

Leader

Daniel 1:1,2 (ESV)

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God.

Cong.

Daniel 1:3 (ESV)

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. Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility...



Daniel 1:1-3a
Daniel—God is Judge

Babylonian Empire 606-536 BC



Megiddo, crossroads; past & future

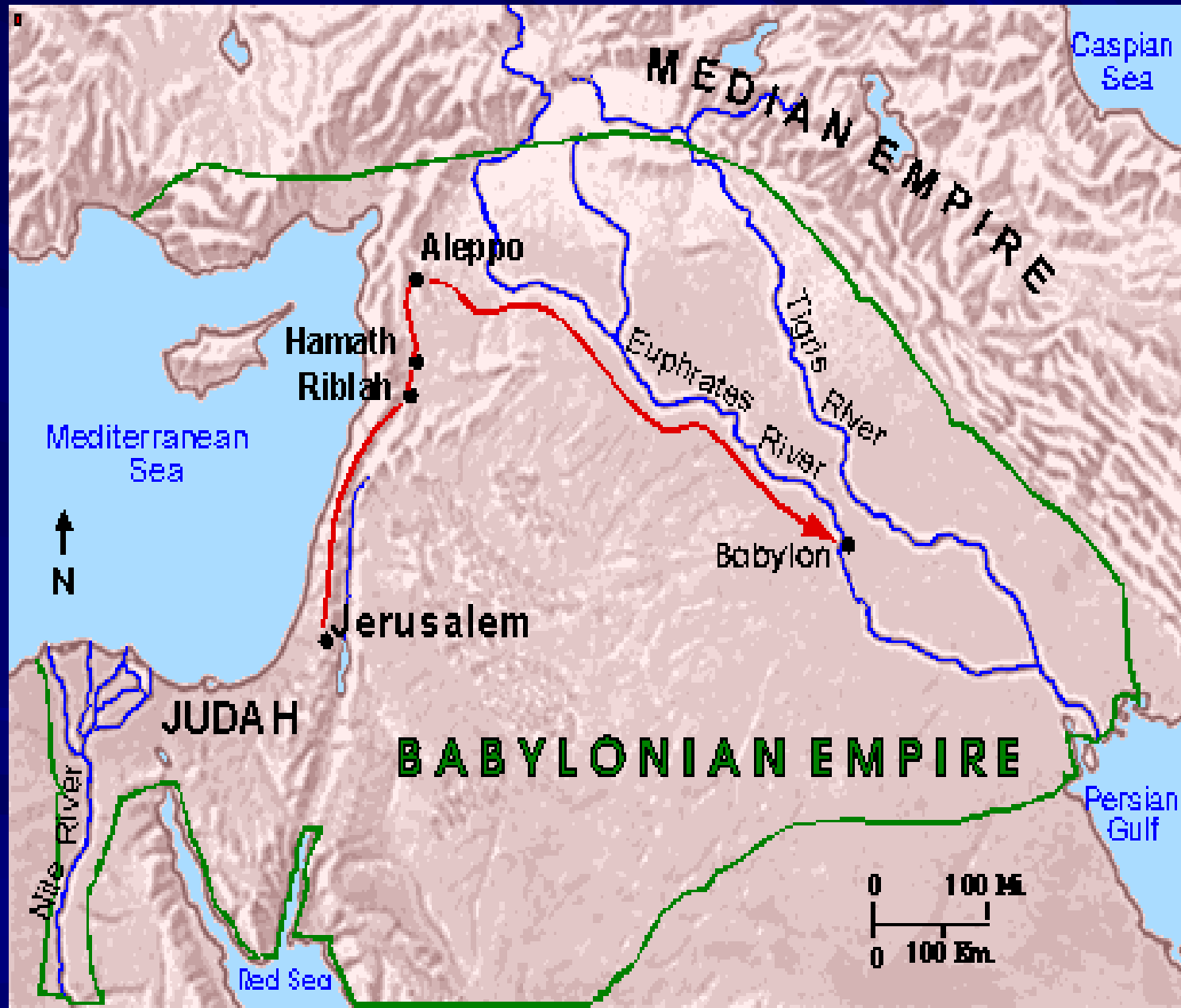


Theme:

- God is in charge, even when it seems His enemies have won.



Babylonian Empire 606-536 BC



Theme verse:

- “...to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.”
(Daniel 4:17 ESV)



Babylon then & now



Test of Theology (1:1-3)

- God promised He would correct His people if they rebelled. **Deut. 28**
- **Jeremiah 25:8-9** He would send Nebuchadnezzar as his servant.
- He would bring Israel back & punish Babylon. **25:12**



Who are You?

- How can God use worse sinners to punish His people? **Habakkuk 1**
- He turns this evil to our good & can call people like Nebuchadnezzar His servants. **Rom. 8:28**
- That's why Daniel can say: "And **the Lord** gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand..." **Daniel 1:2**

Who was Daniel?

- Daniel, 14-16 at the time, and 80-85 when he was in the lion's den, is a model and hero for our time.
- He **passed the tests & learned that God is Judge**. He is in charge, whoever it seems is winning at the moment.

Who are we & what should we do?

- God is able to permit people to make personal choices and attempt to control the world, yet still accomplish His purposes.
- While permitting man to act, God will overrule in our lives and in the world.
- “Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone, dare to have a purpose firm, dare to make it known.”

Megiddo future



What next?

- So ... we are all sojourners & pilgrims
 - our days on earth like a shadow
- All this abundance we have is from your hand and all is yours. Our times are in Your hands.

