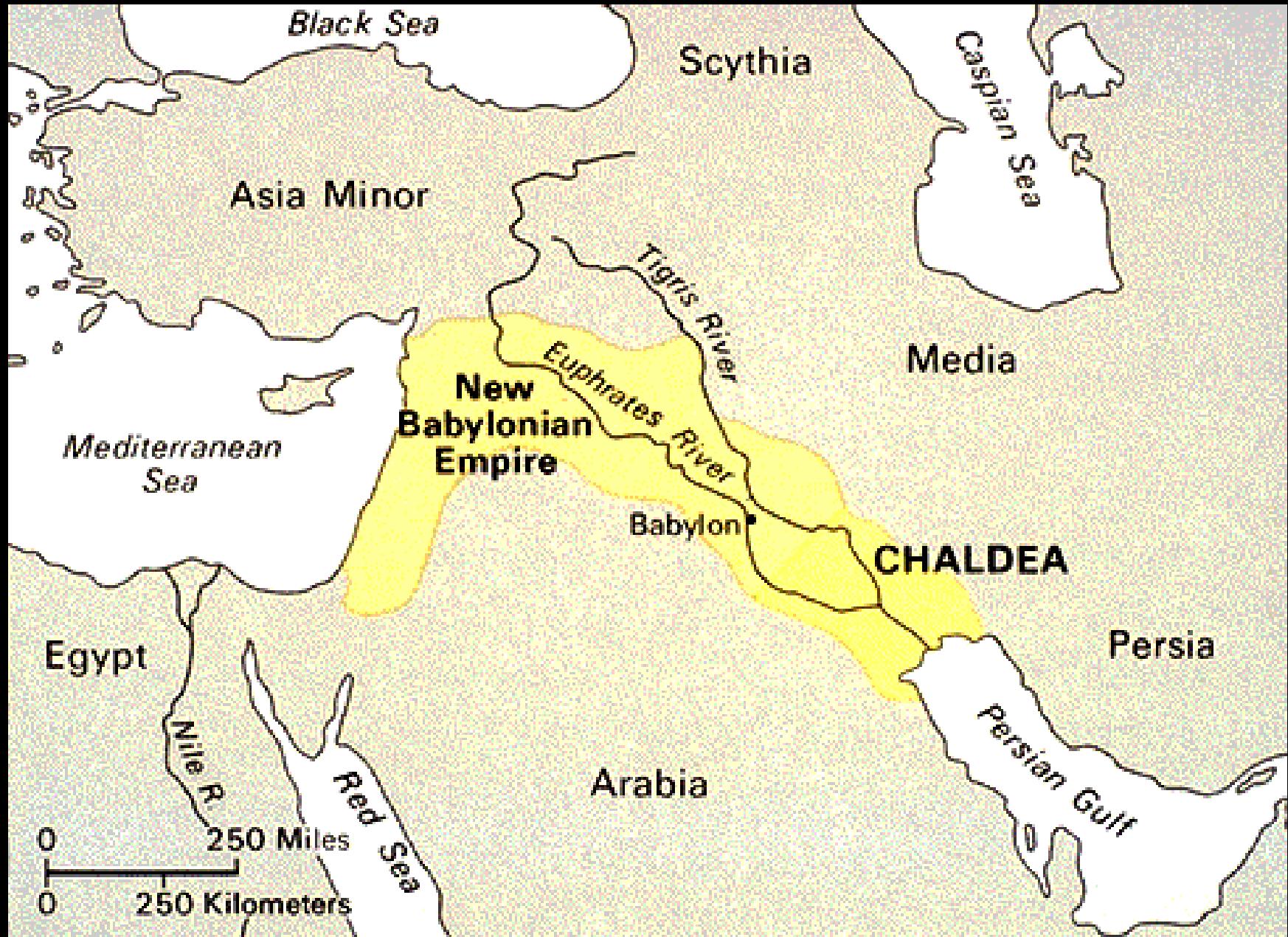


# DANIEL – *UNSINKABLE* FROM PROSPERITY TO POVERTY TO PRAISE

Daniel 4:1-3; 10-22; 24-31; 34-37



# HISTORICAL CONTEXT – 570 BC??, CHAPTER 4

## A. Babylonians - King Nebuchadnezzar- 605 BC – 562 BC

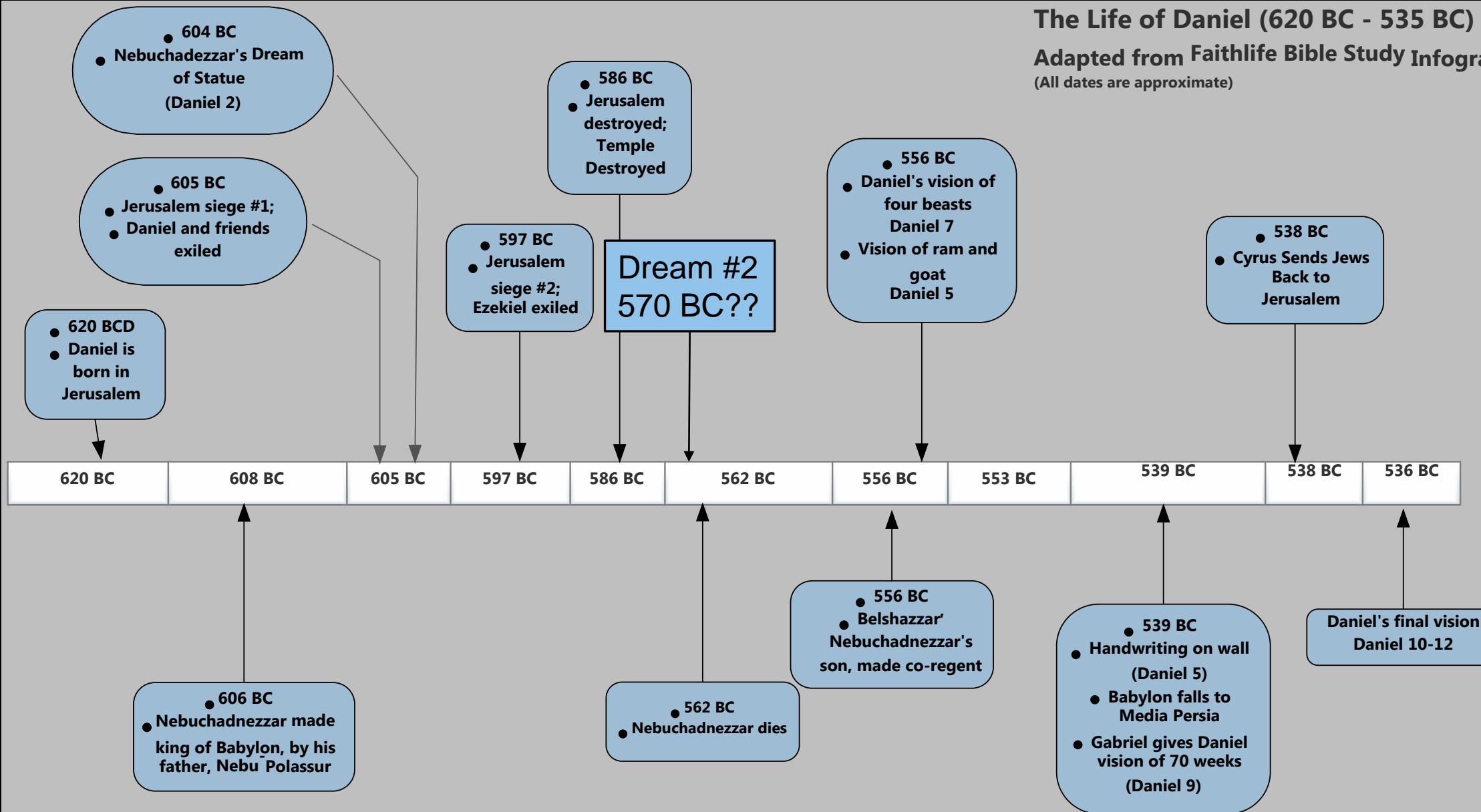
- Nebuchadnezzar at peak of success
- Likely after the 3<sup>rd</sup> siege of Jerusalem in 586 BC
- Compare to rich man of Luke 12

## 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

# The Life of Daniel (620 BC - 535 BC)

Adapted from Faithlife Bible Study Infographics  
(All dates are approximate)



# 1. CHAPTER 4 IS THE STORY OF THE INFINITE LOVE OF GOD AND ITS ENDLESS REACH.

- Neb's salvation story:
  1. Chap 1 – No recognition of God.
  2. Chap 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> dream. Neb "pays homage" to Daniel.
    - Acknowledges what Daniel's God can do. (2:47)
  3. Chap 3 – Constructs a 90 ft gold statue and requires everyone to bow to his creation.
    - Fiery furnace is impotent against the 3 friends.
    - No one can speak against their God (3:29)
    - Calls God "Most high" for first time. (V3:26.)
  4. Chap 4:34, He lifts his eyes to heaven...

## 2. PRIDE (AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY) IS A ROADBLOCK TO THE LOVE OF GOD.

Nebuchadnezzar's pride is revealed by the dream:

- A. A great strong tree that reached to the heavens, visible to all the earth. V 11; v 22-23
- B. Tree provided food and shelter for all, including the animal and bird kingdoms. V 12
- C. Nebuchadnezzar does not need anyone – just himself.

Pride, self-sufficiency only look to self for the resolution of life; gives credit to “me” for what occurs in my life, not God.

## 2. BEFORE WE CAN KNOW THE LOVE OF GOD, WE MUST COME TO THE MOMENT OF NEED.

- A. Neb was self-sufficient, self-absorbed; and the answer to everyone's needs.
  - Then he lost everything, and lived in the woods – v 4:36
    - His home, his crown and everything it represented.
    - His ability to think and reason.
    - His ability to lead others (my lords sought me).
- B. Then he looked “to heaven.” v 34

### 3. GOD WILL SEND US “WITNESSES” TO DIRECT US TO JESUS.

- A. Daniel happened to be the one chosen to be an instrument of God; but for reasons.
  - 1. Daniel’s perspective on adversity.
    - Poverty (exile) would bring Judah back to God.
  - 2. Daniel’s life of humility.

## DANIEL WAS MORE THAN A DREAM INTERPRETER, TO THE KING.

- A. Neb's words: 4:9 (in whom is the spirit of the holy gods ... and no mystery is too difficult for you)
- B. Neb's wife. 5:11-12 (wife's description of Daniel)
- C. Daniel's words: 4:19 (may the dream be for your enemies).
  - 4:19, 24 (my lord, the king...)
  - 4:27, (Daniel tells him the painful truth, along with how to change his future.)

### 3. GOD WILL SEND YOU “WITNESSES” TO HELP YOU IN YOUR HOUR OF NEED.

B. The dream itself. Its fulfillment witnessed to Nebuchadnezzar that God was real; that He was worth knowing and following.

- Nebuchadnezzar's own testimony. V 4:34

C. **Poverty, brokenness was a witness** to Nebuchadnezzar.

- It shouted that life was not all about him.

### 3. GOD WILL SEND YOU “WITNESSES” TO HELP YOU IN YOUR HOUR OF NEED.

#### D. The “watchers.”

- **Rev 4:8** And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"
- **Ezek 10:12**

## 4. “POVERTY” REDIRECTED NEB’S PRAISE OF HIMSELF TO THE PRAISE OF GOD.

1. No good reason to redeem Nebuchadnezzar.
  - Rom. 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (ESV)
  - There is no one that God cannot reach. V 37

# WE MUST HUMBLE OURSELF BEFORE JESUS AND SIMPLY COME TO HIM.

- ... , and no one knows the Father except the Son  
and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal  
him.<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy  
laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke  
upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and  
lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.  
<sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."  
(Matt. 11:27-30 ESV)

# NEXT STEPS

1. Do you need a “Come to Jesus” moment in your life? The doorway is to humble yourself before God and surrender your life to Jesus.
2. How can you be a “Daniel” to a “Nebuchadnezzar” in your life? Be a friend to the friendless.
  1. Ask God to give you an opportunity to “interpret a dream” for the friendless in your life. Open your heart to the opportunities to be love of God to someone.