

LOOK UP

Living in Babylon



Daniel's Timeline

King Nebuchadnezzar conquers Jerusalem -

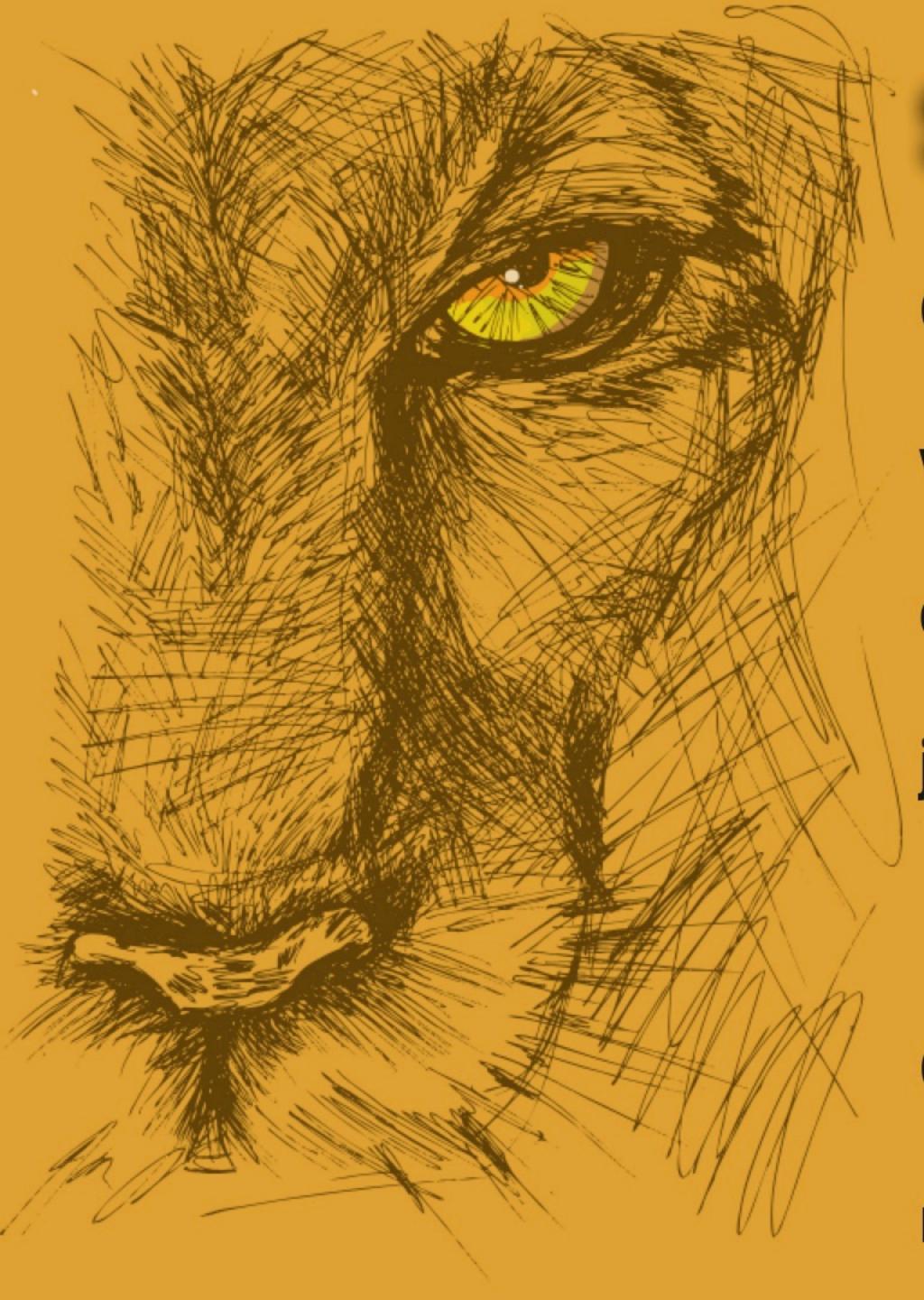
605 BC

Belshazzar's reign starts - 556 BC

Medes & Persians conquer Babylon - 539 BC

King Cyrus' reign starts - 538 BC

Daniel's story spans 67 years!



Sustained Character

Chapter 1 - young Daniel: strong, healthy, well versed in every branch of knowledge, gifted with knowledge and good judgement, great aptitude

Chapter 6 - old Daniel: faithful, always responsible, completely trustworthy



¹⁰ But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

Daniel 6:10 (NLT)

¹¹ Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help. 12 So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. "Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human - except to you, Your Majesty - will be thrown into the den of lions?" "Yes," the king replied, "that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked." ¹³ Then they told the king, "That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day."

Daniel 6:11-13 (NLT)

¹⁶ So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, "May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you." ¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel. 18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn't sleep at all that night.

Daniel 6:16-18 (NLT)





The key to sustained hope is taking your eyes off the things around you and looking to the Lord.



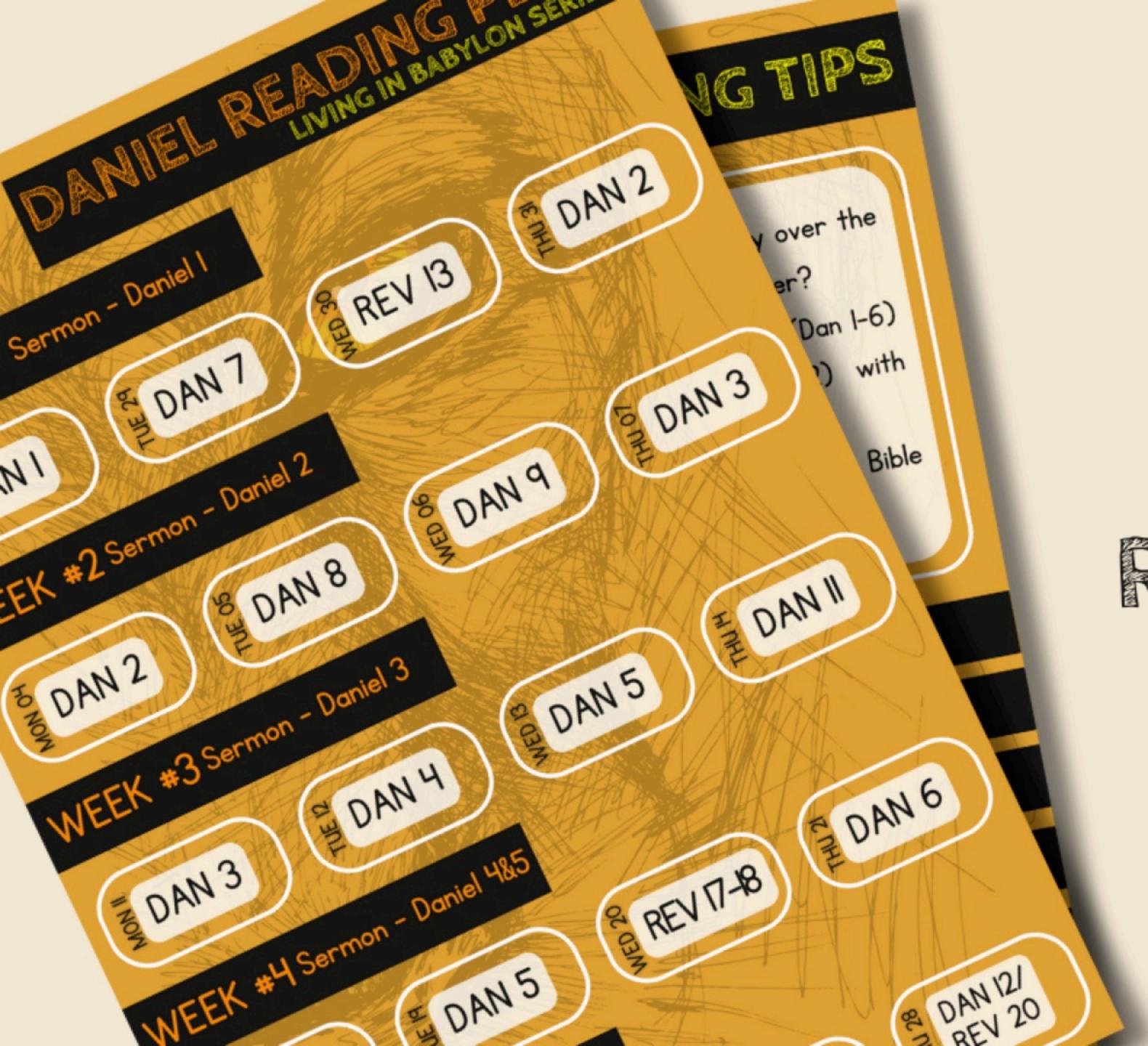
²⁶ "He is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. ²⁷ He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth."

Daniel 6:26b-27a (NLT)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Read through Daniel 6 when have you been in a dire situation and needed to trust in God?
- 2) Darius' declaration that "He is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth" foreshadows the Kingdom of God shown in the New Testament. How does believing this impact the way we live as "exiles in Babylon" (Christians in secular Australia)?
- 3) What has been the most impacting part of the Daniel reading plan for you?



DANIEL READING PLAN