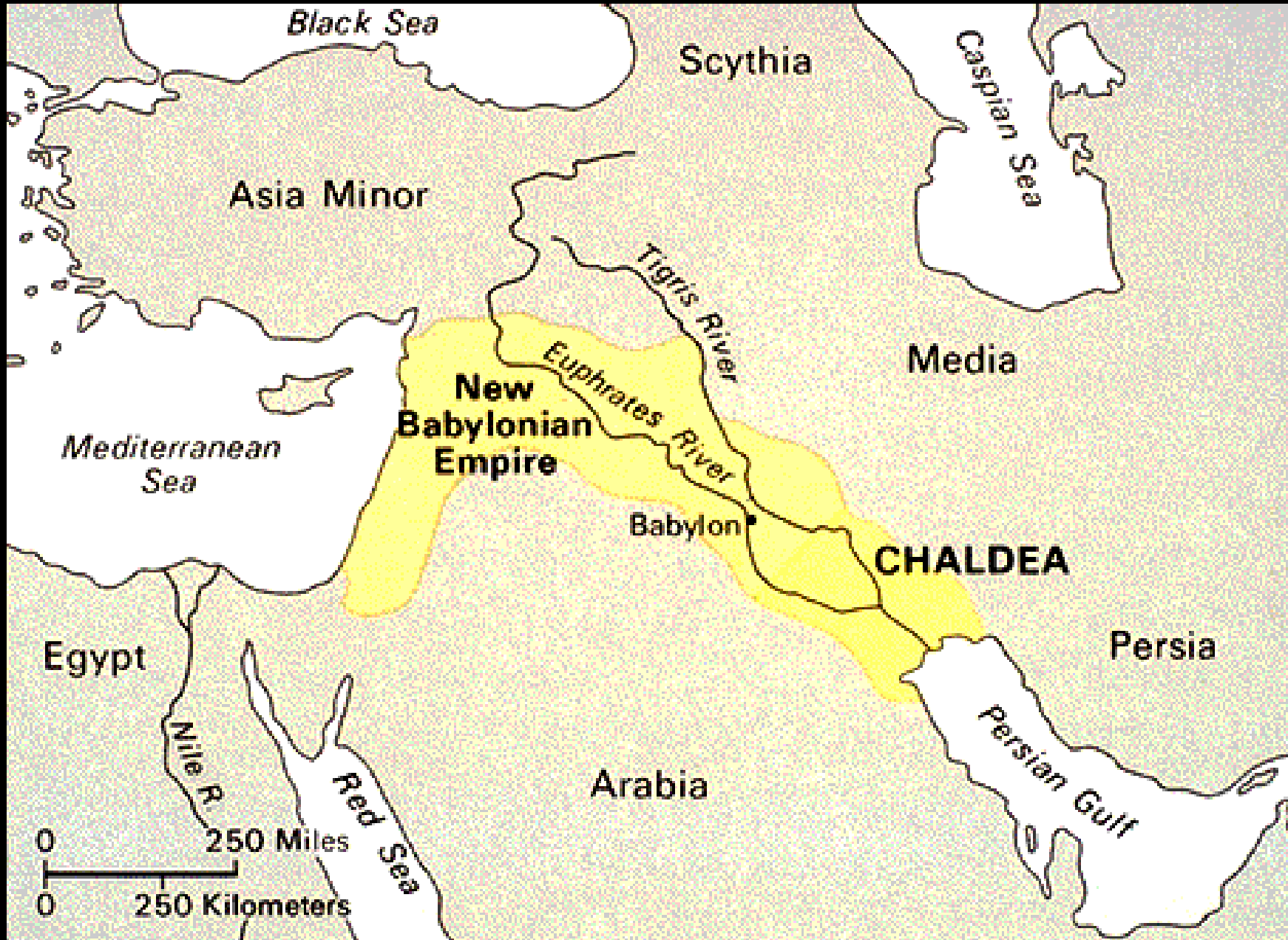


DANIEL – *UNSINKABLE*
PRESSING THROUGH THE STORMS
OF LIFE

Daniel 1



HISTORICAL CONTEXT – 605BC, CHAPTER 1

- A. Babylonians - King Nebuchadnezzar- 605 BC – 562 BC
 - Egyptians, Assyrians, Jews/Judah defeated
- B. Three sieges of Jerusalem:
 - 605 BC - Daniel exiled (Daniel 1:1)
 - 597 BC – Ezekiel exiled
 - 586 BC - Temple (2 Kings 25); Jeremiah flees to Egypt
- C. Daniel - 70 years, Babylon;
 - Age 15 (605BC) until 539BC (Daniel 10)

How did Daniel survive and prosper under four pagan kings?

KEY FACTS ABOUT DANIEL

- Likely age 15 +/- in chapter 1; 70+ years ministry
- Dream “teller” and interpreter; oversaw pagan magicians, wise men of Babylon/Media-Persia
- Never a recorded sin; never “fell away” from God
- Loyal official under 4 kings - Nebuchadnezzar; Belshazzar; Cyrus of Persia; Darius of Media
- Two angelic visitors – Gabriel and Michael

1. DANIEL HAD TO TRULY RESOLVE WHAT HE BELIEVED ABOUT GOD.

A. Was Nebuchadnezzar or God to be trusted?

B. Whose control would Daniel come under? Nebu or God?

1. Israel defeated. 1st siege!

• temple “utensils” taken

2. Royal line was being used to sway others

3. 3 years - language, culture, and literature to change identity.

4. King’s food and drink given to create dependence.

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

1. God is above all and before all things. Alpha/Omega. Immortal. Rev 21:6. This is his absolute right.
2. God created (and owns) all things and holds them together. Col 1:16
3. God knows all – past, present, future. Rom 11:33
4. There is nothing God cannot do – except be limited by his own choice. Jer 32:17
5. God is in control and rules over all things. Ps 103:19
6. God is the ultimate source of all power, all authority; over all of nature.

2. WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT GOD IS REVEALED BY WHAT WE CHOOSE TO DEPEND ON..

A. Dependence upon God:

- Ate fruits and vegetables instead of defiled foods.
- Three friends thrown in the fiery furnace
- Daniel thrown in the lion's den.

B. Daniel still exercised wisdom in his depending upon God. 1:8

3. DANIEL HAD TO RESOLVE WHAT HE BELIEVED ABOUT HIMSELF.

His options:

1. A captive.
 - 2 Pet. 2:19 "...For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. (ESV)
2. A son; and, a leader of light.
 - "Daniel" or "Bel-teshazzar" ("Bel- protect his life.")
 - 2 Cor 10:4-5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,
 - Three friends!

4. DANIEL'S RESOLVE (V 8) WAS A MATTER OF THE HEART NOT THE HEAD.

- Jn. 14:24 "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ... And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. (ESV)
- Daniel "pressed in" to God for 70 years!
 - God "encounters" sustained him.

5. DANIEL FACED HIS LIFE STRESSORS, ONE BY ONE; AND BECAME STRONGER WITH EACH ONE.

Progression of stresses:

1. Fruit and vegetables (*test me*)
2. Dream telling – **threat of death.**
3. Three friends singled out for refusing to bow.
 - **Thrown in the fiery furnace.**
4. Challenges King Belshazzar (handwriting on the wall); king drinks wine with Temple goblets.
5. Singled out for continuing to pray.
 - **Thrown in the Lion's den.**

6. DANIEL SAW A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SURVIVAL, GOD'S FAVOR, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- Dan. 4:24-27 ... Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity."
(ESV)
- Daniel 9:11-12

- Dan. 9:11-12 All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him. 12 He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem. (ESV)

NEXT STEPS

1. Resolve to “**encounter**” God this summer by adding Daniel to your daily time with God.
 - Add a commentary to your study. Wordsearch 10 is a good electronic bible study tool.
2. **Resolve to depend upon God** in a current life-stressor. How can you give Him control while still **exercising wisdom in this stressor?**

NEXT STEPS

3. **Don't go it alone.** Involve at least one person who will not tell you what you want to hear as you seek to depend upon God.