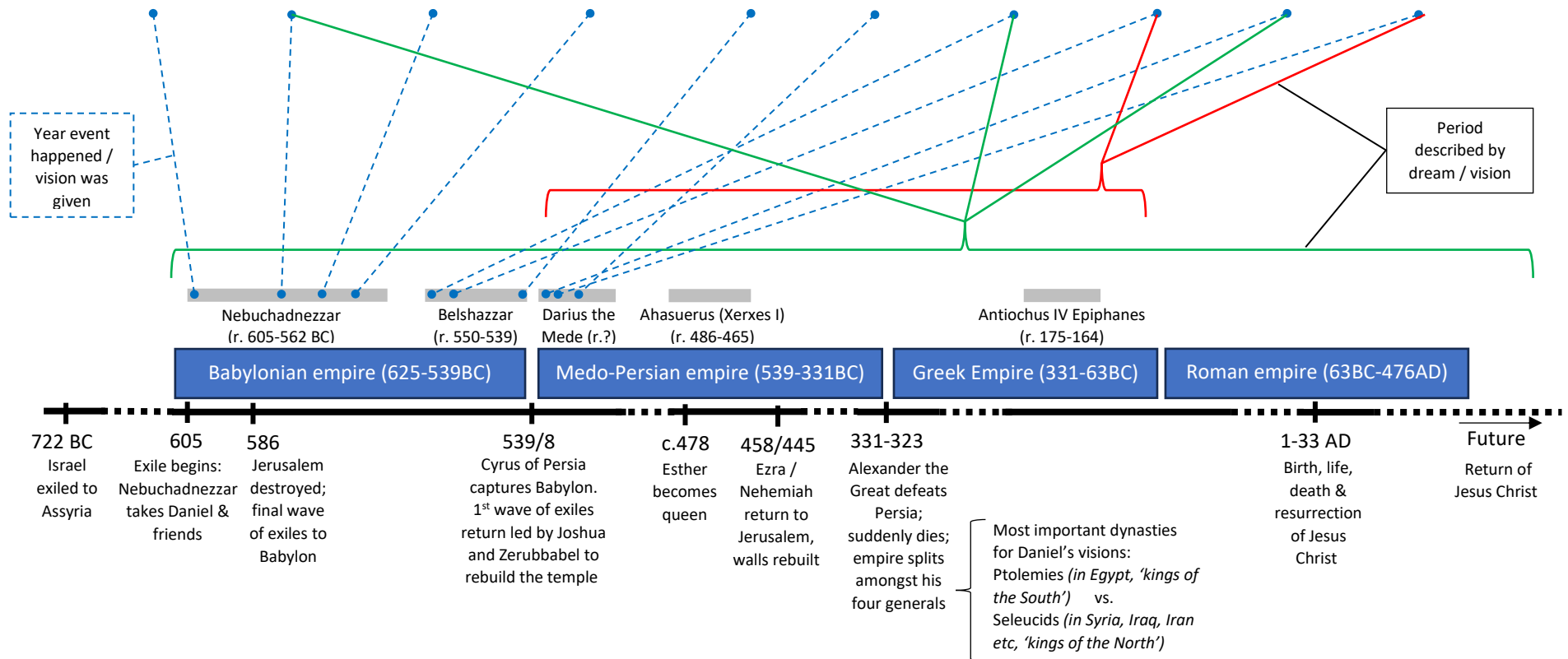


The book of Daniel: God's kingdom lasts forever!

	<i>(in Hebrew)</i>		<i>(2:4-7:28 in Aramaic)</i>					<i>(in Hebrew)</i>		
Ch.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - 12
Topic	Daniel & friends arrive in Babylon	Dream of statue: four kingdoms succeeded by God's kingdom	Three friends saved from the fiery furnace	Dream of felled tree. Nebuchadnezzar humbled & restored	Writing on the wall. Belshazzar humbled	Daniel saved from the lion's den	Vision of four beasts, the Ancient of Days & Son of Man	Vision of Ram and Goat (kingdoms 2&3)	Daniel's prayer & vision of '70 weeks'	Vision of future kings and wars in kingdoms 2&3 (and of end times)



For further discussion & study...

... and for each day a verse you can memorise, to take the lessons of this week with you!

#1 (Monday) – Daniel 1	#2 (Tuesday) – Daniel 2	#3 (Wednesday) – Daniel 3&6	#4 (Thursday) – Daniel 4&5	#5 (Friday) – Daniel 7
In exile – where do you belong?	God's Kingdom lasts forever!	Keep on serving the saving God!	Humble yourself, or God will do it	World history in a nutshell
<p>1. Have you faced risk or opposition for standing up as a Christian? How did you deal with that?</p> <p>2. Are there areas of life where you are at risk of being 'swallowed up' in this world? Where do the temptations or pressures lie for you? What steps can you take to protect your identity as a Christian?</p> <p>3. What hope and encouragement do we have to start or keep trusting and obeying God despite the costs?</p> <p>"Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." (1 Peter 2:11-12)</p>	<p>1. What gives you rest and joy and comfort and a sense of fulfilment in this life? How secure are those things/people?</p> <p>2. Do you sometimes worry when you read/see the news, all the wars and where the world is heading? What truths do we find in the Bible to give comfort and peace? (See also e.g. Psalm 2)</p> <p>3. Read Acts 17:24-31. How does Paul use the truths also seen in Daniel 2 there? (see especially vv26-27 and 30-31) How could you share Jesus with a friend following a conversation about what's going on in the world?</p> <p>"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:28-29)</p>	<p>1. Someone said: <i>"Faith is not believing in spite of evidence; rather, it is obeying in spite of the consequences."</i> Discuss how this is clear in the response of Daniel and his friends. Have you been in situations where such faith was required?</p> <p>2. Recommend/share with each other where/how you can learn more about the bold faith of persecuted Christians; or through biographies of those who've already died. What lesson or story stands out to you?</p> <p>3. Are you by nature risk-averse, or do you like taking risks? How does this impact your witness and serving? How can God's Word (incl. Daniel 3+6) help you to accept risk and live for God with courageous faith?</p> <p>"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)</p>	<p>1. "Pride is all about comparing." Perhaps you don't think of yourself as very proud, but are there areas in which you are comparing yourself to others? (And then you feel better than them; or you get jealous) → What would humility look like in those areas?</p> <p>2. "Though you knew all this..." (5:22) – have you truly learned from things you've experienced/heard/seen? (How) have those things shaped your life with God?</p> <p>3. How does Jesus show us what real humility looks like? See e.g. Philippians 2:3-11; John 13:12-17; and Mark 10:45.</p> <p>"God opposes the proud, but shows favour to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5 = James 4:6)</p>	<p>1. What has really struck you this week as we studied the Book of Daniel? Which encouragement or truth or challenge? Share...</p> <p>2. Think about and praise God together for Jesus, our far better eternal King, who is good and wise and just (so unlike the kings of this world!) He is worthy, and he is the Saviour for sinners!</p> <p>3. How often do you think about the amazing future that awaits us (reigning with Jesus over the new heavens and earth!)? How could you do this more, to keep going with faith & hope & courage, whatever life may have in store for you?</p> <p>"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed." (1 Peter 4:12-13)</p>