

DANIEL

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Major Prophets				
536 - 530 BC	Daniel 12 Chapters	Sovereignty of God	Panorama of world history from Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome to the future kingdom.	Man can be pleasing to God.	The Messiah is the “Son of Man” He is the stone that smashes the kingdoms. His Kingdom is everlasting.

DANIEL

Daniel consists of 12 chapters, including a mixture of historical events and future prophecies.

Chapter 1- focuses on Daniel's background. He was a young man when Jerusalem was destroyed, taken captive to Babylon, and educated with three friends to serve in the king's court. These four men sought not to defile themselves with the king's unclean foods and were blessed as a result, being selected for high positions in the kingdom.

Chapters 2—6 cover problems and prophecies related to the nations.

Chapters 2-4 - King Nebuchadnezzar faces a problem, and Daniel and his friends provide God's wisdom.

Chapter 5 - King Belshazzar's wickedness leads to his downfall.

Chapter 6 - Daniel is miraculously delivered from the lion's den, while those who falsely accused him were eaten by the lions.

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The book of Daniel stands as a unique mix in the Old Testament, for while it begins with history, it makes a strong transition at chapter 7, where it contains visions of future events significant to the Jews.

Chapter 7 - Daniel has a dream regarding the future of the Gentile nations.

Chapter 8 includes the prophecy of the ram and male goat.

Chapter 9 discusses the important prophecy of the seventy weeks, describing both Israel's return to the land and her distant future.

Chapters 10—12 speak of a future restoration involving the Messiah, various kingdoms, and God's ultimate plan for His people.

In both the historical and the prophetic sections, Daniel presents a strong case for the absolute sovereignty of God, even over a multiplicity of self-absorbed foreign powers.

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Daniel was written to record events during Daniel's lifetime in exile in Babylon as well as to provide exiled Jews hope regarding God's plan for the future.

The example of Daniel and his three friends offered a positive role model for Jews living in a pagan culture, while his prophecies encouraged readers and hearers of God's future hope for His people.

They were selected to serve in the palace.

They were faithful to the Lord and refused to worship the Babylonian gods.

Daniel's faithfulness, wisdom and education enabled King Nebuchadnezzar to acknowledge that the God of Israel is God.

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Daniel recorded his experiences and prophecies for the Jewish exiles during his time in the Babylonian capital, where his service to the king gave him privileged access to the highest levels of society. His faithful service to the Lord in a land and culture not his own makes him unique among almost all the people of Scripture.

Daniel demonstrated God's superiority over the pagan gods of Babylon. He also left a legacy of faithful obedience to God in spite of grave trials and difficulty.

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Daniel is one of the few Bible books that takes place during a period of judgment (many books foretell it and a few look back on it) and in a foreign nation. Whether it's in the contrast between the culture's idol worship and Daniel's faithful purity or in the account of the arrogant Nebuchadnezzar and his humbling encounter with God, the pagan backdrop in Daniel makes the Lord's power shine through in a magnificent and majestic way that stands out in Scripture.

The book of Daniel makes it clear that the true God is the supreme ruler over heaven and earth, even when all seems lost and the consequences of sin seem overwhelming.

Dan. 4: 17

17 "This sentence is by the decree of the *angelic* watchers And the decision is a command of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men."

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Summary of the Book of Daniel

1. Daniel taken by King Nebuchadnezzar into captivity in Babylon
2. Daniel and his friends appointed as leaders over the nation after interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
3. Daniel's friends are condemned into the fiery furnace
4. Nebuchadnezzar frees them all when he sees an Angel in the furnace protecting them from the flames.
5. Daniel interprets a second dream.
6. Daniel interprets the writing on the wall and Nebuchadnezzar's Kingdom is lost to the Persians.
7. Daniel thrown into the Lions Den by the new King Darius.
8. Daniel is restored and has the vision of the four beasts and the end of days.

DANIEL

Daniel - Belteshaz-zar

Hananiah - Shadrach

Mishael - Meshach

Azariah - Abed-nego.

Dan. 1: 6

6 Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

Dan. 1: 7

7 Then the commander of the officials assigned *new* names to them; and to Daniel he assigned *the name* Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego.

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Two of the ways God communicated with people in the Old Testament were through dreams and visions.

These closely related means of communication figure prominently in the book of Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel are the primary individuals with whom God communicated in the book of Daniel.

A key principle related to these messages from God is that when God sends such a message, He also provides a means for clearly understanding what has been communicated. Approximately eight of these instances are found in the book of Daniel.

DANIEL

Dan. 2: 31-35

31 “You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome.

32 “The head of that statue *was made* of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,

33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

34 “You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

35 “Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

DANIEL

Dan. 2: 36-45

36 “This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king.

37 “You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory;

38 and wherever the sons of men dwell, *or* the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given *them* into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold. (Babylon)

39 “After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. (*Medo-Persia and Greece*)

40 “Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.

41 “In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay.

42 “As the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle.

43 “And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery. (Rome)

44 “In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

45 “Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.” (The Divine Kingdom)

The Great Image in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The great image that God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream was interpreted by the prophet Daniel. Each section represents a world-ruling superpower. Each succeeding metal is less valuable, but each succeeding metal is stronger, as each empire was more powerful than the last.

Silver—Chest and Arms

The silver chest with two arms signified the empire of the Medes and Persians, which conquered and supplanted Babylon.

Bronze—Belly and Thighs

This section represented the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great, which swallowed up Persia.

Iron—Legs

The two legs of iron represented the Roman Empire. After Alexander's death, his Hellenistic empire continued in a divided form until its divisions were taken over by Rome. The two legs apparently signified the east-west division that characterized the Late Roman Empire.

Iron & Clay—Feet and Toes

Extending from the legs are feet and toes of iron mixed with clay—a brittle and unstable mixture because it would not bond well. These represent the final phase of the Roman Empire, which will be made up of ten kings, some strong and some weak.

Gold—Head

This section represented the empire of Babylon, of which Nebuchadnezzar was king.



DANIEL

Dan. 3: 1-6

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.

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.

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

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Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, also served with him in King Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian government. They are likely best known for their example of faith in refusing to bow down to an image created by the king.

After being told that they would be thrown into a fiery furnace if they did not worship the image, the three respectfully told the monarch that they would not do so. They explained that their God could save them, but even if He did not, they would not bow down to the king's image.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego are outstanding examples of faith

Their tests of faith in regard to their diets and threats of the loss of their lives remain as timeless encouragement for us today to live similarly.

DANIEL

Dan. 1: 8-12

8 But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought *permission* from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials,

10 and the commander of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink; for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age? Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king."

11 But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,

12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink.

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Dan. 3: 21-25

21 Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their *other* clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire.

22 For this reason, because the king's command *was* urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.

23 But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire *still* tied up.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he said to his high officials, "Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?" They replied to the king, "Certainly, O king."

25 He said, "Look! I see four men loosed *and* walking *about* in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of *the* gods!"

DANIEL

Dan. 4: 1-3

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and *men of every* language that live in all the earth: “May your peace abound!

2 “It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me.

3 “How great are His signs And how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom And His dominion is from generation to generation.

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The king's vision of the great tree (Dan. 4: 4-18)

Dan. 4: 26-27

26 'And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, your kingdom will be assured to you after you recognize that *it is* Heaven *that* rules.

27 'Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins by *doing* righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to *the* poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.'

Dan. 4: 30-32

30 "The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?'

31 "While the word *was* in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, *saying*, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you,

32 and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place *will be* with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'

Dan. 4: 37

37 "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

DANIEL

In chapter 5 Daniel interprets the handwriting on the wall for King Belshazzar.

Dan. 5 24-31

24 “Then the hand was sent from Him and this inscription was written out.

25 “Now this is the inscription that was written out: ‘MENĒ, MENĒ, TEKĒL, UPHARSIN.’

26 “This is the interpretation of the message: ‘MENĒ’—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.

27 “ ‘TEKĒL’—you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.

28 “ ‘PERĒS’—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians.”

29 Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he *now* had authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom.

30 That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain.

31 So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

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The account of Daniel's being thrown into a den of lions is found in Daniel chapter 6. Most people know the outcome of the story—that God miraculously protected Daniel and that the men who accused Daniel of being disloyal to the king suffered the very fate they had tried to bring on Daniel.

But there is more to the story.

This story is also about how Daniel prayed to God, and it is about Daniel's faith to continue to honor God through prayer even though a government edict forbade him to do so.

In this story we are also reminded that even though God allowed the nation of Judah to fall to the Babylonians and permitted many of the Jewish people, including Daniel, to be taken captive, God was still the all-powerful God. He was superior to the Babylonian gods, and He could still protect those who honored Him.

This narrative reminds us that God has a history of intervening in the lives of those who love Him.

DANIEL

Dan. 6: 7-11

7 “All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions’ den.

8 “Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.”

9 Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.

10 Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

11 Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.

DANIEL

Dan. 6: 26-28

26 “I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion *will be* forever.

27 “He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has *also* delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

28 So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

DANIEL

Chapter 7 – The Vision of the 4 Beasts

Verses 1-14 – Daniel describes his vision – A picture of Christ's victory over the kingdoms of the world.

Verses 15-28 – Daniel interprets his vision – The assurance that the saints will receive an eternal inheritance.

Dan. 7: 27

27 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

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Chapters 8-12 contain a vision involving a ram, a goat, and several horns – also referring to future kingdoms and their rulers.

Chapter 8 The Vision of the Ram and Goat

Verses 1-14 – Daniel describes his vision - A picture of rulers in the end time denying the Lord and trampling people underfoot.

Verses 15-27 – Daniel interprets his vision – A concern about the end time (v. 17) and the time of wrath. (v. 19)

Dan. 8: 23-24

23 “In the latter period of their rule, When the transgressors have run **their course, A king will arise, Insolent and skilled in intrigue.**

24 “His power will be mighty, but not by his **own power, And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree And prosper and perform his will; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people.**

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Daniel prays for his people in Dan. 9: 1-19

Gabriel brings the answer in Dan. 9: 20-23.

Daniel gives a timeline in Dan. 9: 24-27 of when Israel's Messiah would appear and the events that would follow.

Daniel chapter 9 records Daniel's "seventy weeks" prophecy. God gave Daniel the precise timeline of when the Messiah would come and be cut off.

Dan. 9: 24-27

24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*.

25 "So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

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We see in the stories of the fiery furnace and Daniel in the lions' den a foreshadowing of the salvation provided by Christ.

The three men declare that God is a saving God who can provide a way of escape from the fire (Daniel 3: 17).

In the same way, by sending Jesus to die for our sins, God has provided an escape from the fires of hell (1 Peter 3: 18). In Daniel's case, God provided an angel to shut the lions' mouths and saved Daniel from death.

Jesus Christ is our provision from the dangers of the sins that threaten to consume us.

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Daniel's vision of the end times depicts Israel's Messiah by whom many will be made pure and holy (Daniel 12: 10).

He is our righteousness (1 Corinthians 1: 30) by whom our sins, though blood-red, will be washed away and we will be as white as snow (Isaiah 1: 18).

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Like Belteshaz-zar, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, we should always stand for what we know is right.

God is greater than any punishment that could come upon us. Whether God chooses to deliver us or not, He is always worthy of our trust. God knows what is best, and He honors those who trust and obey Him.

God has a plan, and His plan is down to the intricate detail.

God knows and is in control of the present and future. Everything that God has predicted has come true exactly as He predicted. Therefore, we should believe and trust that the things He has predicted for the future will one day occur exactly as God has declared.