

## EXHIBIT 2

AN INTRODUCTION TO  
NEBUCHADNEZZAR II

Nebuchadnezzar II, son of Nabopolassar, was the second ruler of the Neo-Babylonian (new Babylonian) Empire from 605 to 562BC. The Old Testament records, together with ancient history and many archaeological discoveries provide a remarkable picture of this famous king. He was probably just a little older than Daniel, always on the move, creative, proud, and ruthlessly ambitious.

As a worshipper of the chief Babylonian god, Marduk (also known as Bel), Nebuchadnezzar was deeply religious, a believer in astrology and magic, with an arrogant disdain for the God of the Jews. Among his chief pleasures were the forests of Lebanon, massive building programs, and military conquests. Jerusalem fell to him on three occasions within a span of twenty years.

**The first was in 605BC**, during the reign of King Jehoiakim, when Daniel was captured. Many sacred vessels were taken from the Jerusalem temple to Babylon at that time.

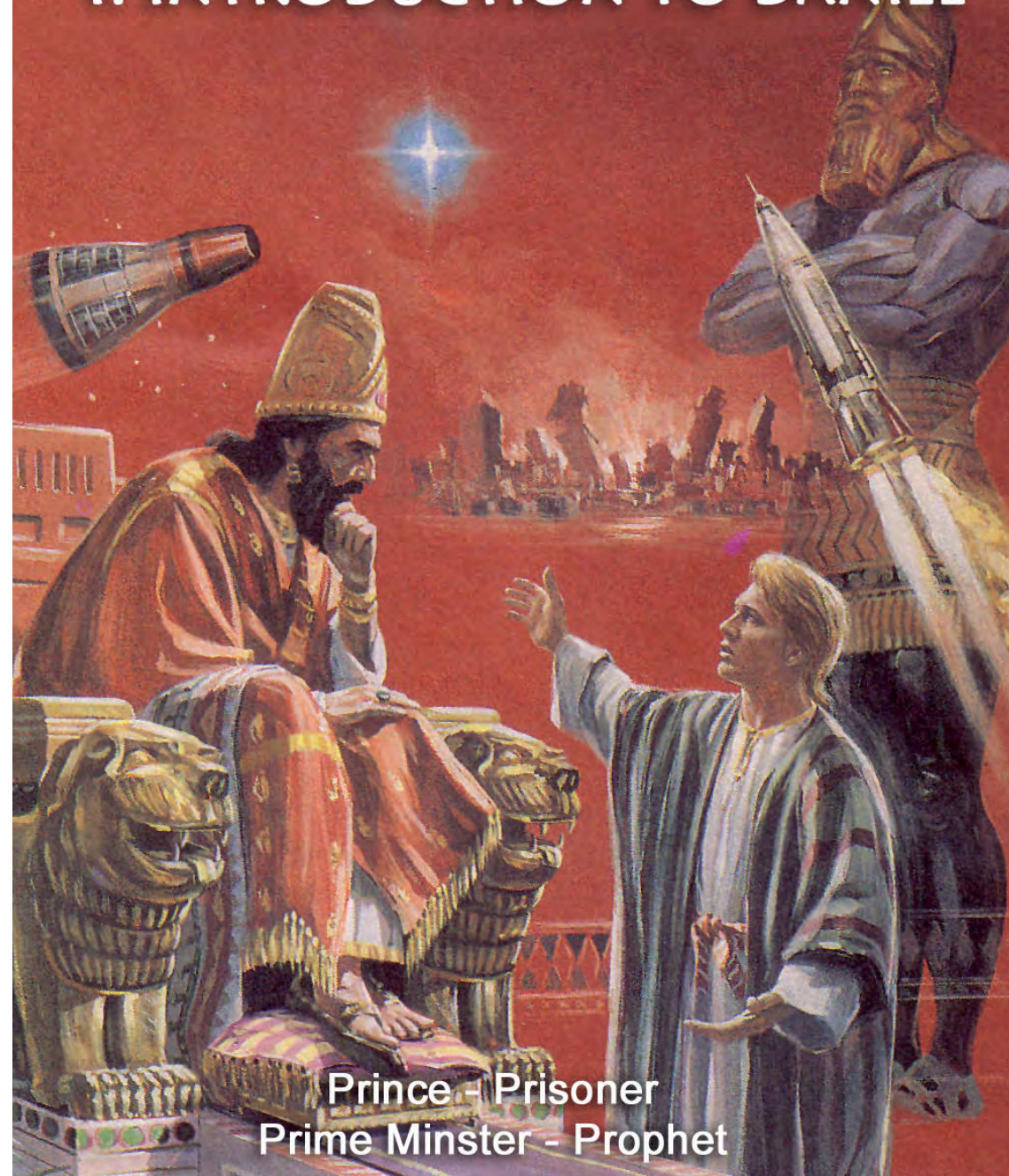
**The second occurred in 597BC**, when King Jehoiachin was carried away. During this attack, the remainder of the sacred vessels were transported to Babylon (2 Kings 24:10-16, page 378).

**The third attack, in 586BC**, resulted in the total destruction of Jerusalem. Its palaces and houses were burned to the ground and the temple left in ruins. King Zedekiah's eyes were put out and he was taken in chains to Babylon. Many of the people of Judah were deported with him. Only poorer inhabitants and those considered incapable of making trouble were allowed to remain. (2 Kings 25:1-21, page 378)

**This was the king whom Daniel and his young friends must serve. Theirs would be a hazardous future!**

# DANIEL

## 1. INTRODUCTION TO DANIEL



Prince - Prisoner  
Prime Minister - Prophet

# Welcome to the Daniel Prophecy Seminar!

*You have in your hand the first episode of the life story and prediction of the prophet Daniel – the famous prisoner who survived the lion's den. 2500 years ago, this remarkable man foretold many major events of history with 100 percent accuracy. He foresaw some of the global issues of our day, and predicted the coming of a New World order.*

## WHO WAS DANIEL?

Born in Palestine about 623BC, Daniel belonged to a prominent Jewish family with royal connections. During the Babylonian siege and plunder of Jerusalem in 605BC, the young prince was taken hostage, and with the cream of the city's youth, carried off to Babylon where he remained in exile for the rest of his life.



The city of Babylon, capital of the Babylonian Empire, was situated 1,500 kilometres east of Jerusalem and about 88 kilometres south of Baghdad, present-day capital of Iraq. Babylon's remains are still visible today.

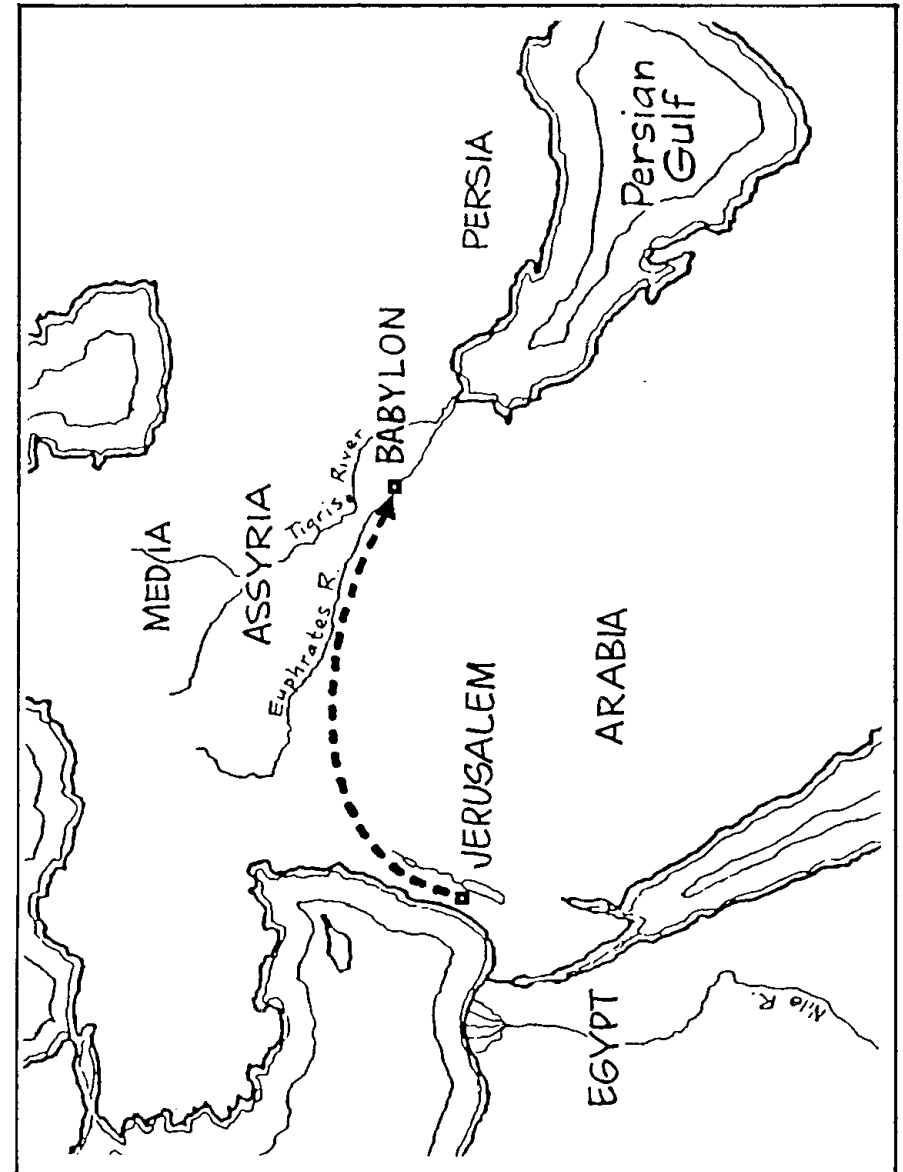
## FROM PRISON TO POWER

By a remarkable turn of events, Daniel the hostage became Daniel the Prime Minister of Babylon, and the king's most trusted adviser. Still more remarkable, he was able to tell the king the fate of his empire and of other world powers far into the future.

*How could Daniel do this? The question has challenged thinking people for centuries. In the Daniel Prophecy Seminar, you will discover the secret of his amazing insights.*

**BRIEFLY SCAN EXHIBIT 1: PAGE 7**

## EXHIBIT 1 WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED



**WHAT DID IT MEAN TO BECOME A PROPHET?**

Did Daniel have a glamour career ahead of him? Would people flock to his luxurious apartments from dawn to dusk for news about their future fortunes, romances, and horoscopes? Was he guided by crystal balls, astrological charts, or channelling? Or was there some mysterious force within him little known in our day? The next unit - The Great Global Dream - answers these questions.

**REVIEW QUIZ (True/False)**

- 1) Nebuchadnezzar launched three attacks on Jerusalem.
- 2) He treated Daniel and his fellow captives badly.
- 3) Judah was defeated because the nation rejected the warnings of the prophets.
- 4) Daniel's name was changed to Belteshazzar.
- 5) According to Jeremiah's prophecy, Judah was to remain in captivity for 70 years.
- 6) Daniel and his companions were forced to eat the king's food.
- 7) After three years' training, Daniel and his companions were found to be three times better than the wise men of Babylon.
- 8) Daniel studied the art of prophecy in the school of Babylon's wise men. This was how he became a prophet.

**WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED**

*Trace the route taken by Daniel into exile*

Turn now to Daniel's first chapter and read. Take your pen and be ready to answer the opening discussion questions.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**A. DANIEL EXPERIENCES FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY**

**QUESTION 1** (Daniel 1:1-6, page 855)

What was the name of the king who conquered Judah and took Daniel prisoner? \_\_\_\_\_

**READ EXHIBIT 2: PAGE 8**

*AN INTRODUCTION TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR II  
KING OF BABYLON*

**QUESTION 2** (Isaiah 39:5-7 Page 693; Jeremiah 25:1-11, page 755)

The overthrow of the Jewish nation by Babylon was foretold more than a century before either Daniel or Nebuchadnezzar were born. About 735BC the prophet Isaiah predicted Babylon's raids on Jerusalem and the captivity in which Daniel was taken. What did Isaiah say? Read Isaiah 39:5-7



- (a) Behold the days are coming when all that is in your house, and Jewish captives taken to Babylon what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to \_\_\_\_\_. and they shall take away some of your \_\_\_\_\_... and they shall be eunuchs (servants) in the palace of the king of \_\_\_\_\_." (verses 6,7)
- (b) Read Jeremiah 25:1-11. Why were the people of Judah taken captive? (Jeremiah 25:7, 8) \_\_\_\_\_

- (c) For how long were Daniel and his people to remain in captivity? (Jeremiah 25:11) \_\_\_\_\_

Many predictions of the bible were given to guide and to warn people as they experienced events foretold for their time. Likewise, the great prophecies of world import, such as we will find in the book of Daniel, were given to guide us through the troubled times of our day and age.

## B. DANIEL MEETS NEBUCHAD-NEZZAR

### QUESTION 3 (Daniel 1:3-18, page 855)

On arrival at the capital, Daniel and three of his companions were given Babylonian names and drafted into the king's college for a three-year "re-education" course.

- (a) What were their new names? (verse 7)

\_\_\_\_\_

- (b) Existence in Babylon was difficult for the young Judaeen exiles. What firm decision did Daniel make about the food and drink he was offered? (Verse 8) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Food from the king's table would have been offered to the Babylonian gods. As well, in the culture of the time, to eat food from the king's table signified acceptance of unconditional loyalty to that monarch. Such loyalty becomes an issue later in the book. Besides all this, the Jews had been given many insights into wholesome food and drink and the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle. Therefore, Daniel purposed not to defile himself.

- (c) Instead of accepting the king's provisions, Daniel requested that



The first test that Daniel and his friends faced was concerning their diet.

he and his friends be allowed to eat vegetables and drink only water for a ten-day trial. Was their health adversely affected? (Verses 12-15)

"Their countenance (faces) appeared \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in flesh than all the young men." (Verse 15)

### QUESTION 4 (Daniel 1:17)

God rewarded the four exiles for standing true to their principles, and for their faith and courage. He gave all of them knowledge and wisdom, as well as good health. But notice the special ability that He gave to Daniel. What was this rare gift?

"And Daniel had understanding in all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_." (Verse 17,)

### QUESTION 5 (Daniel 1:18-20)

At the end of training, Daniel and his three companions were brought face to face with Nebuchadnezzar. They must personally answer his searching questions. How much better did the king find them than the astrologers and magicians of Babylon? (Verse 20)



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To what special positions did Nebuchadnezzar appoint the four graduates? (verse 19) \_\_\_\_\_

*With insights far beyond ordinary human intelligence, Daniel became God's message-bearer to the king of Babylon and to future nations. 500 years later, Jesus called him "Daniel the prophet" and suggested that we should read and understand his book. (See Matthew 24: 15, page 960)*