

# Obedience

## Daniel 1:8-21



**Nebuchadnezzar takes the first  
exiles to Babylon, including  
Daniel and his three friends  
(2 Kings 24)**

**Daniel interprets  
Nebuchadnezzar's second  
dream  
(Daniel 4)**

**Daniel interprets  
Nebuchadnezzar's first dream  
(Daniel 2)**

**Daniel's friends refuse to  
worship Nebuchadnezzar's  
statue  
(Daniel 3)**

### **Today's Lesson**

**Daniel and his friends remain  
faithful to God's dietary laws  
(Daniel 1)**

## Key Concept

**Obedience to God leads to greater wisdom from God.**

# Kings & Prophets

## Legend

**JOSIAH**  
641-609 BC  
Name of king and years of reign

**AMOS**  
Name of prophet and approximate dates of influence

**Governor Nehemiah**  
Leaders of the Jewish people after they returned from the Exile in Babylonia

? Dates Unknown

**Daniel Exiled to Babylon 605BC**

**THE EXILE:** Judah fell to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Many of the inhabitants were deported to Babylon. In 539 BC, Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians. In 538 BC, King Cyrus of Persia issued a proclamation allowing the Jewish people to return to Palestine. Some Jews stayed in Babylon, but those who returned went back in several groups over many years. The temple was rebuilt in 516 BC, 70 years after its destruction.

NAHUM

ZEPHANIAH

JEREMIAH

DANIEL

EZEKIEL

HABAKKUK

OBADIAH?

ISAIAH

AMON  
643-641 BC

JEHOAHAZ  
(SHALLUM)  
609 BC

JEHOIACHIN  
(JECONIAH)  
598-597 BC

Temple Destroyed

MANASSEH  
697-643 BC

JOSIAH  
641-609 BC

JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM)  
609-598 BC

ZEDEKIAH (MATTANIAH)  
597-586 BC

HAGGAI

ZECHARIAH

Temple Rebuilt

MALACHI?

JOEL?

Governor Sheshbazzar  
536? - ? BC

Governor Zerubbabel  
Dates unknown

Governor Ezra  
457 - ? BC

Governor Nehemiah  
444-432 BC

690 BC

680

670

660

650

640

630

620

610

600

590

580

570

560

550

540

530

520

510

500

490

480

470

460

450

440

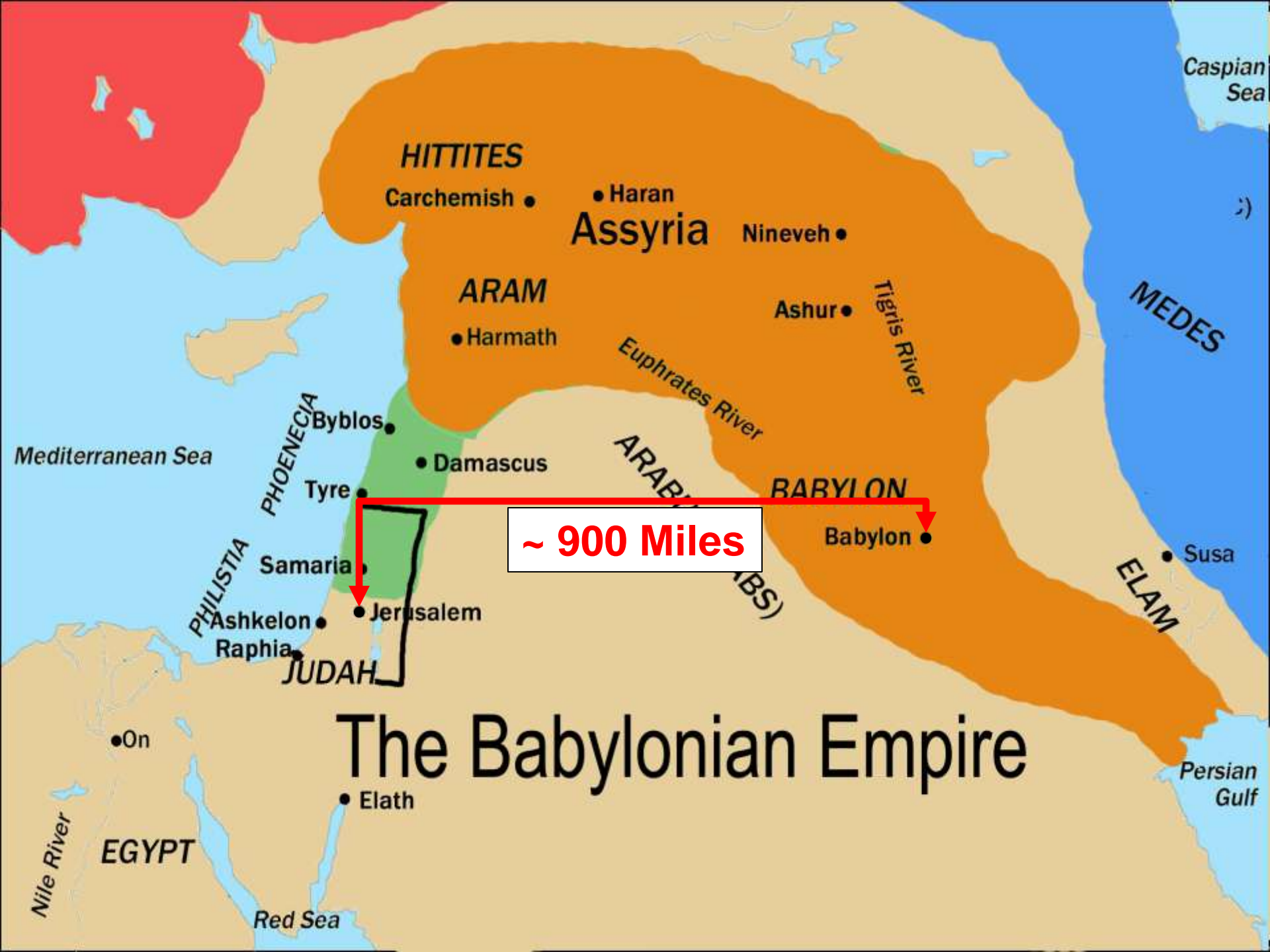
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# BABYLONIA AND ASSYRIA

Ancient shoreline





HITTITES

Carchemish •

• Haran

Assyria

Nineveh •

ARAM

• Harmath

Ashur •

Tigris River

Euphrates River

MEDES

Caspian Sea

;) )

Mediterranean Sea

PHOENECIA

Byblos •

• Damascus

Tyre •

PHILISTIA

Samaria •

Ashkelon •

Raphia •

JUDAH

Jerusalem •

• On

EGYPT

• Elath

Red Sea

Nile River

~ 900 Miles

BABYLON

Babylon •

• Susa

ELAM

Persian Gulf

The Babylonian Empire



# Artist concept of ancient Babylon



# **Replica of Ishtar Gate of Babylon built using plunder from Jerusalem and the temple on display in Berlin**





# Ishtar Gate of Babylon excavation early 1900's



THE ISHTAR GATE, BABYLON

**Saddam Hussein built this palace  
over the ruins of Nebuchadnezzar's  
palace constructed in 605BC**





**Ruins of north palace of  
Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel would have  
been very familiar with both this and  
the south palace**





**Cyrus Cylinder, barrel shaped clay cylinder recording the events of Cyrus's conquest of Babylon, restoration of shrines, allowing exiles to return to homelands, declaration of freedom on worship and human dignity. Discovered in 1879, on display in the British Museum in London.**



- How long was Daniel and his friends trained so that they would enter the royal service of Nebuchadnezzar?

~ 3 years

- Roughly, how long had Daniel been in Babylon when Nebuchadnezzar died? And how old would Daniel have been?

~ Approximately 43 years, Daniel would have been 70-75 years old

•(T/F) King Nebuchadnezzar personally changed the names of Daniel and friends?

**False – The chief of the Eunuchs (Ashpenaz) did this (Dan 1:7)**

•Why did Daniel and his friends refuse to eat the king's food?

•Dietary laws (Lev 11:24-47)

•Avoiding idolatry because the king's food was often offered to idols and pagan gods beforehand

•To resist assimilation into Babylonian culture and demonstration of trust in God



- **How is the book of Daniel unique among other old testament books?**

- 1) Daniel begins in Hebrew, switches to Aramaic and switches back to Hebrew**

- 2) First place in the Bible the angels Gabriel and Michael are mentioned by name**

- **What significant demonic insight and knowledge is Babylon credited with creating?**

**Astrology, worship of the stars, zodiac stuff, tarot cards, horoscopes**

- **What is a good way to summarize this story in Daniel 1:8-21?**

**Remaining faithful in a way that honors and glorifies God, through prayer, study of the word, seeking the Lord's will for your life, all will make your knowledge, insight and wisdom greatly increase instead of just increasing the amount of information you have gathered about the world.**