

Studies in the book of Daniel

Daniel: chapter 1

General Questions:

1. When did Daniel live?
2. Why was this book written?
3. Find out information concerning Jehoiakim (see II Kings 24:1-6; II Chron. 36:5-8).
4. Find out information on Nebuchadnezzar (Scripture, Bible Dictionary, etc.)
5. Where is the land of Shinar (vs. 2)? What might be its significance here (see Gen. 11:4)?
6. What might be the purpose of Nebuchadnezzar in bringing temple vessels into the house of his god?
7. What was the purpose of Nebuchadnezzar in bringing the youth to be trained by the king? Was he being kind and generous in providing what he did? How does this fit with a passage as Proverbs 12:10?
8. Why the change of names in verse 7? What do you make of the meaning of those names?
9. What was Daniel's concern in verse 8? How could he defile himself? Was there any Scriptural basis for his concern?
10. How might Babylon's rulers be attempting to destroy the "ancient landmarks?"
11. How would you account for what happens in verse 9?
12. How might Daniel be in greater danger in the King's dining room than in the lions' den?
13. How does this event serve to prepare Daniel later in the lions' den?
14. How does Daniel approach the matter of changing diet? What might we learn from this?
15. What is "pulse" in verse 12?
16. How did God provide for Daniel and his friends? Do you think there were others who did not go along with what Daniel and his friends did? Should not there have been others who agreed with Daniel?
17. Is verse 20 an exaggeration (*ten* times more wisdom than the others)?
18. What is the significance of the reference to Cyrus in verse 21?

Principles and texts:

1. What similarity might there be between Daniel's position and ours today?
2. Why are we not now limited in what we may eat?
3. Does not Daniel make too much of small matters (food)?
4. What does faith have to do with eating and drinking?
5. Are there now also things which are "out-of-bounds" for the Christian? Explain.
6. Find Scriptural references which express what is "out-of-bounds." (see James 1:27; I Cor. 10:31)
7. Does God still today reward faithful Christians by making them much wiser than the wicked? Explain. and prove.
8. How does this passage portray the great warfare of the ages.

Personal applications:

1. Can you give instances in your life where personal sacrifices were required to maintain Scriptural principles?
2. How have others about you known of your commitment to Christ and His Word?
3. Would your faith be strong enough to do as Daniel did?

4. Does the world still try to gain our youth first of all? If so, how?
5. How does the world now seek to gain your youth? What ought the Christian to do about this?
6. Do we have changed names as Christians? Explain. (It might be interesting also to discuss the practice of “name changing” as that has been done in the churches in Singapore.)

The above is presented not to stifle discussion but to direct it; not to prevent questions which might arise, but to generate additional questions. With that in mind, study also commentaries, Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias for answers.

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Daniel: chapter 2

General Questions:

1. Why should God give a dream of revelation to an unbelieving king?
2. How did Nebuchadnezzar know that this dream was different from normal dreams?
3. Can you explain why Nebuchadnezzar should be so troubled?
4. Who were those called to interpret the king's dream?
5. What did these wise men expect of the king?
6. Did the king actually forget his dream--or was he testing the wise men? Explain.
7. What was the "deal" the king made with the wise men?
8. Was the king cruel in his challenge of the wise men?
9. Were the wise men correct in what they say in verse 10?
10. Why should Daniel be included in this decree to kill the wise men? Why was he not first asked about the
 meaning of the dream?
11. What was Daniel's request of Arioch? What did he ask of the king?
12. What was the first thing Daniel and his friends did in seeking the meaning of the dream?
13. Daniel evidently went to sleep after the prayers. Were there others in Scripture who did likewise though
 their lives were threatened?
14. What did God reveal to Daniel?
15. What was Daniel's response to this revelation?
16. To whom does Daniel give credit for the ability to reveal the dream? What does that teach us?
17. What was the dream which the king had?
18. What did each part of the image represent?
19. What is the stone which smote the image? How do we explain its "filling the whole earth?"
When shall
 this be?
20. Does the king's response reflect conversion on his part?
21. How did God use this event to provide for His people in Babylon?

Principles and texts:

1. What does this account teach us concerning prayer?
2. How is the providence of God again evident in the account?
3. Does God still use dreams to give revelations? Explain.
4. What does this account show about the church's calling to speak the gospel?
5. What is the heart of the gospel set forth in this dream and its meaning?

Personal applications:

1. Are we also to pray for things as did Daniel--the meaning of dreams perhaps?
2. Are we as ready to come to God in prayer for guidance and thanksgiving? Why or why not?
3. How are we to make known to others the victory of the cross?
4. Would we be able to sleep at night if we faced the threat which Daniel did?

Studies in the Book of Daniel

Daniel: chapter 3

General Questions:

1. What would have given Nebuchadnezzar the idea to build an image?
2. What was the size of the image in feet?
3. Of what was the image made? Why this?
4. Can you find any information on the “plain of Dura?”
5. Does this image remind one of the antichrist and his kingdom? Why or why not?
6. What might this image have represented in Nebuchadnezzar’s mind?
7. Who are gathered to “dedicate” this image? Why these?
8. Where was Daniel at this time?
9. What about other Jews who may have been present?
10. What was the king’s threat upon disobedience? Does this tell us anything of the reasons for men who would
be ready to bow down and worship the image?
11. Comment on the instruments used? Compare this with the proper worship of Jehovah.
12. Who report the three friends? Is there any explanation for reporting of these men?
13. Did Nebuchadnezzar give the three a fair “trial?”
14. How does one account for the answer of the three friends?
15. Were the three friends certain of deliverance?
16. What was the judgment of the king? What happened to the “mighty men?”
17. Is there any significance that the three friends were not even touched by the fire?
18. Who was the fourth man seen in the furnace? Explain.
19. What is Nebuchadnezzar’s response to what he saw?
20. Was Nebuchadnezzar converted? Explain your answer.
21. What was the effect of all of this on the three friends?
22. Did Nebuchadnezzar heed his own instruction to others?

Principles:

1. What does this account teach us of God’s care of His people?
2. How is the providence of God again evident in the account?
3. Are we assured that God will always deliver His people as He did the three friends?
4. Compare the true worship of Jehovah with the worship as described in this chapter.
5. How does this account resemble the account in Revelation?

Personal applications:

1. Would we dare to face the threats which confronted these three friends?
2. How does steadfastness in the face of persecution apply to such times when there is no persecution?
3. What “images” would the devil and the world now have us to worship?
4. How can we prepare the children of the church for times of persecution?

Studies in the Book of Daniel

Daniel: chapter 4

Questions:

1. Of what does the first verse remind you?
2. What of a “peace multiplied?”
3. Does Nebuchadnezzar show true repentance in the first three verses? Give reasons.
4. Is there any semblance between Nebuchadnezzar’s confession-and that of the wicked in the day of judgment?
5. God sent the dream to Nebuchadnezzar. But does it reveal also the state of his own mind? Do dreams reflect what is present in our conscious thoughts and lives?
6. Why did N. call his magicians, etc. instead of calling Daniel directly?
7. Did not the magicians give any interpretation?
8. In verse 8, N. mentions Daniel’s Babylonian name. Why should N. emphasize that?
9. In verse 9, what does N. mean when he speaks of “the spirit of the holy gods is in thee?”
10. What was remarkable about the tree N. saw?
11. Who was the “watcher” and “holy one?” Note: “watchers” in verse 17.
12. What happened to the tree? Why was the root preserved? What does it mean?
13. Verse 16 mentions that the “heart” would be changed from a man’s heart. Did N. understand this?
14. What are the “seven times” of verse 16?
15. Does verse 18 reveal again the idolatry of N.?
16. Why was Daniel “astounded for one hour” (vs. 19)?
17. What do you make of Daniel’s statement in verse 19?
18. What was the king’s great sin? Do others have such a sin too?
19. What would happen to the king--and for how long?
20. What was Daniel’s advice to the king (vs. 27)?
21. Why was the fulfillment of the dream delayed for a year? Was it God’s grace to Nebuchadnezzar?
22. What does Nebuchadnezzar reveal in verse 30? Did he not speak truly?
23. What is the significance of “the work was still in the king’s mouth” (vs. 31)?
24. Is there any symbolism in what happened to N.?
25. Is not verse 34 a true confession of faith?
26. Does verse 36 show that there was still the same sin in Nebuchadnezzar?
27. In what way does Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol God? How do we account for this?
28. Is there any reminder here of the coming of antichrist? How?
29. Why did God restore this wicked king to his throne? Was this a matter of God’s grace?
30. What can we learn concerning our own position before God in all of this?

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Daniel: chapter 5

Questions:

1. What is the time interval between this chapter and the last?
2. Who was Belshazzar and what was his relationship to Nebuchadnezzar?
3. Find out the circumstances of the kingdom of Babylon at this time.
4. What can one conclude from the events of this great feast at this time?
5. What was the significance of the taking of the temple vessels?
6. What conclusions must be made on the basis of verse 4?
7. What did the king see on the wall? What is the importance of the fact that these were “fingers” which wrote?
8. What was the reaction of the king? Why?
9. What reward was promised to the man who could interpret the writing?
10. Why did not the king immediately call for Daniel who earlier interpreted the king’s dreams?
11. How was the failure of the astrologers to be explained? Could they not “make up” something?
12. Who was the “queen” of verse 10? How did she remember Daniel?
13. Who was the king’s “father” in verse 11? Was that not his *grandfather*?
14. How did the king address Daniel?
15. What did the king promise Daniel for interpreting the writing on the wall?
16. What was Daniel’s reaction to the promised gift? What does that show us?
17. Why did Daniel recite the history of Nebuchadnezzar?
18. What was Belchazzar’s sin?
19. What was Daniel’s interpretation of the writing?
20. What might this writing have to say to us?
21. What relationship might this writing have to the writing of Scripture which we have?
22. Did the king believe Daniel’s interpretation? Give reasons for your answer.
23. Why could the king’s gift to Daniel be regarded as foolish?
24. Who took over the kingdom?
25. Can you find any references as to how Darius overcame that great city of Babylon?
26. What have you learned from the account of this chapter concerning yourself?