

THE BOOK OF
DANIEL



***“So when you see the abomination of desolation
spoken of by the prophet Daniel,
standing in the holy place
(let the reader understand)”***

~JESUS

MATTHEW 24:15

2.0
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DANIEL CHAPTER 1

NO COMPROMISE

“But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king’s food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.”

DANIEL 1:8



DAN
CH 1

WELCOME TO THE BOOKLET OF DANIEL!

Of course, you need to read **The Book Of Daniel** first! Please read the actual chapters of Scripture before you read the corresponding chapters here. I am asking God to give us a revival from the Bible.

I thank God for the camps we were able to have this summer! But this chapter is the opposite. Instead of taking our youths away for a week to teach them about God, this is taking the youths to another country to brainwash them against God. Daniel and his three friends experience not only the takeover of Jerusalem, but also the attempted takeover of their Jewish identity.

WHO TAKES OVER WHO?

In the ancient near east it was always a battle between gods. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon would have taken his victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah as a sign that his gods were greater. **The Book Of Daniel** was written to show us the Lord was actually the one in control of the events here.

First of all, this invasion is a fulfillment of what The Prophets had spoken. In **Isaiah 39**, King Hezekiah showed his treasure to the Babylonians and Isaiah prophesied they would come to get it. Even going all the way back to The Law of Moses, **Leviticus 26** and **Deuteronomy 28** both warned of the curses that would come upon Israel if they did not listen and obey the Lord’s commands. One of these consequences was that another nation would come and take them away.

Specifically, the point of **Daniel 1** is “the Lord gave” Jehoiakim into Nebuchadnezzar’s hand (**v2**). In fact, “God gave” Daniel and his friends favor with their captors (**v9**). And “God gave” them learning and skill to excel in the foreign land of Babylon (**v17**). The story of Daniel ends with him outlasting King Nebuchadnezzar and even the kingdom of Babylon until the time of Cyrus. Cyrus is the name of the king prophesied in **Isaiah 45:1** to send God’s people back to Jerusalem. So, who takes over who?



<i>Daniel</i>	<i>God is my judge</i>	<i>Belteshazzar</i>	<i>Bel protect the king</i>
<i>Hananiah</i>	<i>The Lord is Gracious</i>	<i>Shadrach</i>	<i>Command of Aku</i>
<i>Mishael</i>	<i>Who is Like the Lord?</i>	<i>Meshach</i>	<i>Who is what Aku is?</i>
<i>Azariah</i>	<i>The Lord is my Helper</i>	<i>Abednego</i>	<i>Servant of Nego</i>

DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD

It is unfortunate Daniel's friends are commonly known today as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These are not the Jewish names their mothers gave them. Instead, these are the new names they were given in Babylon. These Israelite youths were drafted in the NBA (Nebuchadnezzar Brainwashing Academy). They wanted to make them Babylonians who not only knew the culture and spoke the language, but who also worshipped their gods.

On the back page of this booklet, you will find a bibliography of the books I used and recommend for further study. Most of these commentaries agree **Daniel 1:8** is the most important verse in the entire book. It sets the tone for everything else to follow.

If you were reading in Hebrew you would notice the same word "sum" appears three times in a row. This is a common Hebrew word that means "set" or "put." The chief of the eunuchs "set" their names (**v7**). He "set" Daniel's new name to be Belteshazzar (**v7**). But Daniel "set" that he would not defile himself (**v8**). Daniel makes a decision to live in Babylon with No Compromise!

Unfortunately, this is where many speculate about the king's food. They focus on what **verse 8** says afterwards, rather than how the word "set" is used against what came before in **verse 7**. Was he on a special diet called The Daniel Plan? Was the food sacrificed to Babylonian idols? Was it not kosher to eat according to the dietary laws of the Jews? The Scripture does not say these things. Daniel sets himself not against the food, but against his name being changed. He will not become defiled by the Babylonian lifestyle. He will remain Daniel and God will be his judge!

HOW DO YOU LIVE IN BABYLON?

In the rest of the Bible, the name Babylon becomes a synonym for the kingdom of this world (**1 Peter 5:13, Revelation 18**). Sadly, it is common to meet Christians today who live in compromise. One foot is in the church. One foot is in the culture. They want the best of both worlds.

If only Christians today would dare to be like Daniel. We are called not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (**Romans 12:2**). We cannot be friends with the world and with our God at the same time (**James 4:4, 1 John 2:15-17**). Saying "Yes" to Jesus, means saying "No" to the world.

There is enough hypocrisy in the church today. Please pray we won't add to it at Compass HB. As we read **The Book Of Daniel** together, I pray the Lord will inspire us to have his resolve. Let us "set" the Lord as the compass of our hearts!

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

HOW ARE YOU TEMPTED TO COMPROMISE WITH THE WORLD AROUND US?

WRITE OUT A PRAYER TO "SET" THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE YOU.



DANIEL CHAPTER 2

THE KINGDOM NOT OF THIS WORLD

“But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these:”

DANIEL 2:28



DAN
CH 2

SWITCHING TO THE LANGUAGE OF ARAMAIC

Have you ever been watching a movie when the characters started speaking in a different language? All of a sudden subtitles appear along the bottom of the screen! This is what happens in **Daniel 2:4**. The language of the book switches from Hebrew to Aramaic, right when the Chaldeans answer Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever!” It is like we are done reading a narrative, and are immediately drawn into the scene of the Babylonian court. Nebuchadnezzar’s spirit is troubled because of his dream. He wants his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and Chaldeans to interpret the dream for him. But he also wants them to tell him what the dream was in the first place!

The Book Of Daniel is written in Aramaic from **2:4** all the way to **7:28**. There is no other book of the Bible that switches languages like this. It would even make the Jews reading it feel like they are in a foreign land.

ON THE INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS

Daniel is not the first character in the Hebrew Bible who becomes famous for interpreting dreams. Remember Joseph did this all the way back in **Genesis 41:16**. Just as God raised up Joseph in Egypt, so God is going to raise up Daniel in Babylon, even when they are taken over by the Medes and the Persians.

Daniel gives God the glory for being able to interpret Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (**v20-23**). Remember it was God who gave him this ability back in **1:17**. Daniel even tells the king there is no man who can interpret this dream, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries (**v28**). Even Nebuchadnezzar says, “Truly, your God is God of gods, and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries... (**v47**)”

In chapter 1 they were trying to get Daniel to worship their gods.

Now in chapter 2 the king of Babylon is giving the glory to Daniel’s God!

Who is taking over who indeed?!



PROPHECIES OF FUTURE NATIONS

The content of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream is an epic prophecy of the future kingdoms of the world. It proves God has the history of the nations planned out beforehand. God is telling his people Babylon is just the beginning. The image King Nebuchadnezzar sees is made out of four materials that symbolize four successive world powers:

Gold	Babylonians
Silver	Medes & Persians
Bronze	Greeks
Iron	Romans

“And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place...”

ACTS 17:26

PROPHECIES LIKE THE BOOK OF REVELATION

These same nations will be the subject of **Daniel 7**. Both the first and the last chapters in Aramaic are similar prophecies. In fact, The Book Of Daniel is often compared to The Book Of Revelation because of the way they both prophesy the future.

The main point of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream is the stone that struck the image and broke it into pieces. This stone becomes a mountain that fills the earth. God is going to establish a kingdom. He shall break into pieces all of these other kingdoms and bring them to an end. The stone represents the kingdom not of this world, but the kingdom of our Lord Jesus!

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

REVELATION 11:15

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT AMERICA?

Over the last years, I have become concerned with how many Christians think about the United States of America. We act like this is the kingdom that is going to last forever, but Jesus said his kingdom is not of this world. We need to make sure we understand how history is His Story. When Jesus comes back it is only his kingdom that will last forever (**v44**). Let us pray for a revival in America, but let us make sure we are praying for his kingdom to come!

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK ABOUT THE COMING KINGDOM?

WRITE OUT A PRAYER ASKING FOR HIS KINGDOM TO COME.



DANIEL CHAPTER 3

FOUR MEN IN THE FIRE

“If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

DANIEL 3:17-18



DAN
CH 3

FAITH IS NOT ALONE

Faith is not an emotion. Faith does not come from our circumstances. Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the word of Christ (**Romans 10:17**).

Daniel 3 tells us the story of Daniel’s three friends who have faith to go into fire and not be burned.

The image King Nebuchadnezzar made was 90 feet high and 9 feet wide (**v1**). The crowd of governing officials he gathered to worship the image was so big, King Nebuchadnezzar did not even know Daniel’s friends were not worshipping until he was told (**v8**).

At this point, many people speculate where Daniel was in **Daniel 3**. I encourage you not to ask questions a text does not answer, but to make sure you pay attention to what a text is actually saying. This chapter is about the faith of Daniel’s friends. He was not the only one living with no compromise in Babylon. If you have faith in the Lord, you will find you are not alone either.

The Chaldeans who maliciously accuse the Jews use their Babylonian names of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, which are then used for the rest of the chapter. But when Hananiah, Mishaël and Azariah speak to King Nebuchadnezzar, they make two things clear:

#1. They believe God is **ABLE** to save them (**v17**).

These young men would have grown up hearing how God delivered his people out of Egypt. They knew the Israelites walked through the water because God parted the Red Sea. Now they believed God would deliver them from the fiery furnace as well.

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”

ISAIAH 43:2



#2. They will not worship another god no matter what (v18).

Daniel's friends were also taught the Law of Moses growing up, particularly the 10 commandments:

“You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

EXODUS 20:3-6

This is a real life example where we see a command from Scripture give faith to these young men. They knew, based on the Word of God, they could not do what King Nebuchadnezzar was saying because they had to do what God was saying. This was not about a matter of policy, but cut to the heart of worship and their identity as God's people. The commandments made it clear it would be better to die in God's steadfast love than to bow down in idolatry. God's people must worship God alone or we stop being his people!

JESUS IS WITH US

When I was growing up, my Dad read me the story of Daniel's three friends being thrown into the fiery furnace. I have not forgotten that even the mighty men of Babylon who threw them in were burned up. But the main detail of the story seems to be what King Nebuchadnezzar himself says: “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods (v25).” We may never go through a real fire. We may only know the refining fire that tests our faith (1 Peter 1:6-9). But Jesus promised he is with us even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

GOD IS ABLE

“Now to him who is ABLE to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,”

EPHESIANS 3:20

“And God is ABLE to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

“Now to him who is ABLE to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy...”

JUDE 24

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE GOD IS ABLE TO DO IN YOUR LIFE?

WHAT COMMAND OF SCRIPTURE IS GIVING YOU CLARITY TO ACT TODAY?



DANIEL CHAPTER 4

TAKE HEED LEST YOU FALL

“And you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.”

DANIEL 4:32



DAN
CH 4

“Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.”

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12

BREAKFAST @ FANTASTIC CAFE

“If I were you, I would be tempted to have so much pride.”

I remember a man saying this to me when we were at breakfast. We were at Fantastic Café on Bolsa Chica and Westminster. Before COVID, I met so many men for breakfast at this diner, but this meeting has remained in my mind.

The man was someone I knew from our church. He was implying I would have pride for what was happening there. The number of people coming to church was increasing. Souls were professing faith in Jesus and being baptized. More people were getting involved in the fellowship groups. Was this a reason for me to have pride as a pastor?

DEVELOP A GODLY FEAR OF HEIGHTS

King Nebuchadnezzar had pride over his kingdom of Babylon. He was walking on the roof of his palace when he said, “Is not this **great** Babylon, which I have built by MY **mighty power** as a royal residence and for the **glory** of MY majesty (v30)?” If you have read the chapter, you know what happens next! He is humbled to live among the animal kingdom!

Notice how I can emphasize words by the type we set in this booklet. I can make words bold like **great** and **mighty power** and **glory** to show that these are not words we should be using for a man but for God. I can capitalize MY to show how King Nebuchadnezzar thought too highly of himself. A writer of the Hebrew Bible did not have these type settings to work with. So one of the ways to make a point of emphasis was repetition. Make sure you notice this line that is in **Daniel 4** three times: “...know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will... (v17, 25, 32)”



TAKE HEED OF THE WARNINGS TO BE HUMBLE

Pride always comes before the fall. And the sad thing about King Nebuchadnezzar's fall is it was 100% preventable. He was warned by God in a dream. He was warned by Daniel in the interpretation of the dream. In fact, Daniel pleaded with the king to receive his counsel (v27). You and I have also been warned that God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble. **Read James 4:5-10.** Notice how you are commanded here to submit yourself and humble yourself before the Lord. If you do not put yourself under the mighty hand of God, you can be sure he will put you there. This story of King Nebuchadnezzar is not the only example of how thinking you are on top leads to the bottom. There are many examples you can look up of those who fall. Take heed before it happens to you!

Great Falls In The Bible

DAVID FROM THE ROOF OF HIS PALACE	2 SAMUEL 11
SATAN FROM HEAVEN TO THE GROUND	ISAIAH 14:12-14
HEROD STRUCK DOWN BY AN ANGEL	ACTS 12:21-23

NOT SO FANTASTIC

If you have ever been to Fantastic Café you know the food is good. Their breakfast burrito is even great. But Fantastic? Yeah, that is a stretch. So what did I say on the day I was asked about having pride as a pastor at our church? By grace, I took heed. I said, "Yeah, I guess I would be tempted to have pride, if I thought I was the one doing it." Jesus is the one building his church, not me! In the end of this story, King Nebuchadnezzar continues what is a theme in **The Book Of Daniel**. Even the mightiest kings on earth will give glory to the Most High in heaven! God's dominion is everlasting. God's kingdom is from generation to generation. Everyone will give him the glory in the end, so why not humble ourselves and give it to him now?

*"For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:*

*'I dwell in the high and holy place,
And also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,
To revive the spirit of the lowly,
And to revive the heart of the contrite.'*

ISAIAH 57:15

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

WHAT ARE YOU TEMPTED TO TAKE PRIDE IN?

WRITE OUT A PRAYER TO HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE THE MOST HIGH.



DANIEL CHAPTER 5

IF YOU DIE TONIGHT

*“And you his son, Belshazzar,
have not humbled your heart,
though you knew all this.”*

DANIEL 5:22



DAN
CH 5

*“Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring.
What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for
a little time and then vanishes.”*

JAMES 4:14

TONIGHT YOUR SOUL IS REQUIRED OF YOU!

I had to apologize to my friend. One time he told me he would ask someone sitting next to him at a bus stop, “If you were to die, where would your soul go for eternity?” I told him that might be a little too intense for a bus stop conversation! But after reading **Daniel 5**, I feel like that is the question! What if tonight your soul is required of you (**Luke 12:20**)? Are you ready?

We all need to learn a lesson from the life of Belshazzar. His time was shorter than he expected. He was proud of his life at the palace in Babylon. He had a party and got drunk with his family and friends. They drank from the golden vessels taken from God’s temple in Jerusalem. They even praised false gods while they did so. THAT VERY NIGHT Belshazzar was killed. Clearly he was not ready to stand before God and be judged! So, I need to tell my friend I am sorry. Life is like riding a bus. We should all talk to our fellow travelers in life before we reach our stop!

MENE MENE TEKEL PARSIN

MENE	NUMBERED
TEKEL	WEIGHED
PERES	DIVIDED

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Have you ever heard this phrase before? Did you know it comes from **Daniel 5**? I remember my dad reading me this story of the hand writing on the wall when I was a boy. I could tell it was a frightening scene. But not until I was a grown man, did I really understand how terrifying these words are.



MENE = NUMBERED

Our days are numbered (**Psalm 139:16**). There is nothing we can do to add more time to our life (**Matthew 6:27**). This is why we need to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom (**Psalm 90:12**). We cannot put off preparing our souls for eternity or talking with our loved ones about death. Time is ticking away.

TEKEL = WEIGHED

After death comes judgment (**Hebrews 9:27**). We already know that none of us will measure up to God's standard. We will all be found wanting. On that day none of us will be able to say we do not deserve to be judged because we have all fallen short of his glory (**Romans 3:19-23**).

PERES = DIVIDED

We know that in the judgment, souls will be divided into two destinations (**Matthew 25:32-33**). We will either be welcomed into God's glorious presence or we will perish apart from him for all of eternity. This division will be final. No second chances (**Luke 16:24-26**). We only have one life to live. This is it. Can you see The Writing On The Wall?

ONE WAY OUT

There is only one way out of the coming death and judgment. This is the good news Jesus already died for you! Jesus was Numbered with the transgressors (**Isaiah 53:12**) when he bore your sins. Jesus was Weighed when Judas betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver (**Zechariah 11:12**), yet he was willing to pay the price to redeem us. He paid it in full. Jesus' clothes were Divided by the Roman soldiers who pierced his hands and feet to nail him to the cross (**Psalm 22:16-18**). Jesus humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on the him name that is above every name (**Philippians 2:8-9**). And why did Jesus do this? He did it for us:

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”

~1 PETER 2:24

“THOUGH YOU KNEW ALL THIS”

The scariest part of **Daniel 5** is Belshazzar already knew all this. He already knew King Nebuchadnezzar had been humbled before God. And yet, knowing the truth did not save him. He still had the pride to mock God by drinking from the golden vessels of the temple. How many souls will know the truth about God but still not be ready to meet him when they die?

This is my concern for you.

You may know the truth Jesus died as a sacrifice for your sins.

And yet, if you know the truth but deliberately keep on sinning, there no longer remains a sacrifice for your sins. Only a fearful expectation of judgment (**Hebrews 10:26-27**).

When Belshazzar saw the writing on the wall he was terrified. He knew it was already too late.

If you are reading this, there is still a chance.

Don't just know Jesus died for your sins. Die to your sins. You need to stop living for your sins before you stop living.

You can turn from your sins to God. It is called repentance.

You can trust that because Jesus died for your sins you don't have to live in them anymore. It is called faith.

If you are trusting in the death of Jesus, then there no longer remains a fear of death and judgment.

And this is why I had to apologize to my friend. The wheels on the bus go round. Our stop is coming. And I feel like I should ask you life's most important question before we reach the end:

If you die tonight, do you know where your soul will go for eternity?



DANIEL CHAPTER 6

CAUGHT PRAYING

“When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.”

DANIEL 6:10



DAN
CH 6

INTEGRITY INVESTIGATION

Can you imagine if the government was looking for something wrong in your life? What if they were always watching you? What if they had surveillance of everything you do? This is what happens in **Daniel 6**. Daniel is shutting down government corruption. Now these satraps are looking to trap Daniel! But they can't find anything to accuse him of. He is above reproach!

What if the government checked your Internet history? What if they tracked your bank accounts? What if they interviewed your family or roommates? Would they come away saying the only thing they could find wrong with you was how you obeyed the Law of your God?

Daniel gets caught praying. This is what they find him doing in private. When his enemies find out the secret in his life, his secret is that he goes into his upper chamber three times a day to pray.

Would you be caught praying? Jesus teaches us not to pray like the hypocrites because they want to be seen by others. He teaches us to pray in secret to our Father in heaven (**Matthew 6:5-13**). So if the government followed you home to your secret place, what would you be caught doing?

HOW DOES DANIEL SURVIVE THE LIONS?

When we tell the story of Daniel, we usually talk about the lions' den. We know Daniel survives. Our kids might even know Daniel survives. Even King Darius has faith God is able to save him!

But why does God shut the mouths of the lions? Daniel says, "...because I was found blameless before him (**v22**).” “So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God (**v23**).” **Daniel 6** is written so we would be inspired by how Daniel conducts himself and want to do the same. Dare to be a Daniel!



IN THE SECRET, IN THE QUIET PLACE

So what are you doing in your secret place? My concern is too many of us are wasting our time on our phones or televisions. It has become common for many Christians today to not pray. Even those who do pray feel convicted because they know it is not enough. It is regular to hear people say they need to pray more, but rare to see someone actually change the way they pray.

This summer we were able to host the National Equipped Conference. What a blessing to worship and fellowship with all 8 Compass Bible Churches. But my concern is did it really change the way we pray? If you know the way you pray needs to change, what are you waiting for? Let Daniel's example inspire you! Why not today?

THE WINDOW OPEN TO JERUSALEM

Daniel learned how to pray from the example of other people. I know this because he does what King Solomon prayed at the dedication of the temple in **1 Kings 8:46-51**. Solomon knew there would be a day when God's people would be carried away captive to the land of the enemy. He asked God if they prayed toward his city of Jerusalem, that he would hear their prayers in heaven and answer them here on earth!

If you want to learn how to pray, you need to pay attention to what the Bible says about prayer. You need to listen to other believers and follow their example. But if you really want to learn how to pray you will find it is like many other things in life: you need to do it. Practice. Practice. Practice. If you have a hard time praying, can you say you have really tried hard to pray? I want to challenge you over the next day to pray three times. I encourage you to write out your prayers on the other side of this page.

“But I call to God, and the LORD will save me. Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice.”

PSALM 55:16-17

The Daniel Plan

Evening

Morning

Noon



DANIEL CHAPTER 7

COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.”

DANIEL 7:13



DAN
CH 7

WELCOME TO THE PROPHECIES!

Daniel 7 is the last chapter written in Aramaic, but it is the first chapter where Daniel begins to have visions. Daniel sees four great beasts come up out of the sea (**v3**). The four creatures here in Daniel's vision are similar to the four materials of the image in King's Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapter 2:

LION WITH EAGLES WINGS
BEAR
LEOPARD W/ FOUR WINGS
BEAST WITH IRON TEETH

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR OF BABYLON
MEDES & PERSIANS
ALEXANDER THE GREAT OF GREECE
ROME

Daniel's vision also goes beyond King Nebuchadnezzar's dream:

Another little horn (v8) comes up out of the fourth beast. This little horn disturbingly has eyes like a man and begins to speak many things. This is a picture of the Antichrist!

The Ancient Of Days (V9-10) takes his seat on his throne of fiery flames. Do not misinterpret Ancient of Days to mean the “old man upstairs” as you may hear people refer to God today! No, this is the eternal one who reigns from everlasting to everlasting! He is Most High, the God of heaven!

One like a son of man (v13-14) comes with the clouds of heaven and is presented before the throne of the Ancient of Days. To him is given an everlasting dominion and a kingdom that shall never be destroyed. This is the revelation of Jesus!

Notice the contrast between the four creatures and then one like a son of man. All of these images in Daniel's vision are of those who will rule on the earth. But there is one who will reign above all and cannot even be compared to the others. One name will be above all names.



THE SON OF MAN

I wish I could give our church a pop quiz! What is the verse that says, “Behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man...?” I hope you would be able to answer this question. It’s what we are reading today: **Daniel 7:13-14!**

Sometimes when I look back at the sermons I’ve preached, I wish I could have made things in the Scripture even more clear! One of these things is the theme of “The Son of Man” in The Gospel Of Mark. Jesus has regularly used this title to refer to himself. Sometimes he is referring to his suffering as a human (**Mark 8:31**) similar to **The Book of Ezekiel**. Other times he refers to his coming on the clouds to reign as king (**Mark 8:38**) as it is here in **Daniel 7:13-14**.

“But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...”

MARK 2:10

This is a statement of Jesus having total authority over us. If Jesus is able to forgive you, that means he is your judge. Even the scribes who are sitting there, were questioning in their hearts, “Who can forgive sins but God alone?” By doing a miracle in their presence, Jesus proved he was the Son of Man who is coming in might and power!

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

MARK 10:45

And yet, at the same time, Jesus would use this title to show his humility. Even though he is the one who will come on the clouds he went to the cross. In Mark, we have seen the disciples had a hard time understanding this. But who expects someone with all the power to put himself in a position of service?

And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

MARK 14:62

We still have another opportunity to learn about the Son of Man coming up when Jesus is on trial! Please pray for me as I prepare the final sermons from **The Gospel Of Mark!** Let’s pray for our church to see Jesus as he is! “Behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man...”. This prophecy from **Daniel 7:13-14** is something we are going to see!

THE SUMMER OF HOPE

What about you? How do you really feel about Jesus coming back? This summer I was so blessed to teach hope to our high school students and children:

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

1 PETER 1:13

As believers in Jesus, our hope is like a helmet (**1Thessalonians 5:8**). Hope of salvation is what gives us confidence as we face the future. Even though God has been good to us already, there is even more grace to come. This verse is a command for us to put our hope fully on the grace that is coming when Jesus is revealed on the clouds! We need to put our helmet on!

APPLICATION QUESTION:

WRITE A PRAYER ON HOW YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT JESUS’ RETURN.



DANIEL CHAPTER 8

THE ANTICHRIST IS ALSO COMING

“So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, “Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end.”

DANIEL 8:17



DAN
CH 8

PROPHECY IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND

Daniel's visions take a toll on him. By the end of **Daniel 8** he is overcome and lays sick for days. He is appalled by his own vision and does not understand it (**v27**). Did you hear that? Even Daniel does not understand his own vision. It is easier to see prophecy once it has been fulfilled, but it is hard to see prophecies clearly before they happen. If Daniel is having a hard time understanding his own vision, it is wise for all of us to approach prophecy with humility ourselves.

Daniel 8 is written back in the Hebrew language, so it seems as if it is being written more specifically for the Jews. We also need to take notice that even though chapters 7 & 8 come afterwards, they both took place before Belshazzar is killed and Babylon falls in chapter 5. This is fascinating that Daniel's vision takes place in Susa the capital of Persia, even before the Medes and the Persians have invaded. To be honest, **Daniel 8** is one of the most difficult texts I have ever preached in my life.

FOLLOW THE HORNS

TWO HORNS

CONSPICUOUS HORN

FOUR HORNS

LITTLE HORN

MEDES & PERSIANS

ALEXANDER THE GREAT OF

FOUR KINGDOMS OF GREECE

ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES

Alexander the Great is the male goat who came from the west across the whole face of the earth (**v5**). His conquering of the world united people under the common language of Koine Greek, which the New Testament is written in!

Antiochus Epiphanes is the little horn who takes away the burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate (**v9-14**). This was very important to the Jews for the way he would oppress them. You can read about it in 1 & 2 Maccabees in the Apocrypha. Eventually, the Maccabees won a victory in December of 165 BC, which is where Hannukah comes from.



THE ANGEL GABRIEL BRINGS UNDERSTANDING

Daniel's vision is so hard for him to understand that the angel Gabriel comes near to help him. We also meet the angel Gabriel in **Luke 1** when he appears to Zechariah and to Mary to make some important birth announcements about John the Baptist and Jesus. Perhaps you think it would be awesome to meet an angel like Gabriel. Well, it would definitely be awe-inspiring as most people are frightened when they see an angel, including Daniel. Daniel falls on his face, then when Gabriel speaks to him he falls asleep! Gabriel explains the vision and emphasizes "a king of bold face" who will rise up (**v23-26**).

THESE TWO LITTLE HORNS

In two visions in a row, a short time from one another, Daniel sees a little horn. As far as I can understand, in chapter 7 it was referring to the Antichrist. In chapter 8, it is referring to Antiochus Epiphanes, who is a type of antichrist who oppressed the Jewish people in history.

This year we came to this difficult topic once again in our study of **Mark 13**. In **verse 14**, Jesus mentioned "the abomination of desolation." In the parallel passage of **Matthew 24:15**, it is clear Jesus is referring to **The Book Of Daniel**. This "transgression that makes desolate" is introduced here in **Daniel 8:13**. It is referring to something Antiochus Epiphanes does in the temple. This is recorded in the historical account of 1st Maccabees. But Jesus is telling his disciples something is going to happen in the temple in their "generation." This is recorded by the historian Josephus in his work "The Jewish War." When I referred to these historical sources in the sermon, I was surprised some thought I was using them as Scripture. I want to be clear, I am quoting them as historical sources of how this has happened in the past. This is what makes talking about the abomination of desolation so complicated, there are both examples of this in history, as well as the ultimate fulfillment in the antichrist.

In **2 Thessalonians 2**, the church is being told that the day of the Lord has come. But Paul makes it clear to them that day cannot come until "the man of lawlessness" is revealed. And the way we will know this antichrist

is when "he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God (**v4**)." These historical accounts of the violation of the temple and the entering the Holy of Holies, are just types of the "abomination of desolation" that is yet to come with the antichrist. This may be difficult for us to understand, but if God is speaking through his prophet Daniel and if Jesus is referring to it, then we need to study what the Scripture says.

Because of what Paul previously wrote to the Thessalonians, I do not think those of us who believe in Jesus will be here to see "the abomination of desolation" and all of the judgment that will come after that. I believe Jesus will "deliver us from the wrath to come" as it says in **1 Thessalonians 1:10**. However, the warning that God's judgment is coming and many will be deceived by evil men is not to be taken lightly. There is only one way to be ready for the judgment that is coming at any time. It is to get ready today! Let us pray for those who are not yet saved to put their faith in Jesus!

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

#1. READ **MARK 13**. WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU ABOUT JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE?

#2. READ **1ST THESSALONIANS 5:1-11**. HOW IS PAUL'S TEACHING DIFFERENT SINCE HE IS WRITING TO A CHURCH FULL OF BELIEVERS?



DANIEL CHAPTER 9

PRAY LIKE GOD WILL ANSWER

“At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.”

DANIEL 9:23



DAN
CH 9

IS IT OKAY TO HAVE A FAVORITE CHAPTER?

If **Daniel 8** is one of the most difficult to understand chapters I have ever preached, then **Daniel 9** is one of the clearest and most powerful! I know all Scripture is inspired by God (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**), but there is something about this chapter that inspires me to pray with faith God is going to answer!

PRAY THE SCRIPTURE

Daniel 9 does not begin with a vision or angelic visit. It begins with Daniel reading the Hebrew Bible. Specifically he is reading the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet. Even more specifically, he is reading **Jeremiah 25:12** or **Jeremiah 29:10** where it prophesies 70 years for the desolation of Jerusalem.

By this time, Daniel is old. He is no longer the young man who entered the NBA (Nebuchadnezzar Brainwashing Academy). He is now an old man who survived the fall of Babylon and serves Darius the Mede in a new kingdom. As Daniel reads the Scripture, he is inspired to pray. It is Daniel's prayer that inspires the angel Gabriel to return and give him another vision known as the seventy weeks prophecy.

I encourage you to read **Jeremiah 29** so that you can be inspired in the same way Daniel was. Notice this chapter was written to whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem into Babylon (**Jeremiah 29:1**). The exiles are encouraged to seek the welfare of the cities they live in as we have seen Daniel serve both the Babylonians and now the Medes and the Persians (**Jeremiah 29:4-7**). But after 70 years, the exiles are promised a future and a hope. If they call upon the Lord and pray to him, he will hear them. They will find the Lord when they seek him with all of their heart. He will restore their fortunes and gather them from the nations (**Jeremiah 29:10-14**). As soon as Daniel reads this, he is inspired to pray. I would encourage you to approach prayer the same way. When you read the Scripture of the Day, pray! When you hear a sermon, pray! When a verse you have memorized comes to mind, pray for what the Scripture says. When you pray the Scripture, you will pray with faith because you already know it is God's will!



PRAY IN THE PLURAL

As Daniel begins to pray, he begins to confess the sins of his people. In our entire study of Daniel, we have not seen him sinning but actually standing firm in his faith. And yet, when he prays he is confessing sins like he has done them personally and interceding on behalf of his fellow Jews before the Lord. He does not pray for “me, myself and I” but rather “we, us and our.” This is the same way Jesus teaches us to pray (**Matthew 6:11-13**).

Once again, Daniel’s prayer is inspired by Scripture. He refers to the Law of Moses (**v13**) that describes the sins of Israel and their consequences (**Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28**). Daniel owns up to these sins before God in his confession.

PRAY FOR GOD TO DO SOMETHING

In the last section of his prayer, Daniel continually uses “you” and “your” as he is speaking directly to God and asking him to act in a manner consistent with his character. Jesus also taught us to pray for God’s requests (**Matthew 6:9-10**). You cannot help but feel the passion as Daniel is praying. He is seeking to stir up God to do what he said! He wants to see his nation restored like God promised! He wants to see God’s name be hallowed in Jerusalem once again!

What happens next is one of those moments in the Bible when my mind is completely blown! Before Daniel is even done praying, the angel Gabriel shows up again. He says at the very beginning of Daniel’s pleas for mercy a word went out (**v23**). Not only is God going to bring his people back to the promised land, but he is going to send the promised one! Daniel’s prayer is answered with a prophecy of the “anointed one” or Messiah (**v25-26**). Daniel wanted God’s people to go to Jerusalem, but God’s answer is so amazing: it is a countdown of Jesus coming to Jerusalem! This is exceedingly abundantly beyond all he asked or thought!

To be honest, every time I study **Daniel 9** I feel a sense of awe in what God can do to answer our prayers. Did Daniel’s prayer just kick off the countdown to Jesus coming? Can we pray this same way for Jesus to come today?

THE 70 WEEKS PROPHECY

The seventy weeks prophecy (**v24-27**) is hard to understand because it is about the future. It seems to me, the 69 weeks (or 483 years) are a countdown from the going out of the word to restore Jerusalem (**Nehemiah 1-2**) to when Jesus rides in to Jerusalem which we studied this Easter from **Mark 11**. Many believe the last week, the 70th week, is a time period of 7 years known as the tribulation, when the antichrist will commit the abomination of desolation. Even though this prophecy is a countdown to the first coming of Jesus, some of the fulfillment is still yet to come when Jesus returns.

ABC’S OF PRAYER

ASK GOD TO ACT ON HIS ATTRIBUTES

BELIEVE THE PROMISES IN GOD’S WORD

CONFESS SIN IN THE PLURAL

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

AFTER READING DANIEL 9, WHAT ARE YOU ASKING GOD TO DO?

WHAT IS A SPECIFIC PROMISE OF SCRIPTURE YOUR ARE GOING TO PRAY TO GOD?



DANIEL CHAPTER 10-12

THE REVELATION OF JESUS

“Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. And he said, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.” And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

DANIEL 10:18-19



DAN
CH 10

WHY 3 CHAPTERS AT ONCE?

Why are we reading 3 chapters in one day?

Are we not giving it 100% here at the end?

Did you run out of time to write this Pastor Bobby?

Well, it may be 3 chapters in our English translations of the Bible, but it is all one last vision for the prophet Daniel. So, we are just following the outline of the original text!

BEHOLD, A MAN

There is some debate about who this man is that appears to Daniel. The description is so similar to **Revelation 1:12-18** I am convinced it must be Jesus. This vision is in the genre of Scripture many people would call “apocalyptic.” Often the word “apocalypse” is used to describe end of the world chaos. But the Greek word “apocalypse” is actually translated “revelation” or “unveiling.” In the Scripture, “apocalypse” does not mean something that is confusing but something that is being made clear. I believe Jesus is being revealed to us in **Daniel 10**.

SIMILARITIES TO REVELATION 1

FACE SHINING LIKE LIGHTNING
OR THE SUN

EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE

LEGS OR FEET LIKE BURNISHED
BRONZE

SOUND OF VOICE LIKE A
MULTITUDE OR MANY WATERS

One of the objections to this being Jesus is how he is withstood by the prince of the kingdom of Persia for twenty one days (**v13**). How could Jesus be withstood by anyone? And yet I have heard many say Jesus wrestled with Jacob in **Genesis 32**. So this has happened in other Scriptures!



THE MOMENT YOU MEET JESUS

The main thing that stands out to me in these three chapters, is the way Daniel is spoken to in **Daniel 10:15-19**. At first Daniel has no strength because of the vision. But as the Lord speaks to him he is strengthened. This is the second time Daniel hears he is “greatly loved.” The first was when Gabriel brought the answer to his prayer in **Daniel 9:23**. Now he hears it again from one having the appearance of a man. If one like the son of man was Jesus in **Daniel 7**, that is another reason to believe it is Jesus here in **Daniel 10**. What an amazing thought to think how Jesus loves us (**John 13:1**)!

Hearing the way Jesus talks to Daniel... Seeing the way Daniel is strengthened... It makes me look forward to the day when I will see my Lord and Savior face to face. **Read Revelation 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26-28, 3:5, 3:12 & 3:21**. What is your response to these promises from Jesus?

THE END IS COMING

Daniel 11 is a similar prophecy to **Daniel 8** with even more detail added. There are references to the Seleucids and the Ptolemies, even to Cleopatra (**v17**). There is more about Antiochus Epiphanes and the ultimate desolation that will come through the Antichrist.

Daniel 12 describes not only the time of tribulation, but also the resurrection that will take place afterwards. Some will shine like the sun in righteousness, while the wicked will act wickedly. There is a coming a day where we will be able to see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked in the same way we can see the difference between day and night now (**Malachi 3:16-4:2**). Everyone whose name is found written in the book will be delivered, of that we can be sure. In reading **The Book of Daniel**, we have experienced not just a profound work of ancient prophecy, but a glimpse of the end to come.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

WHAT STOOD OUT TO YOU FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO PRAY TO GOD IN RESPONSE TO THIS BOOK?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SHARE FROM DANIEL WITH SOMEONE ELSE?



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