



HOME GROUPS

STUDY 1 – GOD AT WORK

Date: 16/17 January

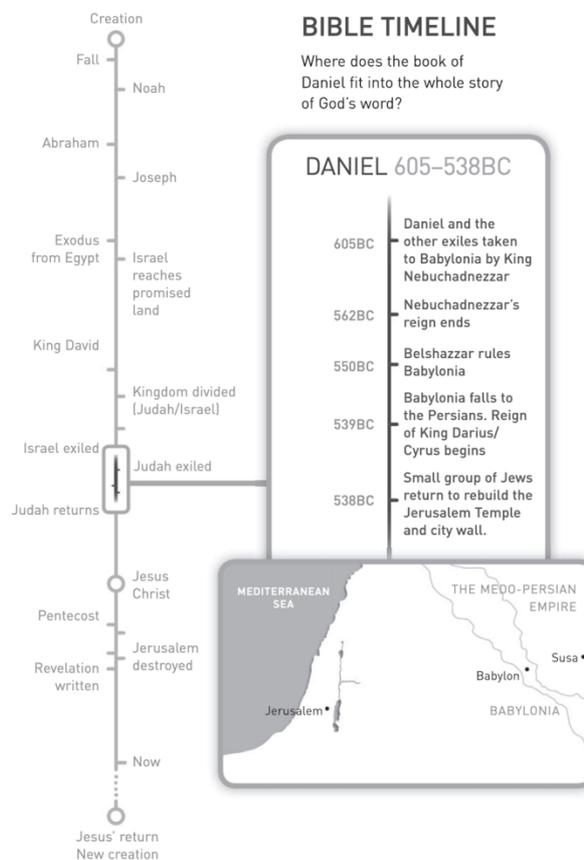
Text: Daniel 1 (Sermon preached on Sunday 6 January)

Why 'A Tale of 2 Kingdoms'?

This series has been entitled a Tale of Two Kingdoms because we live in a world where two kingdoms exist: God's Kingdom and an Earthly Kingdom. Augustine describes it in this way:

'Two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly love of self, even to the contempt of God; the heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self.'
(Boice, 2006, p16)

Where does Daniel fit in world history?



(Helm, 2015, p6)

How old was Daniel throughout the book?

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|------------|--------------|------------|
| Daniel 1:1 | 606 BC | Aged 14 |
| Daniel 2:1 | 604 BC | Aged 16 |
| Daniel 3-4 | 604 – 562 BC | Aged 16-58 |
| Daniel 5 | 539BC | Aged 81 |
| Daniel 6 | 539 – 537 BC | Aged 81-83 |

Consider

'whatever age you may be, wherever you may live, whatever you may do, God can be at work in you and through you!'



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Intro: Did anything from the sermon and/or passage stand out for you, to either encourage or challenge you?

Observation (What does it say?)

Where and how do we see God at work in this passage? (v2, v9, v15, v17, v19)

What does Daniel (and his friends) resolve not to do (v8)? Why does this cause a problem? (v9-14)

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

Why do you think God allowed Judah to be delivered into the hand of Babylon? (Isaiah 24:1-6, 2 Kings 24:2-3)

Application (What does it mean to me?)

How does knowing that 'God is at Work', in both personal and global levels, change the way we view life?

As Daniel entered exile, he took a new name, new learning, new literature but he didn't take the new food. He 'drew a line in the sand' to be different. Where do you draw a line in the sand as you live your life here on earth? Or as one clergy summed up the basic problem, 'How can we fit in without being swallowed'?