

# RESOLVED



*A STUDY OF DANIEL*

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**“BUT DANIEL RESOLVED  
NOT TO DEFILE HIMSELF  
WITH THE ROYAL FOOD...”  
(DANIEL 1:8)**



# INTRODUCTION

The exciting Book of Daniel is well known, containing many of the Bible stories we heard as children. From the story of Daniel in the lion's den, to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace, to the single hand writing on the wall, the book of Daniel offers drama like no other. It begins with young men being taken captive from Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, the domain of King Nebuchadnezzar, where he planned to indoctrinate the young men into the Babylonian ideology. But we read in Daniel 1:8 that "Daniel resolved not to defile himself." You see, Daniel believed in, and was committed to the Holy One of Israel, the One True God, and he was determined to not lose sight of who he belonged to.

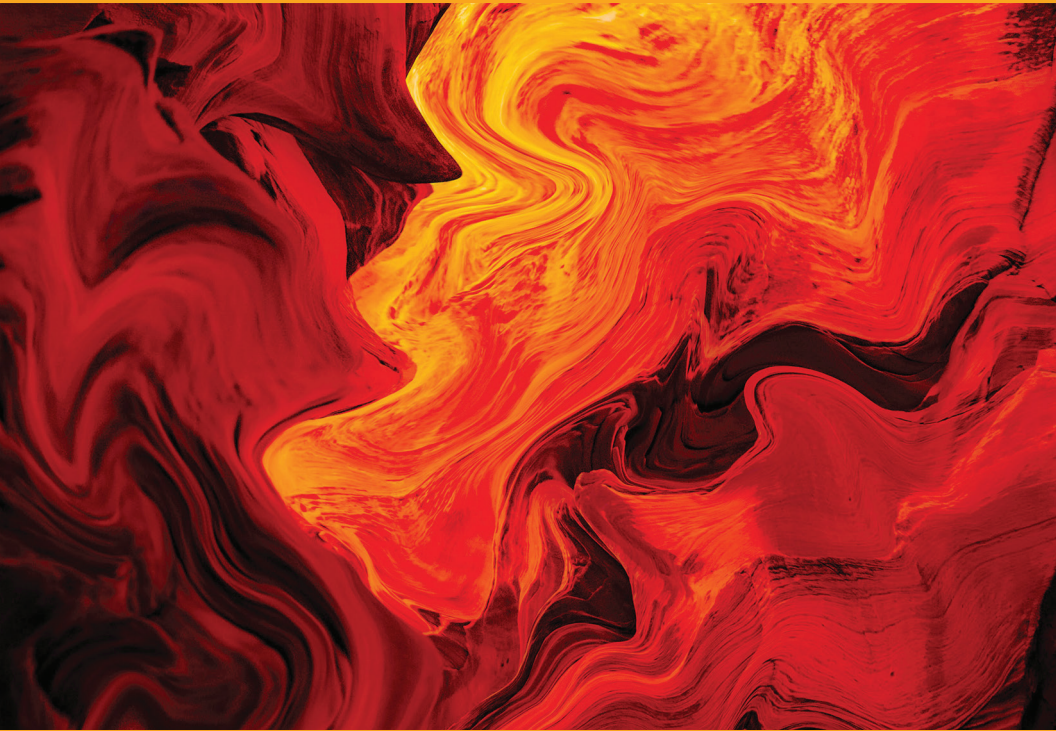


The Book of Daniel is relevant for us today in that it gives great insight into who God is. It is richly embedded with different names of God and instruction on His character. And it is because of who God is that we are called to live lives that are honoring to Him. We want to think, speak, and act like we belong to the Lord of Heaven. Admittedly, it is hard to daily honor God in our corrupt culture, just as it was for Daniel. It will be important for us to prepare in advance for how we will react in difficult situations before being faced with choice points. Our goal through this study is to learn to “resolve” to not defile ourselves with the ways of this world, but to live as future citizens of heaven.

The second half of Daniel speaks to this heavenly perspective with prophecies about end-time events. We will read about mysteries which were never-before-known, and are sometimes hard to understand, but are events which set the stage for what our Eternal God has planned for the future. In Daniel Chapter 9, we will consider unique proofs that the events recorded in this book are historical facts concerning historical characters, and if they are trustworthy, then so must be the future prophecies. In light of all this, let’s explore together, how we can resolve to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

**WEEK 1**

**RESOLVE TO NOT BE DEFILED**



**“THEN THE KING ORDERED HIS CHIEF  
OFFICIAL TO BRING INTO THE KING’S  
SERVICE, ISRAELITES FROM THE  
ROYAL FAMILY AND NOBILITY- YOUNG  
MEN WITHOUT ANY PHYSICAL DEFECT,  
HANDSOME, SHOWING APTITUDE FOR  
EVERY KIND OF LEARNING...”**

**(DANIEL 1:3-4)**

## DANIEL 1:1-2

*“BY THE RIVERS OF BABYLON WE SAT DOWN AND WEPT  
WHEN WE REMEMBERED ZION.” (PSALM 137:1)*

Read Daniel 1:1-2.

What were the names of the two kings mentioned in this passage, and where were they from?

According to Daniel, who invaded who, and what was the result?

From these verses, who was in control of the outcome?

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*ANCIENT BABYLON WAS LOCATED ON THE PLAIN OF SHINAR, BY THE EUPHRATES RIVER. TODAY THIS LOCATION IS 50 MILES SOUTH OF BAGDAD, IRAQ. BABYLON RECEIVED ITS NAME AFTER THE TOWER OF BABEL INCIDENT RECORDED IN GENESIS 11. IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, BABYLON WAS ALWAYS SEEN AS AN EVIL EMPIRE WHICH WORSHIPED PAGAN GODS, AND WAS A CONSTANT ENEMY OF ISRAEL.*



**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Read 2 Chronicles 36:5-7.

Why do you think God allowed Jerusalem to fall to Nebuchadnezzar?

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What difficult situation are you living with right now?

Do you believe God is in control of the outcome?

Why or why not?

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*PRAYER - We praise you God as the Author of History, and the One who orchestrates the rise and fall of nations.*

*Thank you that even in desperate times, we can see your care and provision for your people. Help us to honor you Lord, and do what is right in your eyes. Amen.*

DANIEL 1:3-7

Read Daniel 1:3-7.

List the qualities King Nebuchadnezzar told his chief official to look for in the royal service trainees.

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How long was their training to be?

What would it include? And what would they be given?

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## SMALL GROUP QUESTION

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**DANIEL** MEANS: GOD IS MY JUDGE.

**BELTESHAZZAR** MEANS: BEL, PROTECT HIS LIFE. (BEL, ALSO CALLED MARDUK, WAS A BABYLONIAN GOD)

**HANANIAH** MEANS: THE LORD SHOWS GRACE.

**SHADRACH** MEANS: UNDER THE COMMAND OF AKU (BABYLONIAN MOON GOD)

**MISHAEL** MEANS: WHO IS LIKE GOD?

**MESHACH** MEANS: WHO IS LIKE AKU?

**AZARIAH** MEANS: THE LORD HELPS.

**ABEDNEGO** MEANS: SERVANT OF NEGO (BABYLONIAN GOD OF LEARNING AND WRITING).

*PRAYER - We praise you God as the Righteous Judge. Thank you for your grace. Help us Lord with the knowledge and understanding only you can give, to live holy lives before you. Amen.*

DANIEL 1:8-16

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read Daniel 1:8; Leviticus 11:44-47; Exodus 34:15.

Why do you think Daniel felt the royal food and wine would defile him?

How did Daniel, whose name meant God is my Judge, live up to his name?

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**RESOLVE: CONVICTIONS AND ACTIONS  
DECIDED UPON BEFORE TEMPTATIONS.**



Read Daniel 1:9-16.

What was the official's concern?

What solution did Daniel offer? What was the result at the end of the trial period?

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Consider what temptation you are facing in your daily life which could cause you to defile yourself in God's eyes. How could you specifically pray for help in this area?

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*PRAYER - We praise You God as The Holy One of Israel. Thank you for your Word which guides us in how to be holy in your sight. Give us resolve to not defile ourselves in the ways of this world. Amen.*

DANIEL 1:17-21

*“OH, THE DEPTH OF THE RICHES OF THE WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE OF GOD! HOW UNSEARCHABLE HIS JUDGEMENTS, AND HIS PATHS ARE BEYOND TRACING OUT!” (ROMANS 11:33)*

GOD HAS PERFECT KNOWLEDGE. HE HAS COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE. HE KNOWS WHAT IS HAPPENING EVERYWHERE IN HIS UNIVERSE, AT ALL TIMES. HE KNOWS THE MOTIVES, THOUGHTS, AND ACTIONS OF THE GOOD AND THE EVIL. HE UNDERSTANDS CAUSE AND EFFECT. AND HE KNOWS THE END FROM THE BEGINNING. BUT BEYOND PERFECT KNOWLEDGE, GOD HAS PERFECT WISDOM. WISDOM INVOLVES KNOWING WHAT TO DO WITH KNOWLEDGE, AND DIRECTING THAT KNOWLEDGE TO THE HIGHEST, MOST MORAL END. ALL HUMAN KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM ARE GIFTS FROM GOD.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read Daniel 1:17-20.

Although the young Israeli men were captives in a strange land, from these verses, how do you think they approached their three-year training program? What do you think was their motivation?

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What was the result?

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What talents, experiences, or education can you identify in your life as gifts from God to be used in His service? How are you using these gifts? If you are unsure, will you ask God to guide you in this area?

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*“EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE,  
COMING DOWN FROM THE FATHER OF LIGHTS.” (JAMES 1:17)*

*“AND DANIEL REMAINED THERE UNTIL THE FIRST YEAR  
OF KING CYRUS.” (70 YEARS) (DANIEL 1:21)*

*PRAYER - God, we praise you as the God of all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Thank you for giving us the ability to learn, and that your Word promises wisdom to all who ask for it (James 1:5). Make each of us aware of our God-given strengths, and show us how to use those strengths in your service. Amen.*

## DANIEL 1: THE SOVEREIGN GOD

SOVEREIGNTY IS A THEOLOGICAL TERM WHICH SPEAKS TO GOD'S DIVINE RIGHT TO RULE HIS UNIVERSE. HE EXERCISES HIS RIGHT OVER NATURE, HISTORY, AND MANKIND. NOTHING HAPPENS WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION. IN SHORT, GOD IS IN CONTROL. THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH STATES THAT, "GOD FROM ALL ETERNITY, DID, BY THE MOST WISE AND HOLY COUNSEL OF HIS OWN WILL, FREELY, AND UNCHANGEABLY ORDAIN WHATEVER COMES TO PASS." THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD, OVER THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD AND HUMAN AFFAIRS, IS A MAJOR THEME IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL.

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Looking back over the first chapter of Daniel, which three verses speak to God's complete control over this situation?

List the verbs of what God did in each verse.

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### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

What do these verses teach you about God?

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### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

How can Daniel 1 encourage you about God's faithfulness during tough times in your own life?

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*"IN HIS HAND IS THE LIFE OF EVERY CREATURE AND THE BREATH OF ALL MANKIND. TO GOD BELONG WISDOM AND POWER; COUNSEL AND UNDERSTANDING ARE HIS."  
(JOB 12:10,13)*

*PRAYER - We praise you God as the Divine Sovereign over the whole universe. Thank you that you rule with goodness, justice, and compassion. Help us to resolve to not conform to the ways of this world, but honor you in the circumstances we face this week. Amen.*

# DANIEL 2

Daniel was a prophet. A prophet was someone who was called by God to speak on His behalf. God would directly reveal His word and will to His prophet, often through dreams or visions. In the book of Daniel, we do not get to see God's call to Daniel to be a prophet, but we do know he was given the unique ability to "understand visions and dreams of all kinds." (Daniel 1:17) Being a prophet was a great honor, but one which required courage, because delivering God's messages, often to rebellious people, was dangerous. Looking at prophets in the Old Testament, we see that they were people with great intelligence, who were dedicated to God, and were prayer warriors for God's people. Prophets not only foretold future events, but also forthtold messages to the people of their day. Prophets would call the people of their generation to trust God, obey Him, and to submit to His will. A true prophet's predictions would prove to be 100% accurate. If a prophet's prediction did not come true, it meant he was a false prophet. (See Deuteronomy 18:20-22.)

(Notes from *The End* by Mark Hitchcock)

It is interesting to note that although God revealed Himself through dreams and visions in the Old and New Testaments, we do not experience this type of revelation often in our Western World today. The reason is probably because we are blessed with the full revelation of God's Word in the Bible. But, we read in Joel and Acts that there will come a day when the Lord says, "I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants, men and women alike, and they will prophesy...before the great and glorious Day of the Lord." (Acts 2:17-18,20; Joel 2)

This week we will read about Daniel's first opportunity to interpret a dream and to prophesy future events.

# WEEK 2

RESOLVE TO TRUST GOD





**“PRAISE THE NAME OF GOD FOREVER AND EVER, FOR HE HAS ALL WISDOM AND POWER. HE CONTROLS THE COURSE OF WORLD EVENTS; HE REMOVES KINGS AND SETS UP OTHER KINGS. HE GIVES WISDOM TO THE WISE, AND KNOWLEDGE TO THE SCHOLARS. HE REVEALS DEEP AND MYSTERIOUS THINGS, AND KNOWS WHAT LIES HIDDEN IN DARKNESS, THOUGH HE IS SURROUNDED BY LIGHT.”(DANIEL 2:20-22)**

*DANIEL 2:1-16*

Read Daniel 2:1-11.

What happened to King Nebuchadnezzar in the beginning of Chapter 2?

What did he ask of his wise men, and what was their response?

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Read Daniel 2:12-16.

How did the king react, and what was his order?

Clearly, besides being taken captive to Babylon, this order had to be Daniel's worst fear.

How did he handle this situation?

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DANIEL 2:17-23

*“THE SOVEREIGN LORD HAS GIVEN ME AN INSTRUCTED TONGUE, TO KNOW THE WORD THAT SUSTAINS THE WEARY. HE AWAKENS ME MORNING BY MORNING, AWAKENS MY EAR TO LISTEN LIKE ONE BEING TAUGHT.” (ISAIAH 50:4)*

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Read Daniel 2:17-19.

After Daniel boldly asked the king for more time in verse 16, what action did he take? What was the result?

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**OUR GOD IS A GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYER!**

How have you seen God answer your prayers recently?

If you have not seen God answer yet, will you continue to pray by faith, and ask God to specifically show you how

He is working in the situation?

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## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read Daniel 6:10.

Along with this verse and Daniel 2:17-19, what beliefs and habits do you think prepared Daniel for this crisis?

From Daniel's example, what actions could you resolve to do in advance to prepare for a future crisis?

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*A DOXOLOGY IS A SHORT HYMN OF PRAISE TO GOD.*

Read Daniel 2:20-23.

How does Daniel's doxology encourage you about the times we live in?

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*"HE WILL BE THE SURE FOUNDATION FOR YOUR TIMES, A RICH STORE OF SALVATION, WISDOM, AND KNOWLEDGE; THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE KEY TO THIS TREASURE." (ISAIAH 33:6)*

*PRAYER - We praise you God as the God of Heaven who reveals mysteries. Thank you for your mercy. Lord, help us to seek you first, and trust you in all the changes that come our way. Amen.*

DANIEL 2:24-35

# OUR GOD REVEALS MYSTERIES

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read Daniel 2:24-30.

When God works through us, it is so easy to take the credit, but who did Daniel say revealed the meaning of the king’s dream?

When something goes right at work, or home, or among friends, are you willing to speak up about what God has done, or do you find this difficult?

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Read Daniel 2:31-35.

In your own words, describe King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

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What can we learn about God from today's verses?  
(Daniel 2:24-35)

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*PRAYER - We praise you God as The Revealer of Mysteries, who knows the end from the beginning of all things. Thank you that in Scripture, you have shown us glimpses of things to come. Help us to understand what you want us to know, and to be ever watchful for the return of your Son. Amen.*

## DANIEL 2:36-49

Read Daniel 2:36-38.

King Nebuchadnezzar must have been very flattered by Daniel's opening remarks. But who did Daniel say was responsible for the king's power and glory?

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THE KING'S DREAM OF A STATUE WAS GOD'S REVELATION OF THE SUCCESSIVE GENTILE NATIONS THAT WOULD RULE OVER ISRAEL. THE SECTIONS WERE DEFINED BY DIFFERENT METALS WHICH DECREASED IN VALUE FROM THE HEAD DOWN, BUT INCREASED IN STRENGTH UNTIL THE FEET. HERE IS THE INTERPRETATION FROM THE LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE:

GOLD HEAD	BABYLON CONQUERED JUDAH	605 B.C.
SILVER CHEST WITH 2 ARMS	MEDO-PERSIA CONQUERED BABYLON	539 B.C.
BRONZE BELLY AND THIGHS	GREECE CONQUERED MEDO-PERSIA (ALEXANDER THE GREAT)	331 B.C.
IRON LEGS	ROME CONQUERED GREECE	146 B.C.
IRON/CLAY FEET	BREAK UP OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE	476 A.D.



*THIS PART OF THE PROPHECY WAS FUTURE TO DANIEL AND KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, BUT HISTORY TO US. EVERYTHING CAME TO PASS JUST AS GOD REVEALED THAT IT WOULD. THE REST OF THE DREAM PREDICTS:*

*THE ROCK/MOUNTAIN*

*RETURN OF CHRIST TO  
ESTABLISH HIS MILLENNIAL KINGDOM*

*FUTURE*

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read Daniel 2:39-45.

Does the fact that so much of this prophecy came to pass help you have confidence in the Bible's predictions of the future? Why or why not?

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Read Daniel 2:46-49.

What did the king say about Daniel's God? How did he honor Daniel and his friends?

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*PRAYER - We praise you God as the Lord of Kings. We thank you God, for showing us over and over in Your Word, that you are trustworthy. Help us trust you today during our own uncertain times, and give us the courage to speak up about your greatness and truth. Amen.*

## DANIEL 2: THE REVEALER OF MYSTERIES

*“BE STILL MY SOUL, THY GOD DOTH UNDERTAKE,  
TO GUIDE THE FUTURE AS HE HAS THE PAST.  
THY HOPE, THY CONFIDENCE LET NOTHING SHAKE,  
ALL NOW MYSTERIOUS SHALL BE BRIGHT AT LAST...”*  
-BY KATHRINA VON SCHLEGEL (1700'S)

In looking back through Daniel Chapter 2, identify the verses which speak of God as the One who reveals mysteries or secrets?

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### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

In verse 30 we read that Daniel said, “As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation, and that you may understand what went through your mind.”

We get the sense that it is God’s good pleasure to reveal mysteries to His people. Why do you think He does this?

Do you think there is value in examining the future prophecies in the Bible for us today? Why or why not?

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*MARK HITCHCOCK, IN HIS BOOK THE END, SAYS THAT, "WHILE ALL BIBLICAL PROPHETIC PASSAGES MAKE A UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION, THERE ARE THREE MAIN SECTIONS OF THE BIBLE THAT CONTAIN THE ESSENTIAL KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING THE FUTURE. THESE THREE SECTIONS ARE DANIEL, THE OLIVET DISCOURSE (MATTHEW 24), AND THE BOOK OF REVELATION."*

It is a blessing to be able to study the first of these together as a church. Will you prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding of what these prophecies mean, the wisdom to know how they affect us today, and the faith to believe what God says will come to pass?

*PRAYER - We praise you Lord as the God of Heaven, who has a plan for the end of human history and the beginning of your Kingdom on earth. Thank you for giving us sections of the Bible which will prepare us for what is to come. Help us trust you Lord, in our own day and age, when things get tough and are constantly changing. And help us to believe You have a future and a hope for your world. Amen.*

# DANIEL 3

Last week, we read about the Babylonian King's dream of a huge metal statue. Daniel interpreted the meaning of the dream, including the part where the head of gold represented King Nebuchadnezzar. As we begin to look at Daniel Chapter 3, we will see this dream apparently gave the king a "brilliant" idea: why not build a real statue, and require the whole world to worship it? After all, 16 years had passed since the dream event, and the king probably thought that because of his great power, the prophecy would not come true. He might have doubted the silver kingdom would ever come, therefore, it was time to build a statue out of solid gold.

King Nebuchadnezzar did just that. He built a huge statue, yet failed to remember the God of Heaven had given him his power and glory. God alone had made the king ruler over the whole inhabited world (Daniel 2:36-38). This was quite a misjudgment on the king's part. Nevertheless, in Chapter 3, we will see not everyone agreed to follow the King's decree and bow down to the statue, there were some who resolved to worship God alone.

# WEEK 3

RESOLVE TO WORSHIP GOD ALONE



“SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND  
ABEDNEGO REPLIED...

‘KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR...

IF WE ARE THROWN INTO  
THE BLAZING FURNACE, THE  
GOD WE SERVE IS ABLE TO  
DELIVER US FROM IT, AND HE  
WILL DELIVER US FROM YOUR  
MAJESTY’S HAND. BUT EVEN IF  
HE DOES NOT...

WE WILL NOT SERVE YOUR  
GODS OR WORSHIP THE IMAGE  
OF GOLD YOU HAVE SET UP.’”

(DANIEL 3:16-18)

*DANIEL 3:1-7*

Read Daniel 3:1-7.

What were the dimensions of Nebuchadnezzar's statue?

What was the king's order, and what was the punishment for disobedience?

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This is a chapter of repeated lists, from officials, to musical instruments, to clothing.

Why do you think the author included these lists?

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## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

The Babylonians had no problem worshiping multiple gods. Last week, in Chapter 2, we saw even King Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged Daniel's God as one of the gods. (Daniel 2:47)

How do you see the same tolerance of multiple gods today?

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*PRAYER - We acknowledge you God as the One True God, for you alone are worthy of honor, worship, and praise. We thank you for the religious freedom we enjoy in this country. When this freedom comes under attack, show us the way forward, and give us the resolve to stand for you alone. Amen.*

**DANIEL 3:8-18**

Read Daniel 3:8-12.

Who came forward to inform the king about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

We are not told why the informants did this, but from these verses, what possible motivation did they have?

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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Read Daniel 3:13-15.

The enraged king summoned the three men and gave them one more chance to fall down and worship the statue. He then asked a very interesting question. What question did he ask?

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Read Daniel 3:16-18.

How did the three men respond to the king?

Do you think they had anticipated the possibility of this crisis point?

If so, what had they resolved to do?

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*"BE MERCIFUL TO ME, MY GOD, FOR MY ENEMIES ARE IN HOT PURSUIT; ALL DAY LONG THEY PRESS THEIR ATTACK. WHEN I AM AFRAID, I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU. IN GOD, WHOSE WORD I PRAISE-IN GOD I TRUST AND AM NOT AFRAID. WHAT CAN MERE MORTALS DO TO ME?" (PSALM 56:1, 3-4)*

*PRAYER - We praise you God as The Great Deliverer. Thank you for holding our lives, our safety, and well-being in your hands. Help us to trust you in crisis situations, and may your will and way stand in every circumstance. Amen.*

DANIEL 3:19-27

*“WHEN YOU PASS THROUGH THE WATERS, I WILL BE WITH YOU; AND WHEN YOU PASS THROUGH THE RIVERS, THEY WILL NOT SWEEP OVER YOU. WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THE FIRE, YOU WILL NOT BE BURNED; THE FLAMES WILL NOT SET YOU ABLAZE. FOR I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD, THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL, YOUR SAVIOR.” (ISAIAH 43:2-3)*

Read Daniel 3:19-23.

In his fury, what orders did King Nebuchadnezzar make?

What was the result?

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Read Daniel 3:24-27.

What did King Nebuchadnezzar see in the fiery furnace?

Who did he acknowledge as the one responsible for this miracle?

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## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

From these verses, what was the only thing that was burned?

In what ways do you think this event pictures what the Lord does for us during severe trials?

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**“THE REFINER NOT ONLY WATCHES THE CRUCIBLE.  
HE IS IN IT WITH THEE.  
IN ALL THY AFFLICTION, HE IS AFFLICTED.”  
-F.B. MEYER**

*PRAYER - Lord, you are the Most High God, the Refiner, and our Savior. Thank you for walking with us through the trials of life. Thank you that nothing can touch us without your sovereign will. Help us to see your purpose in every difficult situation. Give us resolve to stay true to you today and every day. Amen.*

*DANIEL 3:28-30*

Read Daniel 3:28-30.

How did the king interpret what happened in the furnace?

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**THERE IS NO OTHER GOD  
WHO CAN RESCUE LIKE THIS!**

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Do you think King Nebuchadnezzar truly believed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s God was the One True God?

Why or why not?

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*PRAYER - Lord, you are the One and Only Savior; there is no other god besides you. Thank you for revealing yourself to us in life, and in your Holy Word. Lord, walk with us through difficult situations, guide us with your counsel, comfort us with your presence, and teach us what you want us to learn. We trust you, God. Amen.*





**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Consider how you would respond to someone who says it doesn't matter if people follow Buddha, Allah, or the Christian God because they are all the same. How can you prepare in advance for this question?

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What have you learned from Daniel Chapter 3 that will help you resolve to trust in the God Who Saves, and worship Him alone?

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*PRAYER - Lord, you have become our Salvation. Thank you for being our strength and our song. Help us to trust you, and not be afraid, when we face the fiery trials of life. Amen. (Isaiah 12:2)*

# DANIEL 4

Chapter 4 of Daniel is unique in all of Scripture, in that it was written by a pagan, King Nebuchadnezzar. This story was told from his point of view. We have seen that God chose Nebuchadnezzar for His purposes: to punish Judah for their disobedience. God told Judah if they worshiped pagan gods, and followed pagan practices, He would remove them from the promised land and send them into exile. Judah disobeyed in this way, and God sent Nebuchadnezzar to destroy Jerusalem, and take all but the poorest people to Babylon (see 2 Kings 24-25).

But, in His great mercy and grace, God also wanted Nebuchadnezzar to know and believe in Him. God pursued the king, and revealed Himself to him through visions and dreams, and through the words of the prophet Daniel. God wanted the king to remember that He was the Most High God, who had given Nebuchadnezzar his power, glory, and dominion (Daniel 1:37-38).

In Chapter 4, we will see that God told the king what he could expect if he did not remember. He would be driven away from people, and live as an animal for seven years.

**WEEK 4**  
**RESOLVE TO REMEMBER**



“NOW I, NEBUCHADNEZZAR,  
PRAISE AND GLORIFY  
AND HONOR THE KING OF  
HEAVEN. ALL HIS ACTS  
ARE JUST AND TRUE, AND  
HE IS ABLE TO HUMBLE  
THE PROUD.”

(DANIEL 4:37)

## DANIEL 4:1-9

*"I WILL REMEMBER THE DEEDS OF THE LORD;  
YES, I WILL REMEMBER YOUR MIRACLES OF LONG AGO.  
I WILL CONSIDER ALL YOUR WORKS,  
AND MEDITATE ON ALL YOUR MIGHTY ACTS."  
(PSALM 77:11-12)*

Read Daniel 4:1-3.

**HYMNS OF PRAISE ARE THE BOOKENDS  
OF KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S STORY.**

What title does the king give to God in verse 2? What praises does he give to God in verse 3?

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Read Daniel 4:4-9.

*THIRTY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S  
PROPHETIC DREAM ABOUT THE GREAT METAL STATUE.*

How did the king describe this new dream? Who did the king trust with the interpretation?

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### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

From these verses, do you think the king believed in the Most High as the only true God? Why or why not?

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*PRAYER - We praise you God as the One Most High, whose kingdom is eternal. We recognize that you bless your people with miraculous acts. Give us eyes to see the mighty work you are doing in our lives and in our world today. Amen.*

## DANIEL 4:10-17

Read Daniel 4:10-12.

Describe the tree metaphor from these verses.

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### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read Daniel 4:13-15a.

What happened to the tree in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and who gave the command?

Why do you think the stump and roots were bound with iron and bronze? What does this tell you about God?

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## MESSENGER = A WATCHER OR A WAKING ONE

Read Daniel 4:15b-17.

In verse 15, we see the metaphor changed (as it often does in dreams) and the tree became a man.

What happens to the man in these verses?

What do the messengers want everyone to know about the Most High God?

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*PRAYER - We praise you God as the Ruler over the kingdoms of the world. Thank you for the knowledge that you alone choose our leaders, and you do so for your good purposes. All your ways are just. Help us to trust you in changing times, and to see your mercy and grace at work in our nation today. Amen.*

DANIEL 4:18-27

Read Daniel 4:18-19.

What did Daniel wish in verse 19? What does this say about his heart toward the king?

How do you think a captive in a foreign country could have a heart like Daniel's?

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Read Daniel 4:20-27.

Who was the tree, and how did the metaphor describe him? Who was the man and what would happen to him?

What would he have to learn to reverse the curse? What hope was the king given?

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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

From these verses, do you think that this dream was a prediction of what would come true or a warning with an opportunity to change?

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*PRAYER - We praise you God as the Ruler of heaven and earth. Thank you for your patience with us. Give us the courage to tell others about your grace and mercy. Amen.*

## DANIEL 4:28-37

Read Daniel 4:28-33.

We see that God granted Nebuchadnezzar a 12-month grace period before the prophecy came true. Why do you think God did this?

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*“BUT YOU, LORD ARE A COMPASSIONATE AND GRACIOUS GOD,  
SLOW TO ANGER, ABOUNDING IN LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS.”*

*(PSALM 86:15)*

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

When King Nebuchadnezzar looked out over Babylon from the rooftop of his royal palace, who did he think was responsible for all he saw? What was the result?

What must we resolve to remember when we feel proud of our accomplishments, talents, or position?

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Read Daniel 4:34-37.

What change do you see in Nebuchadnezzar after his season of insanity?

How did Nebuchadnezzar describe his restoration in verse 36, and what does this teach you about God?

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*PRAYER - We praise you God, as the ultimate authority over heaven and earth. We acknowledge that all human success is not of our own making, but is a gift from you. Help us to be good stewards of the talents, knowledge, and influences you have entrusted to us. May we use them in your service and to your glory. Amen.*

## DANIEL 4: THE MOST HIGH GOD

*THE TITLE "MOST HIGH GOD" IS ONE FOUND IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, MAINLY IN THE BOOKS OF PSALM, ISAIAH, AND DANIEL. THIS TITLE SPEAKS TO GOD'S MIGHT AND POWER. GOD HAS UNIVERSAL RULE OVER HEAVEN AND EARTH, WHICH INCLUDES ALL NATIONS, LEADERS, AND INDIVIDUAL LIVES. HE IS SUPREME, AND HE IS ETERNAL, SO HIS RULE WILL NEVER END.*

Looking back through Daniel Chapter 4, which verses mention the Most High, and who called God by this name in each verse?

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Through the events of this chapter, we see that Nebuchadnezzar did recognize God as the ultimate, eternal ruler of the universe. He realized his life was in God's hands. But the king was also the recipient of a different part of God's character, his compassion. When God warned the king of what was to come, He also told him it would be temporary (Daniel 4:27). Undoubtedly, to go through a "season of insanity" must have been a horrific experience, but God never forgot Nebuchadnezzar during that time. He did not look away while he lived as an animal, but guarded his "roots in the ground, and watered them with the dew of heaven." And when the seven years were fulfilled, God restored the king to sanity and to his throne, just as He said He would. Our God is the Most High God, but He is also slow to anger, patient, not wanting any to perish, but for everyone to come to Him (2 Peter 3:9).

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Reflecting upon your tough seasons of life, have you been able to see both God's rule and his compassion at work?

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### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

How could this realization help you when you face future trials?

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*"YOU ARE NOT HIDDEN  
THERE'S NEVER BEEN A MOMENT YOU WERE FORGOTTEN  
YOU ARE NOT HOPELESS  
THOUGH YOU HAVE BEEN BROKEN  
YOUR INNOCENCE STOLEN*

*I HEAR YOU WHISPER UNDERNEATH YOUR BREATH  
I HEAR YOUR SOS, YOUR SOS*

*I WILL SEND OUT AN ARMY TO FIND YOU  
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DARKEST NIGHT  
IT'S TRUE, I WILL RESCUE YOU."  
(RESCUE BY LAUREN DAIGLE)*

*PRAYER - We praise you Lord as the God Most High. Thank you for your compassion. Help us to remember that our lives are in your hands, and everything we have or do are gifts from you. Amen.*

# DANIEL 5

The year was now 539 B.C., and Daniel had been a captive in Babylon for 66 years. We do not know how old he was when he arrived, probably a teenager, but by all accounts he would now be considered an old man. Nebuchadnezzar had died in 562 B.C., and Nabonidus was the current king, but he had chosen to live in Arabia. So, his son Belshazzar was co-regent and ruled in Babylon.



In this chapter, we will see that it was time for the fulfillment of the metal statue prophecy to begin. The silver nation was coming. In fact, it was quite possible that the Medo/Persian army was already amassing around Babylon. This scene opens with Belshazzar throwing a huge banquet for thousands. Perhaps he wanted to “eat, drink, and be merry,” while there was still time. History tells us that it was the 12th of October. No doubt the mood was festive, the palace ablaze with torches, and the revelers could be heard throughout the city, but all came to a full stop as a single human hand began to write on the wall...

# WEEK 5

RESOLVE TO SPEAK TRUTH



**“FOR YOU HAVE  
PROUDLY DEFIED THE LORD  
OF HEAVEN...  
YOU HAVE NOT HONORED  
THE GOD WHO GIVES YOU  
THE BREATH OF LIFE  
AND CONTROLS YOUR  
DESTINY.” (DANIEL 5:23)**

DANIEL 5

Read Daniel 5:1-4.

We will see in a few verses that Belshazzar knew the story of Nebuchadnezzar, who lived like an animal for a while because of his arrogance towards God. And still, this king did not humble himself before the Lord.

In what ways did King Belshazzar disrespect the Lord of Heaven?

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*DO NOT BE DECEIVED: GOD CANNOT BE MOCKED.  
A MAN REAPS WHAT HE SOWS.” (GALATIANS 6:7)*

Read Daniel 5:5-9.

What strange event happened next? How did the king react?

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### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

The gold and silver goblets had been dedicated to God in the Jerusalem Temple. They were consecrated, meaning they were set apart for sacred use. Belshazzar knew where the goblets came from, but wanted to show his power by using them for his purposes and pleasure. How do you think God felt about his behavior? What did it show about Belshazzar's heart attitude?

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*PRAYER - Let's conclude today by praying Psalm 139:23.  
"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my  
anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and  
lead me in the way everlasting." Amen.*

## DANIEL 5:10-17

Read Daniel 5:10-12.

Why do you think Belshazzar did not know about Daniel?

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*THE QUEEN WAS NOT BELSHAZZAR'S WIFE. HIS WIVES WERE ALREADY AT THE BANQUET. SHE WAS POSSIBLY HIS MOTHER OR EVEN A FORMER WIFE OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR.*

Read Daniel 5:13-17.

What reward was Daniel offered for his interpretation, and what did he say about it?

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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

People often turn to believers for prayer or advice when tragedy strikes. Have you experienced this before? What was the result?

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*PRAYER - We praise you Lord as the God of all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Give us wisdom when nonbelievers seek us out in crisis, and may we always point others to you. Amen.*

**DANIEL 5:18-24**

Read Daniel 5:18-21.

Before interpreting the writing on the wall, Daniel first explained to Belshazzar why the hand had come.

What did Daniel say about Nebuchadnezzar?

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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Read Daniel 5:22-24.

What did Belshazzar know? How did he react to this knowledge? What had God given him?

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God is a great communicator. He speaks to us through His Word, through the Holy Spirit, and through life experiences.

Have you ever witnessed the consequences of another person's actions and changed your mindset or behavior?

How did you see God's guidance in this situation?

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*PRAYER - Lord, you are the Wonderful Counselor. Thank you for how you communicate with us. Help us to recognize your guidance, and follow in ways which honor You. Amen.*

## DANIEL 5:25-30

Read Daniel 5:25-28.

THE WRITING ON THE WALL CONSISTED OF FOUR ARAMAIC WORDS:  
MENE MEANING NUMBERED (WRITTEN TWICE FOR EMPHASIS),  
TEKEL MEANING WEIGHED, AND PERES MEANING DIVIDED.

What interpretation did Daniel make from these words?

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Read Daniel 5:29.

Do you think Belshazzar believed Daniel's interpretation? Why or why not?

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## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read Daniel 5:30.

In ancient times, kings would often kill a messenger who brought bad news.

What did Daniel courageously do in this situation? What do you think he had resolved before this crisis point?

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*THE MEDIA KINGDOM, LOCATED IN WHAT IS NOW WEST-CENTRAL IRAN, WAS A TRIBAL NATION. CYRUS OF PERSIA INCORPORATED THE MEDES INTO HIS KINGDOM, WHILE ALLOWING THEM TO REMAIN A DISTINCT PEOPLE. DARIUS WAS PROBABLY THE MILITARY GENERAL UNDER KING CYRUS. IN ORDER TO ATTACK BABYLON, THE MEDIAI PERSIAN ARMY RE-ROUTED THE EUPHRATES RIVER, WHICH RAN THROUGH THE CITY, AND ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 12, 539 B.C., THE SOLDIERS SIMPLY WALKED UNDER THE CITY WALL ON THE DRIED RIVERBED. (NELSON'S NEW ILLUSTRATED BIBLE COMMENTARY)*

*PRAYER - We praise you God as righteous and just. We know you will not be mocked. Help us to resolve to always speak the truth, and give us courage when this is difficult. Amen.*

## DANIEL 5: “THE LORD OF HEAVEN”

*“THERE IS NO ONE LIKE THE GOD OF JESHURUN WHO RIDES ACROSS THE HEAVENS TO HELP YOU, AND ON THE CLOUDS IN HIS MAJESTY.”  
(DEUTERONOMY 33:26)*

**JESHURUN IS A NAME FOR ISRAEL, AND LITERALLY MEANS “THE UPRIGHT ONES.”**

In verses 22-23 of Chapter 5, we see that Daniel explained to Belshazzar why the hand had come to visit him. Daniel said, “But you Belshazzar have not humbled yourself...instead you have set yourself up against the ‘Lord of Heaven’.”

*THE TITLE LORD OF HEAVEN, SPEAKS TO THE FACT THAT GOD IS HIGH AND EXALTED. WE SEE THIS NAME OF GOD OFTEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE BOOKS OF CHRONICLES, EZRA, NEHEMIAH, AND OF COURSE, DANIEL. FROM GENESIS 1, WE LEARN THAT HEAVEN CAN REFER TO THE EXPANSE ABOVE THE EARTH, WHICH HOLDS THE STARS. PEOPLE OF ALL TIME HAVE BEEN TEMPTED TO LOOK UP TO HEAVEN AND WORSHIP THE STARRY HOSTS- TO WORSHIP THE CREATION INSTEAD OF THE CREATOR. WE KNOW THE BABYLONIANS DID THIS (THEIR MOON GOD WAS CALLED AKU). BUT THE LORD OF HEAVEN WANTED THE BABYLONIANS TO RECOGNIZE HIM AS THE SUPREME POWER OF THE UNIVERSE, THE CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, AND HE WANTED THEM TO WORSHIP HIM ALONE.*

Read Daniel 4:37.

These were the last recorded words of King Nebuchadnezzar. How did he praise God in this verse? We cannot know for sure, but do you think he became a believer in the One True God?

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Looking back over Daniel 5, how did King Belshazzar do the opposite of Nebuchadnezzar, and disregard The Lord of Heaven?

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### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

What would you like to praise The Lord of Heaven for this week?

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*PRAYER - We praise you God as the One who spoke the stars into place. You are the Creator, and we are blessed to be a part of your creation. Thank you for your promise that if we believe in your Son, we will have a future in heaven with You. Comfort us today with these words. Amen.*

# DANIEL 6

Chapter 6 of Daniel marks a regime change. The Medo/Persian army defeated the Babylonians on the night of October 12, 539 B.C., and took over the country. It appears that Darius the Mede not only led the attack, but also stayed on as “king” for the Persian king, Cyrus. Darius’ first order of business was to change the country from a monarchy into a provincial government.

Through all the upheaval, we will see that Daniel continued to be a man of high moral character, a man of integrity. Even though his captors were no longer in control of the nation, he stayed at his post. We will read how he continued to serve the new regime as faithfully as he had in the past. And most importantly, we will take an in-depth look at Daniel as a man of prayer.

# WEEK 6

RESOLVE TO PRAY





“WHEN DANIEL LEARNED  
THAT THE DECREE HAD  
BEEN PUBLISHED,  
HE WENT HOME TO HIS  
UPSTAIRS ROOM WHERE  
THE WINDOWS OPENED TO  
JERUSALEM. THREE TIMES  
A DAY, HE GOT DOWN ON HIS  
KNEES AND PRAYED, GIVING  
THANKS TO HIS GOD, JUST  
AS HE HAD DONE BEFORE.”  
(DANIEL 6:10)

## DANIEL 6

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read Daniel 6:1-3.

Daniel was probably in his eighties when Darius the Mede took over the nation, and God blessed Daniel with the favor of his new leader. Once he began his job, Daniel distinguished himself above all the other governors and administrators.

What qualities do you think Daniel exhibited in his work?

What did Darius plan to do?

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*“DO EVERYTHING WITHOUT COMPLAINING OR ARGUING, SO THAT NO ONE CAN CRITICIZE YOU. LIVE CLEAN, INNOCENT LIVES AS CHILDREN OF GOD, SHINING LIKE BRIGHT LIGHTS IN A WORLD FULL OF CROOKED AND PERVERSE PEOPLE.” (PHILIPPIANS 2:14)*

Read Daniel 6:4-5.

Why do you think the other officials wanted to bring charges against Daniel?

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Read Daniel 6:6-9.

What plan did the officials present to the king?

Why do you think the king agreed to the plan?

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*IN THE LAW OF THE MEDES AND PERSIANS, ONCE THE KING MADE A DECREE, AND PUT IT IN WRITING, IT COULD NOT BE REVOKED EVEN BY THE KING HIMSELF, UNTIL THE TIME-LIMIT HAD EXPIRED. THIS WAS THE SAME LAW THAT ALMOST LED TO THE ANNIHILATION OF THE JEWS IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER (SEE ESTHER 1:19; 3:8-9).*

*PRAYER - Lord, you are worthy of all of our worship and praise. Thank you for how you care for your people. Help us to live and work with integrity so that we will be shining lights in our community. Amen.*

## DANIEL 6:10-14

### THE ART OF PRAYER

*"IN THE MORNING LORD YOU HEAR MY VOICE;  
IN THE MORNING I LAY MY REQUESTS BEFORE YOU  
AND WAIT EXPECTANTLY." (PSALM 5:3)*

We were created with the privilege of communicating with God. Every great relationship is built on communication, and our relationship with the Lord is no different. Miraculously, if we spend time in prayer, we get to know the Lord better.

Effective prayer is always based upon Scriptural principles. It is important to let what we read in the Bible inform how we talk to God. Effective prayer contains different elements such as praise (for who God is), thanksgiving (for what He has done), confession, and petitions. The first three elements help put our hearts in the right place before we bring our requests to God. Jesus said that the "Father knows what you need before you ask Him," but even the Lord knew the necessity of prayer, and spent much time talking to His Father while He lived on earth. Spending time in concentrated prayer is a skill that can be developed over time.

Besides setting aside a special time for prayer, we should be prayerful people who communicate with the Lord as we walk through each day. Speak to Him about what is going on, send up "arrow prayers" for guidance, and intercede for others. Prayer is one of the richest spiritual blessings of our lives.

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read Daniel 6:10.

What can you learn about Daniel's prayer life from this verse?

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*"THE LORD IS NEAR TO ALL WHO CALL ON HIM,  
TO ALL WHO CALL ON HIM IN TRUTH." (PSALM 145:18)*

Read Daniel 6:11-14.

When the officials went to Daniel's house, what did they hear Daniel praying for? What did they tell the king about the "captive from Judah?"

How did the king react to this news?

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*"IMAGINE BEING FOUND GUILTY OF PRAYER..." -BETH MOORE*

What impression do you think Daniel had made on King Darius?

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*PRAYER - We praise you God as the one who lives in unapproachable light, and yet you are also close to your people. Thank you for hearing our cries for help, and guide us as we negotiate troubled times. Amen.*

**DANIEL 6:15-23**

Read Daniel 6:15-16.

What did the king say about Daniel's faithfulness to his God?

Do you think the king admired this faithfulness or not?

Even though Daniel was faithful to God, what happened to him next?

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**DARE TO BE A DANIEL  
DARE TO STAND ALONE  
DARE TO HAVE A PURPOSE FIRM  
DARE TO MAKE IT KNOWN.**

**-PHILIP PAUL BLISS (1800'S)**

Read Daniel 6:17-18.

How did the king feel about what had happened?

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*DANIEL 6:24-28*

Read Daniel 6:24.

What happened to the men who falsely accused Daniel?

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Read Daniel 6:25-26.

What a different proclamation Darius made in these verses than the decree he had signed a month before!

What did Darius say about the God of Daniel?

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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

What would you like to praise and thank God for this week?

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*“SO, DANIEL PROSPERED DURING THE REIGN OF DARIUS AND THE REIGN OF CYRUS THE PERSIAN.” (DANIEL 6:28)*

*PRAYER - Lord, you are the Eternal God whose Kingdom will never end. Thank you for the mighty acts you perform in heaven and on earth. When those around us defy your great Name and character, give us the words and courage to continue to honor you. Amen.*

## DANIEL 6: THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYER

*“BEFORE THEY CALL, I WILL ANSWER; WHILE THEY ARE STILL SPEAKING, I WILL HEAR.” (ISAIAH 65:24)*

It is true that our God is a God who answers prayer. Sometimes, He answers immediately, and sometimes we have to wait. Sometimes, He answers in the way we ask, and sometimes not. God is a creative God, who rarely answers the same prayer in the same way twice.

He said, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, but my word that goes out from my mouth will not return empty, it will accomplish what I desire, and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:8,11).

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Has there been a time when you saw God answer your prayer immediately?

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Has there been a time that you had to wait for God's answer?  
(Maybe you are waiting for an answer now?)

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Has there been a time when you thought God had not answered your prayer, but when you looked back over time, He was answering all along?

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How has considering God's answers to prayer encouraged you in your faith today?

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*PRAYER - Lord, we praise you as the Omniscient, All-Knowing God. Thank you for your personal involvement in our lives. Help us to trust you in trials, and may we be ever aware of your presence. Amen.*

# DANIEL

## 7-8

Eschatology is the study of the End Times, meaning the events which lead up to the end of human history and the beginning of God's Kingdom. The Bible speaks about these events throughout the Old and New Testaments. Apocalyptic (end of world) literature contains distinct characteristics, such as visions, strange creatures, and signs. Time might seem to spiral, folding in on itself, only to start over. These passages can be difficult to understand and interpret, but often the Bible will give us an interpretation, either within the same passage, or in parallel passages, which speak about similar events. The only completely certain interpretations come from Scripture itself.

The Greek word apokalupsis, which can be translated as revelation, speaks to an unveiling, a revealing, or removing of a cover. It is apparent that God has included End Time prophecies in Scripture so that we will study them, learn from them, and watch for their fulfillment. (*The End* by Mark Hitchcock)

Here are some helpful definitions to keep in mind as we look at Daniel 7 and 8 this week:

*The Tribulation:* a seven-year period which will be an “age of wrath;” a time on earth of great suffering. This period will be marked by false prophets, the Antichrist, and severe natural disasters. These disasters are the “birth pains” of the end.

*The Antichrist:* a world leader who will arise during an unsettled time, and promise the restoration of peace and prosperity. He will be attractive and well spoken, but he is evil. Halfway through the Tribulation, Satan will indwell the Antichrist, and he will then set himself up as God, and wage war on the Lord’s people.

*The Millennium:* a thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth, which follows the Tribulation.

**WEEK 7**

**RESOLVE TO BELONG TO GOD**



“AS I LOOKED, THRONES WERE  
SET IN PLACE, AND THE  
ANCIENT OF DAYS TOOK HIS  
SEAT. HIS CLOTHING WAS AS  
WHITE AS SNOW; THE HAIR  
OF HIS HEAD WAS WHITE  
LIKE WOOL. HIS THRONE WAS  
FLAMING WITH FIRE, AND ITS  
WHEELS WERE ALL ABLAZE.”  
(DANIEL 7:9)

## DANIEL 7:1-8

CHAPTER 7 OF DANIEL IS OUT OF CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER. IT GOES BACK TO THE FIRST YEAR OF BELSHAZZAR'S REIGN, FOURTEEN YEARS BEFORE DARIUS DEFEATED BABYLON.

Read Daniel 7:1-3.

How did Daniel's dream begin?

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Read Daniel 7:4-6.

Describe The Lion, The Bear, and The Leopard:

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MANY SCHOLARS BELIEVE THAT THE FOUR BEASTS REPRESENTED THE SAME GENTILE NATIONS FORETOLD IN NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S STATUE DREAM. IF THIS WAS THE CASE, THE LION WOULD REPRESENT BABYLON, THE BEAR-MEDO/PERSIA, AND THE LEOPARD-GREECE. ARCHEOLOGISTS HAVE DISCOVERED PICTURES OF WINGED LIONS WHICH SYMBOLIZED BABYLON. IT COULD BE THAT THE STATUE DREAM DESCRIBED THESE NATIONS FROM A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE, WHILE DANIEL'S DREAM REVEALED GOD'S POINT-OF-VIEW: NATIONS BENT ON EVIL, WHICH WERE VIOLENT AND DESTRUCTIVE.



Read Daniel 7:7-8.

Describe the fourth Beast. What was on its head?

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*IT APPEARS THAT DANIEL DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE FOURTH BEAST AS A KNOWN ANIMAL. THIS CREATURE WAS TERRIFYING TO BE SURE. SCHOLARS FEEL THAT WHILE IT REPRESENTED ROME, THE 10 HORNS POINT TO A FUTURE, END TIME PROPHECY.*

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

In verse 6 we see that the Leopard was given authority (for a time). This verse speaks to the fact that God controls the nations of the world, and He alone decides their scope and length of rule. How does this encourage you about our day and time?

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*PRAYER - God, you alone are sovereign and in control. Thank you that our times are in your hands. Give us wisdom and understanding as we study your Holy Word, and give us eyes to see how it relates to our lives today. Amen.*

DANIEL 7: 9-14

Read Daniel 7:9-10.

We are now standing on holy ground. This is one of the few glimpses we have in Scripture of the Throne Room of Heaven.

What title was given to God the Father, and how was He described?

What was happening in the Throne Room?

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Read Daniel 7:11-12.

What was the little horn doing?

What happened to the four beasts?

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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Throughout this chapter, when we read about the “little horn,” there is always an emphasis about what is coming out of his mouth. How do you feel about the way he was speaking in front of the Ancient of Days?

Who do you think the little horn represents?

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Read Daniel 7:13-14.

Who do you think the Son of Man was, and why do you think he was given this title?

What was given to the Son of Man?

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*PRAYER - God, you are high and holy, seated on a fiery throne, attended by thousands. Thank you for this insight into your magnificent Presence. Give us reverent hearts before You, and help us be ever mindful of how we speak to you and about you. Amen.*

**DANIEL 7:15-28**

Read Daniel 7:15-18.

How did Daniel feel about the vision, and who did he ask about it?

What interpretation was given for the four beasts? What did he say would ultimately happen?

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Read Daniel 7:19-25.

Daniel specifically asked about the fourth Beast and the horns.

What interpretation was given for the fourth Beast? The 10 horns?

What will another king (the little horn) do?

What was the little horn doing while Daniel was asking his questions? (verse 21)

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**TIME, TIMES, AND HALF A TIME=3 1/2 YEARS**

Read Daniel 7:26-28.

What will happen to the last king's reign?

Who will ultimately receive the dominion over all the kingdoms under heaven?

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*“THE TEN HORNS OF THE BEAST ARE TEN KINGS WHO HAVE NOT YET RISEN TO POWER. THEY WILL BE APPOINTED TO THEIR KINGDOMS FOR ONE BRIEF MOMENT TO REIGN WITH THE BEAST. THEY WILL ALL AGREE TO GIVE HIM THEIR POWER AND AUTHORITY. TOGETHER THEY WILL GO TO WAR AGAINST THE LAMB, BUT THE LAMB WILL DEFEAT THEM BECAUSE HE IS LORD OF ALL LORDS, AND KING OF ALL KINGS. AND HIS CALLED AND CHOSEN AND FAITHFUL ONES WILL BE WITH HIM.”  
(REVELATION 17:12-14)*

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Referring back to the definitions in the introduction to this week's study:

What future event do you think verses 21, 24 and 25 describe?

What future event do you think verses 18, 22 and 27 describe?

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*PRAYER - We praise you as the Lord Most High. Thank you for being our defender and deliverer. We look forward to the day when all will worship and obey you. Until that day comes, help us to represent you and your kingdom well. Amen.*

## DANIEL 8

TWO YEARS LATER, DANIEL HAD A SECOND VISION, AGAIN WITH ANIMALS REPRESENTING GENTILE KINGDOMS. IN THIS VISION THE RAM WITH TWO HORNS REPRESENTED MEDO/PERSIA, AND THE GOAT REPRESENTED GREECE. THIS VISION EMPHASIZES TWO POWERFUL LEADERS: ALEXANDER THE GREAT OF GREECE, AND ANTIOCHUS IV EPIPHANES OF SYRIA. ANTIOCHUS WAS AN ANTICHRIST WHO DEFILED THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM BY ERECTING AN IMAGE OF ZEUS, AND OFFERING A PIG ON THE ALTAR TO IT (AN ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION). WE WILL SEE THAT HE WAS A FORESHADOW OF THE ANTICHRIST OF THE TRIBULATION.

Read Daniel 8:1-12 and 20-22.

Scholars believe that the little horn of verse 9 was Antiochus IV Epiphanes. From verses 9-12, what did he do once he came to power?

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THE FIRST KING OF GREECE WAS ALEXANDER THE GREAT WHO SEEMED TO FLY ACROSS THE WORLD, CONQUERING EVERY NATION IN HIS PATH. HE DIED AT THE AGE OF 33, AND HIS FOUR GENERALS DIVIDED UP THE COUNTRY AND RULED IN HIS PLACE.

## THE BEAUTIFUL LAND (ISRAEL)

Read Daniel 8:13-19.

The vision of the 2,300 evenings and mornings refers to the evening and morning sacrifices in Jerusalem's Temple. The wording is reminiscent of the Creation account in Genesis 1,

where each evening and morning equals one day. Therefore, we are reading about a three year period.

Besides stopping the daily sacrifices, what did the holy ones say would happen during this time frame?

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*PROPHECIES OFTEN HAVE SEVERAL FULFILLMENTS. THE FIRST ONES ARE USUALLY INCOMPLETE, LEAVING THE COMPLETE FULFILLMENT TO THE FUTURE.*

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Scholars believe this passage now shifts to the End Times and the Antichrist.

Read Daniel 8:23-27.

## WHEN EARTHLY WICKEDNESS REACHES ITS HEIGHT...

From these verses, how was the Antichrist described?

What will he do? Who do you think is behind his power and strength? Who do you think will finally break him?

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*PRAYER - Lord, we praise you as the Prince of princes, who has and will break evil for all time. Thank you for making us your holy people through the power of your blood. Protect us Lord as we face troubled times today. Amen.*

## THE ANCIENT OF DAYS

The Ancient of Days is a title for God the Father which is only found in Daniel Chapter 7.

This title speaks of God as the Righteous Judge, seated on His throne for all time. God's justice is fair and impartial. His justice is complete in that the evil will be found guilty, and the innocent (those belonging to Christ) will be pardoned. At the end of time, The Righteous Judge will make all things right, including defeating the Antichrist.

Look back through Daniel 7.

Which verses speak of the Ancient of Days.

What thoughts do these verses give you about God the Father?

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Daniel Chapter 7 compares the kingdoms of the world to God's Kingdom. Those who oppose God have a dire ending (see verses 11 and 26). It is vital that we come out on the right side of this, so please consider: Do you belong to the Lord's Holy People?

If you are unsure, will you pray and ask God to show you how to become a member of His family? Then ask your pastor, someone in your small group, or a friend, who you know to be a believer, to help you understand how to be saved.

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Why do you think the Ancient of Days has planned a time of wrath, or Tribulation for the world, before installing His Kingdom in the Millennium?

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*PRAYER - God, we praise you as the Ancient of Days, the Righteous Judge who holds eternity in His hands. Thank you for the blessed future you have planned for your people. Help us resolve to belong to You, and if any are uncertain, please show them the way. Amen.*

# DANIEL 9

Daniel was a historical figure, as was Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, and Cyrus. This week we will look at biblical proofs which show these men actually existed. We will also watch as Daniel finds a prophecy in Scripture about his exile, which prompted him to pray, and confess the sins of Israel. And finally, we will look at new prophecies, some are history to us, and some are still in the future.

As we continue our study of Daniel, be on the lookout for words and phrases which signal end time events. Words such as: treaty, seven years, 3½ years, end of sacrifices, abomination of desolation, and the time of wrath... We must be wise, and we must be cautious as we discuss end times prophecy. In this chapter, the Archangel Gabriel came to give Daniel insight and understanding. As believers, we have the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to us. Jesus said, "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my Name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:26)

# WEEK 8

RESOLVE TO BE GOD'S AMBASSADOR



**“WE DO NOT MAKE REQUESTS  
OF YOU BECAUSE WE ARE  
RIGHTEOUS, BUT BECAUSE OF  
YOUR GREAT MERCY.  
LORD, LISTEN! LORD, FORGIVE!  
LORD, HEAR AND ACT!  
FOR YOUR SAKE, MY GOD,  
DO NOT DELAY, BECAUSE YOUR  
CITY AND YOUR PEOPLE BEAR  
YOUR NAME.” (DANIEL 9:18-19)**

## DANIEL 9:1-2

Read Daniel 9:1-2 and Jeremiah 25:8-12.

As Daniel read the Scriptures, specifically Jeremiah, what did he learn about how long the Israelite captivity would last?

From Jeremiah, who had ordained the captivity, and what would be the conditions?

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*DANIEL HAD ALREADY BEEN A CAPTIVE FOR 67 YEARS.*

Read Jeremiah 29:10-14.

This passage contains some of the most comforting verses in all of Scripture. It comes from a letter that the prophet Jeremiah wrote to the Jewish exiles, still in Babylon.

After the 70 years were completed, what did God, in His great mercy, say He would do?

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*THE BIBLE TELLS US THE REASON THE EXILE WAS 70 YEARS LONG WAS TO LET THE PROMISED LAND HAVE ITS SABBATH RESTS, WHICH WERE ORDAINED BY GOD, BUT IGNORED BY THE ISRAELITES WHILE THEY LIVED THERE. (SEE LEVITICUS 26:34-35 AND 2 CHRONICLES 36:21.)*

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

It is easy to imagine when Daniel read the 70 year prediction in the book of Jeremiah, he went straight in to see King Cyrus, and showed him what was written in the scroll. We know from the book of Isaiah that it was God's intent to allow Cyrus to be the one to end the captivity, and to send the Israelites home.

Read Isaiah 44:24-28 and Isaiah 45:1-4,13.

What did God intend to send the Israelites home to do?

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Read Ezra 1:1-8 and 2:1.

Did Cyrus obey the message? What proclamation did he make?

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*PRAYER - God of Heaven, we know You allow seasons of trial for your purposes. You alone set the limits on hard times, and say this is enough, go no further. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you that you have good plans for us, for our future and hope. Help us to obey you in all things, and to remain in your favor. Amen.*

DANIEL 9:3-14

Read Daniel 9:3-6.

What was Daniel's response after he learned the exile was almost over?

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*TO FAST, MEANT TO NOT EAT FOR A TIME IN ORDER TO PRIORITIZE PRAYER. SACKCLOTH AND ASHES WERE SIGNS OF MOURNING.*

How did Daniel describe God in these verses?

What did he say the Israelite people had done wrong?

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Read Daniel 9:7-14.

Why were they covered in shame?

Did Daniel feel that their punishment was justified?

Why or why not?

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### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Do you think it is important to pray for our country and leaders?

What does this verse say is the key to national blessing?

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*PRAYER - We praise you God as the great covenant keeper. Thank you for remaining faithful to your word, even when we are not. We confess that many in our country have turned their backs on you. Help us be the voice of truth in our circles of influence this week. Amen.*

*DANIEL 9:15-19*

Read Daniel 9:15.

What great event in Israel's history did Daniel remember and speak to God about?

How could that event comfort Daniel?

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Read Daniel 9:16-19.

How did Daniel appeal to God's name and character as he made his request?

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## DANIEL 9:20-27

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read Daniel 9:20-23.

Why did Gabriel say he had come to see Daniel?

Why do you think Daniel was favored by God?

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Read Daniel 9:24-25.

List what would happen during this time frame?

Who do you think the Anointed One was?

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***IN THIS PROPHECY: (7=7 YEARS) AND (70X7=490 YEARS)***

Read Daniel 9:26-27.

What happens to the Anointed One in verse 26?

What will the next ruler do? How long will his reign be?

(Hint: one 7)

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**JESUS SAID, "THE DAY IS COMING WHEN YOU WILL SEE WHAT DANIEL THE PROPHET SPOKE ABOUT—THE SACRILEGIOUS OBJECT THAT CAUSES DESECRATION STANDING IN THE HOLY PLACE."  
(MATTHEW 24:15)**

We saw in this chapter that the Archangel Gabriel came to Daniel again, this time to explain the prophecies of the 70 "7's." From the study of the Old and New Testaments, as well as historical documents, scholars have developed a probable time-table for the prophecies:

1. **Daniel 9:24** The total prophecy given by Gabriel contains 70 weeks. (70x7=490 years)

2. **Daniel 9:25** From the decree to rebuild the temple, until the Anointed One comes will be: 7 weeks (49 yrs) plus 62 weeks (434 yrs). On March 5, 444 B.C., Artaxerxes Longimanus of Persia decreed that Jerusalem would be rebuilt (see Nehemiah 2:1-8). It took 49 years, and Jerusalem was completed in 395 B.C. Sixty-two weeks (434 years) later, Christ triumphantly rode into Jerusalem on a donkey on March 30, 33 A.D.

3. **Daniel 9:26** Christ was crucified later that week, and in 70 A.D. the Romans destroyed the temple again. This concluded 69 weeks (7+62) of the prophecy.

4. Scholars think there is a gap between the 69th week and the 70th week which contains the "Church Age," the era which began at Pentecost and continues to this day. This age was a mystery to the Old Testament writers who thought Christ's first and second comings would be fairly close together. It was not until the New Testament times that the Church Age was revealed.

5. **Daniel 9:27** This verse refers to a time future to us, when the Antichrist will rise to power during the Tribulation. This period will last for 1 week (7 years).

*(Daniel, God's Plan for the Future by Chuck Swindoll)*

*PRAYER - We praise you Lord as our Great and Awesome God. You are just, but you are also merciful and forgiving. Thank you for the Holy Spirit who gives wisdom and understanding as we study your Holy Word. Amen.*

## THE ANOINTED ONE

To anoint means to set apart for special use or service. Jesus was the ultimate Anointed One in that He was set apart by God the Father to accomplish salvation for mankind. We see this mission reflected in Jesus's names: in Hebrew, anointed is translated Messiah, and in Greek it is Christ. In Old Testament times, anointing was done by pouring oil on a person's head, but in the New Testament, we see that anointing was done by the Holy Spirit. Although Christ was chosen to be the Savior before the creation of the world (Revelation 13:8), we read in the Gospels that He too was anointed by the Holy Spirit. "After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and He saw the Holy Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.' " As believers, we are Christ's anointed, set apart as His ambassadors.

Looking at Daniel 9:24-26, what prophecies were given about the Anointed One?

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What do you think it meant that, “the Anointed One will be put to death and have nothing,” in verse 26?

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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 6:1-2.

From these verses, what are we as God’s ambassadors to do?

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*PRAYER - We praise you Lord as the Anointed One, the Righteous Savior of the world. Thank you for dying on the cross for us. Help us to be ambassadors of salvation in your Mighty Name. Amen.*

# DANIEL

## 10-11:35

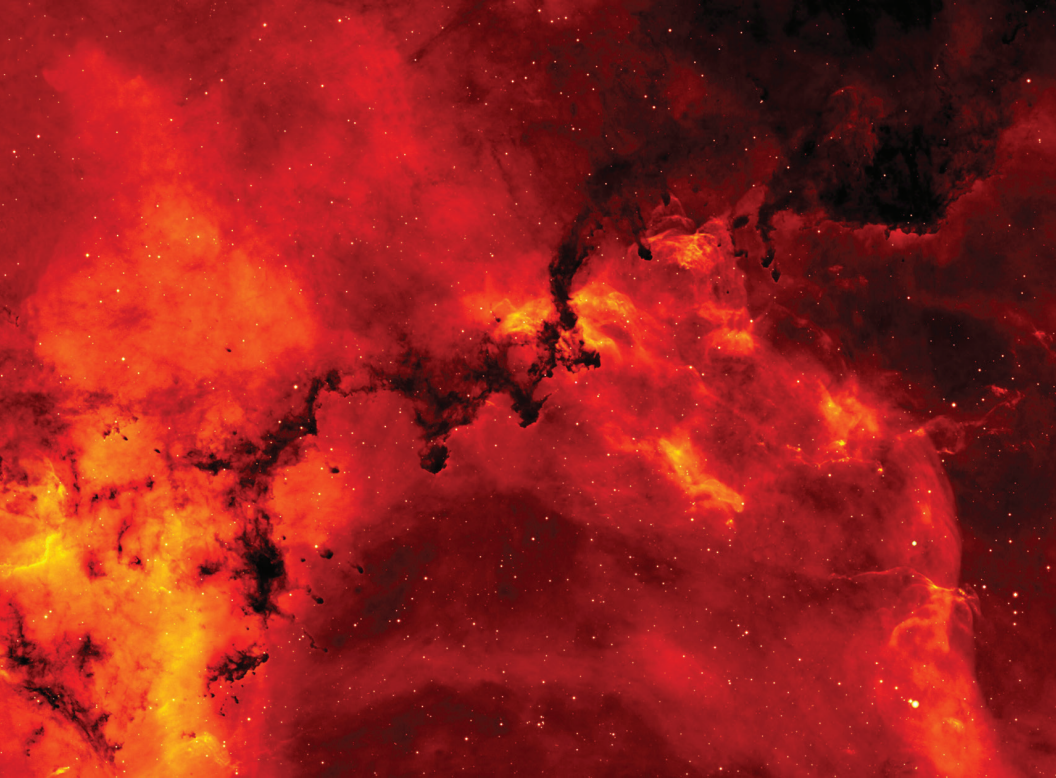
It was 536 B.C., the third year of King Cyrus of Persia's reign, and all the willing, able-bodied Jewish exiles had returned to Jerusalem to start rebuilding. But Daniel, who was now in his 80's, remained behind in Babylon. He was probably too old to make the trip, and had to reconcile himself to the fact that he would never see his homeland again.



But the God Daniel served still had good plans for him. Daniel would receive one last vision, greater than all the previous ones, but this vision would rock him to his core. Daniel would speak to angels, possibly even the preincarnate Christ. He would get a glimpse of the ongoing warfare unfolding in the spiritual realm, and Daniel would ultimately receive a promise of a peaceful earthly death, followed by his resurrection and an eternal inheritance. In the last two weeks of our study, we will examine Daniel's final vision together.

# WEEK 9

RESOLVE TO STAY HUMBLE BEFORE GOD



"I WAS STANDING ON THE BANK OF  
THE GREAT RIVER, THE TIGRIS,  
I LOOKED UP AND THERE BEFORE ME  
WAS A MAN DRESSED IN LINEN,  
WITH A BELT OF GOLD FROM UPHAZ  
AROUND HIS WAIST.

HIS BODY WAS LIKE TOPAZ,  
HIS FACE LIKE LIGHTNING,  
HIS EYES LIKE FLAMING TORCHES.  
HIS ARMS AND LEGS LIKE THE  
GLEAM OF BURNISHED BRONZE,  
AND HIS VOICE LIKE THE SOUND OF A  
MULTITUDE." (DANIEL 10:4-6)

## DANIEL 10:1-12

Read Daniel 10:1-3.

What was Daniel's new vision about? How did Daniel react?

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Read Daniel 10:4-9.

Describe the man who appeared to Daniel on the bank of the Tigris.

What happened to the men who were with him? What happened to Daniel when the man spoke?

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*THE MAN ON THE BANK MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN ANGEL, OR SOME SCHOLARS THINK IT WAS THE PREINCARNATE CHRIST. HIS DESCRIPTION WAS SIMILAR TO THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CHRIST IN REVELATION 1, WHICH SAYS, "AMONG THE LAMPSTANDS WAS SOMEONE LIKE THE SON OF MAN, DRESSED IN A ROBE REACHING DOWN TO HIS FEET, AND WITH A GOLDEN SASH AROUND HIS CHEST. THE HAIR ON HIS HEAD WAS WHITE LIKE WOOL, AS WHITE AS SNOW, AND HIS EYES WERE LIKE BLAZING FIRE. HIS FEET WERE LIKE BRONZE GLOWING IN A FURNACE, AND HIS VOICE WAS LIKE THE SOUND OF RUSHING WATERS."*

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Read Daniel 10:10-12.

After the man revived Daniel, why did he say he had come?

What did you learn about Daniel's attitude in prayer?

How can you apply this attitude to your prayer life?

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*PRAYER - We praise you God as majestic in all the earth. Your voice is like that sound of multitudes, of mighty rushing water. Yet, you are also gentle and kind. You help, and heal, and strengthen us with your touch. Give us understanding as we study your Holy Word, we humbly ask You today. Amen.*

**DANIEL 10:13-11:1**

Read Daniel 10:13-20 and 11:1.

The man told Daniel a spiritual battle had been ongoing for 21 days, the same amount of time Daniel had mourned and fasted.

Describe the spiritual battle. Who do you think the “spirit princes” of Persia and Greece were?

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**THERE ARE TWO KNOWN ARCHANGELS: GABRIEL, WHO OFTEN MAKES ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND MICHAEL, THE DEFENDER OF ISRAEL.**

Twice, the man in the vision told Daniel to not be afraid. Looking at verses 12 and 19, why should Daniel have confidence?

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*“THE LORD WILL GIVE STRENGTH TO HIS PEOPLE,  
THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH PEACE.”  
(PSALM 29:11)*

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Read Ephesians 6:10-20.

Scripture is clear, there is a spiritual realm operating alongside our earthly physical realm. The spirit world is real, and it is volatile.

What does the apostle Paul say about the spiritual realm in Ephesians 6? What does he recommend we do?

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*PRAYER - God, you are a mighty God who gives strength to His people. Thank you for hearing and answering our cries for help. Deliver us today from the enemy of fear. May we walk in humility and peace before You. Amen.*

## DANIEL 11:2-20

THE FIRST 35 VERSES OF DANIEL 11 CONTAIN AT LEAST 135 PROPHECIES. HISTORIANS TELL US THAT THESE PROPHECIES SPANNED 150 YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME EVERY DETAIL SPOKEN BY THE MESSENGER TO DANIEL CAME TRUE. (DANIEL, GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE, CHARLES SWINDOLL)

Skim Daniel 11:2-20.

Do you remember who the mighty king of Greece was? What happened when he died?

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FROM HISTORY, WE KNOW THAT FOR YEARS THE PTOLEMY KINGDOM IN THE SOUTH, BASED IN EGYPT, FOUGHT THE SELEUCID KINGDOM IN THE NORTH, BASED IN SYRIA. UNFORTUNATELY, THE BEAUTIFUL LAND OF ISRAEL WAS CAUGHT IN THE CROSSHAIRS.



**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Knowing this remarkable prediction came to pass, do you feel more confident the end time prophecies will come true as well? Why or why not?

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Read Daniel 11:13-16.

What did the King of the North plan to do to the Beautiful Land?

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*PRAYER - Lord, you alone are the Author of History. Thank you that we can trust you during tumultuous times. "May your kingdom come, and your will be done on earth." Amen.*

## DANIEL 11:21-35

Read Daniel 11:21-24.

*THE DESPICABLE MAN WHO SLIPPED IN AND TOOK OVER THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS OUR OLD FRIEND ANTIOCHUS IV EPIPHANES. THE "COVENANT PRINCE," IN VERSE 22, WAS ONIAS III, THE HIGH PRIEST IN JERUSALEM AT THAT TIME.*

Describe Antiochus's character from these verses.

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Read Daniel 11:25-28.

After his conference of lies with the King of the South, what did Antiochus do on his way home?

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## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read Daniel 11:29-35.

From what we learned earlier in our study, what did Antiochus set up in the Jerusalem Temple that was an abomination of desolation?

What happened to the wise leaders of that time?

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*PRAYER - Lord, we praise you as the One who reigns forever. Your throne is established in heaven, and You rule the world with righteousness. You judge everyone with equity. Thank you for being a refuge for the oppressed. Help us Lord, to always seek and trust you. Amen. (Psalm 9:7-10)*

## ELOHIM

*“DO NOT BE AFRAID DANIEL. SINCE THE FIRST DAY YOU SET YOUR MIND TO GAIN UNDERSTANDING AND TO HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE YOUR GOD, YOUR WORDS WERE HEARD, AND I HAVE COME IN RESPONSE TO THEM.” (DANIEL 10:12)*

The Hebrew word for God in this verse is Elohim. Elohim is the plural version of the word El, which simply means God. Somewhat like the royal “We,” Elohim indicates a plural of majesty and intensity, but more than that, it indicates the fullness of Deity. “God-very God.”

The word Elohim fits nicely with our concept of the Trinity, the Godhead three-in-one which includes God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit. People, living in Old Testament times, did not have a clear understanding of what the Trinity was, although we see the triune God at work all throughout Scripture. The understanding of the Trinity did not become clear until the writing of the New Testament.

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Thinking back on our study of Daniel, how have you seen each member of the Trinity at work in his life?

How would you say God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are active in your life?

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*PRAYER - Let's conclude today with Psalm 8:  
Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your Name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory in the heavens...When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them...You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. Amen.*

# DANIEL

## 11:36-45 & 12:1-13

This week we will continue looking at Daniel's final vision of a great war, which came to Daniel as an old man, while he was standing on the bank of the Tigris River. The vision was accompanied by a majestic figure, who came from heaven to explain what would happen to Daniel's people in the future. Towards the end of Chapter 11, the vision will shift from events that were history to us, to a time "yet to come."

First, we will have an in-depth look at the Antichrist of the Tribulation. The prefix “anti” most often means opposite or opposed to, and the Antichrist will be just that. He will appear to be a peacemaker, a savior during a time of great unrest. He will be attractive, everything about him will draw people in, but he will oppose Christ. He will be a blasphemer and he will be rebellious. He will not only oppose Christ, but he will also try to set himself up in place of Christ. He will mimic Christ so that people will want to worship him instead. Revelation tells us that he will even sustain a fatal wound, but will recover, reminiscent of Christ’s resurrection.

In Daniel 12, we will conclude with glimpses into the Resurrection of the saints, the Great Tribulation, and the end of all earthly time.

# **WEEK 10**

**RESOLVE TO FINISH WELL**





"AT THAT TIME MICHAEL,  
THE GREAT PRINCE  
WHO PROTECTS YOUR PEOPLE,  
WILL ARISE. THERE WILL BE A  
TIME OF DISTRESS SUCH AS HAS  
NOT HAPPENED FROM THE  
BEGINNING OF NATIONS UNTIL THEN.  
BUT AT THAT TIME YOUR PEOPLE-  
EVERYONE WHOSE NAME  
IS FOUNDWRITTEN IN THE BOOK-  
WILL BE DELIVERED."  
(DANIEL 12:1)

**DANIEL 11:36-39**

Read Daniel 11:36.

We see a shift from Antiochus to the Antichrist of the Tribulation in this verse. Like before, there is an emphasis on what is coming out of his mouth.

What did he say?

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Read Daniel 11:37.

What will the Antichrist have no respect for?

What will he boast?

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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Read Daniel 11:38-39.

Who or what do you think the “god of fortresses” was?

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*PRAYER - God, we praise you as the God of gods, whose dominion will never end. We understand a time of wrath will come, but we thank you Lord it will only last a predetermined amount of time. In the meantime, help us to honor you with our words and lives. Amen.*

*DANIEL 11:40-45*

Read Daniel 11:40-43.

What happened in these verses?

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**EDOM, MOAB, AND AMMON  
WERE TRADITIONALLY  
ENEMIES OF ISRAEL.**

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 and Revelation 13:4-9.

What new information do you learn about the Antichrist from these passages?

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Read Daniel 11:44-45.

Why do you think the Beautiful Land was a target?

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*PRAYER - God, we praise you as the Lord of the Beautiful Land. You alone are perfect, pure, and are surrounded by Shekinah glory. Thank you for the promise that one day you will end all that is evil, dark, and unjust. As your people, help us to reflect your light to those around us, and to be ever ready to speak about your mercy and grace. Amen.*

**DANIEL 12:1-3**

Read Daniel 12:1.

What do you think the “time of great distress” points to?

Who will be rescued?

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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Read Daniel 12:2-3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

What event do you think these verses point to?

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*DANIEL 12:2 IS THE ONLY PLACE THE PHRASE  
"EVERLASTING LIFE" IS FOUND IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.*

Looking at verse 14 in Thessalonians, what is important for us to believe?

Do you believe this?

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*PRAYER - Lord, you alone hold eternity in your hand. Thank you for the promise that those whose names are written in the Book of Life will meet you in the air and live with you forever. Help us to be bright stars in a night sky while we are still on earth, and lead many to You. Amen.*

**DANIEL 12:4-13**

Read Daniel 12:4-7.

It appears that there was more to the vision than what Daniel was allowed to tell us. Why do you think he was told to keep it secret and seal up the scroll?

What question was asked of the man dressed in linen, and what was his answer?

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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION**

Read Daniel 12:8-12.

The seven year Tribulation will be divided into two halves. The second half is called The Great Tribulation when Satan will actually indwell the Antichrist. What will happen during this time?

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What promise was made to Daniel in verse 13?

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*PRAYER - God, we praise You as the One who lives forever. Thank you for the promise of eternity with you. Help us to represent You well in our generation. Amen.*

## THE ETERNAL GOD

Eternality speaks to God's infinite or unlimited time, without a beginning or an end. As finite creatures, it is hard for us to comprehend anything which never had a beginning. Psalm 90:2 says, "Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." We worship a God who was, and is, and is to come....

And yet, Scripture tells us that while we had a set beginning, we will live for eternity also. As believers, we look forward to eternity with God in heaven, but the situation is dire for those who have chosen not to follow Him. Anyone whose name is not found in the Book of Life will spend eternity in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15).

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

Do you know where you will spend eternity?

How can you be sure?

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*JOHN 3:16 SAYS, "GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM, WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."*

*AND ROMANS 10: 13 SAYS, "EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."*

If you are unsure about your salvation, will you trust Jesus to be your Savior? Thank Him for dying in your place, and ask Him to come into your life. Then your name will be written in the Book of Life.

*PRAYER - God, we praise you as the infinite, eternal God. Thank you for creating us, and setting eternity in our hearts. We love you Lord, and want to live with You forever. If any are unsure how they stand with you, please show them the way. Amen.*

# CONCLUSION

This concludes our study of Daniel, a man of integrity who honorably served king and country, while remaining faithful to his God. We first met Daniel as a teenager, when he was taken captive from his homeland and brought to Babylon. We saw then that he was a person of resolve, and God protected and blessed him for it. We know that Daniel was called by God to be a prophet, and that every prophecy which has been fulfilled in the past, proved to be 100% accurate. God blessed Daniel with wisdom and insight, and through him, we have been given glimpses of our future, when earthly time will end.

Although Daniel lived 25 centuries ago, he is an example for us today on how to live a godly life in a corrupt society. Because of what we have learned from Daniel, hopefully we have made some resolutions of our own: to not be defiled, to trust God, to worship God alone, to remember, to speak truth, to pray, to belong to God, to be God's ambassador, to stay humble, and to finish well.

During the last 10 weeks, we have also learned a lot about our Sovereign God, who is completely in control of earthly history. We have seen that He alone dictates the rise and fall of world kingdoms and leaders. And we know that at the end of time, God will bring the evil powers of the universe to an end, and He will set up His eternal kingdom. As to when the end time events will take place, it is not for us to know. Jesus said, "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Matthew 24:36). So for now, the scroll must remain sealed, and the Lord's people must remain resolved to faithfully watch and wait.

Even so come Lord Jesus.

**NOTES:**



