

Trusting
the Most High God
in Perilous Times

Daniel 3:1-15



A Grand Monument

Dan. 3:1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

“image”

- a god (e.g. Nebu)?
- Nebuchadnezzar?
- his kingdom?
- an obelisk?

“of gold”

plated, not solid (cf.

Is 40:19)



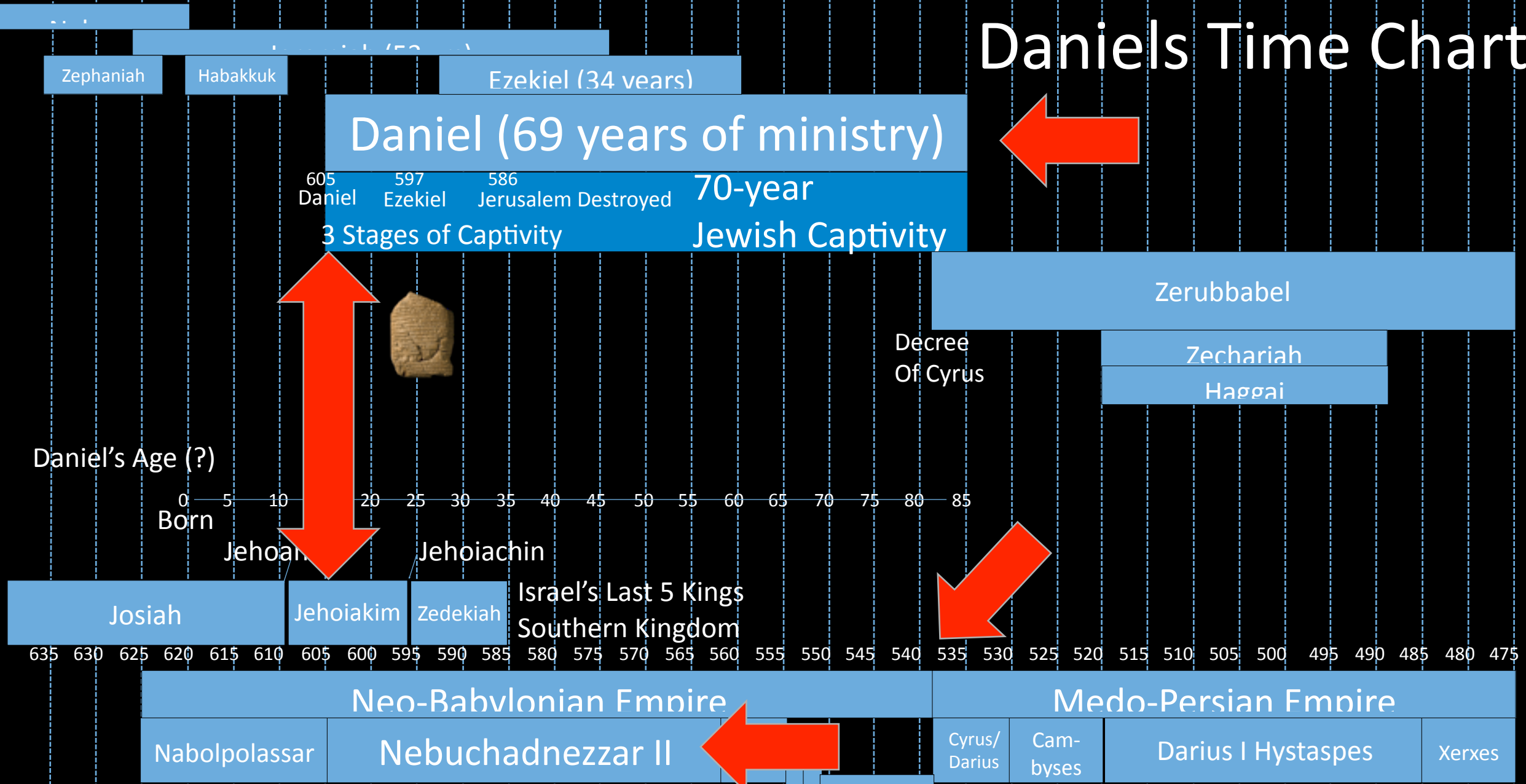
Attendant of Nabu, Nabu's temple
in Kalhu
[http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/
nimrud/ancientkalhu/thepeople/
nabu/](http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/nimrud/ancientkalhu/thepeople/nabu/)



Attendant of Nabu, British Museum
[https://creativecommons.org/
licenses/by-sa/4.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

635 630 625 620 615 610 605 600 595 590 585 580 575 570 565 560 555 550 545 540 535 530 525 520 515 510 505 500 495 490 485 480 475

Daniel's Time Chart



2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent word to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. 3 Then the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces were assembled for the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed: “To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language, 5 that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up.

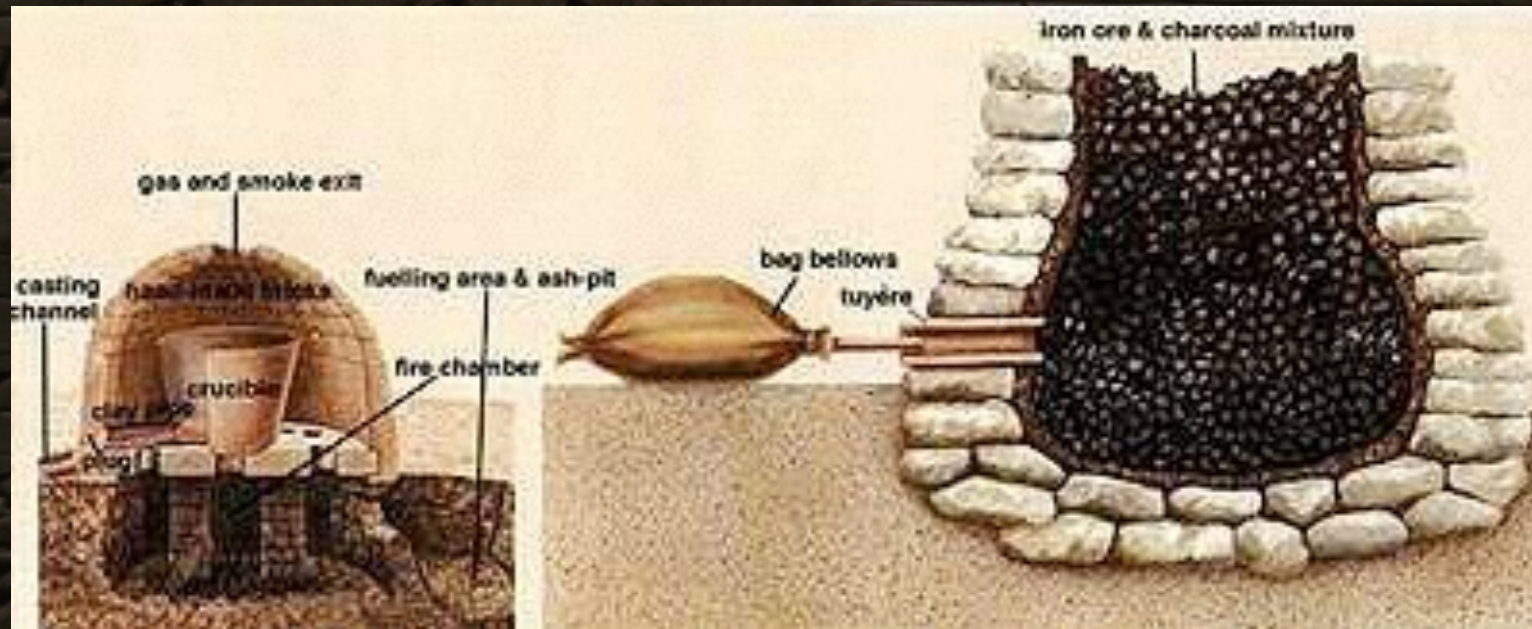
“fall down and worship”: סָגַד (*sāgad*)

- do homage (by prostration)
- prostrate oneself in worship

- Dan 2:46

- Is 44, 46

6 “But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.”



images from the Washington State University General Education Program
<https://www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/79-104/Readings/Gallery/gallery.html>

7 Therefore at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshiped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Dan. 3:8 For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews.

9 They responded and said to Nebuchadnezzar the king: “O king, live forever! 10 “You, O king, have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, and bagpipe and all kinds of music, is to fall down and worship the golden image. 11 “But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.

12 “There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, namely Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.”

Dan. 3:13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?”

15 “Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?”

Idols

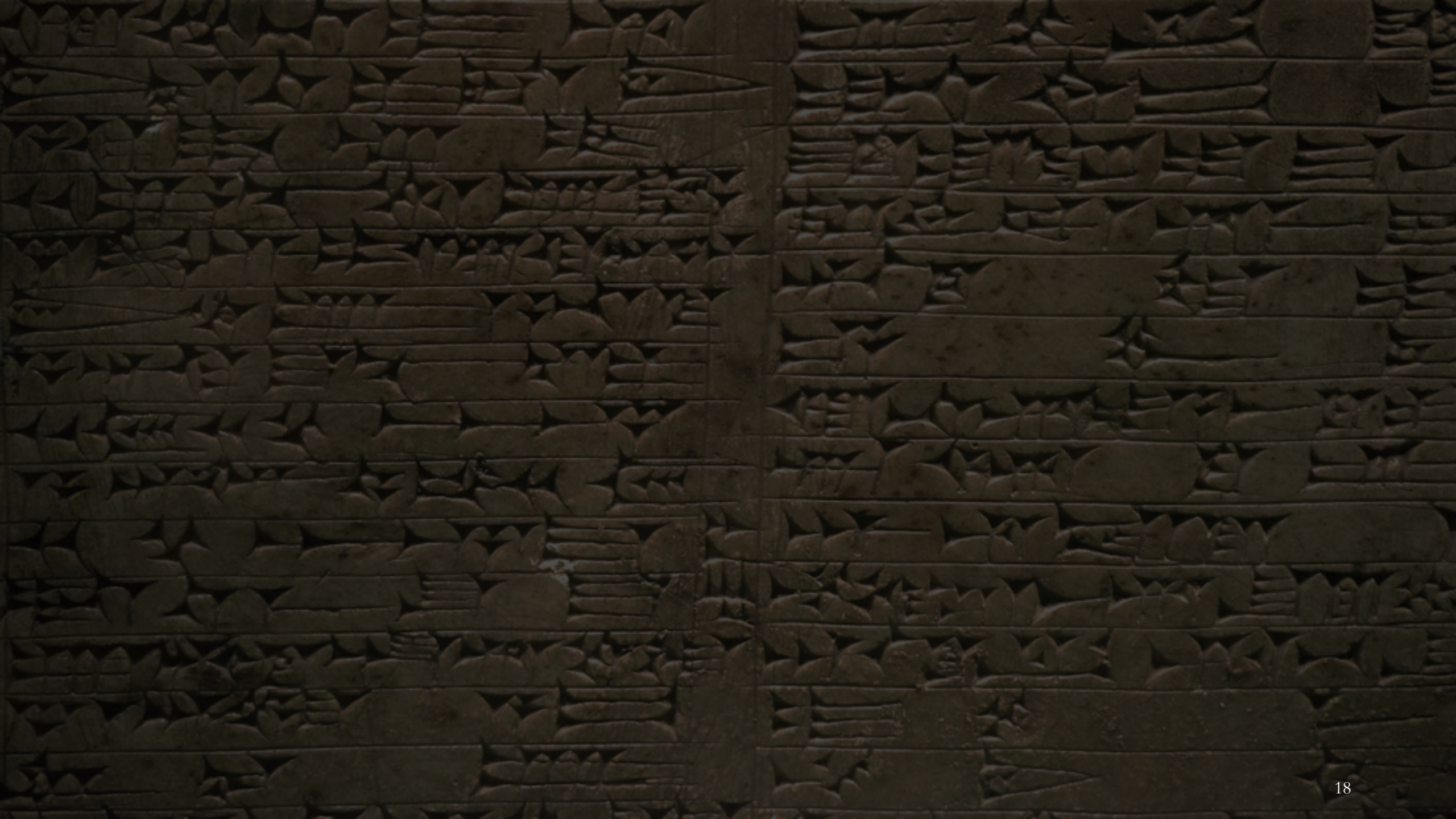
What is your “ultimate concern”? Who/what is on the throne of your life?

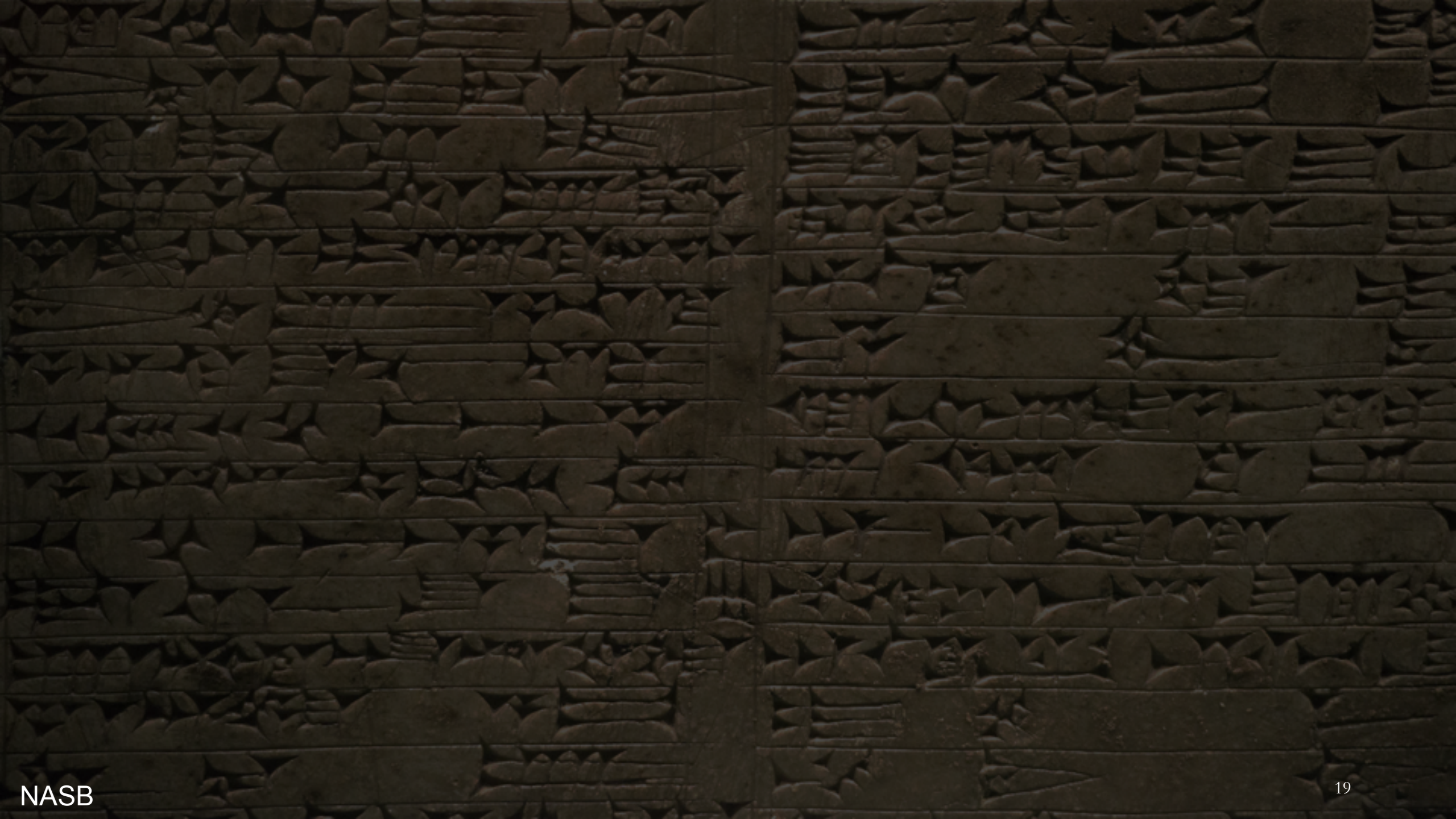
What idols tempt you?

- Pleasure?
- Power?
- Wealth?
- Relationships?
- Education?
- Self?



What would you do?





Simplified Outline – Linguistic

I. The History Of Daniel (Chapters 1-6) (15 messages)

- A. Entering The Kings Service (Ch 1)
- B. The Dream Of The Great Statue (ch2)
- C. Nebuchadnezzar's Image Of Gold (ch3)
- D. Nebuchadnezzar's Vision Of A Great Tree (ch4)
- E. Belshazzar And The Writing On The Wall (ch5)

The Times of the Gentiles

F. Darius's Foolish Decree (ch6)

II. The Prophecies of Daniel (Chapters 7-12)

- A. Four Beasts (ch7)
- B. Vision of Ram and Goat (ch8)
- C. Aramaic and Hebrew (ch9)

Israel in Relation to the Gentiles