

GOD IS ON THE THRONE
Introduction to the Book of Daniel – Daniel 1:1-2

AiM Young Adults, January 2, 2026

- The central theme of Daniel: **The absolute _____ and _____ of _____.**

- Theme verse: **Daniel 4:34-37** (declared by Nebuchadnezzar!)

- Purpose statement: ***To glorify the true and living God and cause His people to worship Him by living lives of humility, faith, and obedience, no matter the cost.***

- Key data points:
 - The events of the book of Daniel span the period from 605 BC (Dan 1:1) to 536 BC (Dan 10:1)

 - Likely, Daniel wrote the book shortly after between 536 BC and 530 BC.

 - Contrary to critics who want to date the book much later (around 1st century BC), the best historical data and God's own testimony (see Ezek. 14:12-14; Matt. 24:14-15) affirms a **6th Century** writing from Daniel. Therefore, we are convinced of an early date – not a late date.

- Key Prophecies: Isaiah 39:5-7 and Jeremiah 25 and 46

- The Book of Daniel is going to confront us with two primary things:
 1. The trustworthiness of the sovereign God who is on the throne.

 2. The example of a man (Daniel) who entrusted himself to God, no matter the cost.

Outline of the Book of Daniel¹

Daniel: God's Rule over History

I. God's Rule in Bringing Daniel to Babylon (Daniel 1)

II. God's Rule over World Empires (Daniel 2-7)

- A. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the Great Statue (2)
(God's Rule over Four World Empires)*
- B. Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Image (3)
(God's Rule Preserves Daniel's Friends in the Fiery Furnace)*
- C. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the Tree (4)
(God's Rule humbles Proud Nebuchadnezzar)*
- D. Belshazzar's Feast (5)
(God's Rule Judges Forgetful Belshazzar)*
- E. Darius' Decree (6)
(God's Rule Preserves Daniel in the Lions' Den)*
- F. Daniel's Dream of the Four Beasts (7)
(God's Rule over Four World Empires)*

III. God's Rule over Israel's Future (Daniel 8-12)

- A. Daniel's Dream of the Ram, the Male Goat, and the Little Horn (8)
(Israel's Persecution)*
- B. Daniel's Prayer and the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks (9)
(The End of Israel's Persecution)*
- C. Daniel's Vision of the Heavenly Messenger and His Message (10-12)
(Israel's Persecution and Restoration)*

¹ This outline is produced by John C. Whitcomb, *Daniel*, 1985: 18.