

Daniel

Introduction

The name Daniel means, "God is my Judge". Daniel was taken from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar about eight years before Ezekiel. Daniel was young, intelligent, and skillful in wisdom. He served Daniel is one of the few men about whom God says only good things. Three times he is referred to as "the greatly beloved one". His message to the people in captivity is that God is still in control.

The book of Daniel cannot be understood without Revelation and vice-versa. Both Daniel and John were loved of the Lord and saw the visions God gave them while in exile. Daniel is the Old Testament Apocalypse meaning "an unveiling of the secret purposes of God". The word vision is mentioned 32 times and in these visions Daniel sees the Antichrist, the great tribulation, and the return of the Lord. The items that were sealed in the time of Daniel are finally unveiled in the book of Revelation

Key Theme – God is in Control

Key Verse – 4:25 – "the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses"

Structure of the Book

- **Chapters 1-6 – Historical**
- **Chapters 7-12 - Prophetical**

The Message of Daniel – Living a God Centered Life

1. God Centered Perspective – Chapter 4

The opening 2 verses of the Book set the stage for what is to come. The Babylonians defeat God's people and conclude that because they were victorious in battle that their gods must be superior to the God of Israel. Time after time in Daniel, God reveals Himself as the One True God worthy of praise and glory (2:46, 3:26, 5:30, 6:24).

a. God Humbles the Proud (4:28-33)

- We are prone to self-sufficiency– "by my power"
- We are prone to self-exaltation – "for the glory of my majesty"

b. God Exalts the Humble (4:34-37)

- We trust in His Power
- We live for His Praise

2. God Centered Prayer – Chapter 6

In a book all about the sovereignty of God, it is interesting the **particular emphasis placed on prayer**. Some have asked the question – Is prayer necessary? If God is in full control and already knows what He is going to do, then why does He involve us through prayer?

This question is really self-centered. He is God and we are not. The fact is that He doesn't need us to accomplish any of His plans. If God wanted He could spread the Good News and care for others without any assistance from us. But God has chosen to use us. In His plan, God works through the prayers of His people to accomplish His purposes.

- **Pray consistently** – “3 times a day”
- **Pray with courage** – “with his windows open”
- **We pray contritely (9:1-10)**
- **We pray with confidence (Daniel 9:18-19)**

And in Chapter 10 we see all of this come together when Daniel prays for three solid weeks and a messenger comes to him and says, “your words have been heard” (10:12). And we need to remember that when we pray that we are entering into the spiritual battle for the souls of men and women against Satan who is working to blind the minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:3-4), hinder the activity of the church (1Thessalonians 2:18), and hold people captive (2 Timothy 2:26).

3. God Centered Promises – Visions of Things to Come

- **God will redeem His people (9:24)**
- **God will resurrect His people (12:1)**
- **God will reign over all peoples (7:13-14)**

We see in these verses that God is going to reign through a King that is both human and divine. In Mark 14:62, Jesus quotes from Daniel 7 and says, “I am the King!”

Personal Application:

- **Praise God – He is Sovereign over all things**
- **Pray to God – He is the source of all strength**
- **Proclaim God – He is the Savior of all Nations**