



Notes

If you have questions during the week, please drop us an e-mail at jim@calvaryroswell.com or phil@calvaryroswell.com

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Thru the Scriptures 2006-08



Daniel 1-6

June 19th-25th, 2008

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Ti 3:16-17)

Daniel-

This wonderful book of bold faith and prophesy declares boldly to us that God works on behalf of those who love Him and who are called according to His purpose. Even when all temporal and earthly evidence said otherwise, God ordained for a man such as Daniel to be a key figure in displaying His providence and glory. Even in times of bleak discipline and evil bondage, the purposes of the Lord stand firm!

Dare to Be a Daniel
Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to make it known!

-Philip P. Bliss

Helpful Study Links:

Additional Commentary: (Great Resource!)

http://preceptaustin.org/daniel_commentaries.htm

Commentary on Daniel by David Guzik

<http://www.studylight.org/com/guz/view.cgi?book=da>

Sermon Links:

“How Are the Mighty Fallen!” by John MacArthur

<http://www.biblebb.com/files/MAC/sg27-12.htm>

Commentary:

The commentary used with permission throughout this booklet is

With the Word Bible Commentary

by Warren W. Wiersbe.

ISBN 0-8407-9108-9

Notes for Daniel



Author: Daniel The book itself makes the claim to have been written by Daniel, who prophesied for nearly seventy years throughout the Babylonian captivity (Dan. 7:1).

•There are some who question this authorship, but most of the reasons are because they struggle with how accurate Daniel's prophecies are. Those who doubt God's ability to give such prophecies think it must have been written after the events took place. But the evidence for Daniel writing this book is overwhelming.

The clearest proof of Daniel's authorship is from Jesus Himself, as He attributed a quote from 9:27 to "Daniel the prophet" (Matt. 24:15).



Historical Setting

There were three deportations of Judah to Babylon

The first was in 605 b.c. It was in this deportation that Daniel was taken as a young man to Babylon (Dan. 1:1).

The second was in 597 b.c., after Daniel had been in Babylon for eight years (c.f. 2 Kings 24:11–16).

The third was in 586 b.c. (c.f. 2 Kings 25:1–21), and the city of Jerusalem was destroyed. By that time, Daniel had been in captivity for seventeen years.

The return of the Jews to Jerusalem

In 538 b.c. the Persian king, Cyrus, allowed the Jews to return to Israel (c.f. Ezra 1:1–4). Daniel's last dated prophecy was made in the third year of Cyrus (Dan. 10:1), around two years after Zerubbabel's return to Palestine. Throughout the entire span of Israel's captivity, Daniel spoke to Israel and influenced her for good. Some captives thought that God had cast Israel aside (Jer. 33:24), but God's work through Daniel in exile showed that he was still present, powerful, and willing to forgive his people.



Theme: God Sovereignty! The theme of God's sovereign control in the affairs of world history clearly emerges and provides comfort to the future church, as well as to the Jews whose nation was destroyed by the Babylonians.

Practically, the book of Daniel was designed to encourage God's people to live holy lives before God in order to maintain a good witness to those who held them captive in Babylonia. It did this by three means:

- First, it showed the examples of Daniel and his friends risking their lives to remain faithful to God.
- Second, it showed how God was totally in control of their present circumstances to care for and preserve his faithful people.
- Third, it showed how God was in control of the future. In visions God showed how He was ordering the future to fulfill His perfect plan.



Keys:

Daniel is one of the few well-known biblical characters about whom nothing negative is written. His life was characterized by faith, prayer, courage, consistency, and lack of compromise.

Daniel is written in two different languages, Hebrew and Aramaic. The first chapter is written in Hebrew. Then Chapters 2-7 in Aramaic. Finally chapters 8-12 are again written in Hebrew. Aramaic was the trade language of the Babylonian Empire – in part because the message of those chapters was for all the world. The prophecies of 8–12, however, are in Hebrew, showing they are specifically targeted for the people of God.

Daniel's personal dedication to God (Dan. 1) would have been an example to the deportees on how they should live in a heathen society. Daniel served as an outstanding example of godliness to the exiles.

The Book of Daniel is important prophetically as it outlines the history of the times of the Gentiles and describes past and future empires that occupy Palestine and rule over Israel until the Messiah returns.

Daniel wrote during Israel's captivity in Babylon, a time of great physical and spiritual loss for the nation. To those who cared, it seemed as if all of God's promises had been permanently broken. There was no temple or land, and no son of David was ruling over God's people. Perhaps the gods of Babylon were stronger than the God of Israel. Perhaps the

Israelites should just forget their past and go along with Babylon and its cultural and religious ways. But the book of Daniel affirmed that it was Israel's sin, not God's weakness or lack of care, that brought about captivity. Israel's call to do God's will and prepare for his wonderful future was still in force. Far from conforming to the religion of Babylon, Israel was to conform to God's holiness. His people might be in or out of the Promised Land or in present or future times of trouble, but neither the place nor the problem was to affect the commitment of the people of Israel to their all-powerful and ever-present God.

The Chronological Order of the Book of Daniel

Chapters 1–4 Captivity and interpretation of dreams and visions

Chapter 7 Vision of the four beasts

Chapter 8 Vision of the ram and he-goat

Chapter 5 Belshazzar's feast—conquest of Babylon

Chapter 9 Vision of the seventy weeks

Chapter 6 Daniel in the lions' den

Chapters 10–12 Daniel's prayer and visions

The Kingdoms in Daniel

You must keep in mind that six different kingdoms are identified in the Book of Daniel. They are:

1. Babylon (606–539 B.C.)

The head of gold (2:36–38)

The lion with eagle's wings (7:4)

2. Media-Persia (539–330 B.C.)

Arms and chest of silver (2:32, 39)

Bear with three ribs (7:5)

3. Greece (330–ca. 150 B.C.)

Thigh of brass (2:32, 39)

Leopard with four heads (7:6)

4. Rome (ca. 150 B.C.–ca. A.D. 500)

Legs of iron (2:33, 40)

The dreadful beast (7:7)

5. Antichrist's kingdom

Ten toes of iron and clay (2:41–43)

Little horn (7:8)

6. Christ's kingdom

The stone that smites the image (2:34–35, 44–45)

The Ancient of Days (7:9–14)

Outline

The Personal History of Daniel (1–6)

Ch 1 – Daniel's preparation - Dedication

Ch 2 – Nebuchadnezzar's dream - Opportunity

Ch 3 – The fiery furnace - Faithfulness

Ch 4 – Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation – Witnessing

Ch 5 – The handwriting on the wall - Boldness

Ch 6 – The lions' den – Devotion

The Prophetic Ministry of Daniel (7–12)

Ch 7 – His vision of the four beasts

Ch 8 – His vision of the ram and the goat

Ch 9 – His prayer of confession—the seventy weeks

His final vision of the future (10–12)

Ch 10 – Preparation of Daniel

Ch 11 – Revelation of the end

Ch 12 – Conclusion of visions to Daniel

Daily Bible Study

Thursday, June 19th, 2008

Passage for today: Daniel 1-3

Questions to Ponder

1. In the chapters laid before us today, we see the Lord work in and through the purposes of men to achieve His perfect will. Each of these chapters presents tough circumstances for the men whom the Lord chose to place in positions of influence and power. How might this be applied to your life today?
2. Were you to experience a crises of faith or a season of discipline in the future, how might what you see here encourage you in your outlook of the trials that you face?

Daily Bible Study

Saturday, June 21st, 2008

Passage for today: Daniel 1

Questions to Ponder

1. Of all the qualities we see listed of Daniel here, the most praiseworthy would have to be his purpose of heart (v.8). How do we see that lead to blessing for Daniel and glory for the Lord? Applications?
2. What are the circumstances that the four young men are chosen out of? How might this give us hope in God's perfect plan for our lives?

With the word Bible Commentary

Daniel 1

The world always wants the best (vv. 3–4), but these young men determined to give their best to the Lord. It is possible to serve the Lord even in Babylon. Think of Joseph in Egypt and Esther in Persia. Don't complain about the place where God puts you. Ask Him to use you while you are there.

The world wants to change you and make you a “conformer,” but God can help you become a “transformer” (Rom. 12:1–2). Daniel and his friends had a new home, strange new names, new teachings, and were even offered a new diet; but they kept the same heart's dedication to the Lord (Prov. 4:23).

God can give us favor in difficult places (v. 9). Daniel was courteous his guards and did not create problems for them. He was following the counsel of Jeremiah (Jer. 29) and the example of Joseph (Gen. 39:4).

When everything in your life is upset and you find yourself in new circumstances that you cannot control, let the Lord take over and work out the plan He has in mind. If your heart is right with Him, His hand will work for you.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary

Daily Bible Study

Sunday, June 22nd, 2008

Passage for today: Daniel 2

Questions to Ponder

1. In what ways do we see Daniel exhibit humility in this chapter?
Applications?
2. Looking at the interpretation of the king's dream, what are the kingdoms represented in the image? How is Christ seen there as well?

With the word Bible Commentary

Daniel 2

Nebuchadnezzar could conquer empires, but he could not conquer his own anger (v. 12; 3:13, 19; Prov. 16:32). He understood how to defeat the enemy, but he could not understand the message of God. Daniel had patience and self-control and could explain the mysteries of God. A pure heart is better than a powerful throne.

Daniel and his friends knew the “God of heaven” who is merciful (v. 18), answers prayer (vv. 19–23; James 1:5), reveals secrets (v. 28), establishes rulers (v. 37), and will one day set up His kingdom (v. 44). Because the four men could come to God's throne, they had no fear of Nebuchadnezzar's throne.

When he explained the dream, Daniel gave the glory to God and shared the credit with his three friends. He also saved the lives of the king's wise men (the Chaldeans) when he could have exposed them as frauds. The presence of a believer can mean deliverance for unbelievers (Job 42:7–10; Acts 27:21–25), and we must be forgiving to our enemies. After all, we want to win them to the Savior.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Dan 2:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Monday, June 23rd, 2008

Passage for today: Daniel 3

Questions to Ponder

1. In light of the last chapter, what is the significance of Nebuchadnezzar's golden image? What does it show us about the heart of the king at that time?
2. In this chapter, God humbles the lofty and exalts the humble and faithful. How might this be applied to your life today?

With the word Bible Commentary

Daniel 3

This event involves three kinds of people, all of whom are still in our world.

Conformers (1–7). Nebuchadnezzar was not content to be the “head of gold” (2:38); he wanted to be represented by a whole image of gold! The people were happy to conform to his desires as long as he spared their lives and gave them what they needed.

Informers (8–12). These were some of the Chaldeans whose lives Daniel and his friends had saved. Unsaved people do not appreciate what believers do for them. These men wanted only to win the king's favor and get the high offices he had given to the three Jews (2:49).

Transformers (13–30; Rom. 12:1–2). The three men did not know for sure that God would deliver them; but even if He did not, they would still obey the Lord and not worship the king and his idol. Were they trusting Isaiah 41:10 and 43:2? The fire brought them two blessings: the Lord came and walked with them, and they were set free from their bonds. Fellowship and freedom are often found in the midst of the furnace if you are committed to the Lord.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Dan 3:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Tuesday, June 24th, 2008

Passage for today: Daniel 4

Questions to Ponder

1. How did Daniel relate to the king in response to his dream? What did he urge the king to do?
2. What aspect of Nebuchadnezzar's life is God purposing to deal with? What things happened to Nebuchadnezzar? What things did he learn from his humiliation? How can you apply this to your life?

With the word Bible Commentary

Daniel 4

Nebuchadnezzar's second dream accomplished three things: it warned the king that his pride would lead to judgment (v. 37; Prov. 16:18); it exposed the incompetence of his magicians (vv. 6–7); and it gave Daniel another opportunity to glorify the God of heaven.

It was not easy for Daniel to give the king the message of the dream. Nebuchadnezzar had a short temper, and he might have ordered Daniel to be killed. Nathan had a similar situation when he had to confront David with his sins (2 Sam. 12). But when your ways please the Lord, you do not worry about your enemies (Prov. 16:7).

God gave the king a year's opportunity for repentance (v. 29), but he continued in his sins. Then God humbled him. The king learned his lesson, and when he was restored, he gave glory to God.

No matter what position we have in life, God gave it to us, and He is sovereign. When man tries to take the place of God, he becomes like a beast. God still resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (Prov. 3:34).

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Dan 4:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Wednesday, June 25th, 2008

Passage for today: Daniel 5-6

Questions to Ponder

1. What do we learn about Belshazzar? How does Daniel respond to him? How does Belshazzar picture for us the lifestyle and attitude of those today who take lightly the coming judgment of God?
2. What enabled Daniel to excel in the Medo-Persian kingdom? What does this teach us about God's sovereignty? How did Daniel respond to the decree forbidding prayer and petition? Put yourself in Daniel's place. How would you respond in a similar situation? What is the Lord showing you personally from today's reading?

With the word Bible Commentary

Daniel 5

The events in this chapter occurred several years after those recorded in chapter 4. Belshazzar was coregent with his father Nabonidus, which explains why Daniel was named *third* ruler in the kingdom (v. 29).

The king may have been new, but the sin was old: pride and self-confidence. At that very hour, Darius was besieging the city; but so certain was Belshazzar of his defenses that he ridiculed Jehovah and praised the false gods of Babylon. It was Proverbs 16:7 over again.

God gave Nebuchadnezzar a year to repent, but He judged Belshazzar *that very night*. The king had not learned from those who had gone before, and Daniel told him so (vv. 17–23). But it was too late!

The self-confident sinner had better beware (Luke 11:16–21), and so should a proud world that says, “peace and safety!” (1 Thess. 5:1–11). In Noah's day and in Abraham's day, judgment came when people least expected it (Luke 17:26–32). It will happen again.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Dan 5:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson

Weighed and Found Wanting

Daniel 5:27

Taken from *Faith's Checkbook*

By CH Spurgeon

'TEKEL'-- you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient

Some of you are hurting. Your earthly prospects grow dark, and it is midnight. Your business is failing. You have sickness in the house. Your darling wife languishes before your weeping eyes. Your children, by their ingratitude, have wounded your spirit.

You are a believer, and you know that God is testing and trying you. God wants you to know that a summertime religion is not sufficient. He wants you to see if your faith can stand the test of trial and trouble. Remember Job? What a scale he was weighed on! What weights of affliction were cast on him! He was a mountain of sore trouble, and yet he could bear them all. He came out of the scales as proof against all the weight that Satanic strength could hurl.

Is it this way with you? Can you say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21)? Can you submit to His will without murmuring? Can you still say, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15)? Remember, if your religion will not stand in adversity, it will not give comfort in the storm. You would be better without it; for with it, adversity deceives you. Without it, you might discover your true condition and seek the Lord as a penitent sinner. If a little adversity breaks you, what will happen when all God's storms are let loose on your soul? "If you have run with the footmen, and they wearied you ... how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan" (Jer. 12:5)? If mere trials distress and grieve, what will you do when all the hurricanes of divine vengeance sweep across the earth and shake its pillars?

Dear friend, I want you to see how you handle your trials and troubles. Does your faith stand? Can you see God's right hand even when it is wrapped in clouds? Can you discover the silver lining of tribulation's black clouds? God help you to come out of the scales, for many are weighed in them and found wanting (Dan. 5:27).