

DANIEL



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Welcome to the book of Daniel!

To begin your study of Daniel, meditate upon the content of the book reflected in the overview chart below. As you consider each section and title we have chosen, decide how each one relates to the theme of Future Things. Daniel's character rises head and shoulders above the other "wise" men of Babylon. His prophetic visions give us keys to unlock the events of history - both in his day as well as the days to come!

<p>DANIEL</p> <p>DANIEL EXALTED</p> <p>1:8; 2:9-21; 3:16-18; 4:25-31; 6:10:11</p> <p>1-11</p>	<p>Future Things</p> <p>FUTURE PRESENTED</p> <p>2:31-35; 7:13,14; 9:24-27; 12:8-13</p> <p>12-22</p>
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"Then the sovereignty will be given." 7:27

Also note the Scripture references listed within the overview chart above. Take this opportunity to investigate each one, looking for the relationship between the section titles and key verses. Use these passages as "guideposts" to unlock the book. What have you learned thus far about the book of Daniel?

In chapters 1-6, Daniel is exalted through his desire to keep God's standards. He does this in a distant land where it would have been easy to compromise. Because of his tough standards he is rewarded with position and responsibilities that carry him into top leadership in Babylon. In chapters 7-12, God presents an astounding chain of prophetic events that reveal God's sovereign control over all history, past and future!

Open your heart as you read!

Daniel knew that obeying God was more important than obeying men. His confidence in God was rewarded with incredible influence as well as criticism from his Babylonian peers. He shouldered both influence and criticism to become a timeless example of honoring God in the midst of very distressing circumstances!

HIS NAME

Daniel's name means "God is my judge". In the deportation to Babylon, he was renamed Belteshazzar, meaning "Bel's Prince", in honor of one of the pagan Babylonian Gods (Daniel 4:8; Isaiah 46:1; Jeremiah 50:2; 51:44). Fortunately, he lived up to his Hebrew name and rejected the Babylonian's aspirations.

AUTHOR

Daniel was a brilliant, good-looking youth (1:3-4), exiled in 605 B.C. as a hostage in the first deportation from Judah. Daniel's authorship is testified throughout the book by the use of the first person and is substantiated by Ezekiel, his contemporary (14:14, 20; 28:3). His courage and faith in the face of the "lions of Babylon" reflect this extraordinary faithfulness in prayer, humility, commitment, wisdom, tact, and modesty. It is honoring that God's messengers specifically knew him as a man of "high esteem" (9:23; 10:11, 19), or "greatly beloved". Daniel had a great impact on the rulers of Babylon and so earned himself a significant place in history, as well as a foothold at a crucial crossroads for the people of God.

OTHER BACKGROUND

Daniel's ministry in Babylon was of at least a seventy-year duration. Daniel was probably about 16 and Nebuchadnezzar may have been about the same age. He served under three world powers:

1. Nebuchadnezzar...for whom he interprets a dream and who is judged by God, and Belshazzar (grandson of Nebuchadnezzar) who is done in by graffiti.
2. Darius the Mede, king of the empire that replaces the Babylonian domination, and the one who dumped Daniel into the den of beasts.
3. Cyrus, the person who fulfilled a 100-year-old prophecy by issuing the decree to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 36:22,23; Ezra 1). Cyrus may have even conferred with Daniel on this prophecy!

Why Study Daniel?

1. To get a firm grip on having a firm grip on obeying God's Word whatever the circumstances.
2. To get a better handle on having a better handle on prophecy and its influence on historical events.
3. To grow in our faith as we see the prophetic events of Daniel unfold before our very eyes!



Daniel Chapter Chart

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Daniel is Exalted

Read Chapter 1

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
1		

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Remember that Daniel and the exiles had just been taken from their homes with no hope of returning. Verse 8 says, "but Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself". How were his actions showing faithfulness to God?
2. How do you specifically see the "hand of God" in this passage?

What about today?

In what ways can we "defile ourselves" as Daniel could have? God exalts us as we obey his principals without compromise. Half-hearted devotion greatly reduces our effectiveness!

My thoughts about taking a stand:

The Gentiles & Nebuchadnezzar

Read Chapters 2-4

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
2		
3		
4		

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Notice the reactions and actions of Daniel when his life is threatened. What were they (2:1-30)?
2. Note the same for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (3:1-30). What were the results of their actions?
3. Notice the statements of Nebuchadnezzar after the dream is interpreted - as well as when Daniel's friends are delivered from the fiery furnace. What do we deduce about the king's belief in God?
4. Now observe the king's feelings after being restored from his insanity in 4:34-37. Do you see differences in his unfolding views? Do you think he came to have faith in God?

What about today?

Daniel and his friends testified through their actions as well as their words. Often we are more concerned with what we do over who we are. This can be a sad mistake!

My thoughts about responding spiritually under pressure:

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
5		
6		

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. What was the sin of Belshazzar?
2. Observe the judgment of God through the words Mene, Tekel, Upharsin. What were the meanings of each word?
3. How did Darius feel about Daniel?
4. What do you learn of Darius' relationship with God?

What about today?

Again we see the devotion of Daniel despite opposing circumstances (6:10). What are some everyday circumstances that intimidate or distract you from pleasing God?

My thoughts about the things that distract me:

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
7		

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Compare the "ancient of days" (7:9-12) and the "Son of Man" (7:13-14) with Revelation 1:9-20. Who are we dealing with in each of these passages?
2. What does this tell us about the relationship of the Son and the Father?
3. Reread the beast dream in 7:1-8. Compare with Revelation 13:1. What is the relationship between the two?

What about today?

How do you feel when you read Daniel's and John's (Revelation) picture of Christ?
What an amazing God we serve!

My thoughts on the harmony of Old and New Testament perspectives:

Two More Visions

Read Chapters 8-9

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
8		
9		

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. What is the first vision (8) and its interpretation? Remember, Gabriel is the "messenger" of God (see the first chapters of Luke).
2. This second vision, Daniel's seventieth week, has been called a major key to prophetic history. Consult the "key teaching" for help in understanding this prophecy.

What about today?

We must never forget that all things are in God's hands. Nothing takes Him by surprise, and "He works all things together for good" for His children! In what ways do your daily actions reveal that you believe or disbelieve this?

My thoughts on the impact of prophecy in my daily life:

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
10		
11		
12		

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. This section addresses the experiences of Israel during the preceding prophecy of the Daniel's seventy weeks.
2. Consult the enclosed insert/chart of the events of the last days. This is an example of double fulfillment...first in the years following Daniel and second in the days yet to come.
3. What was the answer to Daniel's question of 12:8?
4. What was the promise?

What about today?

Many times we would like to know the future. We must learn to leave that which is out of our control in the capable hands of God. All our cares must be cast upon Him! God will not forsake His children. In what ways do you see His deliverance of Israel like that of your own?

CONCLUSION

Within each of us is this same potential for pleasing God...if we will study, meditate upon, and follow the example set before us!

My thoughts about being a Daniel:



DANIEL'S PROPHECIES

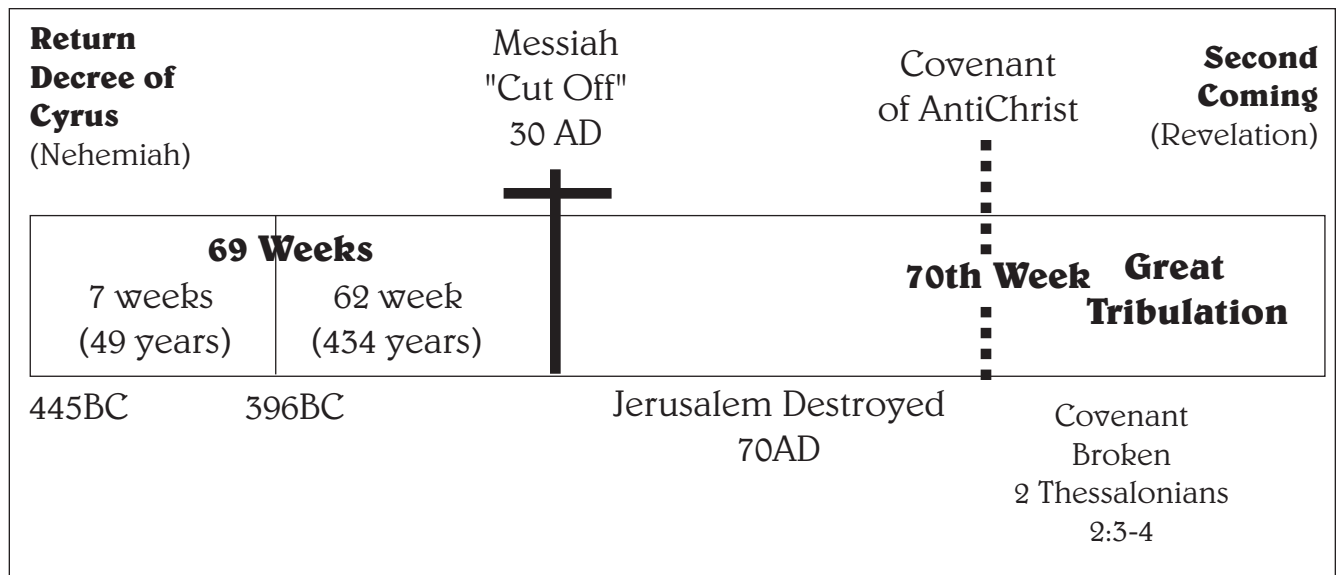
This diagram correlates the two prophecies of Daniel and the consummation of the end times!

Nebuchadnezzar's Image (2:31-45)	Fulfillment	Daniel's four beasts (7:1-28)
Head	Babylonia (Nebuchadnezzar)	Lion
Breasts and Arms	Medes-Persians (Darius)	Bear
Belly and Thighs	Greeks	Leopard
Legs and Feet	Romans	Beast
	Messiah's Kingdom (indestructible 2:4)	

Past: Ancient Rome Future: Rome-like government (10 horns): Antichrist (little Christ)

Also note below a diagram seeking to integrate the seventieth week of Daniel into a historical progression...

DANIEL'S SEVENTIETH WEEK



Use this as a guide as you study end time events!



GOD WORKS THROUGH KINGS!

KINGS OF THE EXILE & RETURN

Assyria/Babylon/Medes/Persians

605-562	Nebuchadnezzar	Jeremiah 34:1 Daniel 1-4
539	Belshazzar	Daniel 5,7,8
539	Cyrus (Medo/Persia)	Daniel 10 Isaiah 41:2, 25; 46:11; 48:15; 44:28-45
522	Darius the Mede	Daniel 5:31;6,9,11
486	XERXES (Ahasaurus)	Esther
465	Artaxerxes I	Ezra, Nehemiah
424	Darius 2	Ezra, Nehemiah
404	Artaxerxes	