Daniel

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim
king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon
came to Jerusalem and besieged it.
2 And the Lord delivered into his hand
Jehoiakim king of Judah, along with some of the
articles from the house of God. He carried these
off to the land of Shinar,* to the house of his god,
where he put them in the treasury of his god.
3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of
his court officials, to bring in some Israelites
from the royal family† and the nobility—
4 young men without blemish, handsome,
gifted in all wisdom, knowledgeable, quick to
understand, and qualified to serve in the king's
palace—and to teach them the language and
literature of the Chaldeans.‡
5 The king assigned them daily provisions of
the royal food and wine. They were to be
trained for three years, after which they were to
enter the king's service.
6 Among these young men were some from
Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.
7 The chief official gave them new names: To
Daniel he gave the name Belteshazzar; to
Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and
to Azariah, Abednego.

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* **1:2 1:2** That is, Babylonia † **1:3 1:3** Hebrew *from the seed of the kingdom* ‡ **1:4 1:4** That is, the Babylonians

8 But Daniel made up his mind that he would
not defile himself with the king's food or wine.
So he asked the chief official for permission not
to defile himself.
9 Now God had granted Daniel favor and
compassion from the chief official,
10 but he said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the
king, who has assigned your food and drink. For
why should he see your faces looking thinner
than those of the other young men your age?
You would endanger my head before the king!"
11 Then Daniel said to the steward whom the
chief official had appointed over Daniel,
Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,
12 "Please test your servants for ten days. Let
us be given only vegetables to eat and water to
drink.
13 Then compare our appearances with those
of the young men who are eating the royal food,
and deal with your servants according to what
you see."
14 So he consented to this and tested them for
ten days.
15 And at the end of ten days, they looked
healthier and better nourished than all the
young men who were eating the king's food.
16 So the steward continued to withhold their
choice food and the wine they were to drink,
and he gave them vegetables instead.
17 To these four young men God gave
knowledge and understanding in every kind of
literature and wisdom. And Daniel had insight
into all kinds of visions and dreams.

18 Now at the end of the time specified by the
king, the chief official presented them to
Nebuchadnezzar.
19 And the king spoke with them, and among
all the young men he found no one equal to
Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they
entered the king's service.
20 In every matter of wisdom and
understanding about which the king consulted
them, he found them ten times better than all
the magicians and enchanters in his entire
kingdom.
21 And Daniel remained there until the first
year of King Cyrus.

2

1 In the second year of his reign,
Nebuchadnezzar had dreams that troubled his
spirit, and sleep escaped him.
2 So the king gave orders to summon the
magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and
Chaldeans* to explain his dreams. When they
came and stood before the king,
3 he said to them, "I have had a dream, and my
spirit is anxious to understand it."
4 Then the Chaldeans answered the king in
Aramaic,† "O king, may you live forever! Tell
your servants the dream, and we will give the
interpretation."

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* **2:2 2:2** Or *astrologers*; also in verses 4, 5, and 10 † **2:4 2:4** The original text from this point of Daniel 2:4 through Daniel 7:28 is in Aramaic.

5 The king replied to the Chaldeans, “My word
is final: If you do not tell me the dream and its
interpretation, you will be cut into pieces and
your houses will be reduced to rubble.
6 But if you tell me the dream and its
interpretation, you will receive from me gifts
and rewards and great honor. So tell me the
dream and its interpretation.”

7 They answered a second time, “Let the king
tell the dream to his servants, and we will give
the interpretation.”

8 The king replied, “I know for sure that you
are stalling for time because you see that my
word is final.
9 If you do not tell me the dream, there is only
one decree for you. You have conspired to speak
before me false and fraudulent words, hoping
the situation will change. Therefore tell me the
dream, and I will know that you can give me its
interpretation.”

10 The Chaldeans answered the king, “No one
on earth can do what the king requests! No king,
however great and powerful, has ever asked
anything like this of any magician, enchanter, or
Chaldean.
11 What the king requests is so difficult that no
one can tell it to him except the gods, whose
dwelling is not with mortals.”

12 This response made the king so angry and
furious that he gave orders to destroy all the
wise men of Babylon.

13 So the decree went out that the wise men
were to be executed, and men went to look for
Daniel and his friends to execute them.
14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's
guard, went out to execute the wise men of
Babylon, Daniel responded with discretion and
tact.
15 "Why is the decree from the king so harsh?"
he asked Arioch, the king's officer.
Then Arioch explained the situation to Daniel.
16 So Daniel went in and asked the king to give
him some time, so that he could give him the
interpretation.
17 Then Daniel returned to his house and
explained the matter to his friends Hananiah,
Mishael, and Azariah,
18 urging them to plead for mercy from the
God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that
Daniel and his friends would not be killed with
the rest of the wise men of Babylon.
19 During the night, the mystery was revealed
to Daniel in a vision, and he blessed the God of
heaven
20 and declared:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
for wisdom and power belong to him.
21 He changes the times and seasons;
he removes kings and establishes them.
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to the discerning.
22 He reveals the deep and hidden things;
he knows what lies in darkness,
and light dwells with him.

23 To you, O God of my fathers,
I give thanks and praise,
because you have given me
wisdom and power.
And now you have made known to me
what we have requested,
for you have made known to us
the dream of the king."

24 Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon! Bring me before the king, and I will give him the interpretation."

25 Arioch hastily brought Daniel before the king and said to him, "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who will tell the king the interpretation."

26 The king responded to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to tell me what I saw in the dream, as well as its interpretation?"

27 Daniel answered the king, "No wise man, enchanter, medium, or magician can explain to the king the mystery of which he inquires.

28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the latter days. Your dream and the visions that came into your mind as you lay on your bed were these:

29 As you lay on your bed, O king, your thoughts turned to the future, and the Revealer of Mysteries made known to you what will happen.

30 And to me this mystery has been revealed,
not because I have more wisdom than any man
alive, but in order that the interpretation might
be made known to the king, and that you may
understand the thoughts of your mind.
31 As you, O king, were watching, a great
statue‡ appeared. A great and dazzling statue
stood before you, and its form was awesome.
32 The head of the statue was pure gold, its
chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs
were bronze,
33 its legs were iron, and its feet were part iron
and part clay.
34 As you watched, a stone was cut out,§ but
not by human hands. It struck the statue on its
feet of iron and clay, and crushed them.
35 Then the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold
were shattered and became like chaff on the
threshing floor in summer. The wind carried
them away, and not a trace of them could be
found. But the stone that had struck the statue
became a great mountain and filled the whole
earth.
36 This was the dream; now we will tell the
king its interpretation.
37 You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom
the God of heaven has given sovereignty, power,
strength, and glory.
38 Wherever the sons of men or beasts of the
field or birds of the air dwell, he has given them

‡ **2:31 2:31** Or *image*; here and through the rest of Daniel 2
§ **2:34 2:34** LXX *cut out from a mountain*

into your hand and has made you ruler over
them all. You are that head of gold.
39 But after you, there will arise another
kingdom, inferior to yours.
Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule
the whole earth.
40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom as
strong as iron; for iron shatters and crushes all
things, and like iron that crushes all things, it
will shatter and crush all the others.
41 And just as you saw that the feet and toes
were made partly of fired clay and partly of
iron, so this will be a divided kingdom, yet some
of the strength of iron will be in it—just as you
saw the iron mixed with clay.
42 And as the toes of the feet were partly iron
and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly
strong and partly brittle.
43 As you saw the iron mixed with clay, so the
peoples* will mix with one another but will not
hold together any more than iron mixes with
clay.
44 In the days of those kings, the God of
heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be
destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It
will shatter all these kingdoms and bring them
to an end, but will itself stand forever.
45 And just as you saw a stone being cut out of
the mountain without human hands, and it
shattered the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold,
so the great God has told the king what will
happen in the future.

* **2:43 2:43** Aramaic *the seed of men*

The dream is true, and its interpretation is
trustworthy."
46 At this, King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his
face, paid homage to Daniel, and ordered that
an offering and incense be presented to him.
47 The king said to Daniel, "Your God is truly
the God of gods and Lord of kings, the Revealer
of Mysteries, since you were able to reveal this
mystery."
48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave
him many generous gifts. He made him ruler
over the entire province of Babylon and chief
administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.
49 And at Daniel's request, the king appointed
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to manage
the province of Babylon, while Daniel remained
in the king's court.

3

1 King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue*
sixty cubits high and six cubits wide,† and he set
it up on the plain of Dura in the province of
Babylon.
2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to
assemble the satraps, prefects, governors,
advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all
the other officials of the provinces to attend the
dedication of the statue he had set up.

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* **3:1 3:1** Or *image*; here and throughout Daniel 3 † **3:1 3:1** The statue was approximately 90 feet high and 9 feet wide (27.4 meters high and 2.7 meters wide).

3 So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers,
treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the rulers
of the provinces assembled for the dedication of
the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up,
and they stood before it.

4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “O people
of every nation and language, this is what you
are commanded:
5 As soon as you hear the sound of the horn,
flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and all kinds of
music,‡ you must fall down and worship the
golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set
up.
6 And whoever does not fall down and
worship will immediately be thrown into the
blazing fiery furnace.”

7 Therefore, as soon as all the people heard the
sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, and
all kinds of music, the people of every nation
and language would fall down and worship the
golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set
up.

8 At this time some Chaldeans§ came forward
and maliciously accused the Jews,
9 saying to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, may
you live forever!
10 You, O king, have issued a decree that
everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute,
zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and all kinds of music
must fall down and worship the golden statue,

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‡ **3:5 3:5** The precise identification of some musical instruments in this chapter is uncertain. § **3:8 3:8** Or *astrologers*

11 and that whoever does not fall down and
worship will be thrown into the blazing fiery
furnace.
12 But there are some Jews you have appointed
to manage the province of Babylon—Shadrach,
Meshach, and Abednego—who have ignored
you, O king, and have refused to serve your gods
or worship the golden statue you have set up."
13 Then Nebuchadnezzar, furious with rage,
summoned Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
So these men were brought before the king,
14 and Nebuchadnezzar said to them,
"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is it true
that you do not serve my gods or worship the
golden statue I have set up?
15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn,
flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and all kinds of
music, if you are ready to fall down and worship
the statue I have made, very good. But if you
refuse to worship, you will be thrown at once
into the blazing fiery furnace. Then what god
will be able to deliver you from my hands?"
16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied
to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no
need to answer you in this matter.
17 If this be so, then the God whom we serve is
able* to deliver us from the blazing fiery
furnace and from your hand, O king.
18 But even if he does not, let it be known to
you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or
worship the golden statue you have set up."

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* **3:17 3:17** Or *If the God whom we serve exists, then he is able*

19 At this, Nebuchadnezzar was filled with
rage, and the expression on his face changed
toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He
gave orders to heat the furnace seven times
hotter than usual,
20 and he commanded some mighty men of
valor in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego and throw them into the blazing
fiery furnace.
21 So they were tied up, wearing robes,
trousers, turbans, and other clothes, and they
were thrown into the blazing fiery furnace.
22 The king's command was so urgent and the
furnace so hot that the fiery flames killed the
men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego.
23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego, firmly bound, fell into the
blazing fiery furnace.
24 Suddenly King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up
in amazement and asked his advisers, "Did we
not throw three men, firmly bound, into the
fire?"
"Certainly, O king," they replied.
25 "Look!" he exclaimed. "I see four men,
unbound and unharmed, walking around in the
fire—and the fourth looks like a son of the gods!"
26 Then Nebuchadnezzar approached the door
of the blazing fiery furnace and called out,
"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of
the Most High God, come out!"
So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came
out of the fire,

27 and when the satraps, prefects, governors,
and royal advisers had gathered around, they
saw that the fire had no effect on the bodies of
these men. Not a hair of their heads was singed,
their robes were unaffected, and there was no
smell of fire on them.
28 Nebuchadnezzar declared, “Blessed be the
God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who
has sent his angel and delivered his servants
who trusted in him. They violated the king's
command and risked their lives rather than
serve or worship any god except their own God.
29 Therefore I decree that the people of any
nation or language who say anything offensive
against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego will be cut into pieces and their
houses reduced to rubble. For there is no other
god who can deliver in this way.”
30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego in the province of Babylon.
31 King Nebuchadnezzar,

To the people of every nation and language
who dwell in all the earth:
May your prosperity be multiplied.
32 I am pleased to declare the signs and
wonders that the Most High God has performed
for me.

33 How great are his signs,
how mighty his wonders!
His kingdom is an eternal kingdom;
his dominion endures from generation to
generation.

4

1 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house
and flourishing in my palace.
2 I had a dream, and it frightened me; while I
was in my bed, the images and visions in my
mind alarmed me.
3 So I issued a decree that all the wise men of
Babylon be brought before me to interpret the
dream for me.
4 When the magicians, enchanters,
Chaldeans,* and diviners came in, I told them
the dream, but they could not interpret it for me.
5 But at last, into my presence came Daniel
(whose name is Belteshazzar after the name of
my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy
gods). And I told him the dream:
6 "O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I
know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you
and that no mystery baffles you. So explain to
me the visions I saw in my dream, and their
interpretation.
7 In these visions of my mind as I was lying in
bed, I saw this come to pass:

There was a tree in the midst of the land,
and its height was great.
8 The tree grew large and strong;
its top reached the sky,
and it was visible
to the ends of the earth.
9 Its leaves were beautiful,
its fruit was abundant,
and upon it was food for all.

* **4:4 4:4** Or *astrologers*

Under it the beasts of the field found shelter,
in its branches the birds of the air nested,
and from it every creature was fed.
10 As I lay on my bed, I also saw in the visions
of my mind a watcher,† a holy one, coming down
from heaven.
11 He called out in a loud voice:

'Cut down the tree and chop off its branches;
strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit.
Let the beasts flee from under it,
and the birds from its branches.
12 But leave the stump with its roots in the ground,
with a band of iron and bronze around it,
in the tender grass of the field.

Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven
and graze with the beasts on the grass of the earth.
13 Let his mind be changed from that of a man,
and let him be given the mind of a beast
till seven times pass him by.
14 This decision is the decree of the watchers,
the verdict declared by the holy ones,
so that the living will know
that the Most High rules over the kingdom of mankind
and gives it to whom he wishes,
setting over it the lowliest of men.'
15 This is the dream that I, King
Nebuchadnezzar, saw. Now, Belteshazzar, tell

† **4:10 4:10** Or *an angelic watcher* or *a messenger*; also in verses 14 and 20

me the interpretation, because none of the wise men of my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you are able, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

16 For a time, Daniel, who was also known as Belteshazzar, was perplexed, and his thoughts alarmed him.

So the king said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you."

"My lord," replied Belteshazzar, "may the dream apply to those who hate you, and its interpretation to your enemies!

17 The tree you saw that grew large and strong, whose top reached the sky and was visible to all the earth,

18 whose foliage was beautiful and whose fruit was abundant, providing food for all, under which the beasts of the field lived, and in whose branches the birds of the air nested—

19 you, O king, are that tree! For you have become great and strong; your greatness has grown to reach the sky, and your dominion extends to the ends of the earth.

20 And you, O king, saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying:

'Cut down the tree and destroy it,
but leave the stump with its roots in the ground,
with a band of iron and bronze around it,
in the tender grass of the field.

Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven,

and graze with the beasts of the field
till seven times pass him by.'

21 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is
the decree that the Most High has issued against
my lord the king:

22 You will be driven away from mankind, and
your dwelling will be with the beasts of the field.
You will feed on grass like an ox and be
drenched with the dew of heaven, and seven
times shall pass you by, until you acknowledge
that the Most High rules over the kingdom of
mankind and gives it to whom he wishes.

23 As for the command to leave the stump of
the tree with its roots, your kingdom will be
restored to you as soon as you acknowledge that
Heaven rules.

24 Therefore, may my advice be pleasing to
you, O king. Break away from your sins by
doing what is right, and from your iniquities by
showing mercy to the oppressed. Perhaps there
will be an extension of your prosperity."

25 All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar.

26 Twelve months later, as he was walking on
the roof of the royal palace of Babylon,

27 the king exclaimed, "Is this not Babylon the
Great, which I myself have built as a royal
residence by the might of my power and for the
glory of my majesty?"

28 While the words were still in the king's
mouth, a voice came from heaven: "It is decreed
to you, King Nebuchadnezzar, that the kingdom
has departed from you.

29 You will be driven away from mankind to
live with the beasts of the field, and you will
feed on grass like an ox. And seven times will
pass you by, until you acknowledge that the
Most High rules over the kingdom of mankind
and gives it to whom he wishes."
30 At that moment the sentence against
Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven
away from mankind. He ate grass like an ox,
and his body was drenched with the dew of
heaven, until his hair grew like the feathers of
an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.
31 But at the end of those days I,
Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my
sanity was restored to me. Then I praised the
Most High, and I honored and glorified him who
lives forever:

"For his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom endures from generation
to generation.
32 All the peoples of the earth
are counted as nothing,
and he does as he pleases
with the army of heaven
and the peoples of the earth.
There is no one who can restrain his hand
or say to him, 'What have you done?' "
33 At the same time my sanity was restored,
my honor and splendor returned to me for the
glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles
sought me out, and I was restored to my throne,
and surpassing greatness was added to me.

34 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt
and glorify the King of heaven, for all his works
are true and all his ways are just. And he is able
to humble those who walk in pride.

5

1 Later,* King Belshazzar held a great feast for
a thousand of his nobles, and he drank wine
with them.
2 Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar
gave orders to bring in the gold and silver
vessels that Nebuchadnezzar his father† had
taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the
king could drink from them, along with his
nobles, his wives, and his concubines.
3 Thus they brought in the gold vessels that
had been taken from the temple, the house of
God in Jerusalem, and the king drank from
them, along with his nobles, his wives, and his
concubines.
4 As they drank the wine, they praised their
gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood
and stone.
5 At that moment the fingers of a human hand
appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall,
near the lampstand in the royal palace. As the
king watched the hand that was writing,

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* **5:1** **5:1** Aramaic does not include *Later*. Some translators include *Many years later* to account for the time elapsed, probably about 30 years, since the previous chapter. † **5:2** **5:2** Or *predecessor* or *grandfather*; also in verses 11, 13, and 18

6 his face grew pale and his thoughts so
alarmed him that his hips gave way and his
knees knocked together.
7 The king called out for the enchanters,
Chaldeans,‡ and diviners to be brought in, and
he said to these wise men of Babylon, “Whoever
reads this inscription and tells me its
interpretation will be clothed in purple and have
a gold chain placed around his neck, and he will
be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”
8 So all the king’s wise men came in, but they
could not read the inscription or interpret it for
him.
9 Then King Belshazzar became even more
terrified, his face grew even more pale, and his
nobles were bewildered.
10 Hearing the outcry of the king and his
nobles, the queen§ entered the banquet hall. “O
king, may you live forever!” she said. “Do not let
your thoughts terrify you, or your face grow
pale.
11 There is a man in your kingdom who has
the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the days of
your father he was found to have insight,
intelligence, and wisdom like that of the gods.
Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed
him chief of the magicians, enchanters,
Chaldeans, and diviners. Your own father, the
king,
12 did this because Daniel, the one he named
Belteshazzar, was found to have an

‡ **5:7 5:7** Or *astrologers*; also in verse 11 § **5:10 5:10** Or *queen mother*

extraordinary spirit, as well as knowledge,
understanding, and the ability to interpret
dreams, explain riddles, and solve difficult
problems. Summon Daniel, therefore, and he
will give you the interpretation."
13 So Daniel was brought before the king, who
asked him, "Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my
father the king brought from Judah?
14 I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in
you, and that you have insight, intelligence, and
extraordinary wisdom.
15 Now the wise men and enchanters were
brought before me to read this inscription and
interpret it for me, but they could not give its
interpretation.
16 But I have heard about you, that you are
able to give interpretations and solve difficult
problems. Therefore, if you can read this
inscription and give me its interpretation, you
will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain
placed around your neck, and you will be made
the third highest ruler in the kingdom."
17 In response, Daniel said to the king, "You
may keep your gifts for yourself and give your
rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will
read the inscription for the king and interpret it
for him.
18 As for you, O king, the Most High God gave
your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and
greatness, glory and honor.
19 Because of the greatness that he bestowed
on him, the people of every nation and language
trembled in fear before him. He killed whom he

wished and kept alive whom he wished; he
exalted whom he wished and humbled whom he
wished.
20 But when his heart became arrogant and
his spirit was hardened with pride, he was
deposed from his royal throne, and his glory
was taken from him.
21 He was driven away from mankind, and his
mind was like that of a beast. He lived with the
wild donkeys and ate grass like an ox, and his
body was drenched with the dew of heaven
until he acknowledged that the Most High God
rules over the kingdom of mankind, setting over
it whom he wishes.
22 But you his son,* O Belshazzar, have not
humbled your heart, even though you knew all
this.
23 Instead, you have exalted yourself against
the Lord of heaven. The vessels from his house
were brought to you, and as you drank wine
from them with your nobles, wives, and
concubines, you praised your gods of silver and
gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which
cannot see or hear or understand. But you have
failed to glorify the God who holds in his hand
your very breath and all your ways.
24 Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the
inscription.
25 Now this is the inscription that was written:
MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN.
26 And this is the interpretation of the
message:

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* **5:22 5:22** Or *descendant* or *successor* or *grandson*

MENE† means that God has numbered the
days of your reign and brought it to an end.
27 TEKEL‡ means that you have been weighed
on the scales and found deficient.
28 PERES§ means that your kingdom has been
divided and given over to the Medes and
Persians."
29 Then Belshazzar gave the command, and
they clothed Daniel in purple, placed a gold
chain around his neck, and proclaimed him the
third highest ruler in the kingdom.
30 That very night Belshazzar king of the
Chaldeans* was slain,

6

1 and Darius the Mede received the kingdom
at the age of sixty-two.
2 Now it pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps
to rule throughout the kingdom,
3 and over them three administrators,
including Daniel, to whom these satraps were
accountable so that the king would not suffer
loss.
4 Soon, by his extraordinary spirit, Daniel
distinguished himself among the administrators
and satraps. So the king planned to set him over
the whole kingdom.
5 Thus the administrators and satraps sought a
charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom,

† **5:26 5:26** *Mene* sounds like the Aramaic for *numbered.* ‡ **5:27 5:27** *Tekel* sounds like the Aramaic for *weighed.* § **5:28 5:28** *Peres* (the singular of *Parsin*) sounds like the Aramaic for *divided* and for *Persia.* * **5:30 5:30** That is, the Babylonians

but they could find no charge or corruption,
because he was trustworthy, and no negligence
or corruption was found in him.
6 Finally these men said, “We will never find
any charge against this Daniel unless we find
something against him concerning the law of his
God.”
7 So the administrators and satraps went
together to the king and said, “O King Darius,
may you live forever!
8 All the royal administrators, prefects,
satraps, advisers, and governors have agreed
that the king should establish an ordinance and
enforce a decree that for thirty days anyone who
petitions any god or man except you, O king, will
be thrown into the den of lions.
9 Therefore, O king, establish the decree and
sign the document so that it cannot be
changed—in accordance with the law of the
Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”
10 Therefore King Darius signed the written
decree.
11 Now when Daniel learned that the
document had been signed, he went into his
house, where the windows of his upper room
opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day
he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave
thanks to his God, just as he had done before.
12 Then these men went as a group and found
Daniel petitioning and imploring his God.
13 So they approached the king and asked
about his royal decree: “Did you not sign a
decree that for thirty days any man who

petitions any god or man except you, O king, will be thrown into the den of lions?"

The king replied, "According to the law of the Medes and Persians the order stands, and it cannot be repealed."

14 Then they told the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, shows no regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed. He still makes his petition three times a day."

15 As soon as the king heard this, he was deeply distressed and set his mind on delivering Daniel, and he labored until sundown to rescue him.

16 Then the men approached the king together and said to him, "Remember, O king, that by the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or ordinance established by the king can be changed."

17 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the den of lions.

The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!"

18 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that nothing concerning Daniel could be changed.

19 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting. No entertainment was brought before him, and sleep fled from him.

20 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions.

21 When he reached the den, he cried out in a voice of anguish, "O Daniel, servant of the living

God, has your God, whom you serve continually,
been able to deliver you from the lions?”
22 Then Daniel replied, “O king, may you live
forever!
23 My God sent his angel and shut the mouths
of the lions. They have not hurt me, for I was
found innocent in his sight, and I have done no
wrong against you, O king.”
24 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to
lift Daniel out of the den, and when Daniel was
lifted out of the den, no wounds whatsoever
were found on him, because he had trusted in
his God.
25 At the command of the king, the men who
had falsely accused Daniel were brought and
thrown into the den of lions—they and their
children and wives. And before they had
reached the bottom of the den, the lions
overpowered them and crushed all their bones.
26 Then King Darius wrote to the people of
every nation and language throughout the land:
“May your prosperity abound.
27 I hereby decree that in every part of my
kingdom, men are to tremble in fear before the
God of Daniel:

For he is the living God,
and he endures forever;
his kingdom will never be destroyed,
and his dominion will never end.
28 He delivers and rescues;
he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth,
for he has rescued Daniel

from the power of the lions."
29 So Daniel prospered during the reign of
Darius and the reign of Cyrus* the Persian.

7

1 In the first year of the reign of Belshazzar
over Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions
passed through his mind as he lay on his bed.
He wrote down the dream, and this is the
summary of his account.
2 Daniel declared: "In my vision in the night I
looked, and suddenly the four winds of heaven
were churning up the great sea.*
3 Then four great beasts came up out of the
sea, each one different from the others:

4 The first beast was like a lion, and it had the
wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings
were torn off and it was lifted up from the
ground and made to stand on two feet like a
man and given the mind of a man.
5 Suddenly another beast appeared, a second
one, which looked like a bear. It was raised
up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs
in its mouth between its teeth. So it was
told, 'Get up and gorge yourself on flesh!'
6 Next, as I watched, suddenly another beast
appeared. It was like a leopard, and on its
back it had four wings like those of a bird.

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* **6:29 6:29** Or *prospered during the reign of Darius, that is, the reign of Cyrus* * **7:2 7:2** Perhaps *the Great Sea*, that is, the Mediterranean Sea

The beast also had four heads, and it was
given authority to rule.
7 After this, as I watched in my vision in the
night, suddenly a fourth beast appeared,
and it was terrifying—dreadful and
extremely strong—with large iron teeth. It
devoured and crushed; then it trampled
underfoot whatever was left. It was
different from all the beasts before it, and it
had ten horns.
8 While I was contemplating the horns,
suddenly another horn, a little one, came up
among them, and three of the first horns were
uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like those
of a man and a mouth that spoke words of
arrogance.
9 As I continued to watch,

thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
His clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head was like pure wool.
His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all ablaze.
10 A river of fire was flowing,
coming out from his presence.
Thousands upon thousands attended him,
and myriads upon myriads stood before
him.
The court was convened,
and the books were opened.
11 Then I kept watching because of the
arrogant words the horn was speaking. As I
continued to watch, the beast was slain, and its

body was destroyed and thrown into the blazing
fire.
12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion
was removed, but they were granted an
extension of life for a season and a time.
13 In my vision in the night I continued to
watch,

and I saw one like a son of man
coming with the clouds of heaven.
He approached the Ancient of Days
and was led into his presence.
14 And he was given dominion,
glory, and kingship,
that the people of every nation and language
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that will not pass away,
and his kingdom is one
that will never be destroyed.
15 I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit, and the
visions in my mind alarmed me.
16 I approached one of those who were
standing there, and I asked him the true
meaning of all this.
So he told me the interpretation of these
things:
17 'These four great beasts are four kings who
will arise from the earth.
18 But the holy ones of the Most High will
receive the kingdom and possess it forever—yes,
forever and ever.'
19 Then I wanted to know the true meaning of
the fourth beast, which was different from all

the others—extremely terrifying—devouring
and crushing with iron teeth and bronze claws,
then trampling underfoot whatever was left.
20 I also wanted to know about the ten horns
on its head and the other horn that came up,
before which three of them fell—the horn
whose appearance was more imposing than the
others, with eyes and with a mouth that spoke
words of arrogance.
21 As I watched, this horn was waging war
against the holy ones and prevailing against
them,
22 until the Ancient of Days arrived and
pronounced judgment in favor of the holy ones
of the Most High, and the time came for them to
possess the kingdom.

23 This is what he said: 'The fourth beast is a
fourth kingdom that will appear on the earth,
different from all the other kingdoms, and it will
devour the whole earth, trample it down, and
crush it.
24 And the ten horns are ten kings who will
rise from this kingdom. After them another
king, different from the earlier ones, will rise
and subdue three kings.
25 He will speak out against the Most High and
oppress the holy ones of the Most High,
intending to change the appointed times and
laws; and the holy ones will be given into his
hand for a time, and times, and half a time.

26 But the court will convene, and his
dominion will be taken away and completely
destroyed forever.

27 Then the sovereignty, dominion, and
greatness of the kingdoms under all of heaven
will be given to the people, the holy ones of the
Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting
kingdom, and all rulers will serve and obey him.'
28 Thus ends the matter. As for me, Daniel, my
thoughts troubled me greatly, and my face
turned pale. But I kept the matter to myself."

8

1 In the third year of the reign of King
Belshazzar, a vision appeared to me, Daniel,
subsequent to the one that had appeared to me
earlier.
2 And in the vision I saw myself in the citadel
of Susa, in the province of Elam. I saw in the
vision that I was beside the Ulai Canal.
3 Then I lifted up my eyes and saw a ram with
two horns standing beside the canal. The horns
were long, but one was longer than the other,
and the longer one grew up later.
4 I saw the ram charging toward the west and
the north and the south. No animal could stand
against him, and there was no deliverance from
his power. He did as he pleased and became
great.
5 As I was contemplating all this, suddenly a
goat with a prominent horn between his eyes
came out of the west, crossing the surface of the
entire earth without touching the ground.
6 He came toward the two-horned ram I had
seen standing beside the canal and rushed at
him with furious power.

7 I saw him approach the ram in a rage against
him, and he struck the ram and shattered his
two horns. The ram was powerless to stand
against him, and the goat threw him to the
ground and trampled him, and no one could
deliver the ram from his power.

8 Thus the goat became very great, but at the
height of his power, his large horn was broken
off, and four prominent horns came up in its
place, pointing toward the four winds of heaven.

9 From one of these horns a little horn
emerged and grew extensively toward the south
and the east and toward the Beautiful Land.
10 It grew as high as the host of heaven, and it
cast down some of the host and some of the
stars to the earth and trampled them.
11 It magnified itself, even to the Prince of the
host; the daily sacrifice was taken away from
him,* and the place of his sanctuary was thrown
down.
12 And in the rebellion,† the host and the daily
sacrifice were given over to the horn, and it
flung truth to the ground and prospered in
whatever it did.
13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and
another holy one said to him, “How long until
the fulfillment of the vision of the daily sacrifice,
the rebellion that causes desolation, and the
surrender of the sanctuary and of the host to be
trampled?”

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* **8:11** **8:11** Qere; Ketiv *it took away the daily sacrifice* † **8:12** **8:12** Or *on account of transgression*

14 He said to me, “It will take 2,300 evenings
and mornings; then the sanctuary will be
properly restored.”
15 While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and
trying to understand it, there stood before me
one having the appearance of a man.
16 And I heard the voice of a man calling from
between the banks of the Ulai: “Gabriel, explain
the vision to this man.”
17 As he came near to where I stood, I was
terrified and fell facedown.
“Son of man,” he said to me, “understand that
the vision concerns the time of the end.”
18 While he was speaking with me, I fell into a
deep sleep, with my face to the ground.
Then he touched me, helped me to my feet,
19 and said, “Behold, I will make known to you
what will happen in the latter time of wrath,
because it concerns the appointed time of the
end.
20 The two-horned ram that you saw
represents the kings of Media and Persia.
21 The shaggy goat represents the king of
Greece,‡ and the large horn between his eyes is
the first king.
22 The four horns that replaced the broken one
represent four kingdoms that will rise from that
nation but will not have the same power.
23 In the latter part of their reign, when the
rebellion has reached its full measure, an
insolent king, skilled in intrigue, will come to the
throne.

‡ **8:21 8:21** Hebrew *of Javan*

24 His power will be great, but it will not be his
own. He will cause terrible destruction and
succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy
the mighty men along with the holy people.
25 Through his craft and by his hand, he will
cause deceit to prosper, and in his own mind he
will make himself great. In a time of peace he
will destroy many, and he will even stand
against the prince of princes. Yet he will be
broken off, but not by human hands.
26 The vision of the evenings and the mornings
that has been spoken is true. Now you must seal
up the vision, for it concerns the distant future."
27 I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for days.
Then I got up and went about the king's
business. I was confounded by the vision; it was
beyond understanding.

9

1 In the first year of Darius son of Ahasuerus, a
Mede by descent, who was made ruler over the
kingdom of the Chaldeans*—
2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel,
understood from the sacred books, according to
the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet,
that the desolation of Jerusalem would last
seventy years.†
3 So I turned my attention to the Lord God to
seek him by prayer and petition, with fasting,
sackcloth, and ashes.

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* **9:1** **9:1** That is, the Babylonians † **9:2** **9:2** See Jeremiah 25:11–12 and Jeremiah 29:10.

4 And I prayed to the LORD my God and
confessed, “O, Lord, the great and awesome God,
who keeps his covenant of loving devotion‡ to
those who love him and keep his
commandments,
5 we have sinned and done wrong. We have
acted wickedly and rebelled. We have turned
away from your commandments and
ordinances.
6 We have not listened to your servants the
prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings,
leaders, fathers, and all the people of the land.
7 To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but
this day we are covered with shame—the men of
Judah, the people of Jerusalem, and all Israel
near and far, in all the countries to which you
have driven us because of our unfaithfulness to
you.
8 O LORD, we are covered with shame—our
kings, our leaders, and our fathers—because we
have sinned against you.
9 To the Lord our God belong compassion and
forgiveness, even though we have rebelled
against him
10 and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD
our God to walk in his laws, which he set before
us through his servants the prophets.
11 All Israel has transgressed your law and
turned away, refusing to obey your voice; so the

‡ **9:4 9:4** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

oath and the curse written in the Teaching of
Moses the servant of God has been poured out
on us, because we have sinned against him.
12 You have carried out the word§ spoken
against us and against our rulers by bringing
upon us a great disaster. For under all of
heaven, nothing has ever been done like what
has been done to Jerusalem.
13 Just as it is written in the Teaching of Moses,
all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have
not sought the favor of the LORD our God by
turning from our iniquities and giving attention
to your truth.
14 Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in
store and brought it upon us. For the LORD our
God is righteous in all he does; yet we have not
obeyed his voice.
15 Now, O Lord our God, who brought your
people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty
hand, and who made for yourself a name
renowned to this day, we have sinned; we have
acted wickedly.
16 O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous
acts, I pray that your anger and wrath may turn
away from your city Jerusalem, your holy
mountain; for because of our sins and the
iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your
people are a reproach to all around us.
17 So now, our God, hear the prayers and
petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord,

§ **9:12 9:12** Qere; Ketiv *words*

cause your face to shine upon your desolate
sanctuary.
18 Incline your ear, O my God, and hear; open
your eyes and see our desolations and the city
that bears your name. For we are not presenting
our petitions before you because of our
righteous acts, but because of your great
compassion.
19 O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear
and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay,
because your city and your people bear your
name."
20 While I was speaking, praying, confessing
my sin and that of my people Israel, and
presenting my petition before the LORD my God
concerning his holy mountain—
21 while I was still praying, Gabriel, the man I
had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in
swift flight about the time of the evening
sacrifice.
22 He instructed me and spoke with me,
saying: "O Daniel, I have come now to give you
insight and understanding.
23 At the beginning of your petitions, an
answer went out, and I have come to tell you,
for you are highly precious. So consider the
message and understand the vision:
24 Seventy weeks* are decreed for your people
and your holy city to stop their transgression, to
put an end to sin,† to make atonement for
iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to

* **9:24 9:24** Or *Seventy sevens*; also twice in verse 25 and once in verse 26 † **9:24 9:24** Qere; Ketiv *to seal up sins*

seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the
Holy of Holies.‡
25 Know and understand this: From the
issuance of the decree to restore and rebuild
Jerusalem until an anointed one, a prince,§
there will be seven weeks; and for sixty-two
weeks it will be rebuilt with streets and a
trench, but in times of distress.*
26 Then after the sixty-two weeks† an anointed
one will be cut off and will have nothing.
Then the people of the prince who is to come
will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end
will come like a flood, and until the end there
will be war; desolations have been decreed.
27 And he will confirm a covenant with many
for one week,‡ but in the middle of the week he
will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on
the wing will come the abomination that causes
desolation,§ until the decreed destruction is
poured out upon him.*”

10

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a
message was revealed to Daniel, who was called

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‡ **9:24 9:24** Or *the Most Holy Place*; literally *the Most Holy* § **9:25 9:25** Or *until the anointed one, the prince* * **9:25 9:25** So the Masoretic accents (atnach after *seven weeks*); others read *there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It will be rebuilt …* † **9:26 9:26** Hebrew *Then after sixty-two sevens* ‡ **9:27 9:27** Or *for one seven*; similarly again in this verse § **9:27 9:27** Or *And on the wing of abominations will come one who causes desolation*; LXX *And on the temple will come the abomination* * **9:27 9:27** Literally *until the decreed consummation is poured out upon (him who) is desolate.*

Belteshazzar. The message was true, and it concerned a great conflict.* And the understanding of the message was given to him in a vision.

2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three full weeks.
3 I ate no rich food, no meat or wine entered my mouth, and I did not anoint myself with oil until the three weeks were completed.
4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris,
5 I lifted up my eyes, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.
6 His body was like beryl, his face like the brilliance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of polished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.
7 Only I, Daniel, saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but a great terror fell upon them, and they ran and hid themselves.
8 So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision. No strength remained in me; my face grew deathly pale, and I was powerless.
9 I heard the sound of his words, and as I listened, I fell into a deep sleep, with my face to the ground.
10 Suddenly, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

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* **10:1 10:1** Or *true and greatly burdensome*

11 He said to me, “Daniel, you are a man who is
highly precious. Consider carefully the words
that I am about to say to you. Stand up, for I
have now been sent to you.”
And when he had said this to me, I stood up
trembling.
12 “Do not be afraid, Daniel,” he said, “for from
the first day that you purposed to understand
and to humble yourself before your God, your
words were heard, and I have come in response
to them.
13 However, the prince of the kingdom of
Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. Then
Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help
me, for I had been left there with the kings of
Persia.
14 Now I have come to explain to you what will
happen to your people in the latter days, for the
vision concerns those days.”
15 While he was speaking these words to me, I
set my face toward the ground and became
speechless.
16 And suddenly one with the likeness of a
man† touched my lips, and I opened my mouth
and said to the one standing before me, “My
lord, because of the vision, I am overcome with
anguish, and I have no strength.
17 How can I, your servant, speak with you, my
lord? Now I have no strength, nor is any breath
left in me.”

† **10:16 10:16** Most MT manuscripts; literally *with the likeness of sons of man*; DSS, LXX, and one MT manuscript *with the likeness of the hand of a man*

18 Again the one with the likeness of a man
touched me and strengthened me.
19 “Do not be afraid, you who are highly
precious,” he said. “Peace be with you! Be strong
now; be very strong!”
As he spoke with me, I was strengthened and
said, “Speak, my lord, for you have strengthened
me.”
20 “Do you know why I have come to you?” he
said. “I must return at once to fight against the
prince of Persia, and when I have gone forth,
behold, the prince of Greece‡ will come.
21 But first I will tell you what is inscribed in
the Book of Truth. Yet no one has the courage to
support me against these, except Michael your
prince.

11

1 “And I, in the first year of Darius the Mede,
stood up to strengthen and protect him.
2 Now then, I will tell you the truth: Three
more kings will arise in Persia, and then a
fourth, who will be far richer than all the others.
By the power of his wealth, he will stir up
everyone against the kingdom of Greece.*
3 Then a mighty king will arise, who will rule
with great authority and do as he pleases.
4 But as soon as he is established, his kingdom
will be broken up and parceled out toward the
four winds of heaven. It will not go to his
descendants, nor will it have the authority with

‡ **10:20 10:20** Hebrew *of Javan* * **11:2 11:2** Hebrew *of Javan*

which he ruled, because his kingdom will be uprooted and given to others.

5 The king of the South will grow strong, but one of his commanders will grow even stronger and will rule his own kingdom with great authority.

6 After some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to seal the agreement. But his daughter will not retain her position of power, nor will his strength† endure. At that time she will be given up, along with her royal escort and her father‡ and the one who supported her.

7 But a branch from her roots§ will rise up in his place, come against the army of the king of the North, and enter his fortress, fighting and prevailing.

8 He will take even their gods captive to Egypt, with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold. For some years he will stay away from the king of the North,

9 who will invade the realm of the king of the South and then return to his own land.

10 But his sons* will stir up strife and assemble a great army, which will advance forcefully, sweeping through like a flood, and will again carry the battle† as far as his fortress.

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† **11:6 11:6** Or *offspring* ‡ **11:6 11:6** Or *child*; see Vulgate and Syriac. § **11:7 11:7** Or *one from her family line* * **11:10 11:10** Qere; Ketiv *his son* † **11:10 11:10** Qere; Ketiv *they will again wage war*

11 In a rage, the king of the South will march
out to fight the king of the North, who will raise
a large army, but it will be delivered into the
hand of his enemy.
12 When the army is carried off, the king of the
South will be proud in heart and will cast down
tens of thousands, but he will not triumph.
13 For the king of the North will raise another
army, larger than the first, and after some years‡
he will advance with a great army and many
supplies.
14 In those times many will rise up against the
king of the South. Violent ones among your own
people will exalt themselves in fulfillment of the
vision, but they will fail.
15 Then the king of the North will come, build
up a siege ramp, and capture a fortified city. The
forces of the South will not stand; even their
best troops will not be able to resist.
16 The invader will do as he pleases, and no
one will stand against him. He will establish
himself in the Beautiful Land, with destruction
in his hand.
17 He will resolve to come with the strength of
his whole kingdom, and will reach an
agreement with the king of the South. He will
give him a daughter in marriage in order to
overthrow the kingdom, but his plan will not
succeed or help him.§

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‡ **11:13 11:13** Hebrew *at the end of the times* § **11:17 11:17** Or *but she will not stand with him or support him*

18 Then he will set his face toward the
coastlands* and capture many of them. But a
commander will put an end to his reproach and
will turn it back upon him.
19 After this, he will turn back toward the
fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble
and fall and be no more.
20 In his place one will arise who will send out
a tax collector for the glory of the kingdom; but
within a few days he will be destroyed, though
not in anger or in battle.
21 In his place a despicable person will arise;
royal honors will not be given to him, but he
will come in a time of peace and seize the
kingdom by intrigue.
22 Then a flood of forces will be swept away
before him and destroyed, along with a prince
of the covenant.
23 After an alliance is made with him, he will
act deceitfully; for he will rise to power with
only a few people.
24 In a time of peace, he will invade the richest
provinces and do what his fathers and
forefathers never did. He will lavish plunder,
loot, and wealth on his followers, and he will
plot against the strongholds—but only for a time.
25 And with a large army he will stir up his
power and his courage against the king of the
South, who will mobilize a very large and
powerful army but will not withstand the plots
devised against him.

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* **11:18 11:18** Qere; Ketiv *turn his face*

26 Those who eat from his provisions will seek
to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and
many will fall slain.
27 And the two kings, with their hearts bent on
evil, will speak lies at the same table, but to no
avail, for still the end will come at the appointed
time.
28 The king of the North will return to his land
with great wealth, but his heart will be set
against the holy covenant; so he will do damage
and return to his own land.
29 At the appointed time he will invade the
South again, but this time will not be like the
first.
30 Ships of Kittim† will come against him, and
he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and
rage against the holy covenant and do damage.
So he will return and show favor to those who
forsake the holy covenant.
31 His forces will rise up and desecrate the
temple fortress. They will abolish the daily
sacrifice and set up the abomination of
desolation.
32 With flattery he will corrupt those who
violate the covenant, but the people who know
their God will firmly resist him.
33 Those with insight will instruct many,
though for a time they will fall by sword or
flame, or be captured or plundered.
34 Now when they fall, they will be granted a
little help, but many will join them insincerely.

† **11:30 11:30** Or *western coastlands* or *Mediterranean islands*

35 Some of the wise will fall so that they may
be refined, purified, and made spotless until the
time of the end, for it will still come at the
appointed time.
36 Then the king will do as he pleases and will
exalt and magnify himself above every god, and
he will speak monstrous things against the God
of gods. He will be successful until the time of
wrath is completed, for what has been decreed
must be accomplished.
37 He will show no regard for the gods of his
fathers, nor for the one desired by women, nor
for any other god, because he will magnify
himself above them all.
38 And in their place, he will honor a god of
fortresses—a god his fathers did not know—with
gold, silver, precious stones, and riches.
39 He will attack the strongest fortresses with
the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor
those who acknowledge him, making them
rulers over many and distributing the land for a
price.‡
40 At the time of the end, the king of the South
will engage him in battle,§ but the king of the
North will storm out against him with chariots,
horsemen, and many ships, invading many
countries and sweeping through them like a
flood.
41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land, and
many countries will fall. But these will be

‡ **11:39 11:39** Or *for a reward* § **11:40 11:40** Hebrew *will thrust at him*

delivered from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the
leaders of the Ammonites.
42 He will extend his power over many
countries, and not even the land of Egypt will
escape.
43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold
and silver and over all the riches of Egypt, and
the Libyans and Cushites* will also submit to
him.
44 But news from the east and the north will
alarm him, and he will go out with great fury to
destroy many and devote them to destruction.†
45 He will pitch his royal tents between the sea
and the beautiful holy mountain, but he will
meet his end with no one to help him.

12

1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who
stands watch over your people, will rise up.
There will be a time of distress, the likes of
which will not have occurred from the
beginning of nations until that time. But at that
time your people—everyone whose name is
found written in the book—will be delivered.
2 And many who sleep in the dust of the earth
will awake, some to everlasting life, but others
to shame and everlasting contempt.
3 Then the wise will shine like the brightness
of the expanse,* and those who lead many to

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* **11:43 11:43** That is, people from the upper Nile region † **11:44 11:44** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. * **12:3 12:3** Or *heavens* or *firmament*; see also Genesis 1:6–8.

righteousness will shine like the stars forever
and ever.
4 But you, Daniel, shut up these words and seal
the book until the time of the end. Many will
roam to and fro, and knowledge will increase."
5 Then I, Daniel, looked and saw two others
standing there, one on this bank of the river and
one on the opposite bank.
6 One of them said to the man dressed in linen,
who was above the waters of the river, "How
long until the fulfillment of these wonders?"
7 And the man dressed in linen, who was
above the waters of the river, raised his right
hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I
heard him swear by him who lives forever,
saying, "It will be for a time, and times, and half
a time. When the power of the holy people has
finally been shattered, all these things will be
completed."
8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked,
"My lord, what will be the outcome of these
things?"
9 "Go on your way, Daniel," he replied, "for the
words are closed up and sealed until the time of
the end.
10 Many will be purified, made spotless, and
refined, but the wicked will continue to act
wickedly. None of the wicked will understand,
but the wise will understand.
11 And from the time the daily sacrifice is
abolished and the abomination of desolation set
up, there will be 1,290 days.
12 Blessed is he who waits and reaches the end
of the 1,335 days.

13 But as for you, go on your way until the end.
You will rest, and then you will arise to your
inheritance at the end of the days."

Masoretic English Tanakh

The Tanakh (Law, Prophets, and Writings) of the Holy Bible in English, conformed to the Masoretic Text.

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