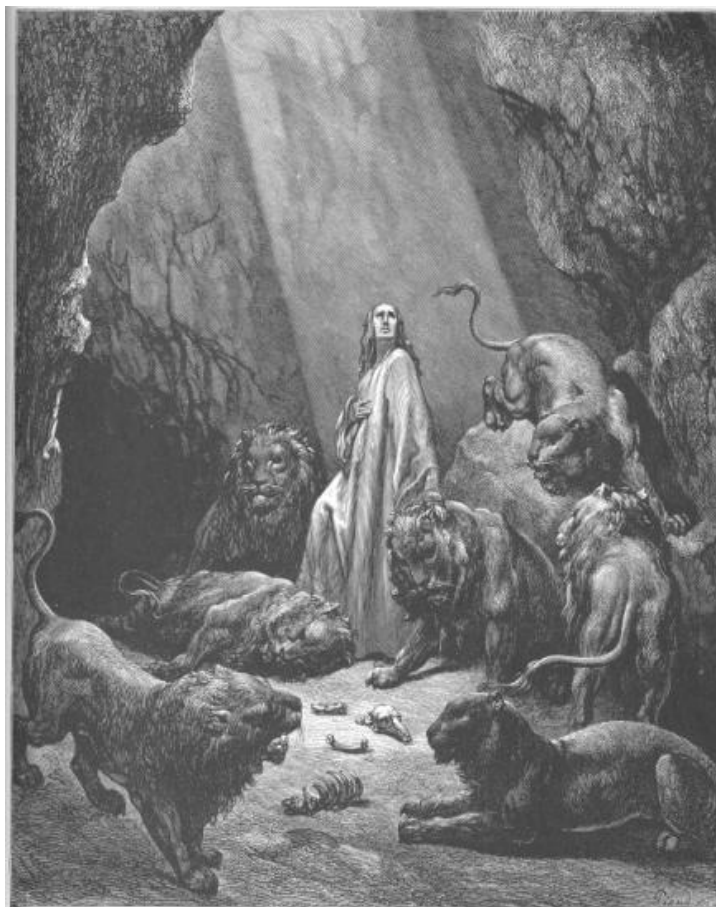


Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

Course Text: Daniel

Jeremiah 24:1 begins, "After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and the officials of Judah with the craftsmen and smiths from Jerusalem and had brought them to Babylon, ..." This is when Daniel was taken captive to Babylon, where he lived out the rest of his life. Like a lot of ancient literature, and some other Bible books, Daniel is not in time order. Daniel lived in Babylon under the reign of four kings – Nebuchadnezzar (Chapters 1-4), Belshazzar (Chapters 5, 7 & 8), Darius (Chapters 6, 9, 11 & 12), and Cyrus (Chapter 10). Another way to think of it is like a movie with flashbacks to the past. It is in order except chapters 6, 11 and 12 are flashbacks. The book contains a narrative of Daniel's interactions with these kings, as well as that of three of his friends, who came with him from Jerusalem into captivity. Daniel interprets dreams, endures injustices, rises to great power, glorifies God, sees visions from God, and prophesies some of the most profound prophecy found in Scripture.



DANIEL IN THE DEN OF LIONS
My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me... (Daniel 6:22) (G:14)

Suggested methodology:

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on page 9. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the Daniel.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

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Daniel Chapters 1 to 4

Daniel Chapter 1: Daniel and his friends refuse to defile themselves with the King's food. Please read Daniel chapter one and answer these questions.

[1A] The four young men got new names. Match the Hebrew name with the Babylonian name.

<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>Babylonian</u>
Azariah	Abednego
Daniel	Beltshazzar
Hananiah	Meshach
Mishael	Shadrach

[1B] What did the four young men want to eat rather than the king's choice food? _____

Daniel Chapter 2: Daniel saves himself, his three friends, and all the wise men of Babylon with his quick thinking and prayers. Please read Daniel chapter two and answer these questions:

[2A] What impossible task did Nebuchadnezzar set for his wise men? _____

[2B] Who was able to perform this impossible task? _____

Daniel Chapter 3: Nebuchadnezzar puts up a golden image and when Daniel's three friends, refuse to worship it he throws them in a fiery furnace. Please read Daniel chapter three and answer these questions:

[3A] When were people supposed to worship the golden idol? _____

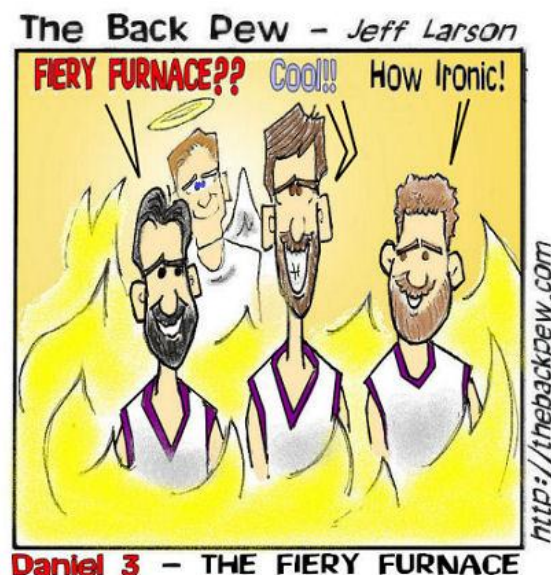
[3B] How many people did Nebuchadnezzar see walking in the furnace? _____

Daniel Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar has a dream which Daniel interprets. Daniel's predictions come true. Please read Daniel chapter four and answer these questions:

[4A] Whose words are quoted in Dan 4:4-27? _____

[4B] What odd food did Daniel predict the King would eat? _____

[4C] When Nebuchadnezzar was driven away for mankind, what did he eat? _____



----- ANSWERS -----

Daniel Chapter 1: The four young men got new names. Match the Hebrew name with the Babylonian name.

- | | | | |
|------|----------|-------------|---------|
| [1A] | Azariah | Abednego | Dan 1:7 |
| | Daniel | Beltshazzar | |
| | Hananiah | Meshach | |
| | Mishael | Shadrach | |

[1B] What did the four young men want to eat rather than the king's choice food? Vegetables & Water
Dan 1:12

Daniel Chapter 2:

[2A] What impossible task did Nebuchadnezzar set for his wise men? To tell him a dream he had forgotten Dan 2:2, 5 & 8

[2B] Who was able to perform this impossible task? God If you answered Daniel you should read Dan 2:19, 27-28 again.

Daniel Chapter 3:

[3A] When were people supposed to worship the golden idol? The moment the music began Dan 3:5

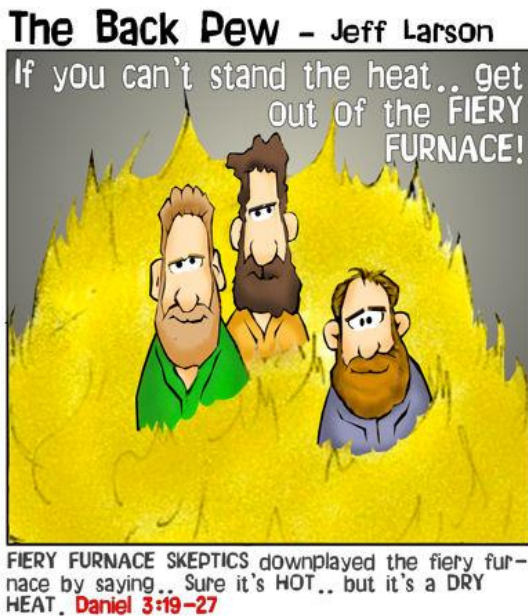
[3B] How many people did Nebuchadnezzar see walking in the furnace? Four Dan 3:25

Daniel Chapter 4:

[4A] Whose words are quoted in Dan 4:4-27? Nebuchadnezzar Dan 4:4 (Notice it says, "I, Nebuchadnezzar...")

[4B] What odd food did Daniel predict the King would eat? Grass Dan 4:25

[4C] When Nebuchadnezzar was driven away for mankind, what did he eat? Grass Dan 4:32-33



Daniel Chapters 5 to 8

Daniel Chapter 5: Nebuchadnezzar's son, Belshazzar, throws a big party for huge crowd of people. The fingers of a man's hand appear and write a message on the wall for the king. By the next morning he is no longer king. Please read Daniel chapter five and answer these questions:

[5A] What did Belshazzar use for dishes at his big party? _____

[5B] What was the last thing that happened to Belshazzar on the night of his big party? _____

Daniel Chapter 6: Daniel's enemies trick the king into making a law they know Daniel will have to break. When he breaks it they turn him in, and he is thrown in a cage with a bunch of hungry lions. God delivers Daniel safely. Please read Daniel chapter six and answer these questions:

[6A] How many times a day did Daniel kneel down and pray? _____

[6B] Who did the king trust to save Daniel? _____

[6C] What happened to Daniel's enemies? _____

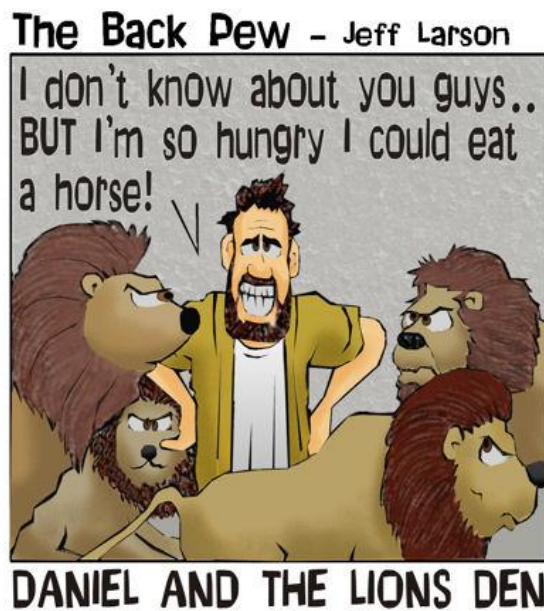
Daniel Chapter 7: Daniel has a dream and sees visions of four beasts which reveal the future history of the world. Please read Daniel chapter seven and match the beast with its description:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| [7A] Bear | Black with four wings and four heads |
| [7B] Beast | Eating three ribs |
| [7C] Leopard | Terrifying, with iron teeth and ten horns |
| [7D] Lion | Wings like an eagle |

Daniel Chapter 8: Daniel has a vision of a ram and a goat. Daniel prays for understanding and angel brings him the interpretation of the vision. Please read Daniel chapter eight and answer these questions:

[8A] Who was the king at the time of this vision? _____

[8B] Which nation did the goat represent? _____



Daniel Chapter 5:

- [5A] What did Belshazzar use for dishes at his big party? The gold and silver vessels from God's temple in Jerusalem. Dan 5:2-3
- [5B] What was the last thing that happened to Belshazzar on the night of his big party? He was killed Dan 5:30

Daniel Chapter 6 :

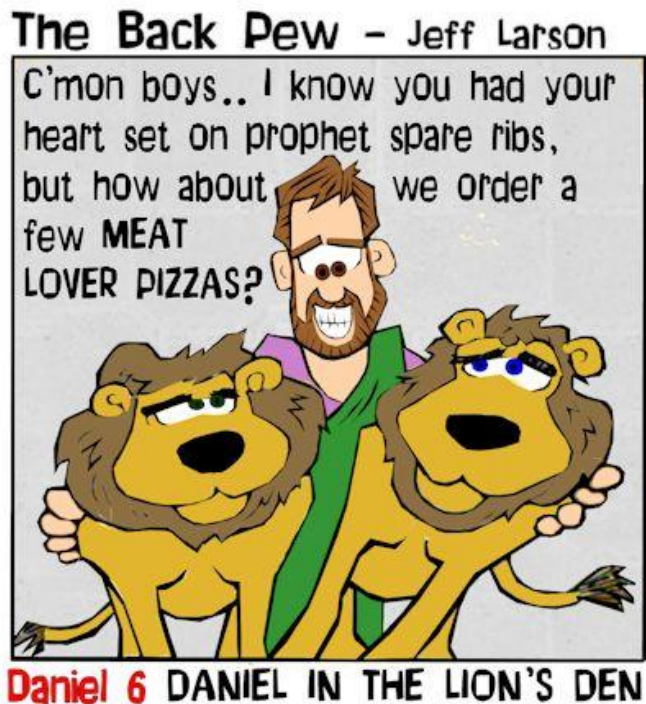
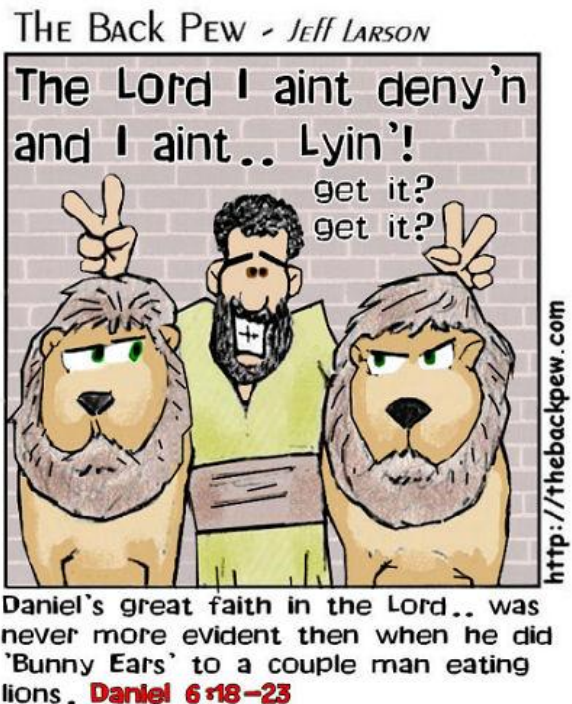
- [6A] How many times a day did Daniel kneel down and pray? Three Dan 6:10
- [6B] Who did the king trust to save Daniel? God Dan 6:16
- [6C] What happened to Daniel's enemies? They were fed to the lions Dan 6:24

Daniel Chapter 7: Please read Daniel chapter seven and match the beast with its description:

- [7A] Bear Eating three ribs Dan 7:5
- [7B] Beast Terrifying, with iron teeth and ten horns Dan 7:7
- [7C] Leopard Black with four wings and four heads Dan 7:6
- [7D] Lion Wings like an eagle Dan 7:4

Daniel Chapter 8:

- [8A] Who was the king at the time of this vision? Belshazzar Dan 8:1
- [8B] Which nation did the goat represent? Greece Dan 8:21



Daniel Chapters 9 to 12

Daniel Chapter 9: Daniel prays for his people and God reveals to him through an angel that at the end of 70 years they will return to the land. Please read Daniel 9 and answer these questions:

[9A] Who was the king at the time of this revelation? _____

[9B] What was the name of the messenger who brought Daniel his answer? _____

Daniel Chapter 10: Again Daniel sees a vision and asks God to interpret it. This time the angel is delayed in bringing the answer. Please read Daniel chapter ten and answer these questions:

[10A] Who was king when Daniel had this vision? _____

[10B] How long was the angel delayed in bringing the answer to Daniel's prayer? _____

Daniel Chapter 11: Daniel explains the future to King Darius. Please read Daniel chapter eleven and answer these questions:

[11A] What country was the fourth king of Persia going to attack? _____

[11B] Most of the chapter describes a war between what two places. _____

Daniel Chapter 12: Daniel tells Darius about the end times. Please read Daniel chapter twelve and answer these questions:

[12A] In the time of great distress who would be rescued? _____

[12B] How will the wicked act? _____



King Belshazzare is white with fear after reading the writing on the wall! **Daniel 5:6**
It was more than being a clean freak.

----- ANSWERS -----

Daniel Chapter 9:

[9A] Who was the king at the time of this revelation? Darius Dan 9:1

[9B] What was the name of the messenger who brought Daniel his answer? Gabriel Dan 9:21

Daniel Chapter 10:

[10A] Who was king when Daniel had this vision? Cyrus Dan 10:1

[10B] How long was the angel delayed in bringing the answer to Daniel's prayer? 21 days Dan 10:13

Daniel Chapter 11:

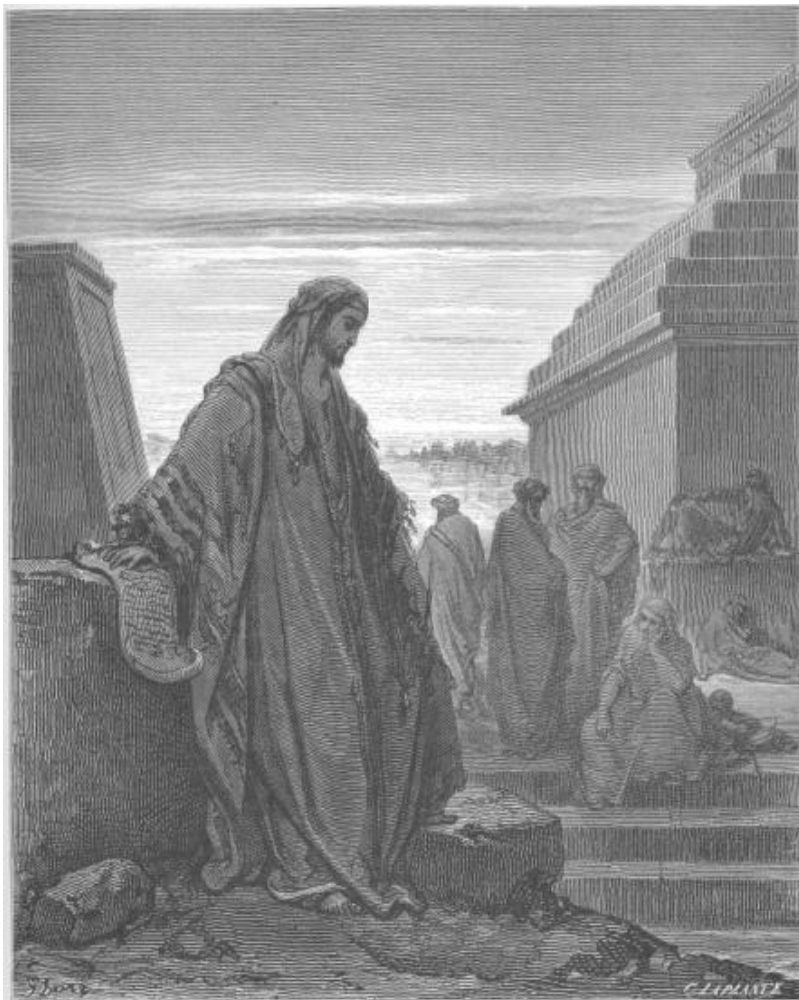
[11A] What country was the fourth king of Persia going to attack? Greece Dan 11:2

[11B] Most of the chapter describes a war between what two places. North and South Dan 11:5-7

Daniel Chapter 12:

[12A] In the time of great distress who would be rescued? Those written in the book Dan 12:1

[12B] How will the wicked act? Wickedly Dan 12:10



DANIEL

Then Ariach brought in Daniel... and said... I have found a man of the captives of Judah... (Daniel 2:25) (1:1)

(1) In Daniel 3:24-25 Nebuchadnezzar sees a fourth man in the furnace. Some people say this was an archangel, others the Holy Spirit, and still other Jesus. What do you think, and why

Think & Pray _____

(2) In chapter 6, Daniel is saved from being eaten by lions. Bible critics sometimes claim that the king did not want Daniel to die (Dan 6:14), so he fed the lions ahead of time, so that they would not be hungry. How do we know that is not true?

Think & Pray _____

(3) In chapter 10:12-13 God sends the answer to Daniel's prayer immediately, but Daniel does not receive it for 3 weeks. What does this tell us about our prayers? How can we use this information to improve our prayer life?

Think & Pray _____

(4) If someone asked you what Daniel was about what would you say?

Think & Pray _____

(5) How can the lessons of Daniel be applied to our own life?

Think & Pray _____

(6) Which verse or passage would you select to memorize from Daniel? Why?

Think & Pray _____

If you have any questions about Daniel, now is the time to discuss them with your classmates.

----- ANSWERS -----

(1) **DANIEL 3:24-25** The Bible says, *The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them* (Psa. 34:7). The pagan king said, *the fourth (man) is like the* (or a) *son of God* (Dan. 3:25); and he went on to say, *(God) hath sent His angel* (vs. 28). The word “angel” means one who is dispatched as a deputy, a messenger, or as an ambassador. God sent His angel to deliver the apostle Peter (Acts 12:7). I don’t agree with people who take this “angel” to be the Lord Jesus Christ. I think “the fourth man” was an angel.

(2) **DANIEL 6:14** We have no record that Nebuchadnezzar “fed” the lions ahead of time. That idea is simply “speculation” to support the position of “unbelief”. In 6:24 as soon as Daniel was taken out of the lion's den others were thrown in, who did not even make it to the bottom of the den, before the lion's killed them. That doesn't sound like "well fed" lions to me.

(3) **DANIEL 10:12-13** The conflict mentioned here is mentioned again in Revelation 12:7; which is all a part of “The Conflict of the Ages” between God and Satan (begun when Lucifer rebelled [Isa. 14:12-15]). We also are drawn into that conflict by the rebellion of Adam (Rom. 5:12); and therefore, Daniel’s prayer would be viewed by Satan and his angels as “interference” in his activities. Daniel 10:13 says that *the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood* (the angel) *twenty one days*. God can overcome Satan anytime He chooses. Our prayers are answered according to His timing, not Satan's. However, he does expect us to be patient and persistent in our prayers. (Luke 18:1-17)

(4) **Daniel Summary** This book contains a narrative of Daniel's interactions with the kings that held the Jews captive in Babylon, as well as that of three of his friends, who came with him from Jerusalem into captivity. Daniel interprets dreams, endures injustices, rises to great power, glorifies God, sees visions from God, and prophesizes some of the most profound prophecy found in Scripture.

(5) **Daniel Life Application** To me the lesson is simple -- Obey God. The people, who think they have authority over us, are under God's authority. We need obey them only as long as their commands do not conflict with His.

(6) **Something to Remember** I like Daniel 3:17-18 "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." They were determined to obey God's commands no matter what. I aspire to and admire that kind of determination.