

## DANIEL

Written by Daniel towards the end of his life around 536 B.C.

- only 12 chapters, but one of the more popular books of the Bible
- many of the Sunday school stories came from this book

Daniel opens with Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon attacking Jerusalem

- he plunders the temple and takes the people captive
- among the exiles is Daniel and his 3 friends

Just to give you a picture of what kind of king Nebuchadnezzar was:

- he had a troubling dream but couldn't remember it

**Dan 2:4** Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: "O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation."

**Dan 2:5** The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be made a rubbish heap.

-not only did he expect an interpretation, they had to figure out what he dreamt too

- and if they can't, he will kill every wise man and magician in town
- when they come to kill Daniel and his friends, he asks for time to interpret it

God shows Daniel the dream and interpretation

- it is the dream of the great statue made of gold, silver, bronze, iron and clay

- head of Gold-Nebuchadnezzar
- Silver-Medo-Persia
- Bronze-Greece
- Iron-Rome
- Clay/Iron mix-last divided kingdom of Rome

But at the end of the dream, he saw something else

**Dan 2:34** "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them.

-an illustration of God's ultimate kingdom that would come to put an end to all of man's governments

The king makes a golden statue and commands everyone to worship it

- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refuse (Daniel is missing)
- Their answer to him is interesting

**Dan 3:17** "If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

Dan 3:18 "But *even if He does not*, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

- they were trusting in God for deliverance
  - but their faith in Him was not dependant on Him answering their prayers

Just because God doesn't answer a prayer the way we want Him to, doesn't mean He isn't there or He isn't listening

- more than likely, He has a better plan that will bring more glory to Himself or turn more people to Him

- the king gets irate and throws them into the fiery furnace
  - while inside, Nebuchadnezzar sees not 3, but 4 men unbound and walking in the furnace
    - the 4<sup>th</sup> resembles a "son of the gods"
  - The king calls the 3 out
    - not only do they survive, but don't even smell like smoke
- because of this, Nebuchadnezzar makes a decree that anyone who even speaks against their God would be torn limb from limb

#### Ch.4

- The king has a troubling vision of a great tree
  - the tree supplied food and shade for all
  - it gets cut down and only the stump and roots are left

Daniel interprets it for him

- starts out by saying "My lord, *if only* the dream applied to those who hate you, and its interpretation to your adversaries"

- so you know it's gonna be bad
- It prophesies of what will happen to the king and twelve months later, it happens
  - while he is reflecting on how great Babylon is, God tells him that his majesty has been removed
  - for seven years, he will live with the wild beasts, and eat grass until he recognizes who God is
- after seven years, his mind returns to him and he praises the Lord

## Ch. 5

Many years pass and Nebuchadnezzar is no longer king

- Belshazzar sees the handwriting on the wall
- Daniel is much older now and is called upon to interpret
- basically, it said that his days as king were numbered and his kingdom would be given to the Medes and Persians
- that very night, Belshazzar was slain

## Ch. 6

Darius becomes king

- the officials convince the king to make a law stating that anyone caught praying to anyone but him would get thrown into a lion's den
- Daniel is caught and brought to the king
- the king likes Daniel but has to obey his own law

Before throwing him in, the king sets him on with a word

**Dan 6:16** Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions' den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you."

-of course, Daniel survives and tells the king

"....My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me"

-this shouldn't be a surprise

**Heb 1:14** Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

-the next morning, those who framed him are thrown into the pit and

"....and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones"

Daniel has several more dreams and visions

- many of them refer to the end times (that will be a different study)
- during one vision, he sees the throne room of heaven and says something that is just chilling:

**Dan 7:10** "A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened.

## Ch. 9

-here we get to see a rare glimpse into the spiritual realm

-Daniel is troubled and prays to the Lord and no answer comes

**Dan 10:10** Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

**Dan 10:11** And he said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

**Dan 10:12** Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding *this* and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.

**Dan 10:13** "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

From these verses, it seems that there is actual hand to hand combat in the spiritual realm

Paul says:

**Eph 6:12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Daniel closes with a vision of the anti-Christ and the end times

-just the order of event in chapters 11-12 will probably mess with many people's end time theology

Jesus Types:

-The 4<sup>th</sup> man in the fiery furnace

The interesting part is this

-After they were loosed in the furnace, they had to be asked to come out  
-shows you that they would rather be in the fire with Jesus than outside without Him

Also in ch. 2:

The great stone cut without man's hands that destroyed the statue

-showing that Jesus will return and set up His kingdom that will wipe away every other government

The Clearly in:

**Dan 7:13** "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.

**Dan 7:14** "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and *men of every* language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

And that's not to mention all the prophecies about the timing of Christ's birth, triumphal entry and the end times