

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Understand the purpose and background of Daniel.
2. Visualize the circumstance and stature of Daniel and his friends.

Introduction:

Daniel prophesies from 605-536 B.C., thus meaning that Daniel was a young man when he was carried off to Babylonian captivity. Some scholars speculate that he may have been as young as fifteen years old. Daniel dates himself in 1:1 as being carried away in the first captivity. Daniel was born into a Judean family of nobility, around the time of the reformation under King Josiah. Daniel was handsome, intelligent, and well-educated (1:4) and was therefore selected to be trained for service of Nebuchadnezzar. While in Babylon, Daniel prophesies to the royal court.

Take your Bible and skim through the book of Daniel, looking at the subheadings of each paragraph in each chapter. Record a few main events from each chapter below:

*Chapter 1:**Chapter 7:**Chapter 2:**Chapter 8:**Chapter 3:**Chapter 9:**Chapter 4:**Chapter 10:**Chapter 5:**Chapter 11:**Chapter 6:**Chapter 12:*

1:1-21 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. How is 1:3 a fulfillment of Isaiah 39:5-7?

2. Why are the names of Daniel and his three friends changed? What did their names originally mean?

Life Application:

3. Consider Daniel's resolve and the outcome of that resolve in 1:8-17. What applications can we make to our lives with reference to this resolve?

2:1-49 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

4. The Aramaic section of the book begins in verse 4 and continues through chapter seven. Chapters 8-12 are written in Hebrew. Why is this section written in Aramaic?
5. Why did Nebuchadnezzar make the difficult demand for the magicians and sorcerers to reveal and interpret the dream?
6. Write out the kingdoms noted in this dream, how they were represented in the statue, and the dates of their existence.

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. “But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself...” (1:8)
2. “And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, not shall this kingdom be left to another people.” (2:44)

3:1-5:31

DANIEL

Lesson 2

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Note the end of Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon.
2. Visualize the circumstance and stature of Daniel and his friends.

3:1-30 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Life Applications:

1. What lessons can we learn from the response of Daniel’s friends in 3:16-18?
2. What lesson can we learn from the fourth man being in the fire?
3. What lesson could the captives of Israel have learned from the three friends?
4. Is there a progression in the faith of Nebuchadnezzar by the end of chapter 3?

4:1-37 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

5. What is meant in 4:16, “And let seven times pass over him?”

6. What lessons can we learn from Nebuchadnezzar?

7. What lessons can we learn from Daniel telling the king the interpretation of the dream?

8. Is there progress in the faith of Nebuchadnezzar by the end of chapter 4?

Background information before reading chapter five:

Nabonidus was on the throne at this time. During the last ten years of his life, he spent most of his time outside of the city (possibly for reasons of health), and left the central administration to the charge of his son Belshazzar. The time of this chapter is 539 B.C. and the Persians are attacking the Babylonians. The Babylonians had lost the earlier battles against the Persians and had retreated back to the city. Here in the city of Babylon they shut themselves up and made light of the Persian siege, having laid in a store of provisions for many years in preparation against this attack. Babylon was considered impregnable because of its magnificent fortifications. The city had walls 311 feet high and 87 feet thick. There were 250 towers that were 411 feet high and the overall circumference of the city was 56 miles. Thus, during this siege, the Babylonians insulted and jeered at Darius and the Persians from the top of the walls. One even shouted to them and said, “Why do you sit there, Persians? Why don’t you go back to your homes? Till mules foal you will not take our city.” The Babylonians were completely unconcerned about the enemy forces encamped outside their walls. Unknown to them, Cyrus’s resourceful commander, Ugbaru, had diverted the waters of the Euphrates, reducing the water level well below the river-gates. The Persians came wading in at night and overtook the city. This chapter likely takes place one day before the fall of the city. *--Information is taken from The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, vol. 7.*

5:1-31 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

9. What are the sins of Belshazzar?

10. What do you think about Belshazzar's reaction to Daniel's information in 5:29?

Life Application:

11. What lessons can we learn from this chapter?

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. "But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods." (3:18)
2. "Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians." (5:28)

6:1-7:28

DANIEL

Lesson 3

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Notice the character of Daniel and Darius.
2. Understand the vision of the four beasts.

Background information before reading this chapter:

Scholars estimate that Daniel is about 81 years old by this time.

6:1-28 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Life Application:

1. There are many lessons to be learned in this chapter about the character of a man of God both from Daniel and Darius. List the lessons you find from the following verses:

- a. vs. 4-5:
- b. vs. 10:
- c. vs. 16:
- d. vs. 17 “that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel”

7:1-28 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

2. By examining the text carefully, especially the interpretation, define the following figures:

--A lion with eagle’s wings that were plucked off:

--A bear with three ribs in its mouth:

--A leopard with four wings and four heads:

--A terrifying and dreadful fourth beast:

--A little horn speaking arrogantly (hint: the horn is not separate from the beast):

3. Explain what the main point is in 7:9-14.

4. What is the main point of the chapter?

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. Daniel openly prayed though he knew that it was against the law.

2. "To Him was given dominion and glory and kingship...." (7:14)

8:1-9:27

DANIEL

Lesson 4

GOAL OF THE LESSON:

1. Understand the visions of Daniel.

8:1-27 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. Examine the text carefully, especially the interpretation. Explain the following figures:

--The two-horned ram:

--The higher horn:

--The male goat:

--The large horn:

--Four notable horns in place of the large horn: The division of the empire into the following four sections headed by four generals (323 B.C.)

1. Cassander controlled Macedonia and Greece
2. Lysimachus controlled Thrace and the western half of Asia Minor
3. Ptolemy controlled Palestine, Cilicia, and Cyprus
4. Seleucus controlled Syria and the rest of Asia

--A little horn that grew exceedingly great:

2. Explain the meaning of verses 9-12.

9:1-19 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Life Application:

3. What applications can we make from Daniel's prayer?

9:20-27 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

4. List those things that will be accomplished by the end of the 70 weeks.

5. With reference to question 4, how are these things an answer to Daniel's prayer?

6. What period of time is covered by the 70 weeks?

7. What is the overspreading of abominations that will make desolate? Compare Matthew 24:15 and Luke 21:20.

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. The empire of the Medes and Persians will be conquered by Greece.
2. The supplication and response of Daniel's prayer.

10:1-12:13

DANIEL

Lesson 5

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Understand the visions of Daniel.

10:1-21 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. What was Daniel setting his heart to understand (10:12)?

Life Application:

2. What can we learn about prayer from this chapter?
3. What do we learn about angels in this chapter?
4. Who might the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece be?
5. When are the "latter days" which are referred to in verse 14?

11:1-45 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

6. Identify the following figures:

--The three kings of Persia and the fourth that is far richer:

--The mighty king with great dominion (vs. 3):

--The kingdom divided toward the four winds:

--The king of the south:

--The king of the north:

--The king of the north that defiled the sanctuary and took away daily sacrifices (vs. 31)

*Verses 36-45 apparently refer to the Roman period of time.

12:1-13 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

7. Notice 12:1. Compare with Ezekiel 5:8-9 and Matthew 24:21. All three of these passages have the same language and refer to the same event. According to Matthew 24:34, when would these events take place?

8. What kind of resurrection is being spoken of in verse 2? Compare John 5:25-26.

9. What is meant by the book being “sealed until the time of the end?”

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. The imagery found in these chapters.
2. “Many will be purified, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked shall continue to act wickedly.” (12:10)