The Book of Daniel Study – Session 1  
Douglas Beaumont, Ph.D.

Class Information

- **Room(s):** JP2 6 (or 11)

- **Resources:** (none required):
  - *Ignatius Study Bible – Daniel* (Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch)
  - *Rapture: The End-Times Error That Leaves The Bible Behind* (David B. Currie)

- **Dates:** June 14th – August 16th (except Jul. 19th)
  - *Introduction & Background* (Doug)
  - *Chapters 1-2* – Introduction & Statue (Doug)
  - *Chapters 3-4* – Nebuchadnezzar's Furnace & Madness (Doug)
  - *Chapters 5-6* – Writing on Wall & Medes (Gary)
  - *Chapters 7-8* – Visions & Beasts (Doug)
  - ----------------------------- NO CLASS (July 19th) - -----------------------------
  - *Chapters 9-10* – 70 Weeks & Vision of Man (Doug)
  - *Chapters 11-12* – Kings’ Wars & the End (Doug)
  - *Chapters 13-14* – Suzanna & Bel and the Dragon (Gary)
  - *Daniel & The Olivet Discourse* - (Doug)

Introduction

- **Importance:**
  - People’s lives have been altered by their view of the “end times.”
  - Key to understanding much of biblical prophecy, covenants, Jesus’ claims, and God’s Kingdom

- **Title:** Hebrew - “Daniy’el” (God is My Judge)

- **Date:**
  - Traditional: c. 535 B.C.
  - Critical: c. 165 B.C.

- **Languages:**
  - Hebrew: ch’s 1, 8-12
  - Aramaic: ch’s 2-7
  - Greek: 3:24-90; ch’s 13-14
Background

- **(588-586 B.C.)** Nebuchadnezzar attacks Jerusalem three times. Jerusalem is captured and the temple destroyed – its treasures plundered (except the ark - 2 Mac. 2!), and most of the Jewish people are taken captive (2 Kings 25) – including Daniel and three friends.
  - (c. 553 B.C.) Nabonidus exiles himself in Arabia for almost ten years.
    - Belshazzar becomes acting king of Babylon.
    - Daniel ("3rd" in the kingdom cf. 5:7,16, 29)
- **(550 B.C.)** Cyrus overthrows his grandfather, the king of Media, and becomes the king of the Media-Persian empire.
- **(539 B.C.)** Cyrus’ army came to fight against Babylon. The Medio-Persians were able to enter the city and capture it without a fight (Isaiah 13:17).
  - Darius the Mede is put in charge (Daniel 5:31 - 6).
    - One possibility is that Darius the Mede is Gubaru, the governor appointed over Babylon who led Cyrus’s army of into Babylon.
    - Ancient monarchs often had more than one name; so, another possibility is that Darius the Mede is Cyrus the Great (Dan. 6:28).
- **(539-536 B.C.)** Daniel survives the Lion’s Den, prays and prophesies.
- **(536 B.C.)** Israel's 70 years of captivity end (2 Chron. 36; Jer. 28; Isa. 44; Isaiah 44:7-8).