



CH I

The Revelation of DANIEL

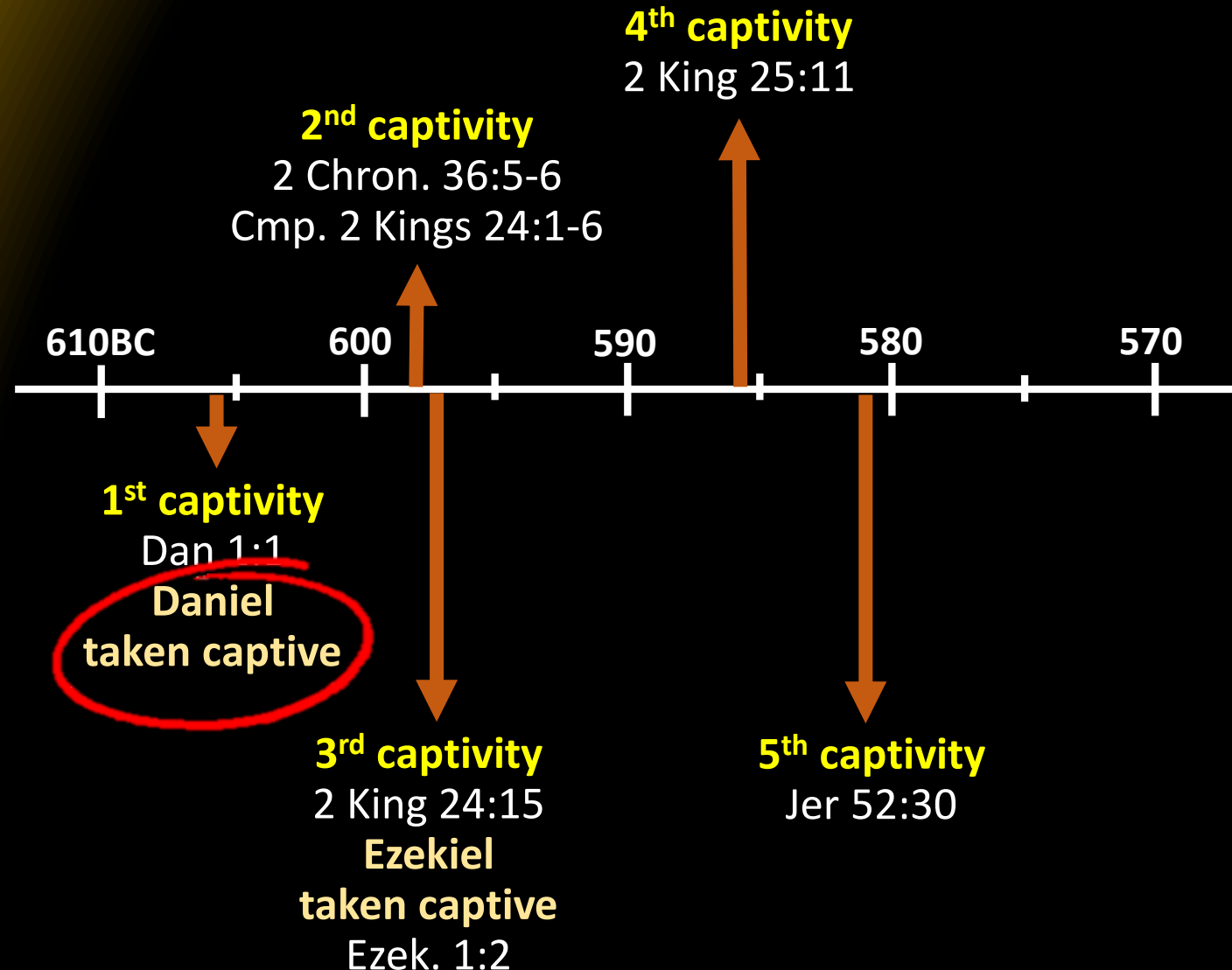
The world when Daniel was born



The world after Daniel's 1st year of captivity



The Jewish deportations to Babylon



1st captivity (606BC)

- During 3rd year of Jehoiakim, one year before Nebuchadnezzar began to reign in 605BC
- Part of the vessels of the house of Yahweh plundered (Dan 1:2)
- Princes and nobles deported (Dan 1:3)

2nd captivity (598BC)

- During 11th year of Jehoiakim
- King deported (2 Chron 36:6) and 3,000 Jews (Jer. 52:28)
- Vessels of the house of Yahweh plundered

3rd captivity (597BC)

- At end of reign of Jehoiachin, in 8th year of N.
- 10,000 captives taken including king, royalty, mighty men, craftsman, & smiths.
- None remained but the poorest

4th captivity (587BC)

- At end of reign of Zedekiah, 18th year of N.
- Princes, chief priests and king's counsellors were executed
- King and 832 people deported (Jer 52:29)
- Jeremiah freed from prison and given liberty
- Temple, palace, & houses of Jerusalem were burned. Vessels of gold cut in pieces.
- Walls of Jerusalem demolished
- Temple and utensils were plundered including brass, pots, shovels, snuffers, spoons, vessels, things of gold and silver

5th captivity (582BC)

- In 23rd year of Nebuchadnezzar
- 745 people deported (Jer 52:30)

The disparate brotherhood in Judah and Babylon

Letters across the Levant



Ezekiel (to Jerusalem)

- 3 prophet made dumb
- 4 siege of Jerusalem
- 5 impending judgements
- 6 Judah's idolatry
- 8 glory departs
- 12 fate of king & people
- 13 false prophets
- 14 four judgements
- 15 parable of the vine
- 16 allegory of Jerusalem
- 17 parable of eagle, cedar
- 18 coming judgement
- 19 lamentation
- 20 rebellious Israel
- 22 the corruptions of Judah
- 23 parable of Aholah & Aholibah
- 24 fall of Jerusalem

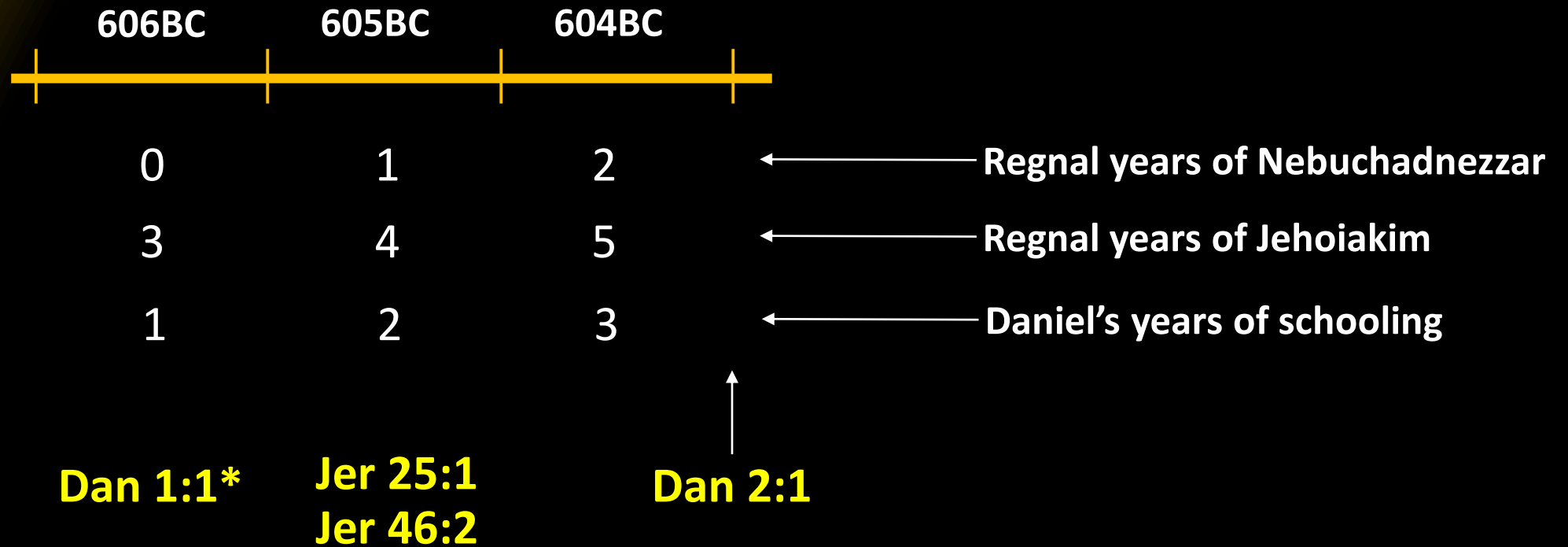
Shemaiah (to Jerusalem)

Jeremiah is mad, reprove him, put him in prison and restrain him with stocks

Jeremiah (to Babylon)

29:1-29 (delivered via Gemariah)
be not deceived the captivity shall be 70 years,
Ahab and Zedekiah (false prophets in captivity) shall
Nebuchadnezzar roast in the fire,
29:30-32 I will punish Shemaiah
(false prophet in captivity)
50-51 (delivered by Seraiah) God's
judgements on Babylon

The timing of Dan Ch. 1&2



* Note that Dan 1:1 does not say that the 3rd year of the reign of Jehoiakim was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign. Such would be impossible for Dan 2:1, which came after Daniel's three years of schooling, occurred in the 2nd year of Nebuchadnezzar. Dan 1:1 is simply stating that the man who besieged Jerusalem, is the man who ascended the throne the following year.

Ch 1

The plot

Nebuchadnezzar was determined to convert Daniel and his 3 friends to the religion of Babylon that they might become his “wise” men.

God was determined to use Daniel and his 3 friends to convert the king that he might influence the captives to do likewise.

The breakup

V1-7 Nebuchadnezzar’s dedication of the vessels and Jews to Bel

V8-16 Daniel’s dedication to Yahweh

V17-21 Yahweh’s elevation of Daniel

The vessels and the people



What Nebuchadnezzar did with the vessels, he was determined to do with the royalty and nobility of Judah –

to DEDICATE them to Bel

to make them LIVING exhibitions of Bel's power to take possession of not only their bodies but also their minds.



Lessons for life

- In Israel the Jews had the freedom to worship God without fear, but their freedom led to a complacency that was fatal. The captivity was designed to cause them to return to God with their *whole* heart. Has the freedom we enjoy caused us to become half-hearted towards God?
- Daniel suffered because of the sins of his nation yet he showed no bitterness towards them. On the contrary he prayed for their forgiveness and deliverance.
- Daniel came to occupy a senior position in Babylon, but he didn't aspire to it, neither did he compromise himself in getting there.

Lessons for life cont'd

- We shall stand before the judgment set of Christ, everyone one of us shall give an account of himself to God. Christ will want to know whether we have been made wise unto salvation.
- Daniel showed leadership in being prepared to make a stand on issues of separateness and his friends followed. Are we leaders or followers?
- Sadly the faith of Daniel and his three friends was not shared by their contemporaries, so it will be in the last days when “perilous times shall come”
- Then as now there is a need to “be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”