

# Daniel

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Church of Christ in Humble  
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## DANIEL: INTRODUCTION I

Read the book of Daniel all the way through. This time through, don't worry about stopping to understand what everything you read means. The aim of this reading is to get a general familiarity with the book, or, to refresh your memory.

### EVENTS

Write the event that makes these dates significant. (See your notes on Jeremiah or the Minor Prophets, or consult other reference material.)

625 B.C. - Nabopolassar becomes king of Babylon (625-605 B.C.)

612 B.C. -

605 B.C. -

601 B.C. - Jehoikim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. Bands of Chaldeans, Arameans, Moabites, and Ammonites were sent against him. (2 Ki. 24:1-2). The Egyptians met Nebuchadnezzar in battle this year and there were heavy losses on both sides. Possibly, this is what encouraged Jehoikim to turn again to Egypt and rebel against Babylon.

597 B.C. -

586 B.C. -

559 B.C. - Cyrus became king of the Persians.

539 B.C. -

536 B.C. -

520 B.C. -

516 B.C. -

458 B.C. -

445 B.C. -

### BABYLONIAN RULERS (Fill in missing names.)

Nabopolassar - 625-605 B.C.

\_\_\_\_\_ - 605-562 B.C. (2 Ki. 24:1,10-11; 25:1-8; Dan. 1:1...4:37)

\_\_\_\_\_ - 562-560 B.C. (2 Ki 25:27; Jer. 52:31)

Neriglissar - 560-556 B.C.

Labashi Marduk - 556 B.C.

Nabonidus - 556-539 B.C.

\_\_\_\_\_ - 553-539 B.C. (Dan. 5:1; 7:1)

Co-regent with Nabonidus. Nabonidus was absent from Babylon during the later part of his reign and exalted his son as co-regent with him.

**PERSIAN RULERS**

\_\_\_\_\_ - 539-530 B.C. (Isa 44:28-45:4; 2 Ch. 36:22; Ezra 1:1; Dan. 1:21; 6:28; 10:1)

\_\_\_\_\_ - 539-525 B.C. (Dan. 5:31; 6:1...28; 9:1; 11:1)

Co-regent with Cyrus. Made ruler over the realm of Babylon.

Cambyzes II - 530-522 B.C.

Smerdis - 521 B.C.

\_\_\_\_\_ I - 521-486 B.C. (Ezra 4:5,24; Hag. 1:1; Zech. 1:1)

Xerxes - 486-464 B.C. (\_\_\_\_\_ of Esther. Esther 1:1)

\_\_\_\_\_ - 464-423 B.C. (Ezra 4:7-8; 7:1; Neh. 2:1)

**GRECIAN RULERS**

Alexander the Great - 336-323 B.C.

Divided among four rulers:

- Lysimachus - over Thrace and Bithynia
- Cassander - over Macedonia
- Ptolemy I Soter - over Egypt (Egyptian rulers - "Kings of the South")
- Seleucus I Nicator - over Syria (Syrian rulers - "Kings of the North")

**ROMAN EMPERORS**

\_\_\_\_\_ - 30 B.C.-14 A.D. (Luke 2:1 - Birth of Christ)

\_\_\_\_\_ - 14-37 A.D. (Luke 3:1 - Ministry and death of Christ)

Caligula - 37-41 A.D.

Claudias - 41-54 A.D. (Acts 11:28; 18:2 - Famine; Jews commanded to leave Rome)

Nero - 54-68 A.D. (Acts 25:10-12; 27:24 - Paul's imprisonment in Rome)

Galba - 68 A.D.

Otho - 69 A.D.

Vitellius - 69 A.D.

Vespasian - 69-79 A.D. (Luke 21:20-24 - Destruction of Jerusalem)

Titus - 79-81 A.D.

Domitian - 81-96 A.D.

**PROPHETS**

Who were contemporary prophets with Daniel?

- Jer. 1:1,2; 39:2...41:1...43:7,8
- Eze. 1:2-3; 29:17

## DANIEL: INTRODUCTION II

Read the entire book.

### MARKING

Mark: (Use different color for each marking.)

- Chronological phrases. (See e.g. in 1:1,5,12...there are many in the book, even to the very last verse.)
- Phrases focusing on the dominion or kingdom of God. (See e.g. in 2:21,44,47...)
- Phrases implying God's ability to reveal the unknown, especially concerning what will happen in the future. (See e.g. in 1:17, 2:22,23...)

### THEME

Having now read the book at least twice, what would you say is the theme of the book?

Read Psalm 89.

Jehovah promised David's throne will be established forever, **vv 1-4**. He is the Almighty God who made this covenant with David, **vv. 5-29**. If his descendants apostatize, they will be punished, **vv. 30-33**. But, He will not alter his covenant: David's throne will still be established, **vv 34-37**.

Right now (at time Psalm written) God had rejected David's throne, "made his splendor to cease, and cast his throne to the ground." (**vv 38-45**) They wondered, "How long, O Lord?" (**vv 46-51**).

Daniel's prophecy is further assurance to those in the captivity and thereafter that God will keep His covenant!

### TWO DIVISIONS OF THE BOOK

- Chapters 1-6 – Historical events concerning Daniel and his three friends confirming God's rule in the kingdom of men and Daniel's ability to foretell that rule.
- Chapters 7-12 – Daniel's dreams/visions

### VISIONS

List the visions and dreams in Daniel. Note who had the vision and write some word or phrase to identify it.

- Chapter 2
- Chapter 4
- Chapter 5

- Chapter 7
- Chapter 8
- Chapter 9:20f
- Chapters 10-12

The book of Daniel is a book full of dreams and visions about the future (see chronological phrases). Were these the truth, or the product of men's (Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Daniel) imaginations? If the One who controls the future (phrases focusing on the dominion of God) revealed it through these visions and dreams, and if he chose to make known their interpretation through His appointed prophet, then they are in a class totally different from the "visions" and "dreams" that are purely the product of human imagination. What was the evidence that these visions were indeed divine revelations from the Most High God, and that this Daniel was His prophet? Chapters 1-6 provided that evidence! And if that was true, then they could have confidence in highly enigmatic visions of Daniel in chapters 7-12 that dealt with the distant future far beyond the lifetime of those then living. While chapters 7-12 promise God's sovereignty and the triumph of His kingdom in highly symbolic visions, chapters 1-6 give assurance of that through historical events.

We have the added evidence of being to look back in history and see their fulfillment!

## **MAIN CHARACTERS**

Make brief notes identifying each.

- Daniel
- Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego
- Nebuchadnezzar
- Belshazzar
- Cyrus
- Darius the Mede
- Gabriel
- Michael

## **DANIEL**

- What was his Babylonian name? 1:7
- Approximately how old was Daniel when he began prophesying and how long did he prophesy? See 2:1 (604 B.C.) and 10:1 (536 B.C.).
- To whom did he prophesy?
  - 2:1,31

- 5:1,13
- 5:31, 6:20-22
- What was Daniel renowned for?
  - Eze. 14:14,20
  - Eze. 28:3
- What did Jesus call him? Mat. 24:15

### **WORLD EMPIRES**

Identify the world empires referred to in Daniel.

- 1:1; 2:37-38; 7:3
- 1:21; 2:39a; 5:31; 7:5; 8:20
- 2:39b; 7:6; 8:21
- 2:40; 7:7,23

## DANIEL: CHAPTER 1

Chapter summary (for drill): *Daniel and friends taken to Babylon and prepared for personal service to the king*

vv 1-7 - Arrival at Babylon

vv 8-16 - Trial by food

vv 17-21 - Trial by wisdom

1. Read the entire book.
2. Review material in introductory lessons. We will drill on this.
3. Chapter one sets the stage for the rest of the book. What is mentioned in chapter one that forms a basis for these things written later?
  - a. 1:3-6,17-19 ... 2:2,14-16,48-49; 4:8; 5:11-13; 6:1-3
  - b. 1:2,9,17 ... 2:21,47; 4:2,3,17,25,32,34,37; 5:18,21,23,26 (See theme)
  - c. 1:3-4, 8-9, 17-20 ... 3:8-12; 6:3-5
  - d. 1:17 ... 2:24-28; 4:5-9; 5:10-12; 7:16; 8:16; 9:22; 10:21
  - e. 1:2 ... 5:1-5,22-23
  - f. 1:21 ... 5:31; 6:28; 10:1
4. Compare 1:1 with Jer. 25:1. What *seems* to be a discrepancy?
 

If in Babylon the year Nebuchadnezzar became king is NOT counted as his “first year,” but as an “accession year,” how does that affect this seeming discrepancy?
5. About how old was Daniel when taken captive? (Use chapter one, the information in the introductory lessons and chapter 10:1 to compute your answer.)
6. What in the text evidences Daniel and his friends had spent some time in reading, study, and education?
7. How did this affect their life?
8. Write the Hebrew and the Babylonian names of Daniel and his three friends. Find out what each name means (both the Hebrew and Babylonian names).
9. How does Daniel serve as an example to other young men and as a lesson to parents? (v. 8)

10. Select a phrase from this chapter that points to:

- The sovereignty of God
- The providence of God
- The superiority of God

## DANIEL: CHAPTER 2

Chapter summary (for drill): *Nebuchadnezzar's dream about the statue*

vv 1-13 - Nebuchadnezzar's dream and death decree  
vv 14-24 - Daniel's proposition and prayer  
vv 25-45 - Daniel interprets the dream before the king  
vv 46-49 - Daniel and friends promoted

1. Read entire book.
2. Review introductory material for drill. Add to drill:
  - a. Chapter summary for chapter one.
  - b. How old was Daniel when taken captive?
  - c. What was his Babylonian name?
  - d. Who were his three friends? (Hebrew & Babylonian names)
  - e. What was significant about the change of their names?
  - f. How did Daniel come to be one to serve in the presence of the king?
  - g. How long was Daniel's prophetic ministry?
3. How did Nebuchadnezzar test the power of the magicians, conjurers, sorcerers, and astrologers (see NASB marginal note on "Chaldeans" in v. 2)?

Note: If using KJV, compare other versions on v. 5a, such as NASB, NKJV, NRSV, NIV.
4. What bearing would this have on the genuineness of Daniel as a prophet?
5. What did these magicians and conjurers admit about such visions and dreams? (v. 11)

Compare the fraudulent "magicians," "mediums," "psychics," and "astrologists" of today.
6. Where did Daniel turn to have this "mystery" revealed? (Note the occurrences of "mystery" and "mysteries" in this chapter.)
7. Would Daniel have praised God (vv. 19-23) had He NOT revealed the mystery to Daniel and he faced death at the decree of the king? Give evidence for your answer. (See chapter six.)

- 8. How is “latter days” translated in Gen. 49:1 in NASB? (See marginal note here and there.) (Compare also Num. 24:14.) Note the content of Gen. 49, to which this phrase refers.

What does the similar phrase in Heb. 1:1-2 refer to? (Compare 2:1-4.) (Compare also Ac. 2:17.)

This gives us two options for the meaning of this phrase. Which do you think better fits the context in Dan. 2?

- 9. Describe the image and what it represented. Take answers *from the text*.

<u>Material</u>	<u>Represented</u>
Head.....	.....
Breast & arms .....	.....
Belly & thighs.....	.....
Legs & feet.....	.....
Stone .....	.....XXXXXXXXXX.....

10. WHICH FOUR KINGDOMS?

- a. Babylon, Media, Persia, Greece (Liberalism)
- b. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome divided into ancient historical Rome and a revived Roman empire of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Premillennialists)
- c. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome

Let’s consider each option...

- a. Babylon, Media, Persia, Greece (Liberalism)
  - i. In what kingdom did Daniel place Darius the Mede’s rule? (6:8,12,15)
  - ii. What would this interpretation make Daniel? (Deu. 18:21-22) Explain why.
  - iii. What would this interpretation imply about Jesus? (Mat 24:15)
- b. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome divided into ancient historical Rome and a revived Roman empire of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Premillennialists)
  - i. This interpretation is based on
    - 1) Total literalizing of the prophecy. Since it has not literally been fulfilled, it must be future.

- 2) Identification of the (alleged) ten toes of the image with the ten horns of 7:7,20,24.
- 3) The ten horns (and toes) refer to ten modern kingdoms that arise out of ancient Rome - a revived Roman empire.

ii. But, this interpretation

- 1) Ignores the fact that the NT gives spiritual interpretations to certain OT prophecies concerning the coming kingdom of the Messiah.

To what did James apply Amos 9:11-15? (Acts 15:15-17) See also Acts 3:19-26.

- 2) Discredits Jesus as the Prophet.

What did Jesus say about the kingdom of prophecy? (Mark 1:15)

Jesus said “\_\_\_\_\_” IN THE FIRST CENTURY. Millennialists say “the time is fulfilled” IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY. Who do you believe?

Millennialists argue Jesus “postponed” the kingdom. But if it wasn’t due until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it wasn’t postponed! To say it was “postponed” is to admit it was *due* in the 1<sup>st</sup> century! The postponement theory is without scriptural support.

- 3) ASSUMES the image had ten toes and that they had significance.

Does Daniel say the image had ten toes? If so, write the verse.

If Daniel could not even know the dream without divine revelation, how can modern men give an interpretation about something not even stated to be in the dream??

An effort is made to parallel the ten toes with the ten horns of 7:7,8,20,24. But

- We need another toe (v 8, “another horn”) - eleven toes?
- This is a parallel between something stated (ten horns) and something ASSUMED (ten toes).
- The ten horns of ch. 7 represent ten “kings” (v 24), not ten different kingdoms.

IF the “ten toes” represented ten kings that had not come into existence during the time of Christ, and it is “in the days of these kings” [ten kings yet to come] that the kingdom of O.T. prophecy will be established, WHAT DOES THAT IMPLY ABOUT JOHN THE BAPTIST AND JESUS? (Mat. 3:2; Mark 1:15)

c. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome

- i. This harmonizes history with Christ's statement that Jesus made about the kingdom DURING THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY (Mark 1:15). Jesus' statement in Mark 9:1 sets a TIME BOUNDARY for the establishment of the kingdom of God. What is it?
- ii. This harmonizes with NT scriptures about the kingdom's establishment and existence.
  - 1) What did Peter say about Jesus approximately fifty days after his death? (Acts 2:32-36)
  - 2) What did Paul say about the Colossians? (1:13)
  - 3) See also Heb. 12:28; Rev. 1:9.
- iii. Objections to this by liberalism and millennialists
  - 1) The Messianic kingdom was to "suddenly" destroy the image. The spiritual kingdom of Christ did not do that.
    - a. Where does the text state it would be "suddenly"? Thorough, yes; sudden, no.
    - b. Though time is not in view in the vision nor its interpretation, the image covers events over a period of over 500 'Before Christ' years. Where does one get suddenness when Christ appears?
  - 2) The Messianic kingdom was to conquer militarily and that didn't happen.
    - a. Again, where is this stated in the text?
    - b. How could this be done over "ALL these kingdoms"? Must they ALL be revived to engage in a military battle?
    - c. This is one of the major problems with millennialism - failure to recognize the spiritual rule of the kingdom of God. Joh 18:36.
  - 3) The kingdom (church) did not "fill the whole earth," v. 35.
    - a. "Kingdom" does not equal "church." Christ WAS given dominion over "every name that is named" Eph 1:20f. No one has life but to whom he gives it, and no one can take life away from those to whom he gives it!
    - b. "Whole earth" does not necessarily refer to geography. Compare "the great commission," Mat 28:19, Mar 16:15, Col 1:23.

11. According to v. 35 the image was destroyed (choose one)

- a. Piece by piece through the centuries?
- b. All at the same time?

What bearing does this have on a literal interpretation demanding military conquest?

12. Explain how a comparison of vv. 34-35 with v. 44 shows that “stone” which “became a great mountain” represents the “kingdom” God would set up.
13. V. 38 is a hyperbole. Define “hyperbole.”
14. What is the beginning and ending of the period described as “in the days of these kings,” v. 44? (Compare Ruth 1:1).

What are the outer limits for the time of the establishment of the kingdom of God according to this prophecy?

15. Do you think Daniel approved of what Nebuchadnezzar did (v. 46)? Explain. (See vv. 25-30; Acts 10:26; Rev. 22:9.)
16. What does v. 49 show about Daniel’s character? \_\_\_\_\_  
Compare the cupbearer in Gen. 40 (v. 23).

## DANIEL: CHAPTER 3

Chapter summary (for drill): *Nebuchadnezzar's idol and the furnace of fire*

vv 1-7 - Nebuchadnezzar builds a god and demands its worship

vv 8-18 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse

vv 19-27 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego delivered from the power of the furnace

vv 28-30 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego honored

1. Read the entire book.
2. Review for drill. Add to drill:
  - a. Chapter summary for chapter two.
  - b. What test did Nebuchadnezzar use to ascertain the validity of any proposed interpretations to his dream?
  - c. Describe his dream.
  - d. What did it mean?
  - e. What did Daniel's interpretation of the dream demonstrate about the God Daniel served?
  - f. What did the fulfillment of the dream prove about Daniel's God?
3. List some reasons that would make it difficult for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to refuse to obey the command of Nebuchadnezzar to worship his image. (Think of the consequences, the circumstances, who they were, how they had been treated by Nebuchadnezzar, how he reacted to the report of their refusal.....)
4. Think of some excuses they could have made to justify worshipping the image.
5. Nebuchadnezzar asks a question to which he thought there was no answer, but he is about to get one! (vv. 15...29) What was that question?

Compare Exo. 5:2. Remember the theme of the book. Think of the impact of this demonstration upon the captive Jews.

6. The three young men said, "we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter" (v. 16). Which matter? And why did they feel no need to answer? Base your answer on the text, vv. 15-18.

These young men served God out of CONVICTION, not convenience.

7. More important than the fact that the fire had no effect on their bodies or their clothes is that the fiery trial had no damaging effect on their faith! To what does Peter liken the trials his readers were undergoing? (1 Pe. 1:5-7; 4:12-13...19)
8. The God of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is not only the Revealer of secrets (ch. 2), but the Lord of fire, the Redeemer of those in bonds, the “Most High God” like whom there is “no other god”!

## DANIEL: CHAPTER 4

Chapter summary (for drill): *Nebuchadnezzar's dream about the tree*

vv 1-3 - Nebuchadnezzar's proclamation glorifying God

vv 4-18 - His dream

vv 19-27 - Daniel interprets the dream

vv 28-33 - The dream fulfilled

vv 34-37 - Nebuchadnezzar's restoration and confession

1. Read the entire book.
2. Review for drill. Add to drill:
  - a. Chapter summary for chapter three.
  - b. Describe the circumstances that threatened the lives of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
  - c. Relate their response of faith to the king.
  - d. What happened when they were thrown into the furnace?
  - e. What did this event prove about the God these three young men served?
3. What did Nebuchadnezzar's proclamation at the beginning of his account of this event and his confession recorded at the end of it testify to?
4. Why wasn't Daniel asked to come in first, especially in view of Nebuchadnezzar's experience recorded in chapter two? The text does not say. Liberal critics have used this to attack the book of Daniel, but they do so on the basis of their ignorance, not evidence. Suggest some plausible reasons that could account for Nebuchadnezzar not calling Daniel first.
5. Note the NASB marginal note on "a spirit of the holy gods" in v. 8.
6. Be prepared to describe the dream and its meaning.
7. What was the purpose of this dream and its fulfillment?
8. *Based on the text*, is there any indication of how long "seven periods of time" are? If so, give the verses.
9. In *Babylon The Great Has Fallen*" (1963), the Watchtower Organization (Jehovah's Witnesses) takes the following position:
  - a. "Seven times" = seven lunar years of 360 days. Each day then stands for a year, thus 7 x 360, or 2520 years.

- b. This is the period of GENTILE DOMINATION as symbolized by Nebuchadnezzar's madness.
  - c. That period began in 607 B.C. when God let "the king of Babylon take Zedekiah captive and destroy Jerusalem and its temple." (p. 177.)
  - d. Beginning with 607 BC (the beginning of "the times of the nations" or Gentiles - the period of Gentile domination) and adding 2520 brings us to 1914 A.D. And this is when God invisibly established his kingdom in the heavens.
10. List several obvious errors in this position.
11. How long before the dream began to be fulfilled? Compare 2 Pe. 3:8-10.
12. Define "lycanthropy."

**DANIEL: CHAPTER 5**

Chapter summary (for drill): *Belshazzar's feast and the handwriting on the wall*

vv 1-4 - Belshazzar's feast

vv 5-9 - Hand writing on the wall

vv 10-16 - Daniel called to interpret the writing

vv 17-24 - Indictment of Belshazzar

vv 25-31 - The writing interpreted and executed

1. Read the entire book.
2. Review drill work. Add to drill:
  - a. Chapter summary for chapter four.
  - b. Describe Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its meaning.
  - c. What was the purpose of the dream?
3. What did Belshazzar's use of the temple vessels reflect about him?
4. How many times thus far in the book have we seen the futility of turning to the occult and idolatry for guidance?

Compare Isa. 8:19-20. Would they never learn? Men still haven't!

5. How did the queen know about Daniel? Could Belshazzar have known him, and if so, how? Can we "summon" Daniel today? Explain. (See Luke 16:31.)
6. Who were the first and second rulers in the kingdom (v. 16)?
7. For what is Belshazzar indicted?
8. What does each one of the words in the inscription mean? (See marginal note or footnote in your Bible.)

MENE

TEKEL

UPHARSIN

9. Was Daniel correct in his interpretation? How do you know?

## DANIEL: CHAPTER 6

Chapter summary (for drill): *Daniel in the lions' den*

vv 1-3 - Daniel promoted by Darius the Mede

vv 4-9 - The conspiracy against him

vv 10-18 - The plan executed: Daniel cast into the lions' den

vv 19-24 - The plan backfires: Daniel delivered and his enemies destroyed

vv 25-28 - Darius' decree about Daniel's God and Daniel's success in Darius' reign

1. Read the entire book.
2. Review drill work. Add to drill work:
  - a. Chapter summary for chapter five.
  - b. Who was Belshazzar and what was his relationship to Nebuchadnezzar?
  - c. How did he show his disrespect for Jehovah God?
  - d. What was the writing on the wall and what did it mean?
3. What attitude led the commissioners and satraps conspire to destroy Daniel?  
Compare Gen 37:4,11; Mat 27:18; Act 5:16,17; 13:45.
4. How does Daniel serve as an example to all entrusted with responsibility?  
Compare Gen 39:4-6,9. See Col 3:22-25.
5. What attitude on Darius' part allowed him to be snared in this conspiracy? Note Pro. 16:18.
6. What is the purpose of civil law? Rom. 13:3-4. How would this affect lawmakers?  
Think of the application to husbands, parents, employers, elders.
7. What shows that Daniel's actions (vv. 10-11) were not a "protest" move?
8. About how old is Daniel at this time? (Use information in your introductory material and the chronological notes you marked at the end of chapter five.)
9. List some excuses Daniel might have given to discontinue praying.
10. We have already learned that Daniel was renown for his \_\_\_\_\_  
(Eze. 14:14,20) and his \_\_\_\_\_ (Eze. 28:3). Interestingly, we  
find him to be a man devoted to \_\_\_\_\_ (1:4,17; 9:2; 10:12) and

- 
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6:10; 9:3; 10:12). Compare Psa. 1:1-3; Eph. 3:4; 5:7-10,15-17; 6:13-18; Col. 4:2.
11. Based on what is said here of Darius, what kind of fellow was he? Was he a believer in the one, true God?
  12. What agency did God employ in shutting the lions' mouths?  
Compare Heb. 1:7...14; 2 Ki. 6:15-17.
  13. Who, and under what circumstances, found comfort in this story? (Consult your references on v. 22 in your Bible.)
  14. What reason is given for Daniel's deliverance?  
Compare Heb. 11:33. Does this mean everyone who does this can expect deliverance from all dangers? Explain, using something we have already studied in this book.  
Did Daniel know before the fact that he would be delivered? Compare 3:17-18.
  15. In your marking, you marked phrases focusing on the dominion of God. There are several such phrases in this chapter. If you have not marked them, do so now. These point to the THEME of the book.

## DANIEL: CHAPTER 7

Chapter summary (for drill): *Daniel's vision of the four beasts*

vv 1-14 - The vision

vv 15-28 - The meaning of the vision

1. Read the entire book.
2. Review drill work. Add for drill:
  - a. Chapter summary for chapter six.
  - b. What motivated those who conspired to have Daniel thrown to the lions?
  - c. For what practice was Daniel thrown to the lions?
  - d. About how old was Daniel at this time?
  - e. Who was the king associated with this event?
  - f. Briefly relate what happened.
  - g. Who, many years later, found this story a source of comfort in the face of death: Give the person, his circumstances, and the book and chapter where this is found.
3. The dreams of chapters 7-12 are much more difficult to assign meanings to than those of the first six chapters. They contain many symbols, and the meanings of many of these are not clearly stated. They refer to incidents in the far distant future (now the far distant past) to which we are limited in ascertaining by the partial and sometimes vague history of those times. How did Daniel come to know what he knew about the meaning of these dreams? 7:16,28, 8:16,19,27, 9:22-23, 10:1,14,21, 11:2, 12:6,8.

IT IS SPECULATIVE TO INTERPRET THE MEANINGS OF THESE VISIONS WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT HAVING INDICATED, EITHER HERE OR ELSEWHERE IN SCRIPTURE, THEIR MEANING.

4. It is dangerous to build a doctrinal framework on speculative and varied theories, especially if the doctrine conflicts with plainly revealed truth. The safe and sure rule is: interpret the UNCLEAR in the light of the CLEAR. Read John 11:11-14. "Asleep" may be used to connote more than one thing, as is evident from the context. Jesus used "asleep" figuratively and evidently his meaning was not clear to the disciples, but no one speculates that Jesus may have been referring to natural sleep. Why?
5. Let these rules govern interpretation:
  - a. Context must be given weight in deciding between alternatives. (e.g., "in the days of these kings" 2:44)

- b. The meaning of prophetic idioms (e.g. “day of the Lord”; “coming”) should be determined by common prophetic usage, not assigned arbitrarily according to 20<sup>th</sup> century concepts.
  - c. No interpretation should be contrary to clear New Testament teaching. 1 Pt 1:10-12; e.g. Acts 2:16.
6. How did the first six chapters prepare the reader to have confidence in Daniel in the matter of dreams and their meanings?
  7. List two or three reasons we can you KNOW the “beasts” and the imagery associated with them are not to be taken literally.

Note vv. 17,23.

8. List the four beasts with a brief description of each.
9. Note that the third beast had “four heads” and the fourth beast had “ten horns.” *According to the text*, HOW MANY “KINGDOMS” do the beasts represent? Write the scripture where you found your answer. Circle, or in some other way mark this in your Bible.
10. Let’s identify these biblically and historically. Read the information below each line and then fill in the answer on the line.

a. FIRST BEAST

Since these are kingdoms which “will arise,” v. 17 (i.e. not completed, according to Hebrew imperfect tense), the first kingdom cannot be one in the past and no longer in existence. The first one that qualifies is which one, 7:1?

This is the first of the four. If Rome is the fourth kingdom (see below), counting backwards one arrives at Babylon. If one makes the fourth a kingdom *before* Rome, then, counting backwards, the “first” has already past at this time, but v. 17 will not allow this. If one makes the fourth a kingdom *after* Rome, then the prophecy fails, vv. 13-14.

Furthermore, the four beasts of chapter 7 parallel the four metals of chapter 2 — both represent four kingdoms to arise (2:40; 7:17,23). There the first kingdom is specifically said to be Babylon, 2:37,38.

b. SECOND BEAST

What kingdom followed the one above according to history and the book of Daniel, 5:30..31...6:8,12,15?

According to history there was no independent Median kingdom.

## c. THIRD BEAST

What kingdom followed the one above according to history and the book of Daniel, 8:20,21?

## d. FOURTH BEAST

During the period of the kingdom represented by the fourth beast, Daniel saw something in his vision (vv. 13-14) that, according to Mark 1:15, Acts 2:32-36, Col 1:13, Heb. 12:28, and Rev. 1:9 clearly identifies the fourth kingdom. See Luke 2:1, 3:1.

Historically, this kingdom followed the one above.

11. WHEN would the “little horn” (vv. 8,11,20,24) arise? (Some say this horn is the papacy and this chapter refers the Roman Catholic Church’s persecution of Christians through the centuries. Premillennialists make it refer to an “Antichrist” YET TO COME who will persecute the saints during a period called the “Tribulation.”) To answer, observe the following in the text.
12. The little horn was speaking boastful word WHEN “the beast was slain,” v. 11. WHICH BEAST and WHAT KINGDOM does it represent?
  - a. Compare vv. 17-18 with vv. 20-22. Both discuss the time when the saints take possession of the kingdom. Vv. 17-18 indicate this takes place in the time period of the “FOUR KINGS” (four kingdoms, v. 23). Vv. 20-22 indicate this takes place in the time when the little horn is waging war with the saints. The conclusion then is that the little horn will arise and wage war with the saints WHEN?
  - b. The saints will take possession of the kingdom when the little horn exists and wages war with them. According to Heb. 12:26-28, have the saints taken possession of the kingdom, and if so, WHEN?
  - c. The point of the chapter is that in spite of the power of the kingdoms of men and all they may do, GOD RULES and He will establish His promised kingdom under the Son of Man and the saints will be victorious! (vv. 18,22,27). Compare 2:44. Remember the THEME of the book.
13. What was one of Jesus most common ways to refer to himself? Mat 8:20; 9:6; 10:23; 11:19; 12:8,32,40; 13:37,41; 16:13,27,28; 17:9,12,22; 18:11; 19:28; 20:18,28; 24:27,30,37,39,44; 25:31; 26:2,24,45,64. (And this is just in Matthew!) Compare Dan. 7:13.
14. In v. 13 it says “one like a Son of Man was coming...”
  - a. Which way was he going, FROM heaven or TO heaven?

This is just OPPOSITE OF PREMILLENNIALISM, which has him COMING TO EARTH to receive a kingdom.

- b. Compare Luke 19:12; Acts 1:3,6-8...2:32-36. Luke 24:26; Heb. 2:9; 1 Pe. 1:11,21...Heb 1:3; 12:2.
15. In v. 22 it says “the Ancient of Days came...”
- a. Does God “coming” always refer to the second coming of Christ? Read the following and explain your answer on the basis of these scriptures. Isa. 19:1-4; Mic. 1:1-3; Nah. 1:1-3.
  - b. In the text, while the judgment is “in favor of the saints,” it is against who or what? See vv. 11,21-26.
  - c. This is NOT referring to the “second coming” and the final judgment of all men. View it in light of the THEME of the book.

## DANIEL: CHAPTER 8

Chapter summary (for drill): *Daniel's vision of the ram and the goat*

vv 1-14 - The vision

vv 15-27 - The meaning of the vision

1. Read the entire book.
2. Review drill work. Add to drill
  - a. Chapter summary for chapter seven.
  - b. What are the four beasts in Daniel's dream of chapter seven?
  - c. How many kingdoms do they represent?
  - d. Which kingdoms are these?
  - e. When was the little horn to arise?
  - f. What phrase is found in chapter seven that Jesus frequently used in reference to himself?
  - g. What did Daniel see happening to the Son of Man in chapter seven?
  - h. What effect did this have on the saints?
3. List the two beasts of this vision with a brief description of each.
  - a.
  - b.
4. What do these two beasts represent? In which verses did you find the answer?
  - a.
  - b.
5. The "little horn" is said by different ones to be:
  - a. Antiochus Epiphanes, c. 175-163 B.C. (Many commentators, e.g. Keil, Young, McGuiggan)
  - b. Rome (Foy Wallace, *God's Prophetic Word*, p. 513; Uriah Smith, *Daniel and Revelation*, p. 156)

- c. Antichrist yet to come (Premillennialism)
6. WHOEVER he is, he will arise at “the time of the end,” vv. 17,19. This phrase, or the idea, is used of:
- Eze 21:2...25; 35:5; Jer. 14:1-2...12 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Amos 8:2,10 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jer 51:1...13 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Isa 15:1...16:4; Jer 48:35 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Dan. 5:26 \_\_\_\_\_

Therefore, it must be interpreted according to the CONTEXT in which it is found. When an “end” is discussed, we must ask, “The end of WHAT?” We cannot arbitrarily assume what it refers to. In the CONTEXT of Daniel chapter eight do you see ANYTHING about the “end of the world” or the second coming of Christ? If so, write the verses. Write the phrases IN THE CONTEXT that are parallel to this phrase:

v. 19

v. 23

v. 23

Based on the CONTEXT, what is the LATEST point in time the “time of the end” can refer to?

7. Compare verse 16 with the last phrase in verse 27. What should this warn us about?

## DANIEL: CHAPTER 9

Chapter summary (for drill): *Daniel's prayer and the seventy weeks*

vv. 1-19 - Daniel's prayer about the seventy years of captivity

vv. 20-27 - Gabriel's response about seventy weeks for the Jews and Jerusalem

1. Read the entire book.
2. Review drill work. Add to drill
  - a. Chapter summary for chapter eight.
  - b. What are the two beasts of Daniel's dream in chapter eight?
  - c. What do they represent?
  - d. To what does "time of the end" refer to in chapter eight?
3. Marking suggestions.
  - a. The words and phrases in Daniel's prayer that mention sinning.
  - b. The "desolate" family of words.
4. What was Daniel praying about?
5. The vision itself. (Take your answers from the text. Attach verses to your answers.)
  - a. The vision is about what people and city?
  - b. In seventy "sevens" (see footnote, NASB, NKJV) six things are decreed to happen to this people and city. (Six "to"s, v. 24.) What are they?
  - c. Two other things will happen relative to this people and their city at the end of this period (in the 70<sup>th</sup> "seven"), vv. 26-27. What are they?
  - d. Counting the seventy "sevens" BEGINS with what?  
It ENDS (70<sup>th</sup> "seven") with what? (Two things)
6. When was "the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem" given? To answer, see your introductory notes and consider the following:
  - a. Context: What Daniel was praying about, vv. 2...12...16...19.
  - b. Isaiah's prophecy, 44:26-28; 45:1-4,13. Note what he said Cyrus would do.

- c. Ezra 1:1-6. It would be good to read the first six chapters to refresh your mind about what actually happened.
7. “Seventy weeks”
  - a. What does your footnote say on “weeks”?
  - b. What is to happen “AFTER” 69 “weeks”?
  - c. IF “week” equals a literal seven years, 69 weeks would be 483 years. When you add 483 years to the following figures, what dates do you come up with? (See introductory notes to identify what happened on these dates.)
    - i. 539 B.C.
    - ii. 458 B.C.
    - iii. 445 B.C.
  - d. How many times did the Lord say we ought to forgive a brother? (Mat. 18:21,22)
  - e. Using a concordance, list the things associated with the number “seven” in the book of Revelation.
8. Compare Mat. 24:15-16 with Luke 21:20-21. What does Luke’s gospel interpret “the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet” to be? (Jesus quotes from Septuagint of Daniel.)
9. Premillennialists view a “gap” between the Messiah being “cut off” and the rest of the chapter. According to this doctrine, we are now living in this “gap” and it will continue until the 70<sup>th</sup> week begins sometime in the near future. Already this “gap” is over 1900 years. DO YOU SEE ANY “GAP” OF TIME IN THE TEXT, AND IF SO, WHERE?
10. In view of all the above, is there any prophecy in Daniel chapter nine about events to take place at Christ’ “second” coming at the end of time? What is the LATEST DATE the “seventy sevens” have in view?

## DANIEL: CHAPTERS 10-12

Chapter summary (for drill): *Destiny of Jewish nation in the latter days*

10:1-3 - Daniel in mourning for three weeks

10:4-11:1 - One appears to him who will give him understanding

11:2-12:13 - Historical events affecting the Jewish nation until their end

1. Read chapters 10-12.
2. Review drill work. Add to drill
  - a. Chapter summary for chapter nine.
  - b. The “seventy weeks” began with what event? Give the date.
  - c. The “seventy weeks” ended (70<sup>th</sup> week) with what two events?
  - d. What did Jesus Christ apply “the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet” to?
3. The one who appeared to Daniel said this vision was about WHAT, WHO, and WHEN? (Answer is all in one verse.)
  - a. WHAT
  - b. WHO
  - c. WHEN
4. If “the North” refers to Syria and “the South” refers to Egypt, what country lies between them?
5. How this land is described in the text, 11:16,41,45.
6. Mark, or list, the phrases that have “time” or “end” in them. E.g., “end is still to come at the appointed time,” 11:27.  
  
Read 1 Co. 10:11; Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Pe. 4:7.
7. When will “all these events be completed”? (12:7)  
  
Read Mat. 23:34-38; 24:14-15,28; Luke 21:24-28; Mat 3:8-10; Luke 13:3; Mat. 21:43.
8. Who is “the king” of 11:36ff? Following are interpretations that have been suggested with some comments about each. (Part of this is from Jim McGuiggan’s commentary on Daniel, pp. 177-179.)

- a. Antiochus Epiphanes
    - i. The king of the south never attacked him (v 40). It was always the other way around (vv 25,29).
    - ii. Antiochus Epiphanes never fought a war against Egypt after 168 BC, much less a successful one (vv 42-43).
    - iii. He never conquered Libya or Ethiopia (v 43).
    - iv. Instead of mastering the vast riches of v 43, he was severely beaten in Persia where he was robbing temples to pay the tax Rome had put on the Seleucids.
  - b. Herod the Great
    - i. Egyptians never came against him. (v 40)
    - ii. He never came against Egypt. (v 42)
    - iii. He never conquered Egypt, Libya, or Ethiopia. (v 42-43)
  - c. The Antichrist to come at the end of the world
    - i. A GAP of 2,000 years must be INSERTED between v. 35 and v. 36. There is no justification for it in the text, only in premillennial theology.
    - ii. If 12:6-7 refer to 70 AD, this marks the latest date of the prophecy, not the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century.
    - iii. Chapters 2, 7, and 9 have ended with Rome. Chapter 8 with the Seleucid kingdom. There is no reason to think any different here, and an ending with Rome would be consistent with what has thus far been portrayed in the visions of the book.
  - d. Rome
    - i. This would be consistent with the pattern of the visions thus far (chps. 2,7,9).
    - ii. To discuss the history of the Jews in “the latter days” without discussing Rome would certainly leave a big void.
    - iii. These verses fit the Roman policy and practice.
    - iv. It accords with 12:6-7 looking to the end of the Jewish nation in 70 AD.
9. The “resurrection” of 12:2.

- a. WHEN will it occur? (See your marking, #6 above.)  
Compare 10:14...12:6-7; 12:1 with Mat. 24:21...34.
- b. WHO will be raised? (All, or, some?)  
Compare John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15.
- c. When the prophets spoke of resurrection, they did not always refer to a *physical* resurrection. What is spoken of as being raised to life in the following?
  - i. Isa. 26:11-19  
(See your notes on Isaiah. Note especially v. 15)
  - ii. Eze. 37  
(Note especially vv. 11,22,24-25.)
  - iii. Read Psa. 89 (note especially vv. 33-51); Luke 1:32-33, 67-79; Mark 1:15; Acts 1:6; 2:33-36,41; 5:31; Rom. 9:6-8; Gal. 6:16.

10. Drill questions for chapters 10-12:

- a. Summary of these chapters.
- b. What was Daniel's vision in these chapters about?
- c. When would all these events be completed?
- d. When the prophets prophesied of resurrection, they did not always refer to a physical resurrection. To what did they sometimes refer?
- e. What are some indicators that the resurrection of Daniel 12 is NOT the physical resurrection at the end of the world?

**DRILL/REVIEW**

1. When was Daniel taken captive?
2. By whom was he taken captive?
3. Where was he taken captive?
4. About how old was he?
5. How long was his prophetic ministry? Give dates.
6. What were the dates of the three captivities of Judah by Babylon?
7. What nation conquered them and took them captive?
8. When was the temple destroyed?
9. When did Cyrus conquer Babylon?
10. Who are the Babylonian kings in the book of Daniel?
11. What is their relationship?
12. Who are the Medo-Persian kings in the book of Daniel?
13. What is the theme of the book of Daniel?
14. Explain the importance of this theme upon the Jews of the captivity.
15. What are two sections of the book, one with historical events concerning Daniel and his three friends, and the other with Daniel's dreams?
16. Who were contemporary prophets with Daniel, where did they do they prophesying, and to whom?
17. What was Daniel renowned for according to Ezekiel?
18. What did Jesus call Daniel?
19. Give a chapter summary of each chapter.
20. What was Daniel's Babylonian name?
21. Who were his three friends? (Hebrew & Babylonian names)
22. What was significant about the change of their names and Daniel's?
23. How did Daniel come to be one to serve in the presence of the king?
24. What test did Nebuchadnezzar use to ascertain the validity of any proposed interpretations to his dream? (ch. 2)
25. Describe his dream. (ch. 2)
26. What did it mean?
27. To what period does "in the days of these kings" refer?
28. What did Daniel's interpretation of the dream demonstrate about the God Daniel served?
29. What did the fulfillment of the dream prove about Daniel's God?
30. Describe the circumstances that threatened the lives of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
31. Relate their response of faith to the king.
32. What happened when they were thrown into the furnace?
33. What did this event prove about the God these three young men served?
34. Describe Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its meaning. (ch. 4)
35. What was the purpose of the dream?
36. How did Belshazzar show his disrespect for Jehovah God?
37. What was the writing on the wall and what did it mean?
38. What motivated those who conspired to have Daniel thrown to the lions?
39. For what practice was Daniel thrown to the lions?

40. About how old was Daniel at this time?
41. Who was the king associated with this event?
42. Briefly relate what happened.
43. What are the four beasts in Daniel's dream of chapter seven?
44. How many kingdoms do they represent?
45. Which kingdoms are these?
46. When was the little horn to arise?
47. What phrase is found in chapter seven that Jesus frequently used in reference to himself?
48. What did Daniel see happening to the Son of Man in chapter seven?
49. What effect did this have on the saints?
50. What are the two beasts of Daniel's dream in chapter eight?
51. What do they represent?
52. To what does "time of the end" refer to in chapter eight?
53. The "seventy weeks" of chapter nine began with what event? Give the date.
54. The "seventy weeks" ended (70th week) with what two events?
55. To what did Jesus Christ apply "the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet" (chapter nine)?
56. What was Daniel's vision in chapters 10-12 about?
57. When would all these events (chapters ten-twelve) be completed?
58. When the prophets prophesied of resurrection, they did not always refer to a physical resurrection. To what did they sometimes refer?
59. What are some indicators that the resurrection of Daniel 12 is NOT the physical resurrection at the end of the world?