

Daniel: Introduction

Main Theme: In spite of present _____, God is in control.

1. The Sovereignty of God

- A. God's sovereignty in _____ life
- B. God's sovereignty over _____ of life

2. The Original Audience

- A. Date: The book of Daniel was set in the _____ century
- B. Major Challenge: the second half of the book makes no-claim to _____ it was written.

3. Outline of Daniel

A. Daniel and his three friends in Nebuchadnezzar's palace (1:1-21)

- 1. The fall of _____ (1:1-2)
- 2. _____ for service (1:3-7)
- 3. Avoiding _____ (1:8-16)
- 4. Daniel and his friends have God-given _____ (1:17-20)

B. God reveals Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel (2:1-49)

- 1. The _____ of the king's advisors (2:1-13)
- 2. God's _____ to Daniel (2:14-23)
- 3. The dream and the interpretation (2:24-45)
- 4. The _____ of the king (2:46-49)

C. God saves the three friends from the fiery furnace (3:1-30)

- 1. The _____ of gold (3:1-7)
- 2. The _____ against the three friends (3:8-12)
- 3. The _____ with Nebuchadnezzar (3:13-18)
- 4. _____ by the hand of God (3:19-27)
- 5. Nebuchadnezzar _____ God (3:28-30)

D. The Fall of Nebuchadnezzar (4:1-37)

1. Nebuchadnezzar's _____ (4:1-3)
 2. The _____ and search for interpretation (4:4-18)
 3. The _____ (4:19-27)
 4. The _____ (4:28-33)
 5. _____ and restoration (4:29-31)
- E. The writing on the wall (5:1-31)
1. The _____ of the the holy vessels (5:1-4)
 2. The _____ of the writing on the wall (5:5-12)
 3. Interpretation (5:13-28)
 4. Reward and _____ (5:29-31)
- F. Daniel and the Lion's Den (6:1-28)
1. The _____ (6:1-9)
 2. The trap and _____ punishment (6:10-18)
 3. Daniel's _____ (6:19-24)
 4. Darius' _____ (6:25-28)
- G. The vision of the 4 beasts (7:1-28)
1. _____ by the sea (7:1-8)
 2. Heavenly _____ (7:9-14)
 3. Divine _____ (7:15-28)
- H. The Ram and the Goat (8:1-27)
1. The vision (8:1-14)
 2. The interpretation (8:15-27)
- I. Daniel's prayer of repentance (9:1-27)
1. Preparation (9:1-4a)
 2. Invocation and _____ (9:4b-10)
 3. God's _____ (9:11-14)
 4. Appeal for _____ (9:15-19)

5. The prophecy of the ___ weeks (9:20-27)
- J. The vision of the heavenly messenger (10:1-11:1)
1. Vision (10:1-9)
 2. A conversation with a _____ being (10:10-11:1)
- K. The Scope and end of history (11:2-12:13)
1. Persia and Greece (11:2-4)
 2. Kings of the _____ and Kings of the _____ (11:5-20)
 3. The _____ king of the north (11:21-35)
 4. The _____ king (11:36-45)
 5. The _____ of God's people (12:1-4)
 6. Final Words (12:5-13)

Discussion Questions

1. The main theme states that "in spite of present appearances, God is in control." Where do you see this tension between appearance and reality in your own life?
2. How do Daniel and his friends demonstrate faithfulness in a culture that opposes their beliefs? What parallels can we draw to today?
3. The text emphasizes that God—not Nebuchadnezzar—is behind the exile. How does this perspective reshape how we view difficult or painful circumstances?
4. Looking at the outline, which story or section of Daniel stands out most to you, and why?
5. Why does the question of when the book of Daniel was written matter for how we understand its prophecies?
6. How do pagan kings like Nebuchadnezzar and Darius respond to God's power, and what does that reveal about God's influence beyond His people?
7. As you begin studying Daniel, what questions or expectations do you bring, especially regarding the more difficult prophetic sections?