

# **“AN OVERVIEW”**

## **THE BOOK OF DANIEL**

**Theme:** God reveals through His Word what saints need to remain faithful to Him.

### **I. THE DIVIDENDS IN THE BOOK**

#### **A. *OUR COMFORT IN SUFFERING FOR GOD***

1. The book of Daniel is a fascinating reassurance by God for a choice servant of the Lord for whom the Lord desired to bring comfort in the suffering he was enduring, confidence in God's sovereignty over even the greatest human power, and clarity in God's strategy for the future of the chosen people of Israel.
2. Daniel had essentially been kidnapped by an invading army and hauled off as a captive slave for a life of service at the pleasure of the enemy.
3. We're told that he was from a royal family in Judea ([1:3](#)) for the purpose of grooming them in Babylonian culture and custom so that they could serve as governors and vice-regents over their “former” people.
4. However, instead of conforming to the godlessness of the Babylonian paganism, Daniel and others chose to remain true to God and submit to Him instead of their captors.
5. As a result, they suffered for the sake of the Lord, but God did miraculous things to assure them that He cared for them and would remain faithful to those who seek Him and His glory.
  - a) First, God provided Daniel and his companions favor in the eyes of their captors when they chose to avoid defiling themselves with the meat that had been offered to idols – cp. [Daniel 1:8-9, 14-16](#).
  - b) Second, God provided Daniel and his companions intellectual advancement and the ability to understand visions and dreams – [Daniel 1:17, 20](#).
  - c) Third, God protected Daniel’s companions – Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah – when they refused to worship the image of Nebuchadnezzar by preserving them through the furnace of fire – [Daniel 3:16-18, 24-26](#).
  - d) Fourth, God protected Daniel when Babylon fell to the Persians and as one of the presidents, Daniel was brought

1.

into the Medo-Persian government and remained a high official – [Daniel 6:1-3](#).

- e) Fifth, God protected Daniel when he disobeyed the proclamation that prayer had to be limited to King Darius or else, they would be fed to lions in their den – [Daniel 6:10-11, 16, 19-22](#).
- 6. These accounts provide us with illustration after illustration of God's faithfulness to those who submit to Him and seek to honor Him – even amid a hostile world we can maintain our hope in God.

B. ***OUR CONFIDENCE IN THE SUPREMACY OF GOD OVER WORLD EVENTS***

- 1. The second dividend in studying the book is the confidence that it provides that God is sovereign over world events.
- 2. We can sometimes feel as though things are reeling out of control and wonder “where is God?”
- 3. However, God assures Daniel and the rest of us that He is providentially ruling – determining world events and aligning all things to His eternal purposes.
- 4. First, God gave Judah over to the power of Babylon – [Daniel 1:2](#).
- 5. Second, God gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream revealing the plans of God for world domination by the Gentiles – [Daniel 2:20-22](#).
  - a) Babylon – [2:36-38](#).
  - b) Medo-Persia – [2:39a](#).
  - c) Greece – [2:29b](#).
  - d) Rome – [2:40-43](#).
  - e) Millennium – [2:44](#).
- 6. Third, God humbled Nebuchadnezzar and demonstrated His supremacy over the most powerful man in the world – [Daniel 4:34-35](#).
- 7. Fourth, in thwarting the decree of Darius concerning prayer, God demonstrated that He is incomparably superior to human authority – [Daniel 6:25-27](#).
- 8. Fifth, God declares in Daniel that all earthly authority – including every ruler will one day serve the Messiah – even the coming Antichrist – [Daniel 7:27; 9:27](#).
- 9. Sixth, God shows that even to the fine details of human history, God determines what will unfold – [Daniel 11](#).

C. ***OUR COMPREHENSION OF THE STRATEGY OF GOD FOR THE FUTURE***

1.

bble Church of Fair Oaks

September 4, 2022

1. The discipline of God over Israel is outlined from Daniel 8-12 with such alarming detail that Daniel is actually sickened by what is revealed to him – cp. [Daniel 10:8-10](#).
2. Israel would be oppressed and dominated by kingdom after kingdom throughout a time known as the Times of the Gentiles.
3. This is detailed all the way through from their captivity in Babylon through the end of the coming Great Tribulation when they will be almost exterminated.
4. Great detail is given of what Israel will endure:
  - a) Alexander the Great's conquest, the division of His empire between Alexander's four generals – [Daniel 8:8](#).
  - b) Antiochus Epiphanes' treacheries against Israel which foreshadow the atrocities of the coming Antichrist – [Daniel 8:9-11, 23-24](#).
  - c) Antichrist's treacheries are predicted as occurring during the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel – cp. [Daniel 9:24-27](#).
5. As mentioned earlier, a swift history of the world is provided to Daniel – [Daniel 11](#).
6. Finally, the destinies of both the righteous and the unrighteous are prophesied – [Daniel 12:2](#).
7. Daniel closes the book with an explanation of the purpose of the Great Tribulation for Israel – [Daniel 12:7-13](#).

## **II. THE DETAILS OF THE BOOK**

### **A. THE AUTHOR**

1. Given the 1<sup>st</sup> person accounts provided by Daniel – it is assumed that it is written by Daniel – cp. [Daniel 7:15; 8:15, 27; 9:2](#); and others.
2. However, what settles the matter is the testimony of the New Testament writers who record that Jesus ascribed the book to Daniel – cp. [Matthew 24:15](#).

### **B. THE LANGUAGES**

1. The book of Daniel is written in two languages – Hebrew & Aramaic.
2. Daniel used Hebrew for chapter 1, and then also from chapter 8-12 when dealing with Israel and her experiences and future.
3. However, when dealing with the Times of the Gentiles and the details of the kingdom of the world, Daniel uses Aramaic in order to

communicate with the Gentile world – chapters 2-7.

#### C. *THE SETTING*

1. Daniel was taken captive in 605 BC when Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was used by God to judge the idolatrous and rebellious nation of Judah (Israel having been conquered in 722 BC by Assyria).
2. The book continues to trace the experiences of Daniel all the way until the demise of the Babylonian Empire at the hands of the Medo-Persian Empire and for a few years into the new reign.
3. Daniel is hailed as a genuinely righteous and wise prophet – cp. *Ezekiel 14:14, 20; 28:3*.
4. He is also honored as a man great faith – *Hebrews 11:32-33*.
5. Daniel was a contemporary of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, and Obadiah.
6. “In Babylon, Daniel received God’s word concerning successive stages of Gentile world domination through the centuries until the greatest Conqueror, Messiah, would put down all Gentile lordship. He then will defeat all foes and raise His covenant people to blessing in His glorious millennial kingdom.”<sup>1</sup>

### **III. THE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE BOOK**

#### A. *THE ILLUSTRATION OF GOD’S PROVISION FOR INDIVIDUALS – 1:1-21*

1. Being Absorbed by Paganism – 1:1-7
2. The Alternative of the Godly – 1:8-16
3. God’s Blessings on the Devout – 1:17-21

#### B. *THE INDICATION OF GOD’S PROVIDENCE OVER THE IDOLATROUS - 2:1-7:28*

1. The Dependability of God – 2:1-23
2. The Character of Daniel – 2:24-30
3. The Rise and Fall of the World – 2:31-45
4. The Reward for Faithfulness – 2:46-49
5. Facing the Pressure to Conform to the World – 3:1-12
6. The Incombustibility of Genuine Faith – 3:13-30
7. The Humiliation of the Pompous – 4:1-27
8. The Conversion of a Pagan – 4:28-37

---

<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur Jr., ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 1225.

9. The Results of Being Reprobate – 5:1-31
  10. The Essence of Integrity – 6:1-11
  11. The Famine & Feasts of a Lion's Den – 6:12-28
  12. Beauty and the Beasts – 7:1-12
  13. The Details of the Millennium – 7:13-14
  14. The Antichrist and the Tribulation – 7:15-28
- C. ***GOD'S INFORMATION OF GOD'S PROMISES TO ISRAEL – 8:1-12:13***
1. The Nations Rage – 8:1-27
  2. Taking God at His Word – 9:1-19
  3. Tribulation Time-Table – 9:20-27
  4. Daniel's Vision of God – 10:1-9
  5. Human Weakness in Spiritual Conflict – 10:10-21
  6. The History of the World – 11:1-45
  7. The Final Inheritance – 12:1-13