Daniel in the Court of the King (Daniel 1-6, 13-14)

St. Raymond's Adult Bible Study T. Hoerner

PRAYER BEFORE READING THE BIBLE SHINE within my heart, Loving Master, the pure light of Your Divine knowledge, and open the eyes of my mind that I may understand Your teaching. Instill in me reverence for Your commandments, so that having conquered my sinful desires, I may pursue a spiritual way of life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing in Your sight. For You, Christ our God, are my light and my life, and to You we render glory together with Your Eternal Father # and Your All-Holy Spirit, now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

+ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Daniel 1:1-2

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoi'akim king of Judah, Nebuchadnez'zar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoi'akim 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 1:3-4

3 Then the king commanded Ash'penaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, 4 youths without blemish, handsome and skilful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to serve in the king's palace, and to teach them the letters and language of the Chalde'ans.

The Three Exiles of Judah

605 B.C. - Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael

597 B.C. - "Nebuchadnezzar took **Jehoiachin** captive to Babylon. He also took from Jerusalem to Babylon the king's mother, his wives, his officials and the prominent people of the land."

587 B.C. - Temple of Jerusalem destroyed, "rest of the populace" exiled.

Daniel 1:17

17 As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all letters and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Daniel 1:19-20

19 And the king spoke with them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hanani'ah, Mish'a-el, and Azari'ah; therefore they stood before the king. 20 And in every matter of wisdom and understanding concerning which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.

Daniel 1:21

21 And Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

Genesis 41:15-16

15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it; and I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." 16 Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

Six Stories of Daniel

Aramaic Book of Daniel (Daniel 1-6)

- Daniel and the Rations
- Nebuchadnezzar's First Dream
- The Golden Image and the Fiery Furnace
- Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream and Humiliation
- Belshazzar and the Writing on the Wall
- Daniel in the Lion's Den

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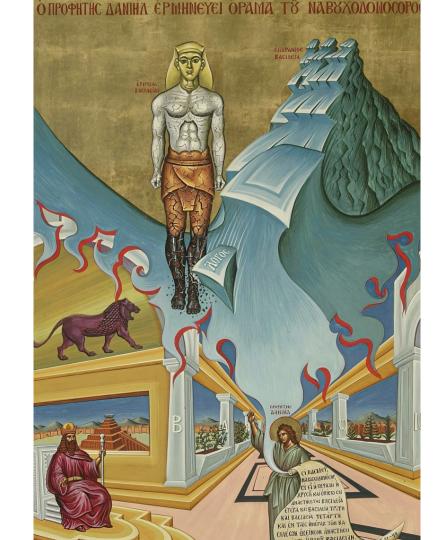
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Four Stories of Daniel

Greek Book of Daniel (13-14)

- Susanna and the Elders
- The Temple of Bel
- Slaying the Dragon
- Daniel in the Lion's Den (pt. II)

(Major Addition: Song of the Three Children)







Daniel 2:12-15

12 Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be **destroyed. 13** So the decree went forth that the wise men were to be slain, and they sought Daniel and his companions, to slay them. 14 Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Ar'i-och, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to slay the wise men of Babylon; 15 he said to Ar'i-och, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so severe?" Then Ar'i-och made the matter known to Daniel.

- 20 Daniel said:
- "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.
 - 21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;
 - 22 he reveals deep and mysterious things; he knows what is in the darkness and the light dwells with him.

Colossians 1:26-27

26 The mystery hidden for ages and generations but now made manifest to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1 Timothy 3:16

Great indeed, we confess, is **the mystery of our religion**: He was manifested in the flesh,

vindicated in the Spirit,

seen by angels,

preached among the nations,

believed on in the world,

taken up in glory.

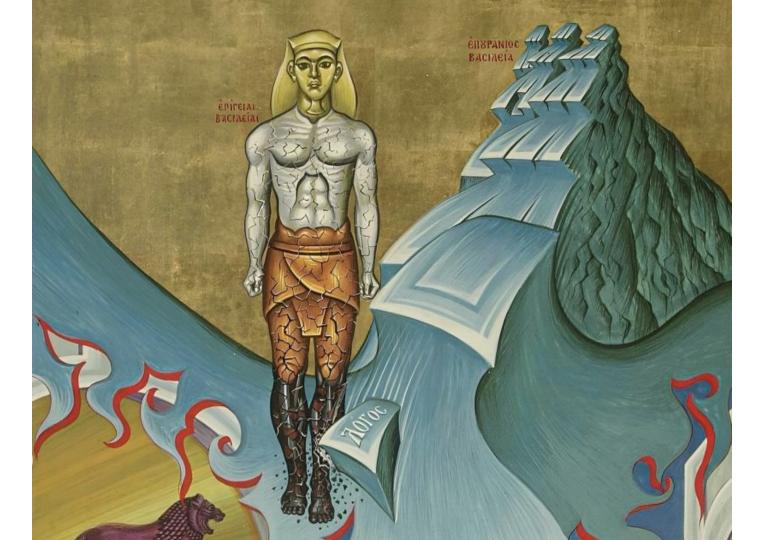
Daniel 2:31-33

31 "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. 32 The head of this image was of fine gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

Daniel 2:34-35

34 As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it smote the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces; 35 then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

25 But if you make for me an altar of stone, do not build it of hewn stones, for if you use a chisel upon it you profane it.



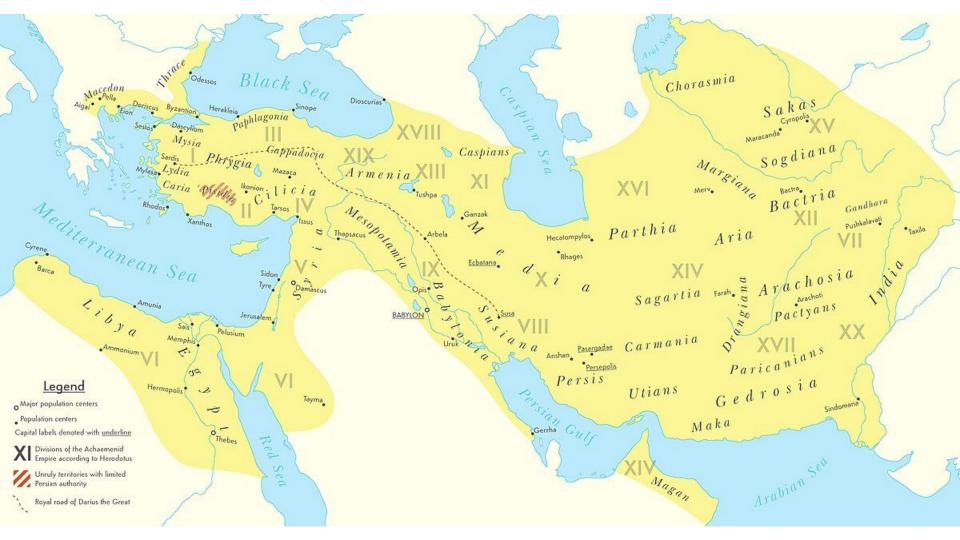
Daniel 2:36-38

36 "This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation. 37 You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory... you are the head of gold.

Daniel 2:39

39 After you shall arise another kingdom inferior to you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.



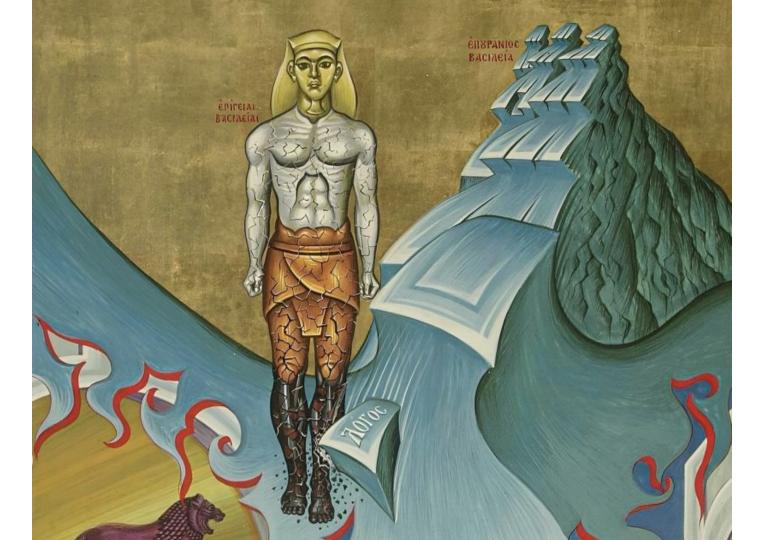


Daniel 2:39-42

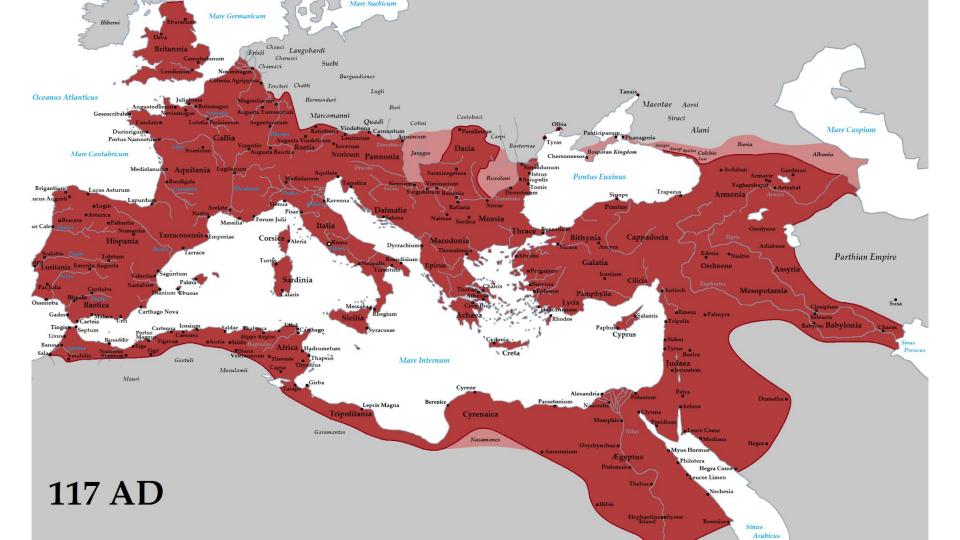
40 And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things; and like iron which crushes, it shall break and crush all these. 41 And as you saw the feet and toes partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom; but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the miry clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle.

Daniel 2:43-45

43 As you saw the iron mixed with miry clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. 44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand for ever; 45 just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold.







Daniel 2:44

44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand for ever.





Daniel 2:46-47

46 Then King Nebuchadnez'zar fell upon his face, and did homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. 47 The king said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery."

The Golden Image (Daniel 3:1-2)

1 King Nebuchadnez'zar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. 2 Then King Nebuchadnez'zar sent to assemble the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnez'zar had set up.

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6 whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." **7** Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image which King Nebuchadnez'zar had set up.

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Revelation 5:9-10

- "Worthy art thou to take the scroll and to open its seals,
- for thou wast slain and by thy blood didst ransom men for God
- from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and hast made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
- and they shall reign on earth."

Daniel 3:8-12

Therefore at that time certain Chalde'ans came forward and maliciously accused (אֲכָלוּ קַרְצֵיהָוֹן) the Jews... These men, O king, pay no heed to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

Daniel 3:15

...but if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace; and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

Daniel 3:21-22

21 Then these men were bound in their mantles, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were cast into the burning fiery furnace. 22 Because the king's order was strict and the furnace very hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed'nego.

Daniel 3:23-27

26 But the angel of the Lord came down into the furnace to be with Azari'ah and his companions, and drove the fiery flame out of the furnace, 27 and made the midst of the furnace like a moist whistling wind, so that the fire did not touch them at all or hurt or trouble them.

Daniel 3

- 57 Bless the Lord, you whales and all creatures that move in the waters,
 - sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
- 58 Bless the Lord, all birds of the air, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
- 59 Bless the Lord, all beasts and cattle, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
- **60** Bless the Lord, **you sons of men**, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

Daniel 3:24-25 (again)

24 Then King Nebuchadnez'zar was astonished and rose up in haste. He said to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." 25 He answered, "But I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."



Lamentations of Great and Holy Saturday

"Thou, O Master, camest

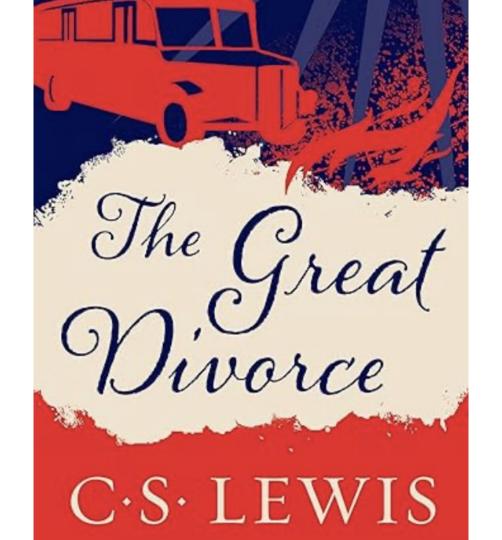
down to earth as was meet,

to save Adam, and as Thou didst not find him there, Thou didst go down into Hades seeking him."

"Hades that dread foe, shook with terror when he looked upon Thee,

O Daystar of Glory, only Immortal Lord; and he yielded up his captives then in haste."

"Rise, O Lord of Mercy, raising us up also who languish deep in Hades"



"Then some re-adjustment of the mind or some focussing of my eyes took place, and I saw the whole phenomenon the other way round. The men were as they always had been; as all the men I had known had been perhaps. It was the light, the grass, the trees that were different; made of some different substance, so much solider than things in our country that men were ghosts by comparison.

Moved by a sudden thought, I bent down and tried to pluck a daisy which was growing at my feet. The stalk wouldn't break. I tried to twist it, but it wouldn't twist. I tugged till the sweat stood out on my forehead and I had lost most of the skin off my hands. The little flower was hard, not like wood or even like iron, but like diamond. There was a leaf-a young tender beech-leaf, lying in the grass beside it. I tried to pick the leaf up: my heart almost cracked with the effort, and I believe I did just raise it. But I had to let it go at once; it was heavier than a sack of coal.

same power of its heat, melts wax indeed, but dries up and hardens mud: not that its power operates **one way upon mud, and in another way upon wax**; but that the qualities of mud and wax are different, although

according to nature they are one thing, both being from

upon the part of God, which was administered by Moses

the earth. In this way, then, one and the same working

Now it is not incorrect to say that the sun, by one and the

in signs and wonders, made manifest the hardness of Pharaoh.

- Origen of Alexandria, *On First Principles*

Daniel 3:26-27

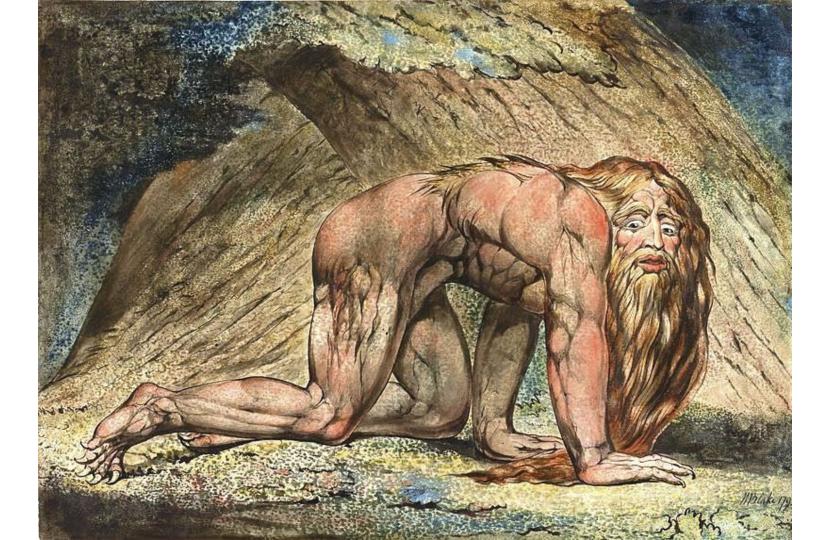
26 Then Nebuchadnez'zar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed'nego, servants of the Most High God, come forth, and come here!"... 27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their mantles were not harmed, and **no smell of fire had come upon them**.

Daniel 3:28-30

28 Nebuchadnez'zar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed'nego, who has sent his angel and delivered his **servants**, who trusted in him, and set at nought the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

2 Maccabees 7:9

9 And when he was at his last breath, he said, "You accursed wretch, you dismiss us from this present life, but the King of the universe will raise us up to an everlasting renewal of life, because we have died for his laws."



Daniel 4:26-27

26 And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be sure for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. 27 Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you; break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by **showing mercy to the oppressed**, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your tranquillity."



Daniel 5:25-27

25 And this is the writing that was inscribed: mene, mene, tekel, and parsin. 26 This is the interpretation of the matter: mene, God has numbered (meneh) the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; 27 tekel, you have been weighed (tekiltah) in the balances and found wanting; 28 peres, your kingdom is divided (perisath) and given to the Medes and Persians.

30 That very night Belshaz'zar the Chalde'an king was slain. 31 And **Darius the Mede** received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

6.5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God." ... "whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked."

13 Then they answered before the king, "That Daniel, who is **one of the exiles from Judah**, pays no heed to you, O king, or the interdict you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day." 14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed, and set his mind to deliver Daniel; and he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. 15 Then these men came by agreement to the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance which the king establishes can be changed."

17 And a stone was brought and laid upon the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. 18 Then the king went to his palace, and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

20 When he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish and said to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" 21 Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live for ever! 22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong." 23 Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of hurt was found upon him, beause he had trusted in his God.





Allow me to become food for the wild beasts, through whose instrumentality it will be granted me to attain to God. I am the wheat of God, and let me be ground by the teeth of the wild beasts, that I may be found the pure bread of Christ. Rather entice the wild beasts, that they may become my tomb, and may leave nothing of my body; so that when I have fallen asleep... Then shall I truly be a disciple of Christ, when the world shall not see so much as my body. Entreat Christ for me, that by these instruments I may be found a sacrifice. - Ig.Rom.4

- 6.26...the God of Daniel,
 - for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end.
- 27 He delivers and rescues,
 he works signs and wonders
 in heaven and on earth,
 he who has saved Daniel
 from the power of the lions."

6.28 So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.



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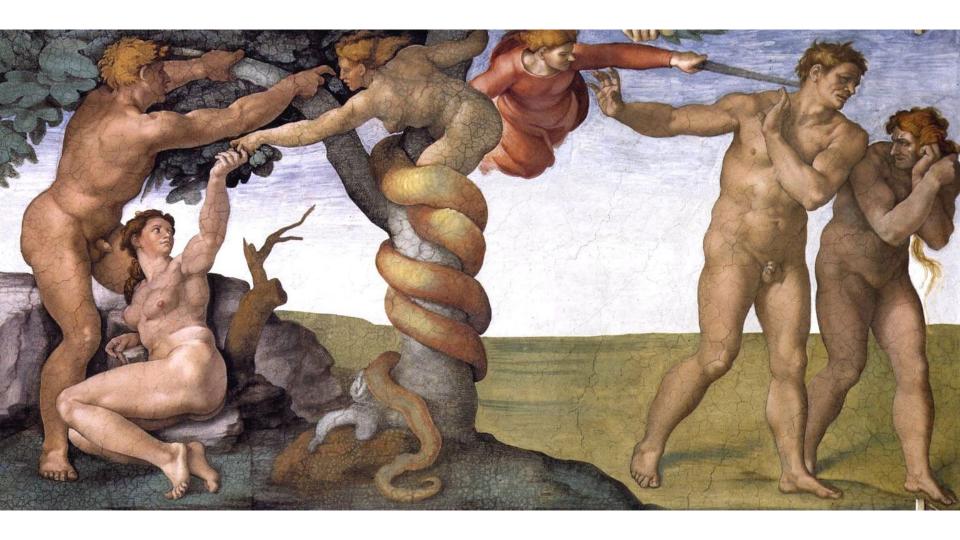


Daniel 13:22-23

17 She said to her maids, "Bring me oil and ointments, and shut the garden doors so that I may bathe." 18 They did as she said, shut the garden doors, and went out by the side doors to bring what they had been commanded; and they did not see the elders, because they were hidden.

Daniel 13:22-23

22 Susanna sighed deeply, and said, "I am hemmed in on every side. For if I do this thing, it is death for me; and if I do not, I shall not escape your hands. 23 I choose not to do it and to fall into your hands, rather than to sin in the sight of the Lord "



24 Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and the two elders shouted against her. 25 And one of them ran and opened the garden doors.

Daniel 13:44-46

44 The Lord heard her cry. 45 And as she was being led away to be put to death, God aroused the holy spirit of a young lad named Daniel; 46 and he cried with a loud voice, "I am innocent of the blood of this woman."

Daniel 13:54-55

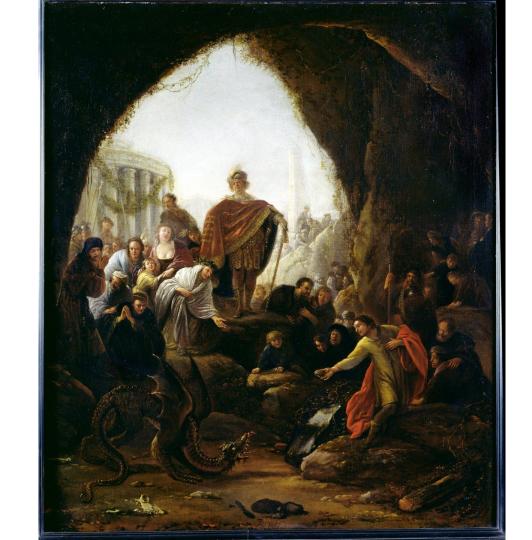
54 Now then, if you really saw her, tell me this: Under what tree did you see them being intimate with each other?" He answered, "Under a **mastic tree (skinon)**." **55** And Daniel said, "Very well! You have lied against your own head, for the angel of God has received the sentence from God and will immediately cut (skisei) you in two."

Daniel 14:14

14 When they had gone out, the king set forth the food for Bel. Then Daniel ordered his servants to bring ashes and they sifted them throughout the whole temple in the presence of the king alone. Then they went out, shut the door and sealed it with the king's signet, and departed.

Daniel 14:27

27 Then Daniel took pitch, fat, and hair, and boiled them together and made cakes, which he fed to the dragon. The dragon ate them, and burst open. And Daniel said, "See what you have been worshiping!"







Daniel 14:27

28 When the Babylonians heard it, they were very indignant and conspired against the king, saying, "The king has become a Jew; he has destroyed Bel, and slain the dragon, and slaughtered the priests." 29 Going to the king, they said, "Hand Daniel over to us, or else we will kill you and your household." 30 The king saw that they were pressing him hard, and under compulsion he handed Daniel over to them.

Daniel 14:33-35

33 Now the prophet Hab'akkuk was in Judea. He had boiled pottage and had broken bread into a bowl, and was going into the field to take it to the reapers. 34 But the angel of the Lord said to Hab'akkuk, "Take the dinner which you have to Babylon, to Daniel, in the lions' den." 35 Hab'akkuk said, "Sir, I have never seen Babylon, and I know nothing about the den."

Daniel 14:54-55

36 Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown of his head, and lifted him by his hair and set him down in Babylon, right over the den, with the rushing sound of the wind itself.



Schedule

Next Class:

October 20th (Columbus Day next week)

Isaiah 6

Glorious Saint Raymond of Peñafort, wise and holy patron, come to the aid of those entrusted to your care, and all who flee to your protection. Intercede for us in our need, and help us through your prayers, example, and teaching, to proclaim the truth of the Gospel to all we meet. And when we have reached the fullness of our years, we beseech you to guide us home to heaven, to live in peace with you, Our Mother Mary, and Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

