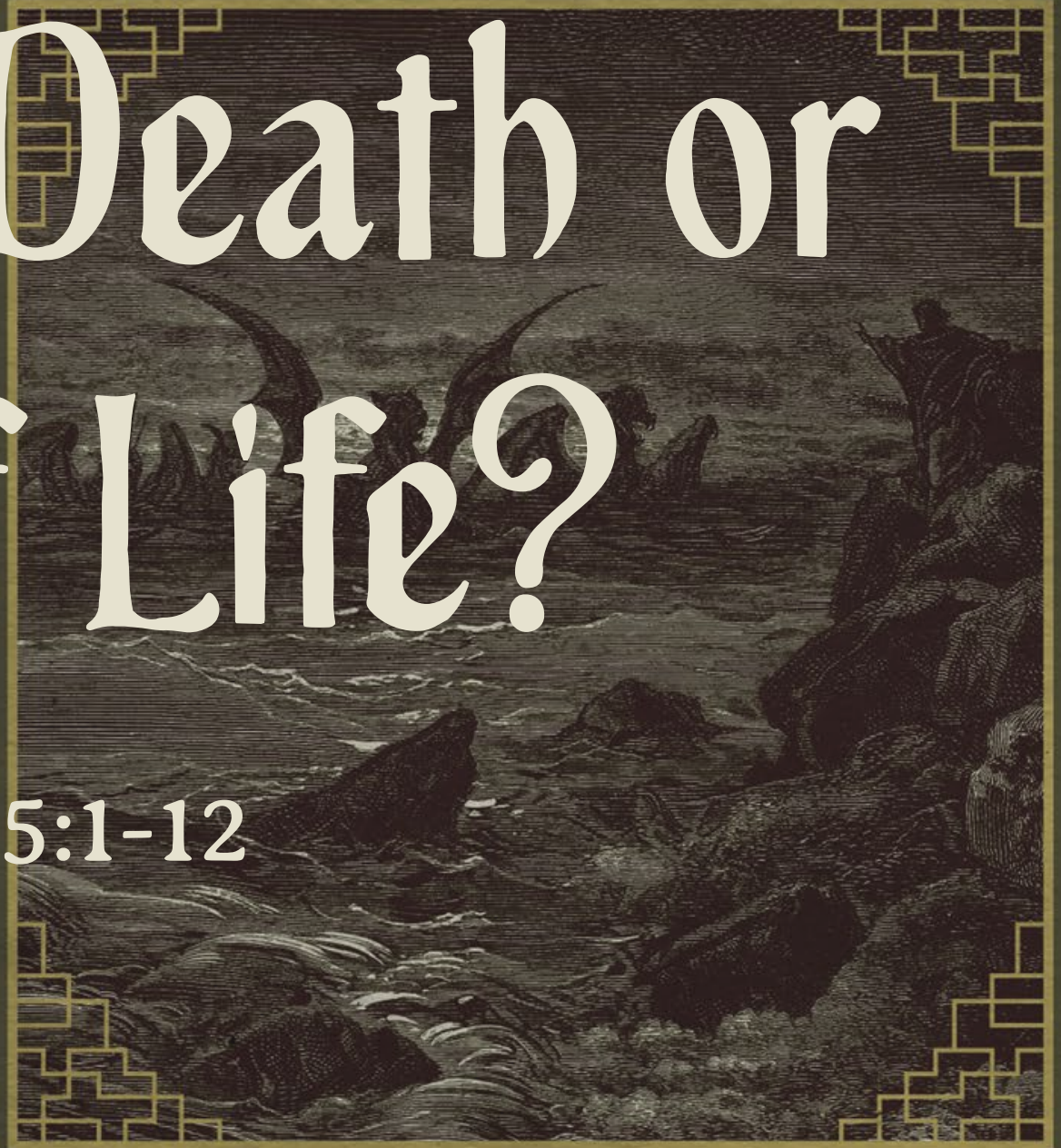
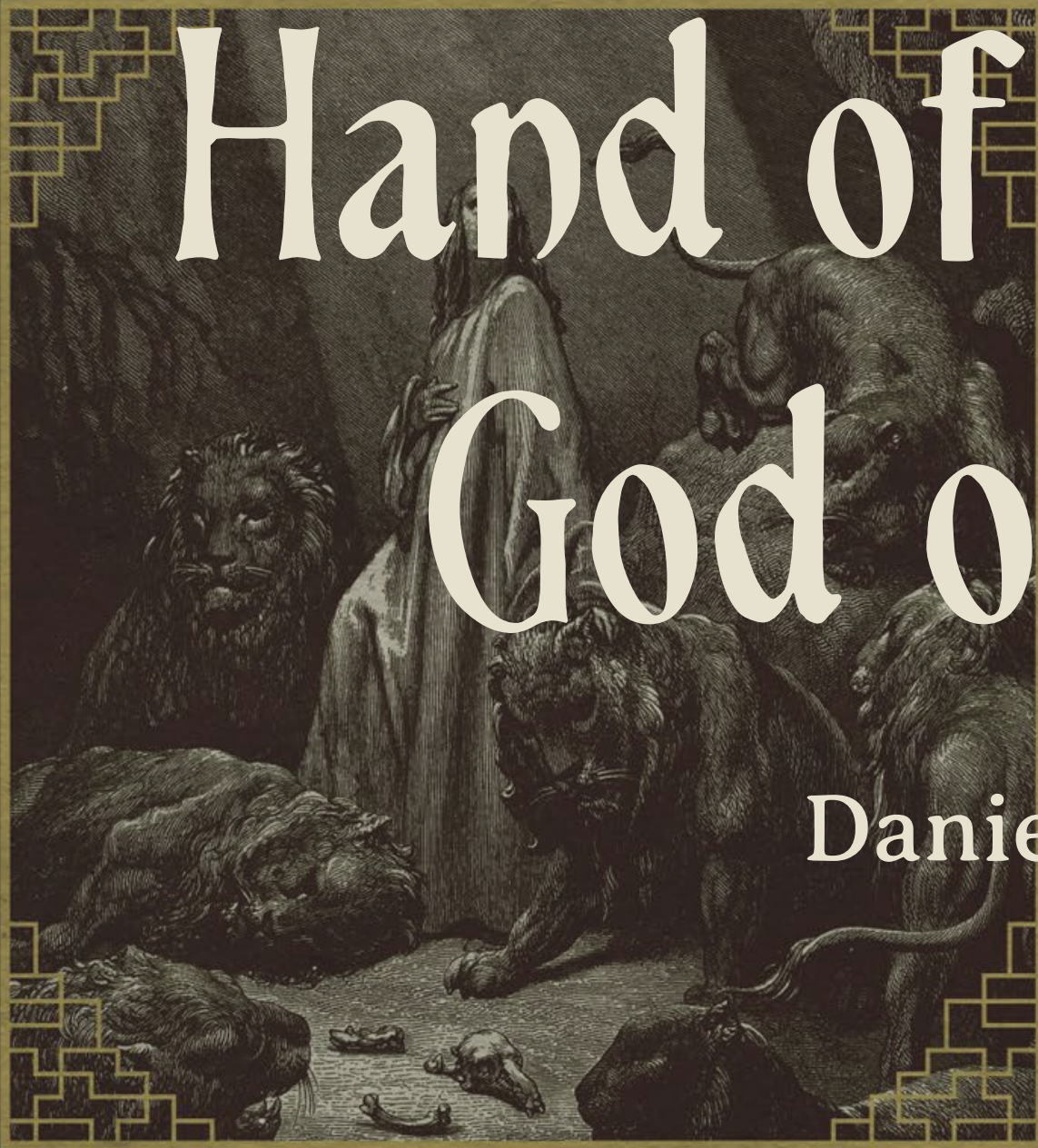


Hand of Death or God of Life?

Daniel 5:1-12



Age of Daniel:

Chapter	Event	Age
1	Taken to Babylon	15
2	Interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream (statue)	17
3	Fiery furnace	20
4	Interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream (tree)	45-50
5	Interprets handwriting on the wall	Early 80s
6	Den of lions	83
7-8	Personal visions and dreams	60s
9	Seventy weeks prophecy	early 80s



Neo-Babylonian Empire

Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar II,
Nabonidus, Belshazzar (625-539 BC)

Original names/meanings (Dan. 1:6)

Hebrew Name	Meaning
Daniel	God is my judge
Hananiah	Yahweh is gracious
Mishael	Who is what God is?
Azariah	Yahweh has helped

Changed names/meanings (Dan. 1:7)

Babylonian Name	Meaning
Belteshazzar	Lady protect the king
Shadrach	I am fearful of God
Meshach	I am of little account
Abednego	Servant of Nebo

KINGS OF NEO-BABYLONIA

A HISTORICAL TIMELINE

NEBUCHADNEZZAR



605–562 BC

Founder of the
Neo-Babylonian Empire

AMEL-MARDUK
(EVIL-MERODACH)



562–560 BC

Son of Nebuchadnezzar

NERIGLISSAR



560–556 BC

LABAHI-MARDUK



556 BC

Son of Neriglissar

NABONIDUS
(NABUNAID)



556–539 BC

Son of Nabonidus

BELSHAZZAR



539 BC

Son of Nabonidus
Appointed as co-regent

605 BC

Defeats Egypt
at Carchemish;
becomes ruler
of Babylon



2 Kings 25:27–30;
Jeremiah 52:31–34

Reigns only
two years



Jeremiah 39:3, 13
Reigns four years



556 BC

Rules only
two months



539 BC

Known for restoring
ancient temples and
inscriptions



Daniel 5

Co-regent with
Nabonidus; present
at the fall of Babylon



Dates in Daniel:

Scripture	Date
1:1, "Third year of Jehoiakim"	605 B.C.
2:1, "Second year of Nebuchadnezzar"	603 B.C.
5:31, "Darius the Mede received the kingdom"	Oct. 12, 539 B.C.
7:1, "First year of Belshazzar"	553 B.C.
8:1, "Third year of Belshazzar"	551 B.C.
9:1, "First year of Darius"	538 B.C.
10:1, "Third year of Cyrus"	536 B.C.

“And He told them a parable, saying, ‘The land of a rich man produced plentifully, (17)and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ (18)And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

Luke 12:16–18 (ESV)

And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ (20) But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ (21) So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.’”

Luke 12:19–21 (ESV)



“And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.”

Daniel 1:2 (ESV)



“And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. (4) But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.”

1 Samuel 5:3–4 (ESV)

מנא
תקל
ופרשיז



Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation."

Daniel 4:7 (ESV)

ROME
WEST
Center of the
Roman Empire

ISRAEL
The Land of Israel

TIGRIS RIVER

BABYLON
EAST
Capital of the
Neo-Babylonian Empire

EUPHRATES RIVER



And on her forehead was written a name of mystery:
“Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s
abominations.””

Revelation 17:5 (ESV)










“The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.”

Revelation 17:4 (ESV)

“Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls!”

Revelation 18:16 (ESV)

OLD TESTAMENT DESCRIPTIONS OF BABYLON IN REVELATION 17-18

DESCRIPTION	 REVELATION 17-18	 OLD TESTAMENT
 Waters	17:1	Psalm 137:1
 Babylon the Great	17:5	Daniel 4:30
 Mother harlots	17:5	Genesis 11:1-9
 Fallen, fallen is Babylon	18:2	Isaiah 21:9
 Will not see widowhood	18:7	Isaiah 47:7-9
 Colorful attire	17:4; 18:16	Daniel 5:7, 16, 29
 Sorcery	18:23	Isaiah 47:9-13

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters’”

Revelation 17:1 (ESV)

“By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.”

Psalm 137:1 (ESV)

DANIEL 5:1-12

HAND OF DEATH OR GOD OF LIFE?

“And on her forehead was written a name of mystery:
‘Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s
abominations.’”

Revelation 17:5 (ESV)

“and the king answered and said, ‘Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?’”

Daniel 4:30 (ESV)

CYLINDER OF NABONIDUS

DATE:	c. 555–539 BC
MATERIAL:	Baked clay
DISCOVERED:	1879, in Sippar (ancient Šippar), Iraq
LOCATION:	British Museum, London (BM 91120)

The Cylinder of Nabonidus is an ancient Babylonian clay cylinder inscribed with cuneiform text written by King Nabonidus. It records his building projects, religious restorations, and his devotion to the moon god Sin. The cylinder also mentions his son Belshazzar.

TRANSLATION (EXCERPT):

*“Nabonidus, king of Babylon, king of Sumer and Akkad,
king of the four quarters,
...I built the Esagila temple, I restored its foundation,
I raised its head.
Belshazzar, my firstborn son,
whom I appointed as crown prince,
I made him reside in Babylon,
to rule over the people.”*



“...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, (15)so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky”

Philippians 2:14–15 (NIV)