

WHAT IS YOUR BEST NEXT STEP?

Thank you for joining us on the first part of our study of the book of Daniel! Take a moment to reflect on what you've learned over this series. Ask what your best next step towards Jesus might be. Here are a few ideas:

- Revisit the full series or watch messages you missed at cccomaha.org/daniel.
- Trust and follow Jesus, acknowledging him as the rightful ruler of the world, and join God's people. Let us know about your decision at cccomaha.org/madenew so that we can celebrate with you!
- Share what you've learned with family or friends.
- Find new ways to serve or contribute. To learn more about your spiritual gifts and areas where you might be interested in serving, visit cccomaha.org/serve.
- Visit CCC in person and pick up a copy of the Hub Brochure, where you can learn more about CCC ministries, classes, events, and serving opportunities.
- Visit cccomaha.info to get connected with CCC, learn about upcoming events, join a Community Group, sign up to serve, and more.

DANIEL



DREAMS AND VISIONS
OF THE FUTURE



DANIEL

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PART II

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WEEK SEVEN DISCUSSION GUIDE

Chapter 7 marks Daniel’s transition between genres, from narrative to prophecy. Based on the years mentioned in the text, these visions likely occurred between Daniel 4 and 5—after King Nebuchadnezzar died, but before Darius the Mede took power from the Babylonians.

Daniel’s dreams were full of fantastical symbolism and divine glory. They are awe-inspiring, confusing, and terrifying, in equal measure. Chapter 7 also introduces us to a new interpretation of an old phrase: “one like a son of man.”

SHARE

Optional icebreaker: What comes to mind when you think of prophecy?

If you joined for this week’s message, what stood out to you? Read and discuss from the below prompts. Share any other questions or reflections as you go. Optional **Dig Deeper** prompts are provided for further study.

View past messages online at cccomaha.org/messages or on CCC’s YouTube channel at youtube.com/cccomaha.

READ DANIEL 7:1–28

List the highlights from the vision in chapter 7. What symbols or numbers do you notice? Summarize the interpretation given.

READ DANIEL 8:1–27

Repeat the exercise for chapter 8, summarizing the prophecy and interpretation.

What are the similarities and differences between the visions?

What symbols, numbers, or phrases are repeated (i.e., “the whole earth”)? How does repetition influence your overall interpretation?

What do you think of Daniel’s reactions to the visions (7:28, 8:27)? What does this tell you about Daniel and his experience?

Why do you think God gives prophetic visions? What is their purpose? How do we guard against misusing them?

READ DANIEL 7:9–14

What stands out to you in this passage?

Who is “the Ancient of Days”? Why are there multiple thrones set in place?

READ MARK 2:7–12, 14:60–64; ACTS 7:55–56

Jesus often referred to himself as The Son of Man, adding the definite article (which is why it is capitalized). However, in the Old Testament, it was a title given to men working in God’s service (Ezekiel 2, Daniel 8:17).

Why is this phrase important, and what does it indicate about the One who has been given authority? Why do you believe Jesus used it so frequently? Why did it make the Jewish leaders angry, and what point did Jesus make?

Dig Deeper: For context, read Psalm 8:1–8, Mark 13:24–27, Revelation 1:12–20, and Revelation 14:14–16.

READ EXODUS 34:5–7

How does this description of God fit with the “Ancient of Days” in Daniel 7? What aspects of God’s character are revealed?

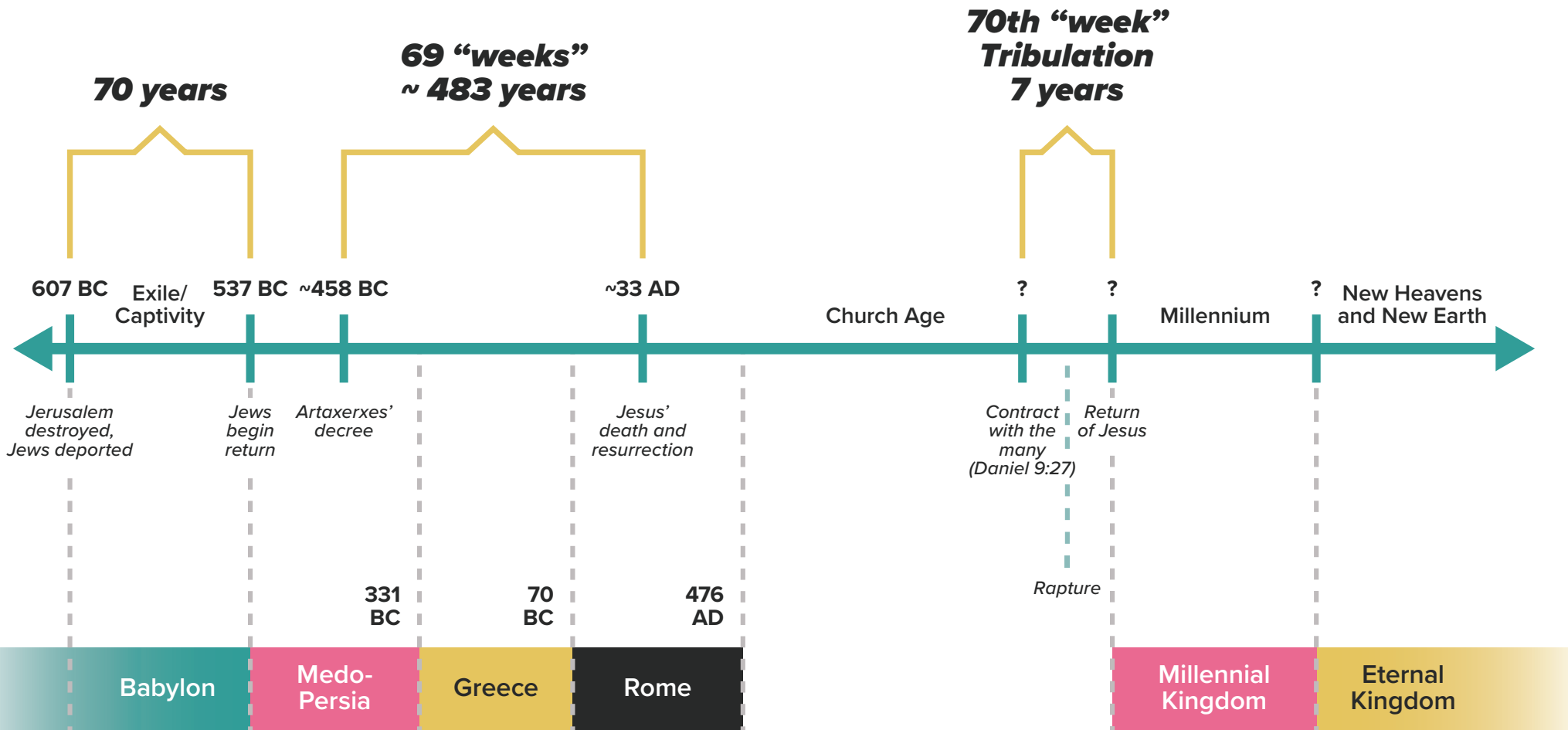
What does this tell you about God? What does this tell you about God’s justice?

PRAY

Together, share your requests with God.

Lord, thank you for sharing yourself with us. Give us eyes to see your hand as it moves in this world, and give us faith to trust in your eternal justice.

70 WEEKS TIMELINE



WEEK EIGHT DISCUSSION GUIDE

Daniel consulted the scroll of Jeremiah, which said that Israel's exile would last seventy years. He pleaded with God, confessing on behalf of his people, asking God to end their exile. As he prayed, the angel Gabriel visited him to deliver a prophecy.

SHARE

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READ DANIEL 9:1–3

God's promise invites our prayer and participation. What is his promise?

Where do you turn first for comfort and security?

Read Jeremiah 29:10–14 to see where Isaiah "understood from the Scriptures."

Dig Deeper: Read Jeremiah 29. How does it relate to the events of Daniel?

READ DANIEL 9:4–19

Daniel turned to God, humbly requesting God to fulfill his promise. Daniel didn't doubt God would deliver; rather, he understood that prayer is an expression of faith in the promises of God.

How do you express your faith daily? Do you live from God's promises?

Daniel was not great because he prayed eloquently, but because he had great trust and dependence on God. What stood out to you in the way Daniel began to pray?

Daniel began his prayer by recognizing the greatness and goodness of God. How do you approach God in prayer?

It would have been easy to complain to God about Israel's problems, yet Daniel focused on God instead. How often do you focus on God in prayer?

Daniel confessed "we" with compassion, as if he was as bad as the rest of Israel. Compared to God, even the most righteous fall short. Why do you think Daniel, who was continually faithful to God, said "we" rather than "they" as he prayed (verses 8, 10, 14–15, and 18)?

How often do you include honest confession in your prayers? How do you respond when convicted of sin by others and/or by scripture?

READ MATTHEW 6:5–15

We don't have to pray as eloquently as Daniel prayed. In this passage, Jesus taught his disciples a simple template for prayer. What are the similarities between the prayer Jesus taught and Daniel's prayer?

PRAY

God desires us to be like Daniel, to confess our sin and to pray that Jesus would return. God's promises are intended to encourage us to pray.

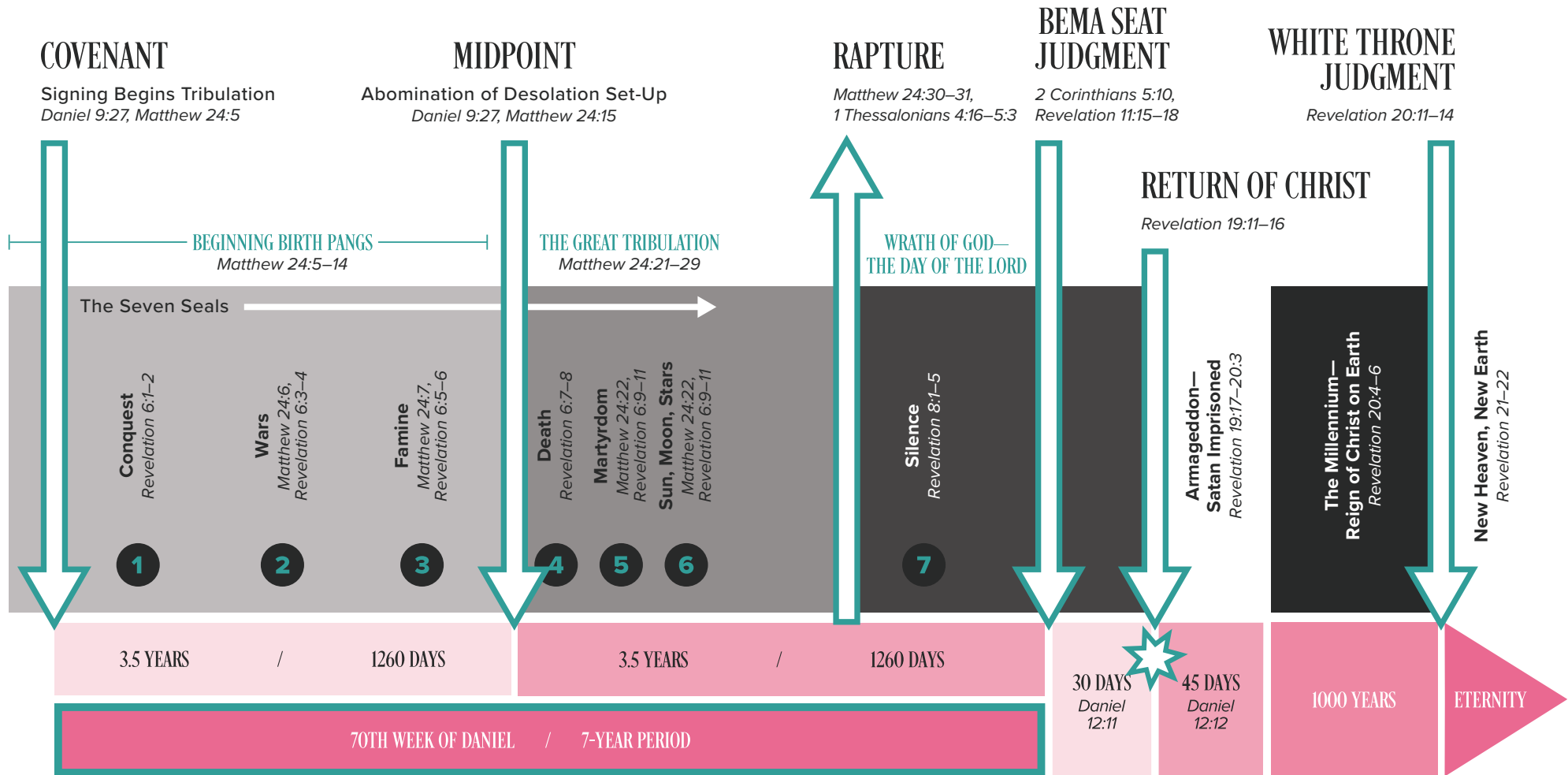
Take time to recognize the greatness and goodness of God. If you feel comfortable, confess during your prayer. Pray for his return.

You may include the prayer below or the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6 as you pray.

Lord, thank you for your word. Thank you for your goodness and mercy. Help us to listen and turn to you in honest repentance and faith. Amen.

THE 70TH WEEK OF DANIEL

A PREWRATH VIEW OF THE END TIMES TRIBULATION



PREWRATH RAPTURE: The rapture will occur sometime after the midpoint of the Tribulation but before the trumpet judgments. It will happen in conjunction with the sign of the sun being darkened and stars falling from the sky (Matthew 24:29-31, Revelation 6:12-14).

Believers will endure a great deal of suffering, but will be saved from the wrath of God (Revelation 6:15-17). Jesus will return in power and glory after God's wrath has been poured out.

WEEK NINE DISCUSSION GUIDE

Daniel mourned and sought God for three weeks. He saw a terrifying vision of an otherworldly human, but none of the people with him saw anything. This visitor appeared to explain things to Daniel, strengthening and encouraging him.

SHARE

When you think about prayer, would you consider yourself more persistent or more sporadic?

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READ DANIEL 10:1–9

Why do you think Daniel was mourning?

How did those with Daniel respond to his vision?

Why do you think they did not see the vision, though they stood with him? Why do you think they were overwhelmed with terror?

How did Daniel respond to the vision? How do you think you would have responded?

In verse 5, Daniel saw a man. Who do you think the man was?

READ DANIEL 10:10–11:1

Daniel is referred to as “highly esteemed” (Daniel 10:11). This is not the first time this description is used (Daniel 9:23), nor is it the last (Daniel 10:19).

How would you feel if God spoke to you right now, saying that you are highly esteemed or greatly beloved?

Dig Deeper: Read Galatians 3:26–29 and 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17. Reflect on what God does for us and how God thinks of us because of Jesus.

How might your walk with God look different if you lived out of the truth that you are beloved and highly esteemed by God?

Daniel had prayed for three full weeks. In Daniel 10:12, God said that he heard Daniel's prayer from the first time it was spoken. In response, he sent an angel to Daniel.

Can you remember a time when it felt like God had not heard your prayers, only to find out later that he had been working it out from the very beginning? Share about that experience.

What does this passage teach about God and his character?

Dig Deeper: Persistence in prayer helps teach us about God's patience and persistence. Read Luke 18:1–8. What observations can you make about prayer considering Daniel 10 and Luke 18?

READ EPHESIANS 6:10–18

What connections do you see between Ephesians 6 and Daniel 10?

What kind of spiritual battle was described in Daniel 10? How did Daniel “stand firm” against “the spiritual forces of evil”?

PRAY

Together, share your requests with God. Consider praying Psalm 40, Psalm 91, or Romans 8:37–39 back to God.

WEEK TEN DISCUSSION GUIDE

The book of Daniel concludes with powerful prophecies about “the end times,” providing key messages that remain mysteries today. This ending should prompt questions to ensure that we spend eternity with God.

Hardship is coming. Jesus is coming. Are we ready?

SHARE

Optional icebreaker: The end times/apocalyptic fiction is a popular theme in movies. What end-times movie is your favorite? How do you think the world will end?

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READ DANIEL 12:1

This verse contains several key terms to explore:

Michael... Who is he?

*The angel Michael is often associated with spiritual battle (Daniel 10:13, 10:21; Jude 1:9; Revelation 12:7). Since Michael is called the archangel (Jude 1:9), he is Satan’s true opposite. Satan is not the opposite of Jesus; he is the opposite of Michael, this high-ranking angel.**

A time of distress... This is called the Great Tribulation. Read Matthew 24:4–31. How is the Great Tribulation described in this passage? Considering all that is happening in our world today, it might seem that we are in the end times now. Do you think that we are? Make an argument for or against this position.

* David Guzik, 2018, *The Enduring Word Bible Commentary*, Daniel 12–Israel’s Time of Trouble.

Dig Deeper: Read Matthew 24:36–44 for Jesus’ answer to this question.

Everyone whose name is found written in the book... What is this book? Read Revelation 3:5 and 20:12. Why is it so important that our names be written in this book?

READ DANIEL 12:2

This verse referred to the resurrection of the dead. It is not only for the faithful, but also the unfaithful. All will be judged with eternal results: “everlasting life” or “everlasting contempt.” The stakes are high!

What should we do to ensure we receive “everlasting life”?

Dig Deeper: Read Matthew 25:31–46. Compare the sheep and the goats. What do you think Jesus will say to you?

READ DANIEL 12:3–13

These verses distinguished between “the wise” and “the wicked.” How are the wise described (verses 3, 10)? How are the wicked described (verse 10)?

How are you living today? When judged by God, which side will you be on? How might this chapter convict you to change, and what do you need to do to live fully for God?

PRAY

Together, share your requests with God.

Holy God, your word reminds us of how high the stakes are in how we live and who we live for. Please draw us closer to you. May we share your light and hope in our dark world. We love you so much. Amen.