

Daniel- Lesson 1; From Reading to Understanding

Memory Verse

Acts 8:30 (NKJV) “So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ ”.

[Written roughly during the time between; 605 BC to 550 BC]

Christ: The Center of Daniel

The book of Daniel begins with a somber note of defeat. Judah has **Luke 24:25–27 (NKJV)** *Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”* ²⁷And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

2 Corinthians 1:19–20 (NKJV) *For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. ²⁰For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

- Daniel, like Jesus, is a spirit filled advocate for his people in a foreign and hostile land.

Daniel 3:24–25 (NKJV) *Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”*

Jesus is the stone in Daniel 2 that grows into a great mountain

Daniel 6:17 (NKJV) *Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.*

***Daniel 7:13 (NKJV)** *“I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.*

Daniel 9:26 (NKJV) *“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;*

Daniel 12:1 (NKJV) *At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book.*

The Structure of Daniel

Chiastic structure, or chiastic pattern, A,B,B',A'

- A. (*Daniel 2*) Nebuchadnezzar’s vision of four kingdoms then judgment falls upon the idol.
- B. (*Daniel 3*) God delivers Daniel’s companions from the fiery furnace a judgment on the soldiers.
- C. Judgment upon Nebuchadnezzar (*Daniel 4*)
- C'. Judgment upon Belshazzar (*Daniel 5*)
- B'. (*Daniel 6*) God delivers Daniel from the den of lions. Then judgment upon his accusers.
- A'. (*Daniel 7*) Daniel’s vision of four kingdoms great judgment day.

- Multiple dreams and visions create an overview of a central theme regarding the ultimate victory of God’s kingdom. In the story of Joseph, the same message is given through two different dreams given to a pagan king.

Psalm 9:7–8 (NKJV) *But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment.⁸ He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.*

Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8, 9	Daniel 10–12
Babylon	Babylon		
Media-Persia	Media-Persia	Media-Persia	Media-Persia
Greece	Greece	Greece	Greece
Rome	Rome	Rome	Rome
God’s Kingdom is Established	Heavenly Judgment that Leads to New Earth	Purification of the Sanctuary	Michael Stands Up

Apocalyptic Prophecies in Daniel

Much of Daniel is *apocalyptic prophecy*, whereas most other Old Testament prophecies belong to the category of *classical prophecy*. In apocalyptic prophecy, God uses mainly dreams and visions to convey His message to the prophet. In classical prophecy, the prophet receives “the Word of the Lord,”—which can include visions—an expression that occurs with slight variations about 1600 times in the classical prophets. In apocalyptic prophecy, God shows symbols and imagery beyond the world of human reality, such as hybrid animals or monsters with wings and horns.

Ezekiel 1:10 (NKJV) *As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle.*

Hosea 3:4–5 (NKJV) *For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim.⁵ Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.*

Amos 8:11 (NKJV) *"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the Lord.*

Duel Prophecy

1 Chronicles 17:11–12 (NKJV) *And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom.¹² He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.*

Moses foretold the conquest and captivity of Israelites. Happened twice.

Deuteronomy 28:52 (NKJV) *"They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the Lord your God has given you.*

The abomination of desolation Matthew 24

"This entire discourse was given not for the disciples only, but for those who should live in the last scenes of this earth's history." --DA 628.

"The prophecies that received a partial fulfilment in the overthrow of Jerusalem have a more direct application to the last days." --MB 120-21.

An example of this principle is also found in Joel 2:28-32 and Acts 2:17-21. Peter on the day of Pentecost, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit applied the marvelous manifestations then taking place as a fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel. Yet this could not have been a complete fulfillment or we would have to conclude that "the last days" ended in Peter's time. Also the prophecy regarding Elijah from Mal 4:5 that Jesus applies to John the Baptist has a second fulfillment in the last days. "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD."

God's Timescale

Preterism tends to view the prophetic events announced in Daniel as having occurred in the past.

Futurism contends that the same prophecies still await a future fulfillment.

Idealism in turn, holds that apocalyptic prophecies are symbols of general spiritual realities without any specific historical referents.

Historicism holds that in apocalyptic prophecy God reveals an unbroken sequence of history from the time of the prophet to the end of time.

A Day for A Year

Numbers 14:34 (NKJV) *According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection.*

Ezekiel 4:6 (NKJV) *And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year.*

Luke 13:32 (NKJV) *And He said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.'*

The only way the 70 week prophecy in Daniel 9 makes any sense is to apply the day for a year principal.

Contemporary Relevance of Daniel

We know as we look at the prophecies in Daniel 2, 7, 8 through 12 we are living at the very end of biblical history.

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NKJV) *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

When I want to teach a practical lesson on self-control and a healthy Christian diet, I go to Daniel chapter 1.

Teaching a lesson on courage and boldness listen to Daniel's words in chapter 5.

When I want to teach a great lesson on personal devotion and witnessing, I go to Daniel chapter 6.

Teaching a lesson on the Mark of the beast in the last days, Daniel chapter 3 Nebuchadnezzar's image.