

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Daniel"
Book-27

Key Passage: Daniel 2:20-22, 44

Daniel: *"God is my judge"*

The Author: Daniel claims to have written the book **Daniel 12:4**

Jesus refers to Daniel as the Prophet, and His writings: **Matthew 24:15**

Daniel's visions so clearly describe some 400 years of history; only two options exist:

1. Admit the supernatural origin of his revelations.
2. Date the book after the events it describes.

Daniel, at 16, is deported to Babylon. He and his three friends were born into noble families. **Daniel** is assigned one of the names of the Babylonian gods, and the name was **Belteshazzar** - *"Bel Protect His Life."*

When Written: Written about 573-536 BC. Daniel and his friends bridge the entire 70 years of Babylonian captivity. Daniel was taken captive from 605 BC to 536 BC, the 3rd year of Cyrus **Daniel 10:1**.

Where it was Written: Babylon, the courts of the king.

Purpose: To encourage the exiles in Babylon. That when Israel was taken into captivity, they entered a period known as **"The Times of the Gentiles"** This period will continue until the Lord returns and sets up His kingdom.

Theme: Daniel: *"God's Over Men and Nations"*

Key Words: King **142 times**, God **90 times**, Men **74 times**, Kingdom **56 times**.

Key Chapter: Daniel 9 The prophecy of the 70 weeks. **Daniel 9:24-27**

Key Passage: Daniel 2:20-22, 44

Outline:

1. Daniel 1-6 The Personal History of Daniel
2. Daniel 7-12 The Prophetic Ministry of Daniel

1. Daniel 1-6 The Personal History of Daniel

Daniel 1 Maintaining A Godly Walk:

Daniel 1:1–16 Daniel and three friends carefully follow the Jewish dietary laws: Daniel 1:1-4 A new ruling nation would take the best of the best and change their names, teach and retrain them and use them for the new government.

Daniel 1:5-7

Daniel - he assigned one of the names of the Babylonian gods, and the name was **Belteshazzar** - "*Bel Protect His Life.*"

Daniel 1:8 But Daniel made up his mind - The pressure to conform is intense in every society.

To succeed, a person needs what Daniel had: a strong sense of identity as one of God's people; and determination to live to please God rather than others.

Daniel 1:11-16 Some believers try to wall themselves off from social pressure by being obnoxious.

While living by his own values, he was both friendly and respectful. **Not at all defiant, he "asked permission"**

Daniel shows us that the believer can relate positively to the people of the world, even while rejecting the values of society.

Daniel 1:17-21 Blessed By God With Wisdom: Daniel 1:17

"knowledge" is "*accurate information and the skill required to apply that knowledge to solve practical problems of government.*"

"understanding" is "*the perceptive ability needed to sort out the false from the true and do so to make good decisions.*"

Daniel 2:1–49 Daniel Explained Nebuchadnezzar's Prophetic Dream: Daniel 2:1 He also seems to have been suspicious of his own wise men. He insisted they **tell him the dream before they interpreted it!**

Daniel 2:17-18

First, he enlisted others to pray with him for God's help. Yes, God does hear us when we pray. But gathering others to pray with and for us is an act of faith:

Daniel 2:19-23

Note that when the answer to prayer came, Daniel devoted himself to praise even before he went to the king!

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| 1. Babylon (606-539 B.C.) The head of gold (2:36-38) | 4. Rome (150 B.C. A.D. 500) Legs of iron (2:33, 40) |
| 2. Media-Persia (539-330 B.C.) Arms and chest of silver (2:32, 39) | 5. Antichrist's kingdom Ten toes of iron and clay (2:41-43) |
| 3. Greece (330-ca. 150 B.C.) Thigh of brass (2:32, 39) | 6. Christ's kingdom The stone that strikes the image (2:34-35, 44-45) |

Daniel 3 The Golden Image: (Daniel not present here) Daniel 3:1-30
God rescued Daniel's three companions, thrown into a blazing furnace for refusing to worship an idol erected by Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 3:15-18, 22-27

Commitment so complete that even if God does not exert His miracle-working power on our behalf, even then, we will serve God and Him only.

Daniel 4 Interpreting the "Tree Dream" Daniel interpreted a dream of impending disaster to Nebuchadnezzar. (Chopped down tree)

Daniel 4:1-27 Nebuchadnezzar had an alarming dream and called Daniel to interpret. This time the dream was directed against him: It predicted that the king would become the victim of madness until he acknowledged the sovereignty of Daniel's God.

Daniel 4:27

The Vision Fulfilled: Daniel 4:28-34

God used this in his life to break Nebuchadnezzar to cause him to see that all that he had was due to God and His goodness.

Daniel 5 Interpreting The Handwriting On The Wall: Daniel interpreted a sign indicating the fall of the Babylonian Empire (5:1-30). Belshazzar was the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel, now in his 80's, appeared and explained the mysterious words. The words were **"numbered," "weighted,"** and **"divided,"** and indicated that the end of Belshazzar's rule had come.

Daniel 5:5-6 The magicians could not figure it out!

Daniel 5:25-28

Daniel's words tell it all. **Daniel 5:22** "Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this,

Daniel 6:1-3 Daniel Administrator: Daniel became a valued administrator of the Persian Empire, which succeeded it (6:1-3).

Daniel 6:1 appoint 120 satraps (Governors)

Daniel 6:4-28 Daniel In The Lions' Den: Daniel Maintaining Godly Devotion. God thwarted the plan of Daniel's enemies not to pray and miraculously delivered him from a den of hungry lions (vv. 4-28).

Note that Daniel was a man in his 80's when cast into the lions' den.

Daniel 6:16-18 The king was the one that had a sleepless night!

Daniel 6:22-24 Great bedtime story. Sleep tight!

2. Daniel 7-12 The Prophetical Ministry of Daniel:

Daniel 7 Daniel's Vision Of The Four Beasts: We mentioned this in **Daniel 2**.

The Kingdoms in Daniel: We must keep in mind that 6 different kingdoms are identified in the Book of Daniel.

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| 1. Babylon (606-539 B.C.) | The lion with eagle's wings (7:4) |
| 2. Media-Persia (539-330 B.C.) | Bear with three ribs (7:5) |
| 3. Greece (330-150 B.C.) | Leopard with four heads (7:6) |
| 4. Rome (150 B.C. A.D. 500) | The "dreadful beast" (7:7) |
| 5. Antichrist's kingdom | Little horn (7:8) |
| 6. Christ's kingdom | The Ancient of Days (7:9-14) |

Daniel 8 Daniel's Vision Of The Ram And Male Goat: (8:1-27) depicts the future world powers.

The ram (vv. 3-4) represents **Medo-Persia** in its conquests (v. 20); the emblem of Persia was a ram. Just about the time the ram was through "pushing," the male goat appeared from the west (v. 5) and leaped swiftly to where the ram was standing.

Daniel 8:5 This ram had two horns, one higher than the other, **symbolizing the Medes and the Persians, with the Persians the**

stronger. The goat had one great horn—Alexander the Great. Now, the male goat attacked the ram, broke the two horns, and became very great (vv. 7-8). This represents Greece's victory over Medo-Persia. But then we see the great horn broken (Alexander's death) and four horns taking its place (the four generals who divided his kingdom and ruled over it).

Daniel 8:9 Antiochus Epiphanes, a wicked leader who came out of Syria, was one of the four divisions of Alexander's empire. He invaded Palestine and set up a statue of Jupiter in the temple. He even went so far as to sacrifice a pig on the Jewish altar and sprinkle its blood around the courts. History tells us that the temple lay desolate until Dec. 25, 165 B.C., when the Jewish patriot, Judas Maccabeus, rededicated the temple.

Daniel 8:23 A king will arise, Insolent and skilled in intrigue. Anti-Christ.

Daniel 9:1-19 Daniel's Great Prayer of Confession: We have **Ezra 9, Nehemiah 9,** and Now **Daniel 9** are all chapters of prayer.

Daniel 9:20-27 The Revelation of God Through "Seventy-Weeks" Timetable for the completion of God's purposes on earth.

The Roman Empire has never been replaced by another world empire so that it actually continues until the rise of the Antichrist in the latter days.

Daniel 10-12 Daniel's Final Vision Of The Future:

Dan 10:1-21 Daniel's Persistent Prayer Was Answered: Daniel encounters an angel.

Daniel 10:1-12 After 21 days of fasting, Daniel's prayer was answered by the appearance of an angelic messenger.

It had not taken 21 days for God to pay attention to Daniel's prayer, nor had He delayed His answer. **Hebrews 1:14**

Daniel 11:1-35 Daniel Gained Further Revelations Concerning Future Tribulations Under Antiochus.

Daniel 11:40-45 Anti-Christ:

Daniel 12:1-13 Daniel Concludes With A Picture Of The Final Tribulation And Triumph Of God's Old Testament People:

Daniel 12:2 The Bible teaches a resurrection of the dead for all.

Daniel 12:11 "A time of distress such as has not happened" **Daniel 12:1-13**. The final chapter returns to the great end-time Tribulation (v. 1). abominable image (**Matthew 24:15-27**) in a yet-to-be-built Jerusalem temple, only 1,290 days (3 ½ years by the Jewish lunar calendar) remain until the end.

Application: *"God's Over Men And Nations"*

1. Daniel's life illustrates the power of prayer.
2. Daniel shows how to live by faith in a hostile society.
3. Daniel's powerful images of the future continue to remind us that God is fully in control of history.
4. The attempts of the enemy to harm Daniel and his friends thrown into the furnace and later Daniel in the lion's den had no effect.
5. God's providence through dreams and interpretation is to convince both Jew and Gentile that wisdom and power belong to the Lord.