THE BOOK OF DANIEL
This chapter opens with a chronological puzzle.

- Daniel was carried to Babylon in 605 B.C., received three years of training, interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in the second year of the king’s reign 602 B.C., and is promoted to a high position.

What happened to the third year?

- Since they were ten times better than were their teachers in every matter of wisdom and understanding, they got 3 years training in two years or . . .

- They completed their third year just before Nisan 602, which would still have been the second official year of Nebuchadnezzar, ending April 9, 602.
THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS AND DANIEL

THE AMAZING SWITCH OF LANGUAGES.

- Location: Qumran Cave 4 - 4Q112 Daniel
- Language: Hebrew (1:16-21 and 8:1-11:16) and Aramaic (2:9-7:28)
  Scroll Date: 75-25 B.C.
- Since the Aramaic section covers the “times of the Gentiles,” AGE OF GRACE, beginning to end.
- Daniel wrote in the international language so his message could not be missed by the Gentiles of that time and passed on to the Gentiles throughout history.

  *Aramaic was the language the Hebrews spoke coming out of the Babylonian captivity.*
THE IMPORTANCE OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S DREAM

- In our day, dreams are usually attributed to physical, emotional, psychological, and even culinary causes. 😊 Yet, it is also true some dreams are given by God.
- The king was about to find out what Luke declared six centuries later. 
  Acts 17:26-27
- Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is like a skeleton to which one attaches the tendons and flesh of biblical prophecy.
- Many prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah are brought together in the book of Daniel.
- God’s plan for the “times of the Gentiles” are encoded in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and decoded in Daniel’s interpretation of it.
NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S DREAM BEGINS

God terrified Nebuchadnezzar with dreams as He did Job. Job 7:14

- Troubled and perplexed, the king called the ydsk Kasday—Aramaic for “Chaldeans,” translated as astrologers—to make known the dream and its meaning.

- The magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and Chaldeans employed herbs, charms, potions, and stars in league with evil forces to interpret dreams.

- Such practices are strongly condemned in the OT. Exodus 22:18; Deuteronomy 18:10; Isaiah 47:9, 12; Jeremiah 27:9
DRAMA BEGINS

1. NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S UNREASONABLE REQUEST v. 4-11

2. NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S FOLLY v. 12-13
   “This” at the beginning of verse 12 might refer to:
   • The king’s disappointment in not having the dream interpreted.
   • The king’s confirmation of his suspicions about the advisors.
   • The king’s faith in his god Marduk being shaken.
   • The king’s reaction to the audacity of these frauds to criticize him.

3. DANIEL’S REQUEST v. 14-18
   • Let’s pray about this. James 5:16; Acts 4:23-31
Daniel, through prayer, learns what Paul taught in 1 Cor. 2:10-12. Daniel’s praise is eightfold as he acknowledges that:

- God’s name is hallowed.
- God’s kingdom resides over the earth.
- God exercises His will on earth.
- God gives wisdom to the wise.
- God reveals deep and hidden things.
- God gave him wisdom and power.
- God makes known what we ask for.
- God made known the king’s dream.

*Act One, Scene One: Nebuchadnezzar is on the world’s stage.*