

# Book of Daniel

## Study BIBLE



## Introduction

Book No	27
Name	Daniel
Written By	Daniel
Testament	Old
Category	Major Prophets
Date Written	Approx. 535 BC
Place Written	Babylon
Audience	To the people of Israel
Purpose	To give a historical account of the faithful Jews who lived in captivity and to show how God is in control of heaven and earth, directing the forces of nature, the destiny of nations, and the care of his people
History Covered	605 - 536 BC
Chapters	12
Verses	357
Key Verse	He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. (2:22)
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Daniel</li> <li>❖ Nebuchadnezzar</li> <li>❖ Shadrach</li> <li>❖ Meshach</li> <li>❖ Abednego</li> <li>❖ Belshazzar</li> </ul>

	❖ Darius
Key Places	❖ Babylon

### Purpose of the Book

Twenty-five centuries ago, Daniel could have despaired. He and thousands of his countrymen had been deported to a foreign land after Judah was conquered. Daniel found himself facing an egocentric despot and surrounded by idolaters. Instead of giving in or giving up, this courageous young man held fast to his faith in his God. Daniel knew that despite the circumstances, God was sovereign and was working out his plan for nations and individuals. The book of Daniel centers around this profound truth—the sovereignty of God.

After a brief account of Nebuchadnezzar's siege and defeat of Jerusalem, the scene quickly shifts to Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego). These men held prominent positions within the Babylonian government. Daniel, in particular, held such a position because of his ability to interpret the king's dreams that tell of God's unfolding plan (chapters 2 and 4). Sandwiched between the dreams is the fascinating account of Daniel's three friends and the furnace (chapter 3). Because they refused to bow down to an image of gold, they were condemned to a fiery death. But God intervened and spared their lives.

The Babylonians had subdued all the provinces ruled by Assyria and had consolidated their empire into an area that covered much of the Middle East.

To govern such a diversified kingdom over such an expanse of space required a skilful administrative bureaucracy. Slaves who were educated or possessed needed skills became the manpower for the government. Because of their wisdom, knowledge, and handsome appearance, four young Hebrews were selected for the training program (1:4).

The outstanding character of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah secured positions for them in the king's palace; and it was Daniel who rose to excel all the wise men of that vast empire (6:1–3).

Belshazzar ruled Babylon after Nebuchadnezzar, and chapter 5 tells of his encounter with God's message written on a wall. Daniel, who was summoned to interpret the

message, predicted Babylon's fall to the Medes and Persians. This prediction came true that very night, and Darius the Mede conquered the Babylonian kingdom.

Daniel became one of Darius's most trusted advisers. His privileged position angered other administrators, who plotted his death by convincing the king to outlaw prayer. In spite of the law, Daniel continued to pray to his sovereign Lord. As a result, he was condemned to die in a den of hungry lions. Again, God intervened and saved him, shutting the mouths of the lions (chapter 6).

The book concludes with a series of visions that Daniel had during the reigns of Belshazzar (chapters 7–8), Darius (chapter 9), and Cyrus (chapters 10–12). These dreams dramatically outline God's future plans, beginning with Babylon and continuing to the end of the age. They give a preview of God's redemption and have been called the key to all biblical prophecy.

God is sovereign. He was in control in Babylon, and he has been moving in history, controlling the destinies of people ever since. And he is here now! Despite news reports or personal stress, we can be confident that God is in control.

One of the beautiful themes of this book is the emphasis on separation to God, with Daniel as the ultimate example. From their decision not to eat the king's food to the refusal to bow to the image of the king, Daniel and his three friends (now named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego) displayed such an uncompromising spirit that spectacular opportunities were opened for God to display His power on their behalf.

Their courageous commitment presents a timeless challenge to believers not to compromise their testimony of Jesus Christ. Even though it may mean a fiery-furnace testing, the Lord's protection and deliverance will be there.

Another theme of Daniel is the absolute superiority of God over occult attempts to reveal or interpret spiritual mysteries. Try as they did, all the magicians, soothsayers, wise men, and astrologers of the king's court could not arrive at the truth (5:8). This is an enduring encouragement to believers. Spiritual counterfeiters can never stand before the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 10:3–6).

The prophetic section of the book acts as a reminder of God's supernatural abilities, that He can predict major events hundreds of years in advance. It also serves to assure us that He has all of the details of time and space sovereignly and safely in His control. As you read Daniel, watch God work and find your security in his sovereignty.

## Overview

- ❖ 27<sup>th</sup> book of the BIBLE, Old Testament, 5<sup>th</sup> of the 5 major prophets and 5<sup>th</sup> of the 17 prophetic books
- ❖ Basic facts distilled from this book seem to illuminate other difficult passages, presenting these apparent forthcoming events:
  - The Messiah will return before the millennial period (2:31–37, 44, 45; 7:13, 14).
  - God’s kingdom will literally be established on the Earth with the Messiah-King as ruler (2:44, 45; 7:26, 27).
  - The four metals of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream image symbolizes four empires: Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Macedonian-Greek, and Roman (2:37–40).
  - The fourth kingdom, Rome, will enjoy a last-day revival in the form of a united confederacy. Out of this system the Antichrist will emerge (7:8, 20, 21; 8:23).
  - The False Prophet and the Antichrist are persons, not merely a system (7:7, 8, 20–26; 9:27; 11:36–45).
  - God will continue to deal with the nation of Israel (9:20–27).
  - National Israel is the prophetic time clock for last-day events (9:24).
  - The False Prophet and the Antichrist will dominate the last portion of the last week of Daniel’s Seventy Weeks of Years. At the end of the “week,” after the Great Tribulation, Jesus the Messiah will return to establish the kingdom of God, which will resolve all the prophecies of Daniel (9:24, 27).
- ❖ Daniel’s life and ministry span the entire seventy-year period of Babylonian Captivity.
- ❖ Daniel was deported to Babylon (some 900 miles away) when he was sixteen years old.
- ❖ He was selected for special service in Babylon, and was given three years of training in the best of Babylon’s schools.
- ❖ He was given a Babylonian name - Belshazzar, meaning “Bel Protect his Life.”
- ❖ 9 out of the 12 chapters in Daniel revolve around dreams.
- ❖ Of the 2,930 Bible characters, Daniel is one of the few well-known characters about whom nothing negative is ever written. Joseph is yet another.
- ❖ Daniel’s life was characterized by:
  - Faith

- Prayer
  - Courage
  - Consistency
  - Lack of compromise
- ❖ Three times Daniel is mentioned by his 6th century counterpart, Ezekiel, as an example of righteousness. Ezekiel 9:23; 10:11, 19
  - ❖ Daniel was made the third ruler in the Babylonian Kingdom.
    - 1st - Nabonidus was away fighting the invading Persians.
    - 2nd - Belshazzar was reigning in Babylon in the absence of his father.
    - 3rd - Daniel thus became the third ruler behind (1) Nabonidus and (2) Belshazzar.
  - ❖ The Book of Daniel has been called the “Apocalypse of the Old Testament.”
  - ❖ After an introductory chapter in Hebrew, Daniel switches to Aramaic in chapter 2-7.
  - ❖ During the reign of Darius, a plot against Daniel results in his being put in the den of lions. At a minimum, Daniel would be at least 82 years old when that occurred.
    - 621 B.C. - Daniel was born.
    - 605 B.C. - Daniel was carried to Babylon at age 16.
    - 539 B.C. - (October) Persia overthrows Babylon.
    - 621 B.C. minus 539 B.C. = 82 years old at the time of Babylon’s fall to the Persians.
  - ❖ The Book of Daniel was written to offer encouragement to the Jewish exiles by revealing God’s sovereign will for Israel after the period of Gentile domination
  - ❖ Daniel is the second of two Old Testament books written in Babylon. The other was Ezekiel (compare Dan. 1:2 with Ezek. 1:3).
  - ❖ It is the only Old Testament book using the word Messiah (9:25, 26). The only New Testament book calling Christ Messiah is the Gospel of John (1:41; 4:25).
  - ❖ Daniel mentions the word Kingdom more often than any other Old Testament book, some fifty times.
  - ❖ He refers to the “desolation of the sanctuary” (Temple) on four occasions, each pointing to a specific event:
    - By Nebuchadnezzar, in 586 B.C. (9:17)
    - By Antiochus Epiphanes, in 171-174 B.C. (8:13)
    - By Titus, in 70 A.D. (9:26)

- By the coming Antichrist, during the Great Tribulation (9:27)
- ❖ Nowhere else in the Word of God do we find so much significant prophecy in such small compass.
- ❖ The unusual feature of this book is that Daniel wrote the central portion (2:4-7:28) in the Aramaic language.
- ❖ Daniel may be compared to Joseph, for both men had the gift of interpreting dreams (compare Gen. 37:5, 9; 40:8; 41:25 with Dan. 2:24; 4:19).
- ❖ His book marks the third of four great periods of miracles in the Bible. The periods are:
  - The time of Moses and Joshua
  - The time of Elijah and Elisha
  - The time of Daniel and Ezekiel
  - The time of Christ and his disciples
- ❖ Daniel's life may be characterized by purpose, prayer, and prophecy. In matters of prayer,
- ❖ Daniel offers the first of three great confessional prayers over the sins of Jerusalem. These are:
  - Daniel's prayer (9:3-19)
  - Ezra's prayer (Ezra 9:5-15)
  - Nehemiah's prayer (Neh. 1:4-11)
- ❖ Key prophecies in Daniel would include:
  - The rise and fall of four great Gentile kingdoms, followed by the establishment of Christ's glorious kingdom (ch. 2)
  - The world famous battle of Arbela, between the Greeks and Persians and its outcome, some 225 years in advance (8:1-8)
  - The most profound Old Testament prophecy concerning God's timetable for Israel (9:24-27)
  - The actual number of days between the Rapture and the Millennium, a total of 1,335 (11:11-12)
- ❖ The greatest number of fulfilled prophecies found in a single biblical chapter. Daniel 11 contains over 100 such predictions concerning historical events which have already transpired.
- ❖ Two important statues are described in the book of Daniel:
  - King Nebuchadnezzar was associated with both

- He saw the first in a dream (ch. 2)
- He built the second on a plain (ch. 3)
- God was behind the first
- Satan was behind the second
- ❖ The statue he built on the plains of Dura marked the second of three satanic attempts to unify the world through a false religious system. These are:
  - The Tower of Babel (Gen. 11);
  - The golden statue (3);
  - The antichrist statue (Rev. 13).
- ❖ Finally, the book of Daniel records:
- ❖ Two of the Old Testament's greatest examples of divine preservation in times of terrible danger (3, 6)
- ❖ The most dramatic feast in the Bible (ch. 5)
- ❖ The only Old Testament description of the Father (7:9-14)
- ❖ More information on the future antichrist than can be found in any other biblical book (7:24-27; 8:23-25; 9:26; 11:36-45)
- ❖ One of the two most pronounced types of the antichrist in the Old Testament Antiochus Epiphanes (8:9-14; 11:21-35). Haman was the other. (See Esther 3.)
- ❖ The only biblical book mentioning both Gabriel (9:21) and Michael (10:13; 12:1), heaven's two archangels.
- ❖ An explanation of why our prayers may sometimes be hindered (10:10-13)

### Hebrew Names of GOD used in Daniel

- |                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| ❖ EL             | ❖ ELOHIM   |
| ❖ ADONAI         | ❖ JEHOVAH  |
| ❖ JEHOVAH-SHALOM | ❖ EL-ELYON |
| ❖ TSUR           |            |

### Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

Christ is first seen as the "fourth man" standing with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the fiery furnace (3:25). The three had remained faithful to their God; now God stands faithful with them in the fire of their judgment and delivers them from the very "smell of fire" (3:27).

Another reference to Christ is found in Daniel's night vision (7:13). He describes "One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven," a reference to the Second Advent of Jesus Christ.

A further vision of Christ is found in 10:5, 6, where the description of Jesus is almost identical to John's in Revelation 1:13–16.

## Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit never announces His presence in Daniel, but He is clearly at work. The ability of Daniel and the other Hebrews to interpret dreams was through the power of the Holy Spirit. The predictive prophecies, both with local and future applications, indicate the supernatural insights given to Daniel by the Holy Spirit.

## Mega Themes of Daniel

### GOD IS IN CONTROL

God is all-knowing, and he is in charge of world events. God overrules and removes rebellious leaders who defy him. God will overcome evil; no one is exempt. But he will deliver the faithful who follow him.

Although nations vie for world control now, one day Christ's Kingdom will replace and surpass the kingdoms of this world. Our faith is sure because our future is secure in Christ. We must have courage and put our faith in God, who controls everything.

### PURPOSE IN LIFE

Daniel and his three friends are examples of dedication and commitment. They determined to serve God regardless of the consequences. They did not give in to pressures from an ungodly society because they had a clear purpose in life.

It is wise to make trusting and obeying God alone our true purpose in life. This will give us direction and peace in spite of the circumstances or consequences. We should disobey anyone who asks us to disobey God. Our first allegiance must be to God.

### PERSEVERANCE

Daniel served for 70 years in a foreign land that was hostile to God, yet he did not compromise his faith in God. He was truthful, persistent in prayer, and disinterested in power for personal glory.

In order to fulfill your life's purpose, you need staying power. Don't let your Christian distinctness become blurred. Be relentless in your prayers, maintain your integrity, and be content to serve God wherever he puts you.

### GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

God was faithful in Daniel's life. He delivered him from prison, from a den of lions, and from enemies who hated him. God cares for his people and deals patiently with them.

We can trust God to be with us through any trial. Because he has been faithful to us, we should remain faithful to him.

### Life Lessons in Daniel

<b>Truth</b>	<b>Lesson</b>
<p><b>Growing in Godliness</b></p> <p>The commitment to living in godliness provides many opportunities and challenges to rely on God's favor, grace, protection, and provision. As you honor the Lord through your godly lifestyle and excellent spirit, He will honor you. Remain steadfast in your faith even when it means you may face persecution. Ask God to manifest His glory through your circumstances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Stand firm in your faith, and honor God in every decision. Look to Him when faced with temptation to deny Him or to turn from His ways. Believe that He will either provide a way of escape or the grace to endure. Ask God to give you favor, wisdom, and creative alternatives so that you can remain obedient and bring glory to Him.</li> <li>❖ Refuse to compromise godly standards.</li> <li>❖ Regardless of the consequences, put your trust in God, and maintain your stand for righteousness.</li> <li>❖ Live faithfully, and seek to have an excellent spirit. Try to reflect godliness in all you do.</li> <li>❖ Continue to worship and to walk in righteousness, regardless of prohibitions.</li> <li>❖ Serve God continually, and seek to be a living witness of His power and</li> </ul>

	<p>faithfulness. Daniel’s integrity affected the laws of the nation in which he lived. Pray that your witness for the kingdom of God would also impact the world around you.</p>
<p><b>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</b></p> <p>Daniel’s life provides a model of a dynamic devotional life. After studying the prophecy of Jeremiah, Daniel understood that the time for Jerusalem’s restoration was drawing near.</p> <p>Daniel fasted and interceded on behalf of Israel, so that the will of God would come to pass. Studying God’s Word and spending time with Him in prayer will bring insight into the things that are dear to God’s heart. Use this insight for effective intercession.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Study God’s Word so that you will be able to understand God’s will and purposes for the times in which you live.</li> <li>❖ Be an effective doer of the Word, not just a hearer (James 1:25). Daniel did not just read about God’s word to restore Israel after 70 years; he dedicated his whole being to seeing God’s will come to pass. Align yourself and your actions wholeheartedly with God’s will.</li> <li>❖ Dedicate yourself to times of prayer and fasting.</li> <li>❖ Intercede before God, identifying with the sins of the church or a nation. Confess those sins before the Lord, asking for the Lord’s mercy, forgiveness, and restoration for His glory.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pursuing Holiness</b></p> <p>Humility is a key to holiness. Pride will cause us to miss the lessons that God has placed before our eyes in order to teach us to love, respect, and honor Him with our lives. Belshazzar saw all that God did for and to his father, and yet his heart remained proud and rebellious. The power, wealth, and influence God gave to him were used for self-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Recognize that it is God who establishes kingdoms and rulers, who gives favor and power to whomever He chooses. Remember, He opposes the proud but “gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5).</li> <li>❖ Glorify God and do not be like Belshazzar, whose pride caused him to disdain the things that were holy to the Lord. Use for God’s glory any power and influence He gives you.</li> </ul>

<p>exaltation. As a result, his kingdom was stripped away and he forfeited his life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Do not worship idols; rather, worship and honor God.</li> <li>❖ Understand that a day of accounting will come for your actions and choices. Receive Jesus' righteousness on your behalf (Rom. 3:10–28).</li> <li>❖ Embrace humility and holiness. Seek, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live a life that honors and glorifies the Lord.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Walk of Faith</b></p> <p>Daniel and his friends model unyielding faithfulness to God even under the threat of torture and death. The history of God's people is filled with stories of those who have been willing to give their lives rather than deny their faith. May the testimonies found in this book continually remind us of God's faithfulness and His presence with those who are called to walk through this ultimate test and sacrifice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Diligently seek to walk daily in God's wisdom.</li> <li>❖ Even under the threat of death, Daniel gave wise counsel. Understand that stress exposes a person's true heart and character.</li> <li>❖ Turn immediately to the Lord when faced with threatening circumstances. Gather others to pray and seek God's mercy, insight, and strategy with you.</li> <li>❖ Be bold in giving glory to God when He enables you to overcome an otherwise impossible situation. Believe that our God works miracles.</li> <li>❖ Believe that God is able to deliver you from even the most difficult circumstances. Be willing to endure the worst rather than deny your faith in the Lord. Commit your life into His loving hands. He will not disappoint you.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Steps to knowing GOD</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ understand that GOD judges as idolatry and blasphemy the arrogance of all who refuse to honor HIM</li> </ul>

We must know that GOD will judge and that everyone will give an account to GOD for his/her conduct	❖ recognize that GOD measures judges or rewards us according to our conduct
<p><b>Keys to wise living</b></p> <p>Wisdom is necessary to achieving one's full spiritual potential. The spiritually wise man knows then and when not to speak of things he has seen and heard and knows when and when not to pursue certain spiritual experiences</p>	<p>❖ be wise and understand that certain of GOD's secrets and visions are not to be shared but to be kept in your heart</p> <p>❖ be assured that if you share GOD's secrets unwisely HE may not entrust them to you again</p> <p>❖ understand that experiencing the spiritual reality of visions and other divine encounters may have physiological consequences. Pursue them neither frivolously nor lightly</p>

### Praise Points in Daniel

- ❖ His wisdom (2:20-22)
- ❖ His protection of his faithful servants (3:25)
- ❖ His justice (5:25-28)
- ❖ His displays of power before those who do not follow him (6:21-22)
- ❖ His attentiveness to our prayers (10:12)
- ❖ His sovereignty (12:1-3).

### Worship Insights in Daniel

- ❖ True worship recognizes that God alone is sovereign over the affairs of people and nations (2:20-23).
- ❖ The security we find in God enables us to stand up under pressure to conform to sinful practices (3:16-18).
- ❖ When we experience power and success, we must guard against sinful pride (4:30).
- ❖ Regular prayer should characterize the life of those who worship God (6:10).

### An Outline of Daniel

I. By the Rivers of Babylon: [Dan\\_1:1-21](#)

A. Man Proposes, God Disposes: [Dan\\_1:1-2](#)

- B. Brainwashing:** [Dan\\_1:3-7](#)
- C. A Purpose Firm:** [Dan\\_1:8-16](#)
- D. God Honors Faithfulness:** [Dan\\_1:17-21](#)

## II. Bad Dreams: [Dan\\_2:1-49](#)

- A. Humanity's Basic Insecurity:** [Dan\\_2:1-13](#)
- B. Knocking at Heaven's Door:** [Dan\\_2:14-30](#)
- C. A Kingdom that Cannot Be Shaken:** [Dan\\_2:31-49](#)

## III. The Inquisition: [Dan\\_3:1-30](#)

- A. Totalitarianism:** [Dan\\_3:1-7](#)
- B. Obeying God Rather than Men:** [Dan\\_3:8-18](#)
- C. Through Fiery Trials:** [Dan\\_3:19-25](#)
- D. Impressed Once More:** [Dan\\_3:26-30](#)

## IV. Signs and Wonders: [Dan\\_4:1-37](#)

- A. Night Visions:** [Dan\\_4:1-18](#)
- B. Warnings from God:** [Dan\\_4:19-27](#)
- C. The Kingdom Departs:** [Dan\\_4:28-33](#)
- D. Reason Restored:** [Dan\\_4:34-37](#)

## V. The Writing on the Wall: [Dan\\_5:1-31](#)

- A. The Moving Finger Writes:** [Dan\\_5:1-9](#)
- B. Weighed in the Balances of God:** [Dan\\_5:10-31](#)

## VI. In the Lions' Den: [Dan\\_6:1-28](#)

- A. Kingdom Against Kingdom:** [Dan\\_6:1-9](#)
- B. Faithful unto Death:** [Dan\\_6:10-17](#)
- C. Shut Your Mouth!:** [Dan\\_6:18-28](#)

## VII. Apocalypse!: [Dan\\_7:1-28](#)

- A. Jungle Book:** [Dan\\_7:1-8](#)
- B. The Vision of God:** [Dan\\_7:9-14](#)
- C. The Everlasting Kingdom:** [Dan\\_7:15-28](#)

## VIII. The Ram, the Goat, and the Little Horn: [Dan\\_8:1-27](#)

- A. The Ram with Two Horns:** [Dan\\_8:1-4](#), [Dan\\_8:15-20](#)

**B.** The Goat with the Horn between His Eyes: [Dan\\_8:5-8](#), [Dan\\_8:21-22](#)

**C.** The Little Horn: [Dan\\_8:9-14](#), [Dan\\_8:23-27](#)

**IX.** Inspirer and Hearer of Prayer: [Dan\\_9:1-27](#)

**A.** Inspired to Pray: [Dan\\_9:1-3](#)

**B.** The Inspirer of Prayer: [Dan\\_9:4-19](#)

**C.** The Hearer of Prayer: [Dan\\_9:20-23](#)

**D.** The Seventy Weeks: [Dan\\_9:24-27](#)

**X.** What Happens Behind History: [Dan\\_10:1—Dan\\_11:1](#)

**A.** Concern for the People of God: [Dan\\_10:1-3](#)

**B.** Vision of the Sufficiency of God: [Dan\\_10:4-9](#)

**C.** Conflict for the Kingdom of God: [Dan\\_10:10—Dan\\_11:1](#)

**XI.** North and South: [Dan\\_11:2-45](#)

**A.** Persia and Greece: [Dan\\_11:2-4](#)

**B.** The Wars of Northern—and Southern—Aggression: [Dan\\_11:5-35](#)

**C.** The AntiChrist!: [Dan\\_11:36-45](#)

**XII.** From Here to Eternity: [Dan\\_12:1-13](#)

**A.** The Hope of Glory: [Dan\\_12:1-4](#)

**B.** Living with Unanswered Questions: [Dan\\_12:5-13](#)