

Bible Snapshots



Daniel – Glory Lost and Found **Author** – *Daniel* (7:1, 28; 8:2; 9:2; 10:1, 2; 12:4; Mt. 24:15)

Facts of Daniel

- The name Daniel means “God is my judge”
- He is what we might call a “political prophet,” detailing how God works in the kingdoms of men, including the gentile world, which he displays in great detail through visions and dreams of various kinds.
- Daniel is one of what you might call the “best of the best” of Israel and was selected by the leaders of Babylon to be among the first group of exiles taken away to serve in the palace of the king and other important positions. The period of Daniel’s prophecies is from about 605-530 B.C. – from king Nebuchadnezzar to Kings Cyrus and Darius of the Medes and Persians.
- Daniel was a contemporary of Ezekiel and Nehemiah and of Joshua and Zerubbabel of the remnant.
- His prophecy was to the southern kingdom of Judah during the captivity. It is part history and part prophetic. There are 12 chapters and 357 verses.

Key chapter / verse – 2, Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and its interpretation / 2:44; 7:14

Key phrases / word

- Kingdom – occurs 57 times
- In the latter days (2:28)
- Most high rules in the kingdoms of men (4:25 with Romans 13:1)

Outline of the book

I. Historical 1-6

- A. Heathen customs judged -1
- B. Heathen philosophy judged – 2
- C. Heathen pride judged – 3, 4
- D. Heathen piety judged – 5
- E. Heathen persecution judged - 6

II. Prophetic 7-12

- A. Nations of the world judged

Christ in Daniel / Names for God

- The Stone (2:35, 45); a Great Mountain (2:35); Son of God (3:25); Ancient of Days (7:9); Son of Man (7:13); Lord of His kingdom (7:14); Prince of princes (8:25); the Most Holy (9:24); Messiah (9:25) / God of Heaven (2:44); God of gods (2:47); Lord of kings (2:47); Reviler of secrets (2:47); Most high God (3:26); the Deliverer (3:29); King of heaven (4:37); the living God (6:20); Lord God (9:3); Great and dreadful God (9:4); covenant keeping God (9:4) and God of his Fathers (11:37).

Prophecy and Daniel

- The Gentile kingdoms – Daniel gives an amazing overview of ancient history and the kingdoms that would dominate it, including the Babylonians (2:37, 38); Persians (7:5; 8:20); Grecian (2:39; 8:21) and the Romans (2:40; 7:7). He foresaw that the Babylonian kingdom

would be the richest of all of them, but would fall (11:2, 4). He foresaw the dividing of Alexander' s kingdom into four parts (8:22), becoming Macedonia, Thrace, Egypt and Syria.

- The Maccabean period and persecution of Antiochus Epiphanes (8:22-25)
- Messianic prophecies – Timeline of Christ' s birth (9:24-26 with Luke 2:1, 2); the ministry of Christ (9:24 with Mt. 20:28); Vicarious nature of His suffering (9:26); and the everlasting nature of his dominion (7:14 with Luke 1:32, 33).
- The seventy weeks prophecy (9:27) – most likely a prediction of events that lead up to the tribulation to take place when Jerusalem is destroyed in 70A.D.

Miracles and Odd Events

- Daniels interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar' s dream (2:1-47)
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego saved in the fiery furnace (3:19-28)
- Nebuchadnezzar eating like a beast of the field (4:24-28; 2:21)
- Handwriting on the wall during Belshazzar' s feast (5)
- Daniel saved from the lion' s den (6)

Proving Daniel

- When Nebuchadnezzar demanded that his magicians and astrologers interpret his dream they failed miserably. Daniel did not and was promoted. In digs at Babylon archeologists found ruins of a college, a library and curricula for native princes to be trained especially for interpretations of dreams and visions. One of those records stipulates the following two regulations associated with such interpretations. First, impiety to an gods mean one was cast into a fiery furnace. Second, any untoward act relative to the king would cause one to be placed into a den of lions. Excavators in Babylon also found a furnace that had an inscription that read, “This is he place of burning where men who blaspheme the gods of Chaldea die by fire.”
- Who was the last king of Babylon? The Bible says in Daniel that it was Belshazzar (ch. 5). However, clay tablets that have been uncovered say that Nabonidus was the final ruler. Critics jumped all over this statement and claimed the Bible was wrong. They were silenced, however, when another clay tablet revealed that during the final days of Babylon Nabonidus allowed his son, Belshazzar, to reign as “regent” in his stead. Look at Daniel 5:16. Belshazzar promised Daniel that he would be “third ruler in the kingdom.” Of course this makes sense if Nabonidus is first, Belshazzar second and then Daniel.
- Babylonians excavations have revealed places that bear the inscription, “The place of execution where men who angered the king die, torn by wild beasts.” This gives validation to the events of Daniel 6, when Daniel is thrown into lion' s den.

Daniel in the New Testament

- The eternal kingdom – 2:44 with Acts 2
- Reconciliation for iniquity – 9:24 with Heb. 9:12
- Christ cut off – rejection and suffering – 9:26a with Mt. 27:22-35
- Abomination of desolation – 9:27 with Mt. 24:15
- Companion references:
 - Daniel unharmed in the lions den – 6:23 with Hebrews 11:33
 - Names written in a book – 12:1 with Lk. 10:20b; Rev. 13:8
 - Eternal punishment – 12:2 with Mt. 25:46 and John 5:28,29
 - Reward for soul-winning – 12:3 with 1 Thess. 2:19, 20