



THE BOOK OF  
**DANIEL**  
 UNSHAKABLE  
 LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS  
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## An Overview of The Book of Daniel

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

### A. REMINDER'S

Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet *future*.”  
 - Daniel 10:14, NASB

**Daniel:** Daniel was a Prince and Prophet of Judah (Israel). His book preserves the divinely inspired prophecies Daniel made during his long ministry of over 60 years. Born in Jerusalem of royal descent (1:3), he was carried away captive to the Babylonians. At times, he occupied high offices in both Babylonian and Persian governments.

**Time:** Daniel lived during the period of the Babylonian captivity in the sixth century and until very near its close. He was a contemporary with Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Ezra. (The other prophets focused mainly on Israel. Daniel prophesied after the destruction of Jerusalem, and his prophecies had to do not only with Israel but also, in large part, to the gentile nations.)

**Place:** Daniel's whole life, from the time of his captivity, was spent in the great and glamorous city of Babylon—ancient Hollywood—a city now called Baghdad. He spent 69 years in a vile court. He lived a life without blame and was well-favored.

**Focus:** Daniel has been called, “A Prophet of Dreams.” God revealed to him His secrets about the near and far future of the world. He is most quoted in the Book of Revelation. Daniel is to the OT what Revelation is to the NT.

### B. HISTORY RECORDED (CHAPTER 1 - 6)

**Chapter 1:** Daniel and his companions in exile. They were true to their religious convictions.

“Daniel determined that he would not defile himself.” - Daniel 1:8, NASB

When Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem in 605 BC, he plundered the Temple and took captive many from among the Jewish royalty and nobility, including Daniel. After arriving in Babylon, Daniel and three others were immediately groomed for service to the king. In chapter one, we find Daniel faithful in the dining room. It is possible to live in Babylon and be faithful to God. If you want an unshakable life in the last days, you must count the cost. **Like Daniel, trusting God when your world falls apart will be your greatest trial. To compromise your beliefs will be your greatest temptation. Staying pure in the midst of moral decay will be your greatest triumph.**



**Chapter 2:** Daniel gives and interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dreams.

“Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him...<sup>16</sup> So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king.”

- Daniel 2:1, 16 NASB

Faced with certain death if he could not interpret the king's dream, Daniel did not panic, he just prayed. God gave Daniel the dream and the interpretation. The king saw a huge statue with a gold head, silver chest and arms, bronze belly and thighs, iron legs, and feet that are a combination of iron and clay. They represented the Babylonian (625-536 BC), the Persian (536-330 BC), the Greek (330-146 BC) and the Roman (146 BC—70 AD) empires. There was also a Christophany coming to earth and destroying the nations of the world. **Daniel realized the insufficiency of human power and wisdom. He also realized the only solution to man's insufficiency was God's sufficiency.**



**Chapter 3:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to worship Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue and are thrown into a blazing furnace—but survive because of *fireproof faith*.

“Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.’<sup>17</sup> ‘If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.’<sup>18</sup> ‘But *even if He does not*, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.’” - Daniel 3:16-18, NASB

Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue that was 90 feet tall and 9 feet wide. He commanded everyone to fall down and worship it (him) when they heard the music play. Three men did not. The flamboyant king punished, and the ‘fourth man’ showed up. Then, the three walked out of the fiery furnace unscathed. **Three things someone with Fireproof Faith never does: They never BOW to anyone but**

**God. They never BEND when it comes to convictions, and they never BURN because God ultimately protects them.**

**Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar has a second dream, which Daniel also interprets. When the king refuses to repent, he has to live like an animal for seven years. His kingdom and sanity are restored when he finally acknowledges the one true God.**

“But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation.”  
- Daniel 4:34, NASB

**Nebuchadnezzar’s dream:** He sees a large tree spreading out (vv. 4–12) and he sees the tree struck down (vv. 13–18). A messenger, a holy one, cuts down this tree and says it represents a man who will lose his mind and will live like a wild animal for seven years. **Daniel’s interpretation:** (vv. 19–27) Daniel identifies the tree as Nebuchadnezzar, who will suffer from a divinely caused insanity due to his pride. However, in seven years, after he acknowledges God’s power, his kingdom will be restored. **The dead-end street called PRIDE provokes Deity, proves depravity, promotes dissention, parades dishonor and precedes destruction.**



**Chapter 5: Belshazzar sees a hand writing on the wall and calls Daniel for an interpretation. Belshazzar dies that very night when Darius the Mede captures the city of Babylon.**

“Suddenly the fingers of a man’s hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace....” - Daniel 5:5, NASB

The king may have been new, but the sin was old: pride and self-confidence. At that very hour, Darius was besieging the city; but so certain was Belshazzar of his defenses that he ridiculed Jehovah and praised the false gods of Babylon. He also took the holy instruments of worship from the temple and used them for his demented party. **Don’t use sacred things for profane purposes.**



**Chapter 6: Daniel faced three crises, and the Lord gave him victory in each one. Ultimately, Daniel found himself thrown into the lion’s den.**

<sup>20</sup> “When he had come near the den to Daniel... ‘Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?’ ... <sup>22</sup> ... ‘My God sent His angel and shut the lion’s mouths and they have not harmed me...’ <sup>23</sup> Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So, Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.” - Daniel 6:20-23, NASB

**The work crisis** (vv. 1–5): When the other officers heard that Daniel might be promoted, they were envious and wanted to get rid of him. **The prayer crisis** (vv. 6–17): The officers lied when they used the word *all*, for that gave the king the idea that Daniel agreed with them. But no laws or threats could keep Daniel from his times of prayer. **The faith crisis** (vv. 18–28): God did not keep Daniel *out of* the den;

He protected him *in* the den. Why? Because Daniel had faith in the Lord. **There will always be lions among us. There will always be His presence with us. Jesus is still in the business of taming lions for us.**

### C. HISTORY PREDICTED (CHAPTER 7 - 12)

In **Daniel 7**, we see ***A vision of world history*** (vv. 1–8). Man views human kingdoms as valuable metals (Chap. 2), but God sees them as vicious animals that fight and devour each other. Human history will culminate in a worldwide kingdom under a satanic world ruler (Antichrist) who will defy God and eventually be defeated by God’s Son. ***A vision of heaven*** (vv. 9–14). While the beasts are fighting on earth, God is holding court in heaven, and everything is under His control. Jesus Christ will one day establish a righteous kingdom that nobody will overthrow. ***A vision of saints on earth*** (vv. 15–28). These “saints” are believers saved during the Great Tribulation, just before the Lord returns to set up His kingdom. **(Think the prophecy of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to Earth.)**

In **Daniel 8**, Daniel saw himself in the Persian capital, for Persia would be the next world power after Babylon. In this vision, God pictured Persia as a ram and Greece (the next power) as a male goat (vv. 19–22). We see the evil general, Antiochus Epiphanes IV, who invaded Palestine, defiled the Jewish temple, and put the Jews under bondage. He is a picture of the world ruler to come, the Antichrist (vv. 15–26). **(Think the prophecy of the Great Tribulation on Earth and the Nation of Israel delivered.)**

In **Daniel 9**, Daniel prayed and emphasized the sinfulness of himself and his people and the righteousness of God, and he asked for God’s forgiveness. God gave Daniel a preview of Jewish history. Jerusalem would be rebuilt, and the temple restored. Messiah would come and die. An evil prince would break his covenant with the Jews and trigger desolation. But God would triumph, and Jerusalem would become truly a holy city. **(Think the prophecy of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and the reality of Heaven—forever!)**

In **Daniel 10**, the Jewish exiles had returned to the land and were rebuilding the temple when Daniel had this experience. He had been fasting for three weeks, wanting to know the future. Eventually an angel visited him, and this visitation of the angel left him even more weakened. Daniel was distraught that it took so long for the angel to come to him because of a spiritual battle in the heavenlies. This vision would be explained in Chapters 11-12. **(Think the current spiritual warfare.)**

In **Daniel 11-12**, God’s angel describes for Daniel the future reigns of various Persian, Greek, Egyptian, and Syrian kings. The angel concludes by predicting the eventual rise and defeat of the Antichrist himself! **(Think the antichrist gone forever!)**



**D**aniel, chapters 9-12, are very difficult periscopes (i.e., passages) to absorb. It would behoove us to ponder the *end of the book*—and its conclusions—to keep our hearts from being overwhelmed with all the theological intricacies. **The ending is indeed clear: The Earth will be destroyed, the antichrist will be defeated, Israel will be delivered, the saints will be raised, and God’s kingdom will be established—forever.**