

## Introduction to Daniel Parts 1 & 2 STUDY GUIDE

### Daniel 1 & 2

This first chapter reveals the way of the cross. God humbles Himself before the nations by allowing His people who are called by His name to be taken captive by the Babylonians. In Daniel 2, God is exalted in the eyes of the nations through a dream given to an unbelieving king. This is a type of the cross where God humbled Himself to the point of death, paying the penalty we deserved so that His true character might be seen by all. He is exalted as the true and only God.

God's people in Israel and Judah had failed to focus on sharing with the nations the good news of the God of love. They had become selfish and self-serving, and God saw that His people needed a change in their experience. First, He sent prophets to warn them, but finally, there was nothing more that He could do but displace them from Judah. God let His people be taken captive into Babylon for the purpose of evangelism—captive evangelism—for their good, the good of the Babylonians, and the good of the rest of the world.

### Philippians 2:5-11

Here we see the same basic principle as is found in Daniel 1 and 2. God humbles Himself in the form of Christ, taking our sins and suffering the death of the cross. Then, He is highly exalted above every name. Likewise, God has humbled Himself before the nations in Daniel 1, and then He is highly exalted among the nations through the dream that only Daniel and his friends could correctly understand and interpret.

Why were Daniel and his three friends wise enough to under-

stand and interpret the prophetic dream from God? As they arrived in captivity, Daniel and his friends refused the wine of Babylon in chapter one. This results in them being ten times wiser than all the wise men of Babylon, so that in Daniel 2, they are able to interpret a message that is to be shared with all the world (one of the wisest things they did to understand this message was to pray to God for help). Their refusal of the wine of Babylon prepared them to understand and declare the prophetic message.

This parallels the three angels' messages to those who refuse the wine of spiritual Babylon in the end times, enabling them to give a worldwide prophetic message.

### Daniel 3

The theme of Daniel 3 is fear: the fear of God or the fear of man. All the people who worship the image do so because of the fear of man. The three Hebrews, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, have the fear of God and refuse to worship the image.

The message that the king has heard from Daniel in chapter two is Babylon

is falling. Nebuchadnezzar does not like that message. In Daniel 3, the king sets up an image of himself that all the world must worship. And unlike the God-given dream, Nebuchadnezzar's image is all of gold—an earthly attempt to prevent the God-predicted fall of Babylon. In Daniel 3, we see a foreshadowing of the prophecies of Revelation 13 and 14: the end-time message of spiritual Babylon's fall, an image worshiped, and a death decree pronounced.

### Daniel 4

This chapter brings Nebuchadnezzar to a heart experience with God. Daniel 1 gave us a picture of God's surrender of His people into Babylonian captivity, a humbling of Himself be-



“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”

**PHILIPPIANS 2:5**

### KEY SCRIPTURES

**Philippians 2:10** EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW

**Daniel 3:1** THE KING MADE AN IMAGE OF GOLD

**Daniel 4:36** MY REASON RETURNED TO ME

**Daniel 5:27** YOU HAVE BEEN WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES

fore the nations. In Daniel 2, God brings Nebuchadnezzar to an intellectual knowledge of the truth because God is seeking to win this heathen king to Heaven. In Daniel 3, God gave Nebuchadnezzar a powerful witness of Himself in the fiery furnace with the three Hebrew boys who refused to worship any god but Him.

Now in Daniel 4, God is seeking to do whatever it takes to save Nebuchadnezzar and bring him into a genuine relationship with Himself. In a second dream given to Nebuchadnezzar, the king is likened to a tree that reached to the heavens, a phrase mentioned in Revelation 18:5 regarding spiritual Babylon just before it is judged. This adds to the spiritual significance of Daniel's prophecies to our time. Like Daniel and his friends, God's end-time people will refuse to drink the wine of Babylon, making them ten times wiser. This gives them prophetic insight to discern and preach a prophetic message that no one else understands. This message foretells the fall of Babylon. Then Babylon makes an image all of gold and commands all to bow down to it. When Babylon does this, Daniel 4 reveals her sins have reached to the heavens. Even though these chapters all have historical precedence, they also portend the very events revealed in the book of Revelation.

### Daniel 5

Daniel 5 unfolds the final call of the gospel to those who have refused to acknowledge the truth of God's love. Like Belshazzar, we have inherited a history of God's love and care for Planet Earth, and for every person who lives on it. Yet most of us, like Belshazzar, have refused to respond and acknowledge God's call upon our lives. We eat, drink, and even profane God's vessels with no accountability to anyone. This chapter reveals that God will eventually bring every person to account.

This chapter also adds a powerful insight into the prophetic message for the last days. Belshazzar was conquered by Cyrus, a type of Christ. Cyrus was one of the kings of the east who dried up the Euphrates River, the lifeline and protection for ancient Babylon. In the last days, Christ will return from the direction of the east and dry up the spiritual River Euphrates, the support of spiritual Babylon (Revelation 16:12).

### Daniel 6

This chapter unfolds the importance of revealing the Spirit of God before kings and rulers. As Daniel was a ruler in Babylon, so now he is chosen as a ruler in Medo-Persia. The Spirit of God abiding in His people makes them valuable to the prosperity of earthly nations.

This chapter also adds significant insight to our last-day prophetic message. As in Revelation 13, a death decree is given in Daniel 6 pertaining to those who worship God. For Daniel's faithfulness to God, he is thrown into a den of lions, yet he is delivered from death. Those who worked to kill Daniel meet with the same fate they wished upon him. This speaks

again to the end time. Those who would seek a death decree against God's faithful people will themselves meet the consequences of their own plots, while God's people will be delivered by heavenly angels.

### Daniel 7

This chapter is a basic amplification of the vision in Daniel 2. It parallels the four earthly kingdoms leading to God's everlasting kingdom, while it highlights the little horn power. This chapter adds to the prophetic outline of the previous chapters, highlighting the time when the God of Heaven sets up His Judgment against the little horn and God's people inherit His Kingdom.

We also see the covenant theme in the book of Daniel. The everlasting covenant calls us to trust God to do what He has promised to do, including putting His Law into our hearts and minds. The little horn attacks God's everlasting covenant by thinking to change God's law (the second commandment omitted, and the fourth commandment's seventh-day call to worship changed to the first day of the week, as in the teaching of the papal church-state).

### Daniel 8

In this chapter, the little horn is again highlighted. Here we see his attack against another one of God's everlasting-covenant promises. This time he attacks the promise that God will forgive our sins through Christ, the only Mediator between man and God. The little horn takes away the truth of Christ's mediation for sin by setting up a counterfeit mediation of earthly priests. In this way, he casts to the ground the truth of the Sanctuary in Heaven. This undermines God's everlasting covenant and the cleansing of the human temple from sin. Yet God will prevail. His Sanctuary in Heaven, corresponding to His people on Earth, will be cleansed from all sin.

### Hebrews 10:16, 17

There are three points in these verses that connect us to the book of Daniel, specifically chapters 7 and 8. The first one is the everlasting-covenant promise that God will put His laws into our hearts and write them in our minds (Daniel 7:25). The second is that God will remember our sins and iniquities no more (Daniel 8:14). The final point seen through all these verses is that the everlasting covenant is all about what God promises to do for us, not what we promise to do for Him (Daniel 8:25).

### Daniel 11:22, 30, 32

The book of Daniel is all about the everlasting covenant. This is why in Daniel 11, we see the fourth and final repeat-and-enlarge summary of the four prophetic cycles, the open and repeated reference to the covenant. The antichrist power will break the Prince of the Covenant, have indignation against the Holy Covenant, have intelligence with those

who forsake the Holy Covenant, and corrupt those who do wickedly against the Covenant. Daniel 11 is summarizing Daniel 1-9, the basic, most fundamental summary of this entire book: it's all about God's everlasting covenant.

### Daniel 9

Here we find the time prophecy, given to Daniel in chapter 8, explained in more detail. The first part of this prophecy, 70 prophetic weeks, is determined or cut off for Daniel's people and the coming Messiah. At the end of the 70-week prophetic period, a determined retribution is to fall upon the desolate. This was fulfilled when Christ came as our Savior and Sacrifice for our sins 2,000 years ago. Approximately one generation, or 40 years after His death and resurrection, Jerusalem was destroyed and made desolate along with its inhabitants. Daniel 9 then adds the close of probation for God's people in A.D. 70, followed by the outpouring of desolation that destroys Jerusalem. This desolation was a type of the seven last plagues in Revelation chapters 15-20, when a final desolation will fall upon the entire world who have rejected Christ.

### Daniel 10

Daniel 10 is where we find the spiritual veggies and nutrients we need to grow big and strong as Christians. The focus of this chapter is a connection with God, trusting in God, leaning on God, letting God touch us, speak to us, lift us up, and teach us to trust in Him. Again and again, Daniel, a man with a strong spiritual experience, faints before the glory of God. His only strength in each of these falls is the speaking, healing, and touching power of God. This reminds us that our only source of strength is found in an unbroken connection with God.

### Daniel 11, 12

This final vision in the book of Daniel is a revelation of the ultimate anti-God power on Earth. God reminds us that this power will come to his end and none shall help him. This happens because Michael will stand up and the faithful kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of Christ.

### Summary

At the end of time, God will have a people who reject the wine of Babylon. They will be ten times wiser and be able to understand a prophetic message that no one else can understand. This message warns of the fall of spiritual Babylon, and as a result of this message, who will seek to set up an image and command all to bow down and worship. When they do this, their sins will have reached to heaven and spiritual Babylon will fall. Cyrus, a type of Christ, prepared the way for heaven's army by drying up the River Euphrates, symbolically speaking of the peoples of the world. Those who had a death decree against them for worshipping God according to His Word will be delivered. Judgment will be set against the little horn, while God's people inherit the kingdom promised them. The Sanctuary will be cleansed, and that which was determined will be poured out upon the desolating powers of Earth. God's people will have an unbreakable covenant relationship with Christ. The rest of the world follows after the false king of the north, who makes his final move for complete control of Planet Earth. At that point, Michael stands up and delivers God's living people and all those who rest in their graves. May each one of us choose to be part of that number by the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Amen. ★

