



# **Daniel Authorship**

***Sixth or Second Century BC?***

**Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary**  
**BibleStudyDownloads.org**

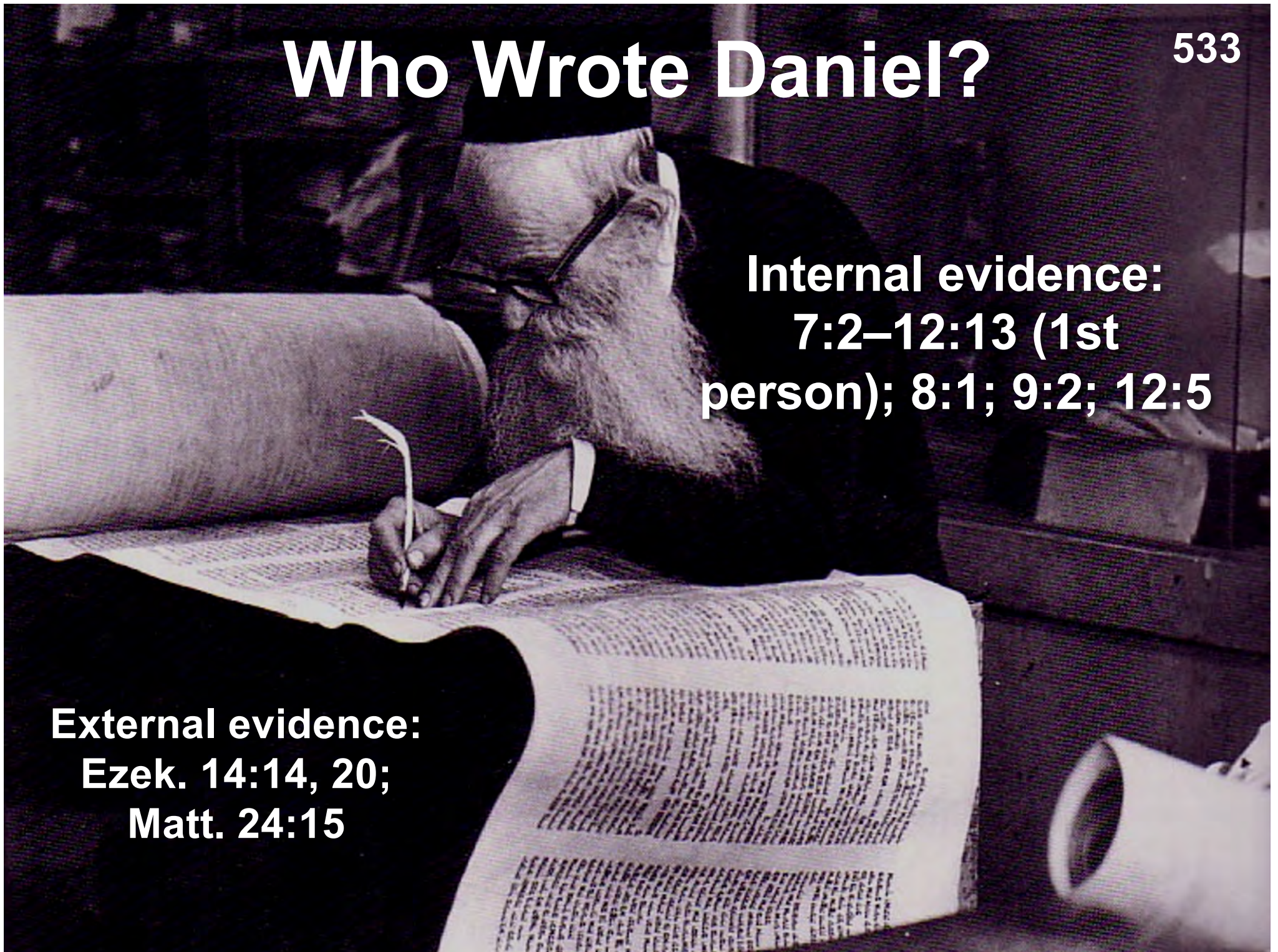


# Who Wrote Daniel?

533

**Internal evidence:**  
**7:2–12:13 (1st  
person); 8:1; 9:2; 12:5**

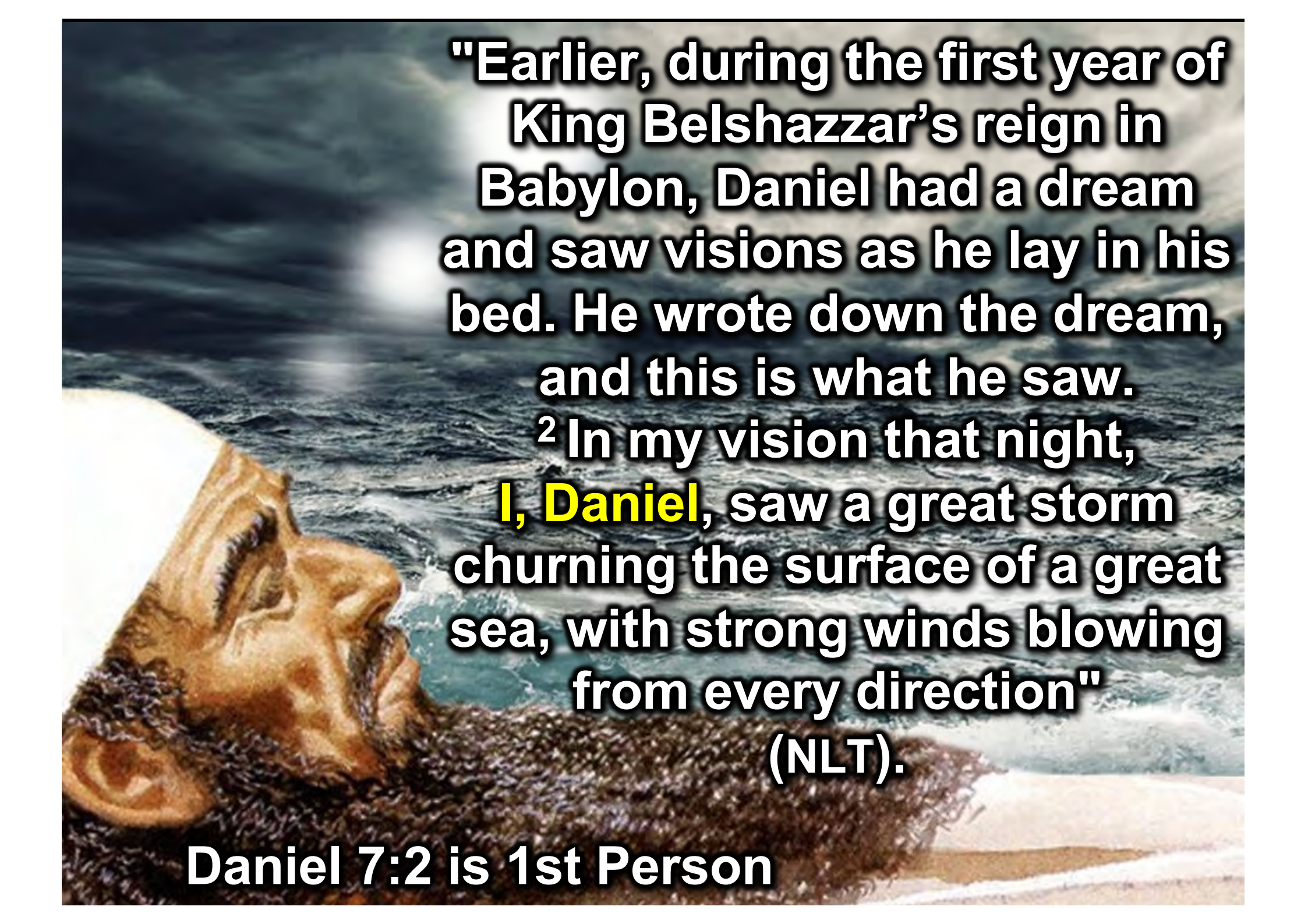
**External evidence:**  
**Ezek. 14:14, 20;**  
**Matt. 24:15**





# Support for Mosaic Authorship



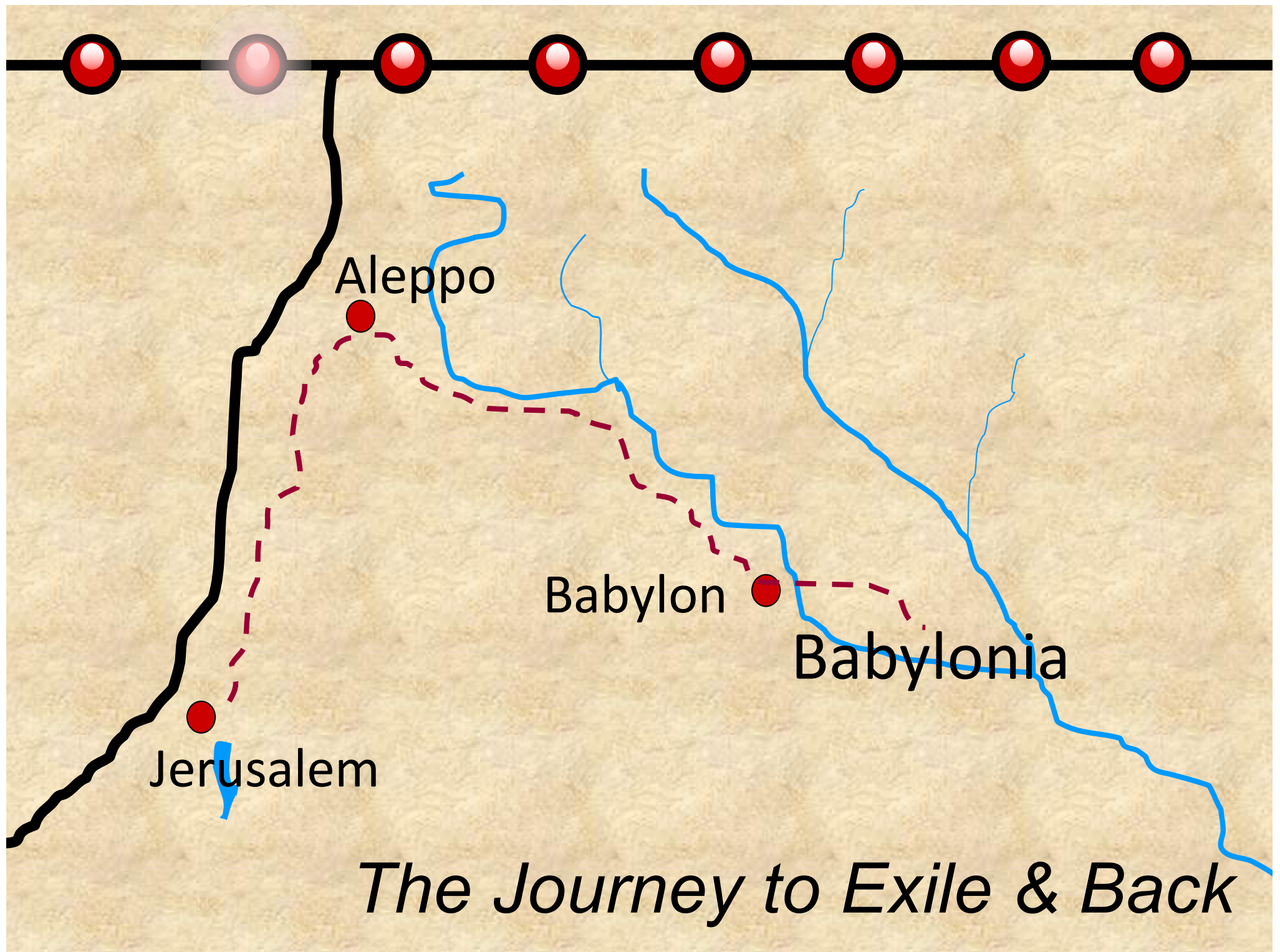


**"Earlier, during the first year of  
King Belshazzar's reign in  
Babylon, Daniel had a dream  
and saw visions as he lay in his  
bed. He wrote down the dream,  
and this is what he saw.**

**<sup>2</sup> In my vision that night,  
I, Daniel, saw a great storm  
churning the surface of a great  
sea, with strong winds blowing  
from every direction"**  
**(NLT).**

**Daniel 7:2 is 1st Person**









**"During the third  
year of King  
Belshazzar's reign,  
I, Daniel, saw  
another vision,  
following the one  
that had already  
appeared to me"  
(NLT).**

**Daniel 8:1 is 1st Person**

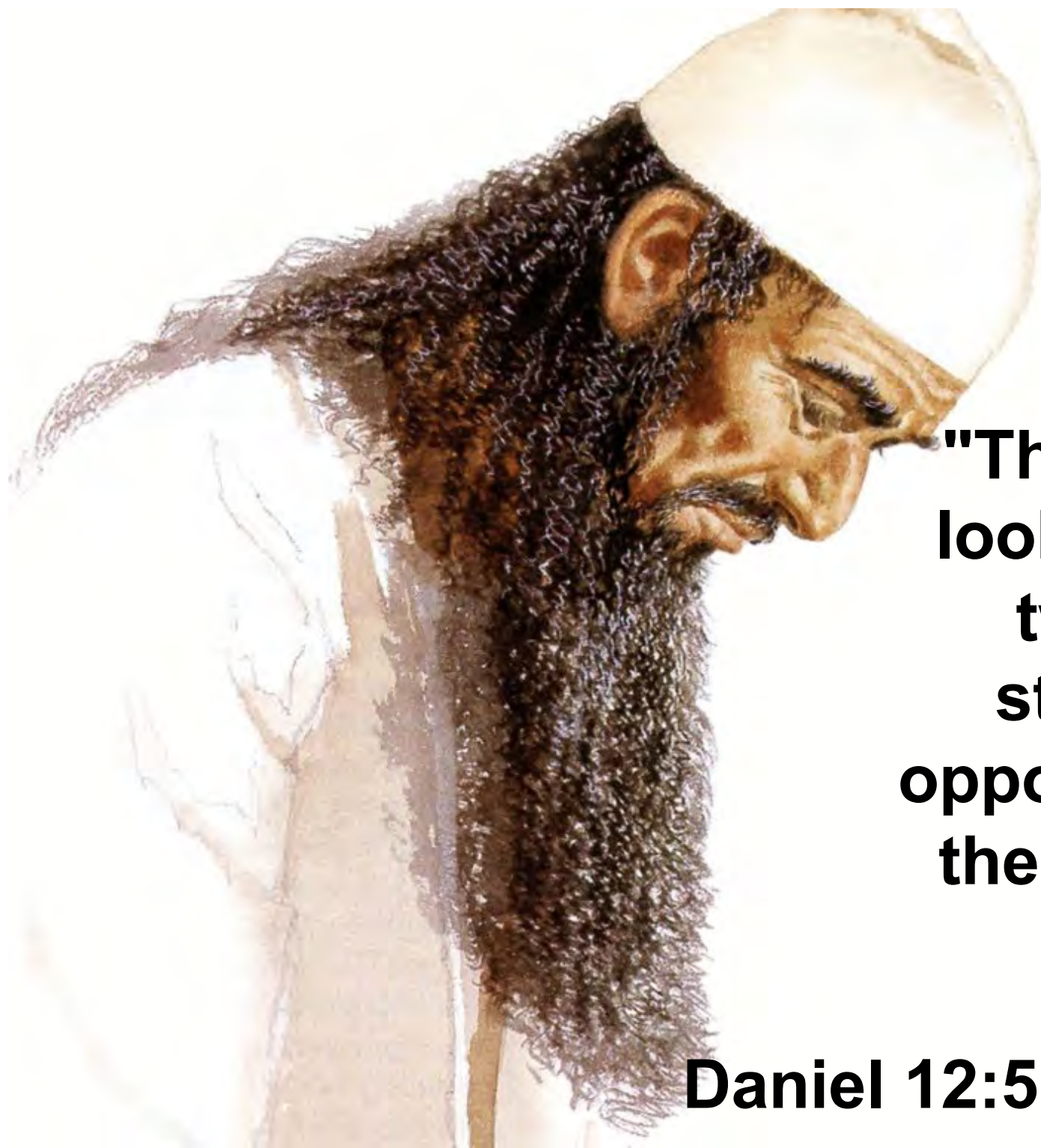


**"During the first year  
of [Darius's] reign,  
I, Daniel, learned  
from reading the  
word of the LORD, as  
revealed to Jeremiah  
the prophet, that  
Jerusalem must lie  
desolate for 70  
years" (NLT).**

**Daniel 9:2 is 1st Person**







**"Then **I, Daniel,**  
looked and saw  
two others  
standing on  
opposite banks of  
the river" (NLT).**

**Daniel 12:5 is 1st Person**



# The Date of Daniel

**Daniel's Ministry**  
(1:1; 10:1)

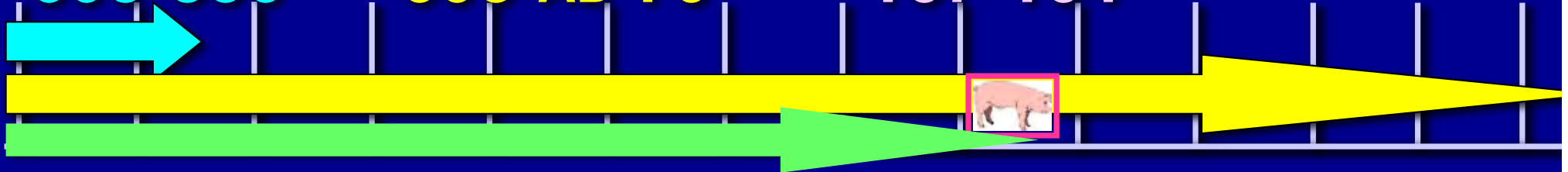
**Daniel's Prophecies**  
(Dan 2-11)

**Antiochus Desecrates Temple**

605-536

605-AD 70

167-164



6	5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	1		B	
0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	C	5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	/	0

Critics see historical events recorded as "prophecies" Critics Date Daniel after 164

# Timeline of the Exile

605 ← **70 Years** → 536

Ezekiel 592-572 (20)

Daniel 605-537 (68)

Jeremiah 626-586 (40)

Belshazzar 550-539 (11)

Nabonidus 555-539 (16)

Neriglissar 559-555 (4)

Evil-Merodach 561-560 (1)

Nebuchadnezzar 605-561 (44)

Nabopolassar 630-605 (25)

Babylonian kings

Prophets

650

600

550

500 BC



**“Daniel’s familiarity with the individuals spoken of in the book and with the historical events and customs mentioned in the book necessitates a sixth-century date for the book. The minute details included in the book could hardly have been retained accurately by oral tradition for some 400 years, as suggested by those who postulate a late date for the book.”**



**Dwight J. Pentecost, "Daniel," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*; ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck; Accordance electronic ed. 2 vols.; Wheaton: Victor Books, 1985), 1:1324.**

**"Some critics hold that since **God's name Yahweh is not used by Daniel** and since the name was commonly used in Daniel's day by others, the book must have been written at a later time."**

**"However, this objection fails to note that in chapter 9 this name is used eight times (Dan. 9:2, 4, 8, 10, 13-14 [thrice], 20). The name for God an author used in a given passage was determined by his content, not by popular custom."**



**"Again objection is made to Daniel's authorship because **the writer refers in 1:21 to the time of Daniel's death.**"**

**"However, 1:21 does not state when Daniel died; it states that he 'remained there' (in Babylon) till Cyrus' first year. Cyrus' decree liberated the Jews from their exile in Babylon, thus bringing the 70-year Captivity to a near end. Daniel 1:21 is simply pointing out that Daniel lived through the span of the Captivity. The verse does not specify the time of his death. In fact he lived on into at least Cyrus' third year (10:1)."**

# Support for Mosaic Authorship

**External**

**External**



**External**

**External**

**External**





The diagram features a horizontal timeline at the top with eight red circular markers. Below this, a large horizontal arrow points to the right. A central section of this arrow is highlighted in light green and labeled '70 Years' with arrows pointing to the years '605' and '536'. Three horizontal green bars represent the lifespans of prophets: the top bar is labeled 'Ezekiel 592-572 (20)', the middle bar is labeled 'Daniel 605-537 (68)', and the bottom bar is labeled 'Isaiah 626-586 (40)'. A large black arrow points upwards from the bottom of the diagram towards the center of the 70-year period.

# Timeline of the Exile

605 ← **70 Years** → 536

Ezekiel 592-572 (20)

Daniel 605-537 (68)

Isaiah 626-586 (40)

**Ezekiel notes Daniel as his contemporary on par with Job in the 580s BC (four centuries before 164 BC), so Daniel was well-known—not a myth!**

**Ezek. 14:14 Even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were there, their righteousness would save no one but themselves, says the Sovereign LORD.**

**Ezek. 14:20 As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were there, they wouldn't be able to save their own sons or daughters. They alone would be saved by their righteousness.**

# Daniel 9:25-27 (NLT)

<sup>25</sup> Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to **rebuild Jerusalem** until a ruler—the **Anointed One—comes**. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.

<sup>26</sup> "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the **Anointed One will be killed**, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and **a ruler** will arise whose armies **will destroy the city and the Temple**. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. <sup>27</sup> The **ruler will make a treaty** with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an **end to the sacrifices** and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious **object that causes desecration**, until the **fate** decreed for this defiler is **finally poured out on him**."



# 1. Critical View

555

Jer. 25:11- 12	Cy- rus	Mur- der	Anti- och us	Tem- ple
605/ 586 BC	De- cree 538 BC	of Oni- as 171 BC	De- se- cra- tion 167 BC	Re- ded- ica- tion 164 BC

Critical

7 wks

62 weeks

1 wk

## Critique of Critical View:

- Weeks add up to 422 or 441 years (not 490)
- Antiochus was hardly a Messianic figure!
- Antiochus IV made no covenant with Israel
- Prophecy seen only as imaginative prediction

# The Seventy "Weeks" of Daniel

# Decree



**69 sevens = 483 years**

# Anointed

# One



# 7 sevens

## 444 BC – 395 BC

# 62 sevens

## 395 BC – AD 33

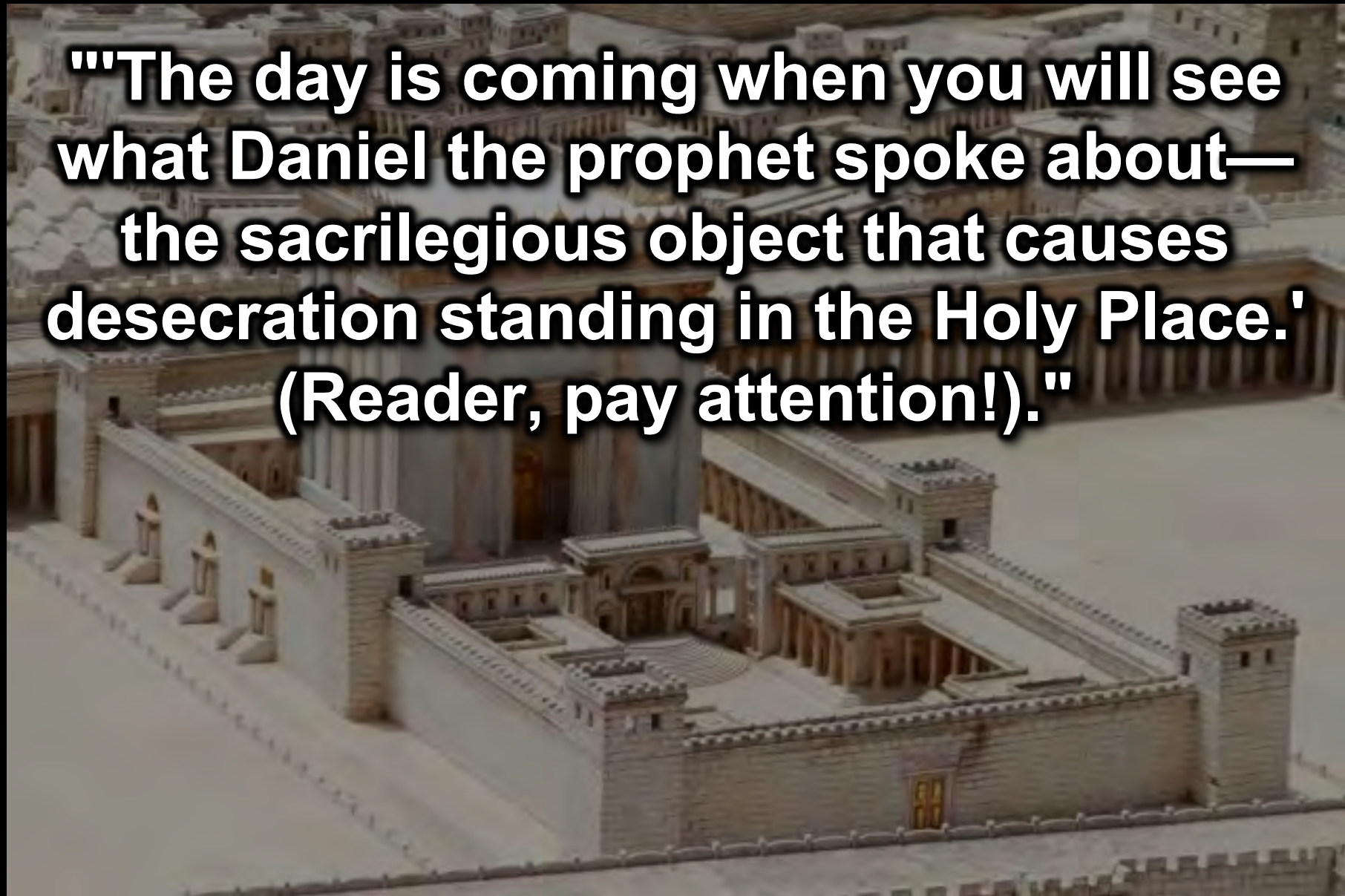


**1 seven  
= 7 years**



## **Matthew 24:15 (NLT)**

**"The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.' (Reader, pay attention!)."**



**Jesus says that Daniel 9:27 was written by Daniel**

# Confirmed ANE Chronologies

**“...The Hebrew writers in Kings, etc., have their Assyrian and Babylonian monarchs impeccably in the right order...”  
(Kitchen, 23)**

## **Mesopotamia:**

- **Old Babylon (1432-1180)**
- **Assyria (912-609)**
- **Neo-Babylon (626-539)**

## **Israel**

**(dates confirmed)**

**Egypt  
(1550/1540-525)**

**“...`Taharqa reigned from 690 to 664, Necho II from 610 to 595, and Hophra from 589 to 570, all in sequence alongside their Hebrew contemporaries...” (Kitchen, 23)**



# 17 Seals Attesting to Jewish Kings

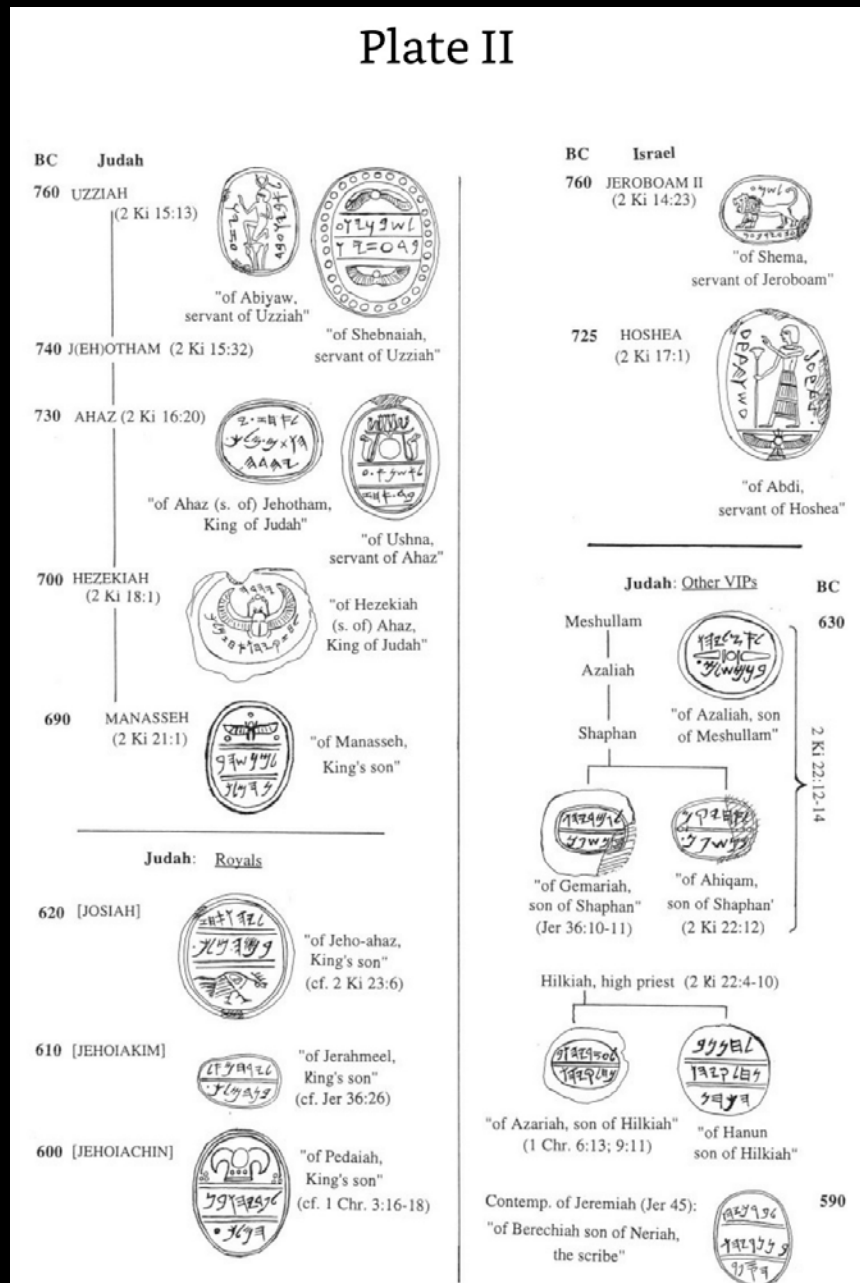


Figure 2

These seals with many close-ups in the following slides show ample archaeological support for the monarchies of Israel and Judah. The same is true for the kings of Babylon noted in Daniel's prophecy.

Kenneth A. Kitchen,  
*On the Reliability of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003), 16-21, 604

# Seals of Uzziah & Jotham

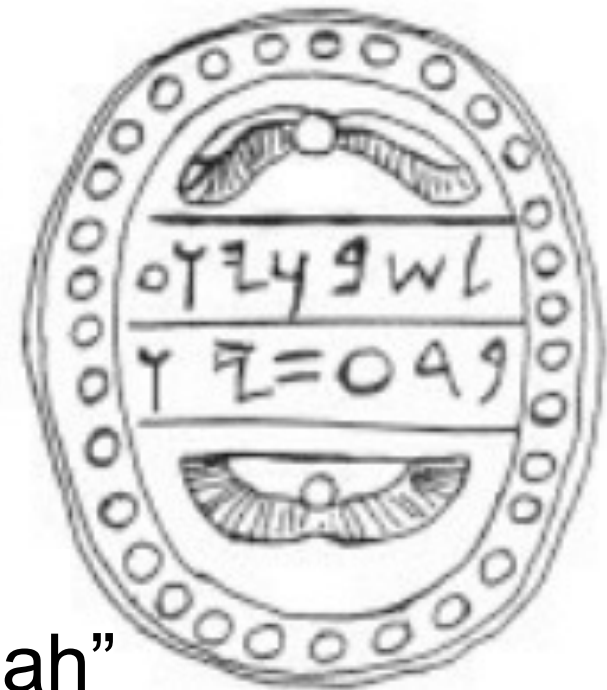
**BC**      **Judah**

**760**      UZZIAH (2 Ki 15:13)



“of Abiyaw,  
servant of Uzziah”

**740**      J(EH)OTHAM (2 Ki 15:32)



“of Shebnaiah,  
servant of Uzziah”



# Seals of Jeroboam II & Hoshea

**BC**      **Israel**

**760**      JEROBOAM II  
(2 Ki 14:23)



“of Shema,  
servant of Jeroboam”

**725**      HOSHEA  
(2 Ki 17:1)



“of Abdi,  
servant of Hoshea”

# Seals of Ahaz & Hezekiah

730

AHAZ  
(2 Ki 16:20)



“of Ahaz (s. of)  
Jehotham,  
King of Judah”



“of Ushna,  
servant of Ahaz”

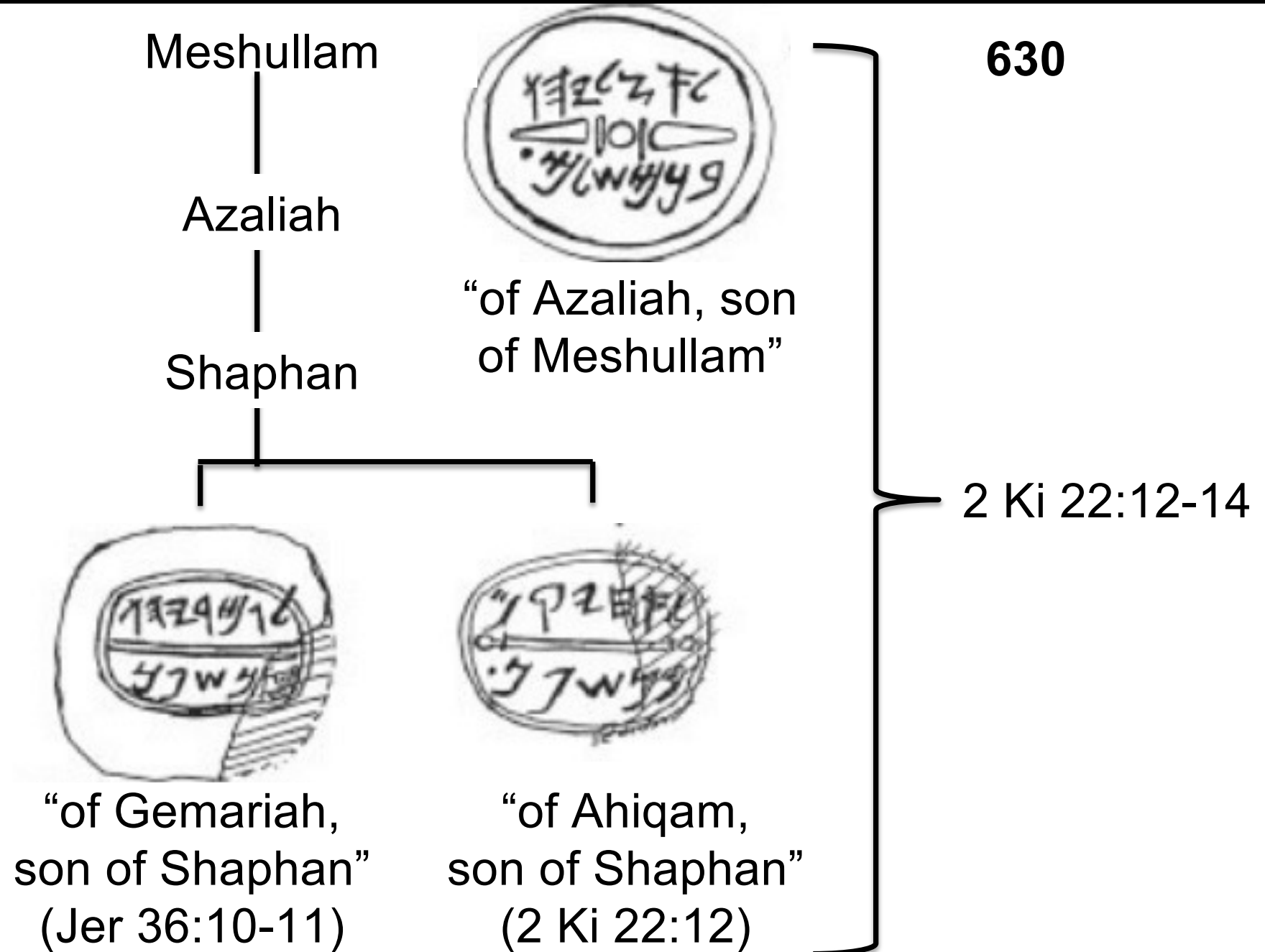
700

HEZEKIAH  
(2 Ki 18:1)



“of Hezekiah,  
(s. of) Ahaz,  
King of Judah”

# Seals of Other Judah VIPs





# *Daniel in OT History*

Daniel 605-536 BC

**United  
Kingdom**

**1050-930**

**Divided  
Kingdom**

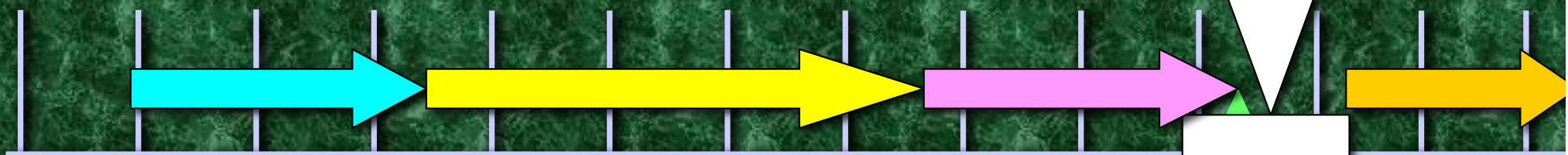
**930-722**

**Solitary  
Kingdom**

**722-586**

**Post-  
Exile**

**536-425**

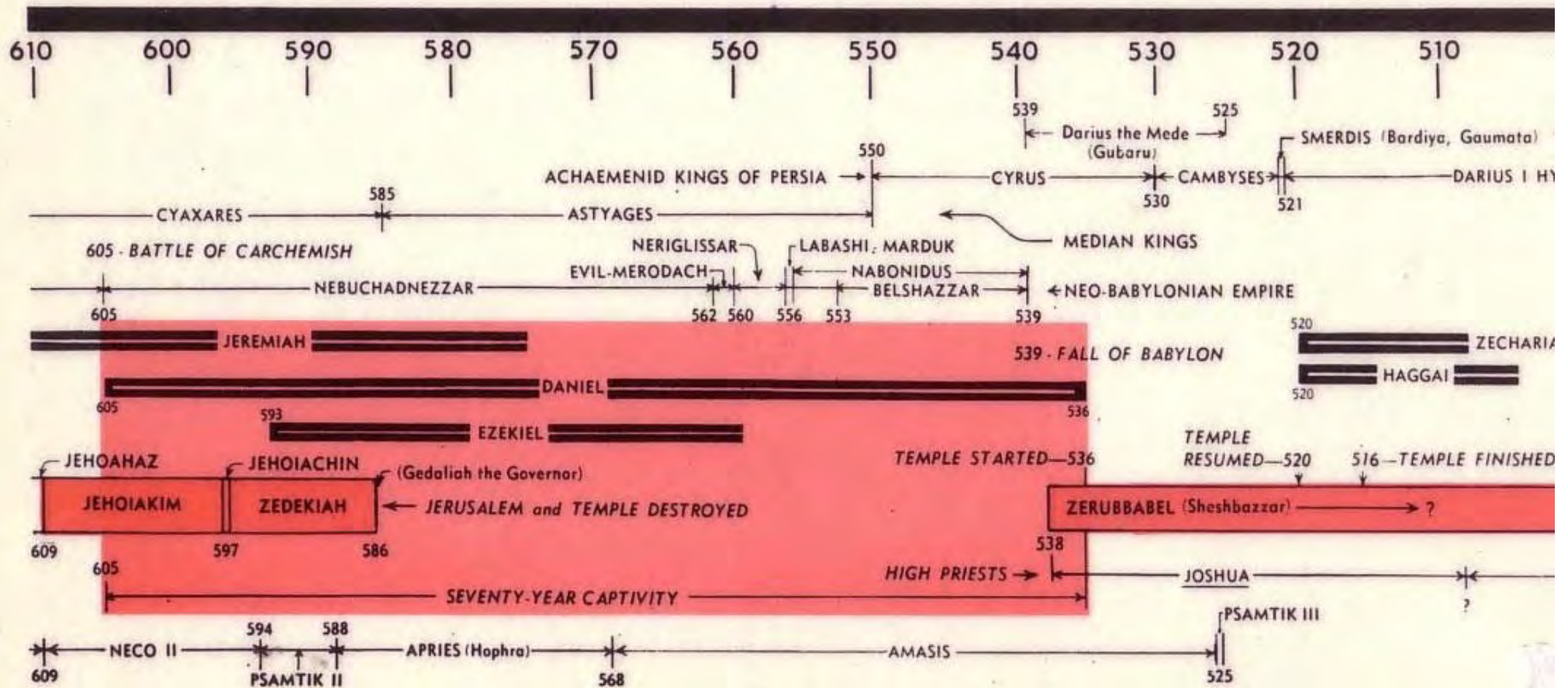


1	1	1											
1	0	0	9	9	8	8	7	7	6	6	5	5	4
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**Exile 586-536**

# Chart of the Exile

232 & 342



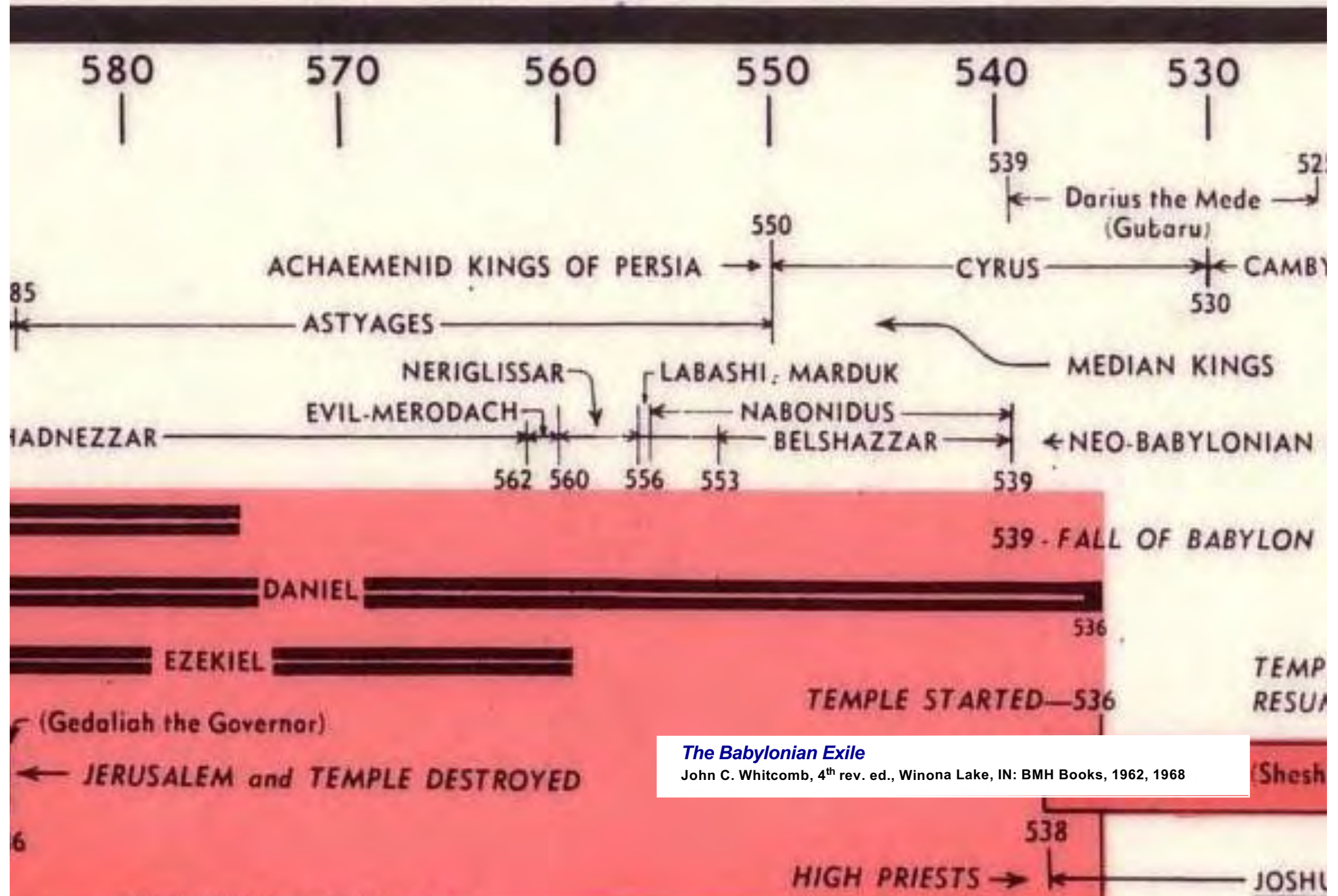
## *The Babylonian Exile*

John C. Whitcomb, 4<sup>th</sup> rev. ed., Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1962, 1968



# Chart of the Exile

232 & 342



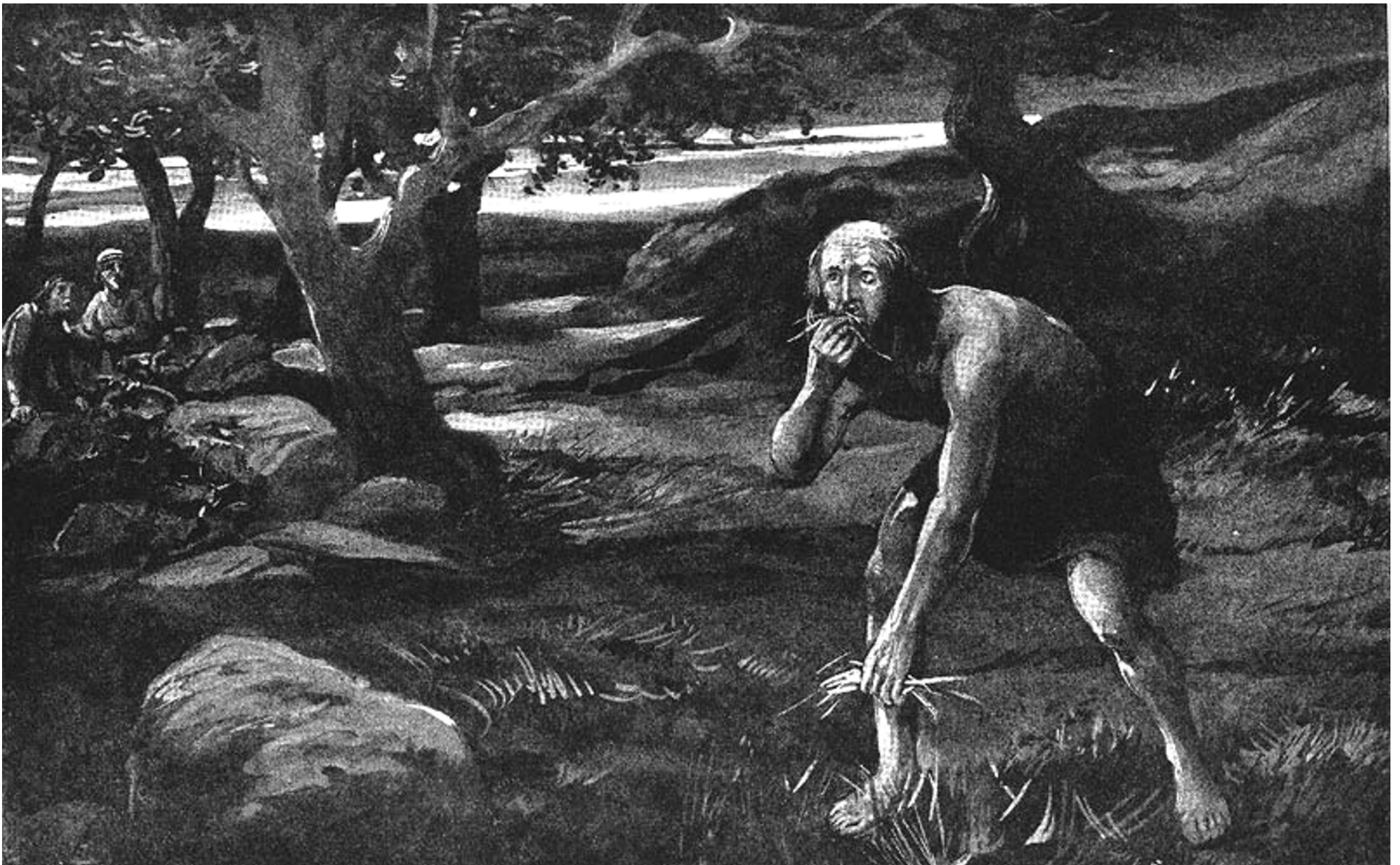
## *The Babylonian Exile*

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# The Fiery Furnace



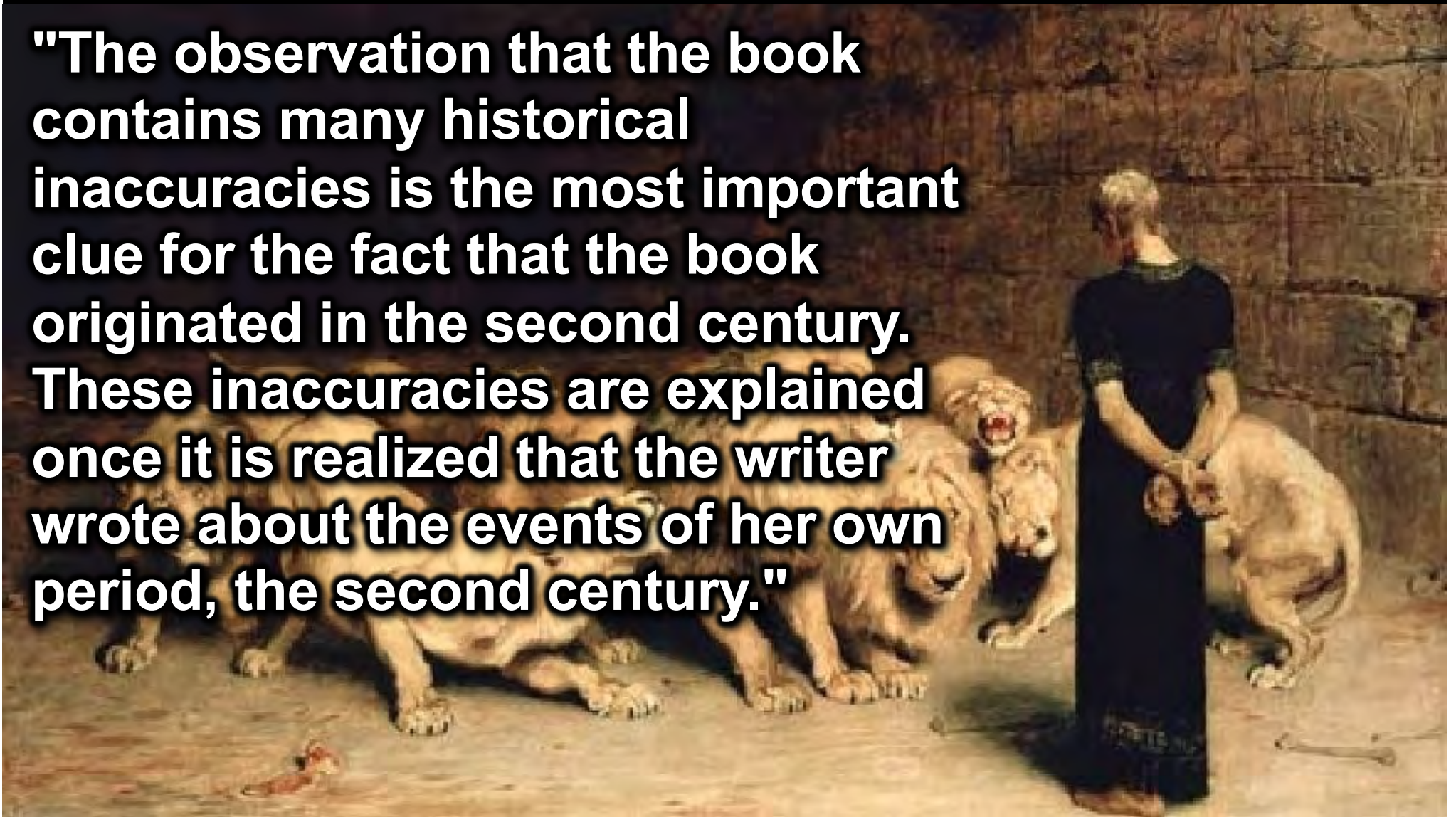


# Involuntary Vegetarianism



# Are these tales?

**"The observation that the book contains many historical inaccuracies is the most important clue for the fact that the book originated in the second century. These inaccuracies are explained once it is realized that the writer wrote about the events of her own period, the second century."**



**M. Nel, "A Literary-Historical Analysis of Daniel 2: Two Powers in Opposition," *Acta Theologica* 22 (2002): 78; cited by Tanner, *Daniel*, 2**



# The Date of Daniel

**Daniel's Ministry**  
(1:1; 10:1)

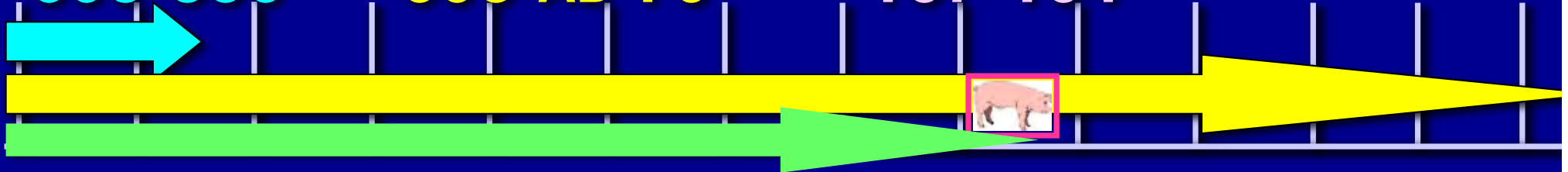
**Daniel's Prophecies**  
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**Antiochus Desecrates Temple**

605-536

605-AD 70

167-164



6	5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	1		B	
0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	C	5
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Critics see historical events recorded as "prophecies" Critics Date Daniel after 164

**"Some have objected to Daniel's authorship because of **supposed historical errors** found in the book. Some have asserted, for instance, that Nebuchadnezzar was not the father of Belshazzar, as indicated in Daniel 5:2, 11, 13, 18 (cf. v. 22). They argue that if Daniel had written the book, he would not have made such an error."**

**"However, it has been demonstrated that a royal successor to the throne was called a 'son' (5:22) even if he had no blood relationship to an earlier king."**

# Greek & Persian Loan Words in Daniel

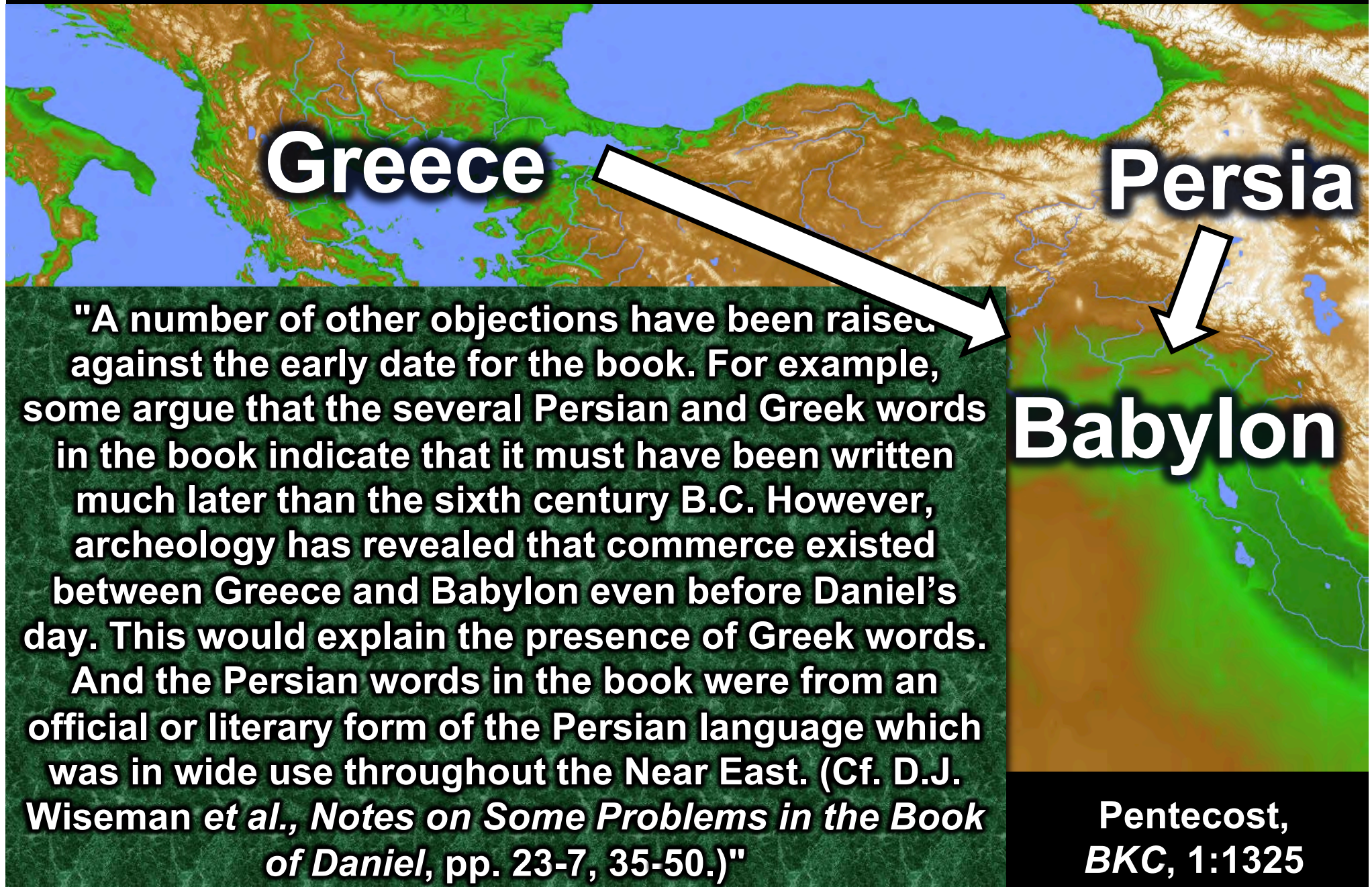


"Then a herald shouted out, 'People of all races and nations and languages, listen to the king's command! <sup>5</sup> When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace'" (Daniel 3:4-6 NLT).

—How do we explain these many Greek and Persian words in 600 BC before the Greek and Roman empires were established?



# Greek & Persian Loan Words in Daniel



"A number of other objections have been raised against the early date for the book. For example, some argue that the several Persian and Greek words in the book indicate that it must have been written much later than the sixth century B.C. However, archeology has revealed that commerce existed between Greece and Babylon even before Daniel's day. This would explain the presence of Greek words.

And the Persian words in the book were from an official or literary form of the Persian language which was in wide use throughout the Near East. (Cf. D.J. Wiseman *et al.*, *Notes on Some Problems in the Book of Daniel*, pp. 23-7, 35-50.)"

Pentecost,  
*BKC*, 1:1325



# Belshazzar Humbled



• Rembrandt

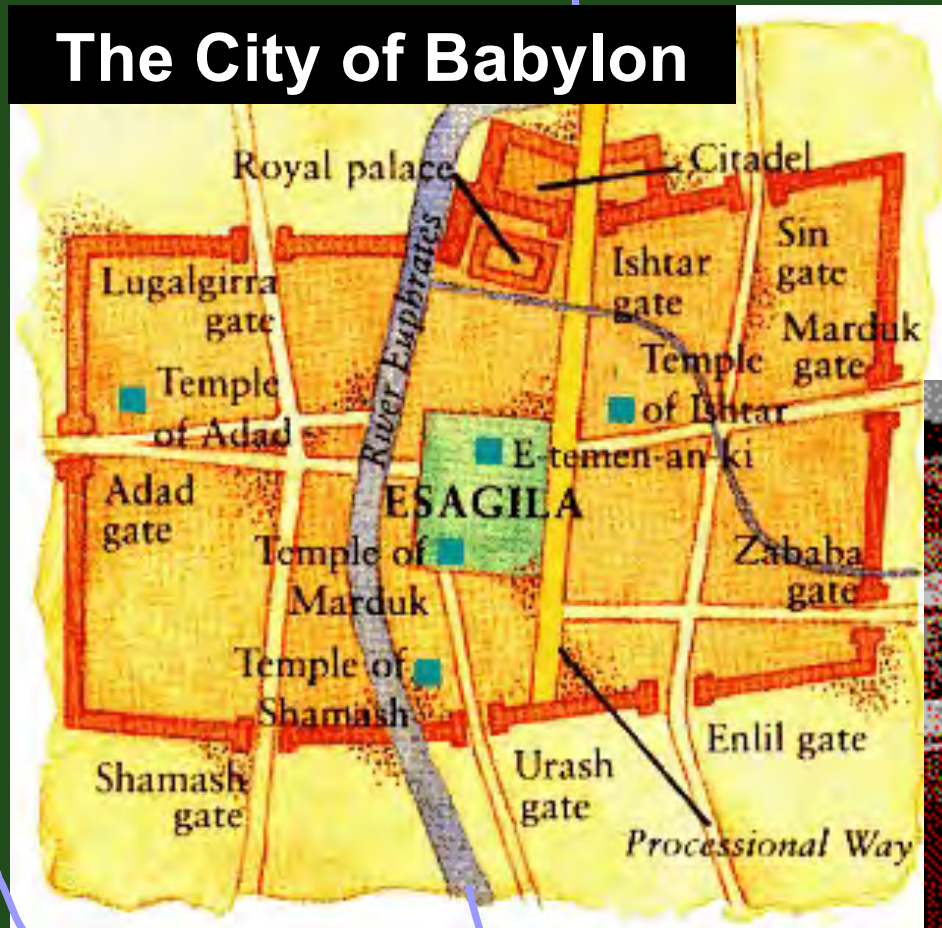


# BABYLON FELL in 539 BC

510a

## Persians entered under the water gates!

### The City of Babylon



### Daniel 5

(Belshazzar's Feast)





# Babylon's Fall (Herodotus)

544b

*The History of the Persian Wars* 1.191 (430 BC)

"[Cyrus] placed a portion of his army at the point where the river enters the city, and another body at the back of the place where it issues forth, with orders to march into the town by the bed of the stream, as soon as the water became **shallow enough**: he then himself drew off with the unwarlike portion of his host, and made for the place where Nitocris dug the basin for the river, where he did exactly what she had done formerly: **he turned the Euphrates by a canal into the basin**, which was then a marsh, on which the river sank to such an extent that the natural bed of the stream became fordable.

"Hereupon the Persians who had been left for the purpose at Babylon by the river-side, entered the stream, which had now sunk so as to reach about midway up a man's thigh, and thus got into the town.

# Babylon's Fall (Herodotus)

544b

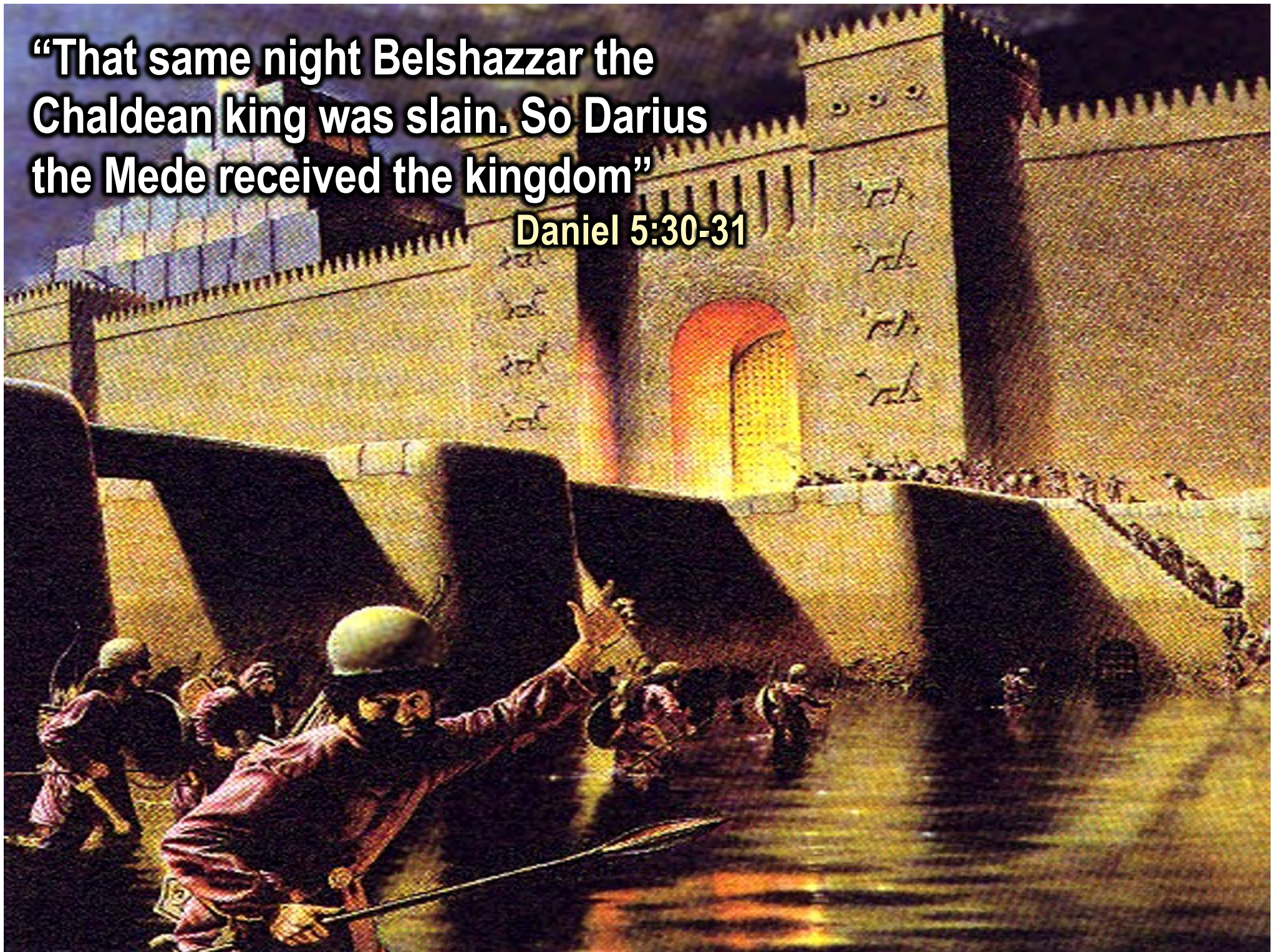
"Had the Babylonians been apprised of what Cyrus was about, or had they noticed their danger, they would never have allowed the Persians to enter the city, but would have destroyed them utterly; for they would have made fast all the street-gates which gave upon the river, and mounting upon the walls along both sides of the stream, would so have caught the enemy, as it were, in a trap. But, as it was, **the Persians came upon them by surprise and so took the city.** Owing to the vast size of the place, the inhabitants of the central parts (as the residents at Babylon declare) long after the outer portions of the town were taken, knew nothing of what had chanced, but as **they were engaged in a festival**, continued dancing and reveling until they learnt the capture but too certainly. Such, then, were the circumstances of the first taking of Babylon."

*The History of the Persian Wars* 1.191 (written over a century later in 430 BC)



**“That same night Belshazzar the  
Chaldean king was slain. So Darius  
the Mede received the kingdom”**

**Daniel 5:30-31**






# Cyrus Conquers Babylon

539 BC







**Critics Especially  
Doubt Visions of  
Daniel 7–12  
(apocalyptic denied  
for 600 BC)  
—Your response?**



**Isn't Daniel too**  **End times**

p. 322  
Point D

**early for  
apocalyptic writing?**

**Warnings  
(not repentance)**

**Pessimism**

**Triumph of  
God**

**Secrecy**

**Revelation is the  
only apocalyptic  
NT writing**

**Determinism**





**Gold**

**Babylon**

**Silver**

**Persia**

**Bronze**

**Greece**

**Iron**

**Rome**

**Iron &**

**Antichrist**

**Stone**



**The Image of  
Daniel 2 is  
Apocalyptic  
too**

**Kingdom**



# Nations in Daniel 7



Babylon

A detailed illustration of a lion with large, golden-brown wings, standing on a rocky outcrop. The lion's wings are spread wide, and its tail is curled. The background shows a blue sky and a body of water.

Greece

A detailed illustration of a leopard with large, golden-brown wings, standing on a rocky outcrop. The leopard's wings are spread wide, and its tail is curled. The background shows a blue sky and a body of water.

Medo-Persia

A detailed illustration of a brown bear standing in shallow water, with its head lowered as if drinking. The bear's fur is thick and brown, and its claws are visible. The background shows a blue sky and a body of water.

Rome

A detailed illustration of a green, scaly dragon-like creature with multiple heads and horns, standing on a rocky outcrop. The creature's wings are spread wide, and its tail is curled. The background shows a blue sky and a body of water.



**How is it legitimate  
to accept the Daniel  
2 prediction of the  
four future nations  
but doubt the same  
in Daniel 7?**



# Another apocalyptic vision at the time of Daniel

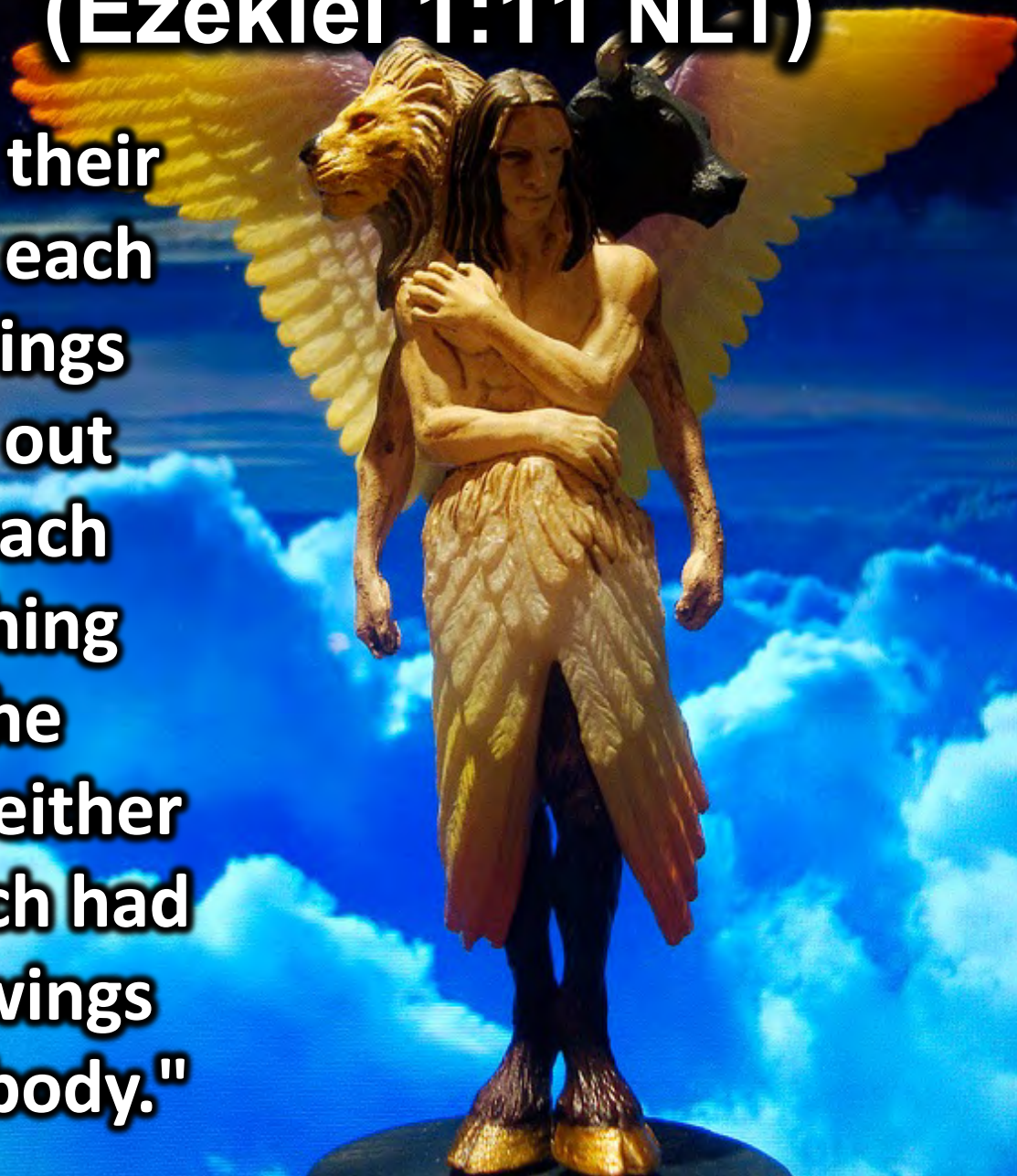


*Ezekiel 1*



# **Creatures with Four Faces (Ezekiel 1:11 NLT)**

**"Such were their faces. They each had two wings spreading out upward, each wing touching that of the creature on either side; and each had two other wings covering its body."**







**Zechariah 1:8 expands in Revelation 6:1-4**



**"Some have objected to Daniel's sixth-century date on the grounds that the book is included in the Writings, the third section of the Hebrew Bible, rather than among the Prophets, the second division. The last prophetic book (Malachi) was written in the fifth century B.C. Those arguing for a late date for Daniel allege that if his book were written in the sixth century, it would have been included in the second division (the Prophets) rather than relegated to the third (the Writings)."**

**Your response?**

**"However, as previously noted, the prophets were set apart by God as His messengers with a special ministry to the nation Israel. Since Daniel was counted by his contemporaries as a governmental leader rather than a prophet, his writings were included in the third division rather than in the second. Thus the status of the author rather than the date of his book determined the division in which his book was included in the Hebrew Bible."**



# Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls

**The DSS proves the  
conservative dating  
of OT books**

**When was Daniel written?**

**Conservatives  
560 BC**

**DSS Daniel copy  
200-100 BC**

**Liberals  
164 BC**

**Shrine of the Book**

**But could Daniel have had  
an advanced theology of  
angels and the  
resurrection?**

**—*Another argument of the critics***



# Michael will arise (Daniel 12:1)





# Judgment of Old Testament Saints

**"Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. <sup>2</sup>Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever"**  
**(Daniel 12:1-3 NAU).**

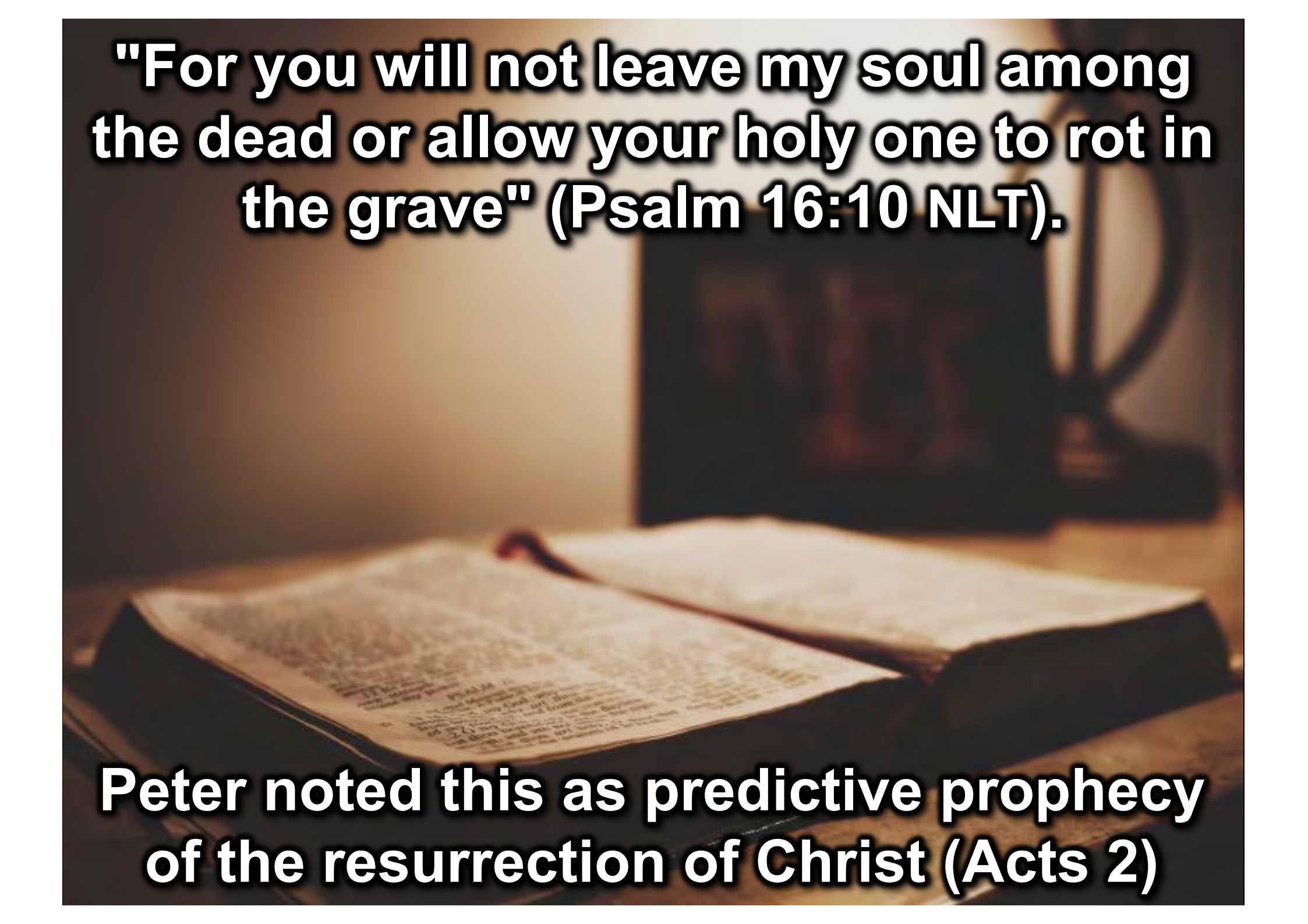




**“Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.”**

**Isaiah 26:19**



An open Bible lies on a wooden desk, its pages slightly aged and showing some text. In the background, a lamp with a dark base and a light-colored shade is visible, casting a warm glow. The overall scene is dimly lit, emphasizing the text on the Bible and the overlay.

**"For you will not leave my soul among  
the dead or allow your holy one to rot in  
the grave" (Psalm 16:10 NLT).**

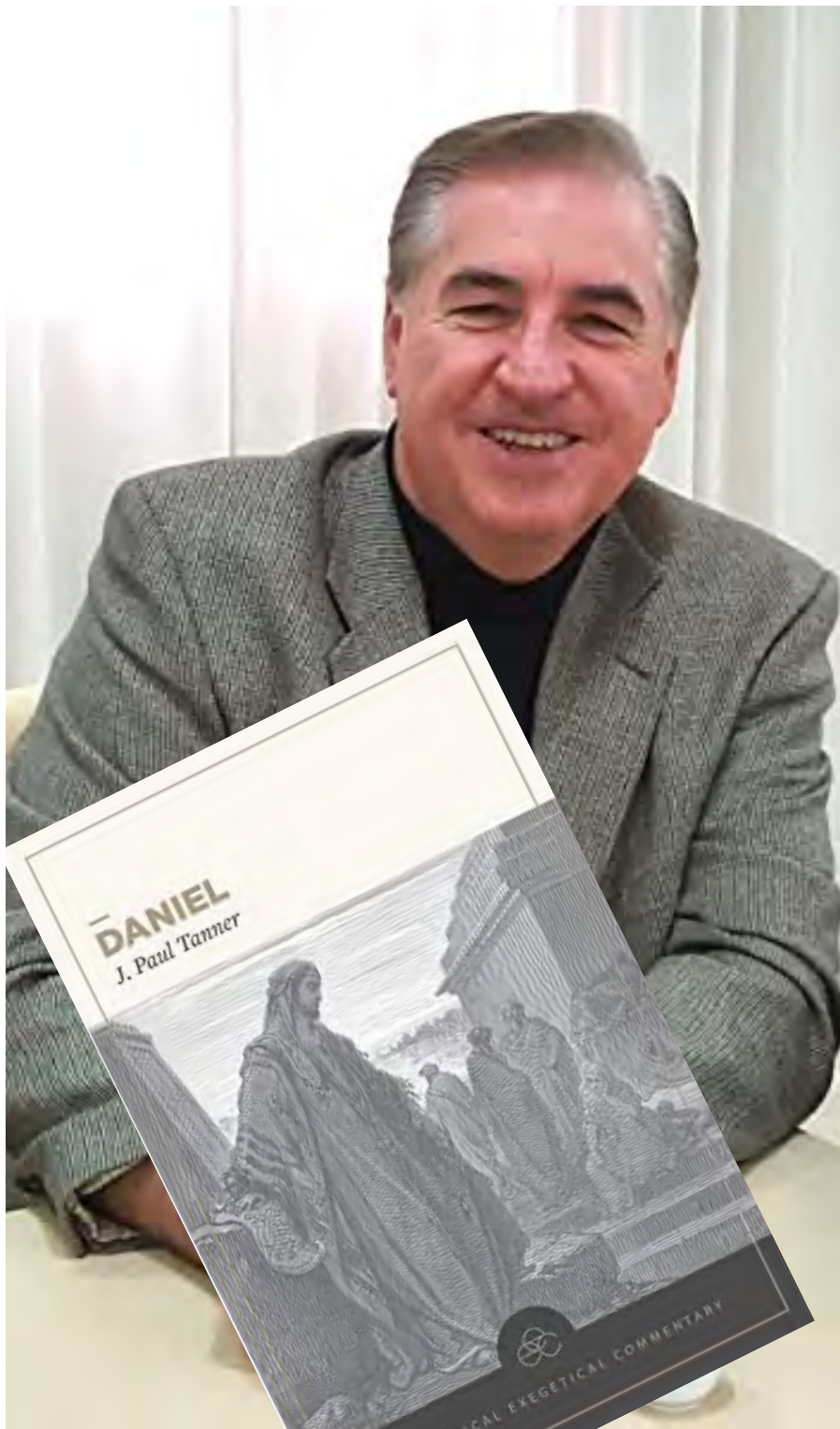
**Peter noted this as predictive prophecy  
of the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2)**



**J. Paul Tanner**

**—Finally, a  
substantial  
evangelical  
commentary on  
Daniel**

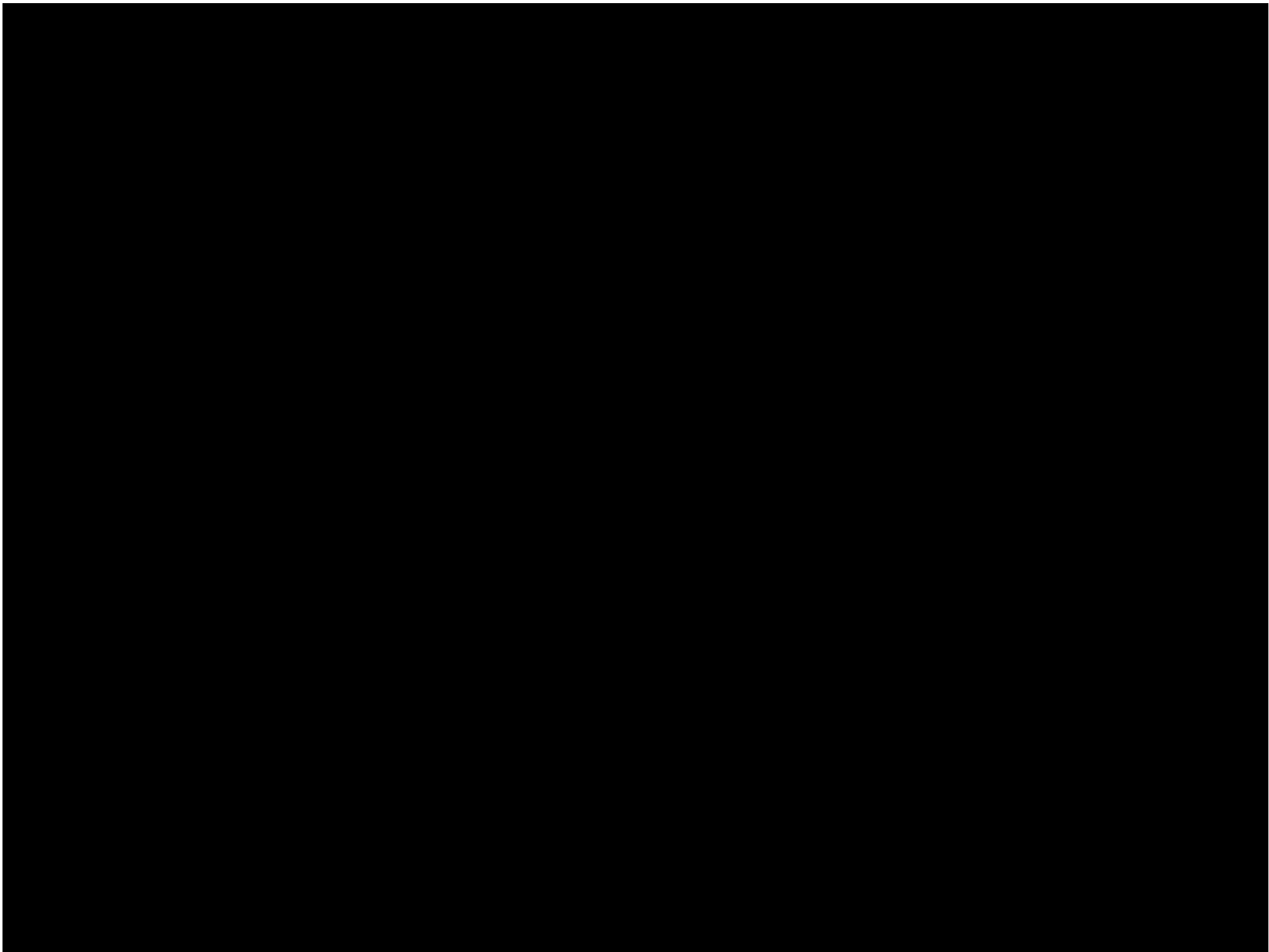
***Daniel*, Evangelical Exegetical  
Commentary (Bellingham, WA:  
Lexham Press, 2020)**



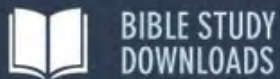
# Conclusion

*Do you have any doubts  
that Daniel wrote the book  
bearing his name?*






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A large background image for the main banner showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A semi-transparent dark grey box with white text is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

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