

AN OVERVIEW & TOUR THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL¹

THE TWO MOST OBVIOUS WAYS TO OUTLINE THE BOOK OF DANIEL:

By CONTENT:

- Daniel 1-6 – Historical
- Daniel 7-12 – Predictive (apocalyptic), or

By LANGUAGE:

- Daniel 1 – Introduction (in Hebrew)
- Daniel 2-7 – Emphasis on Gentiles (in Aramaic)
- Daniel 8-12 – Emphasis on Israel in relation to Gentiles (in Hebrew).

1. CRUCIAL LESSONS FROM THE PAST! – Dan. 1 & 3—6

A. IN ORDER TO STAND IN A FUTURE DAY OF TESTING YOU NEED TO DECIDE WHERE YOU STAND & WHAT YOU STAND FOR NOW! – Dan. 1:8

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” – 1:8 (NKJV)

“The best time to prepare for trials is before we face them.
Our faith will be tested. We must seek God now.”²

B. IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO ENDURE SEVERE TRIALS, YOU NEED TO TRULY BE WALKING WITH THE GOD YOU CLAIM TO KNOW AND SERVE! – Dan. 3 cf. 11:32

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.’” – 3:16—18 (NKJV) Cf.

“but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.” 11:32 (KJV) cf.

“but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.” (NASV)

C. SOMETIMES GOD HAS TO PUT PEOPLE THROUGH HARD TRIALS IN ORDER FOR THEM TO REALIZE WHO’S IN CHARGE! (Nebuchadnezzar’s vision of the great tree) – Dan. 4:19, 25, 32 & 34—37

“Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and His ways judgment; and those that walk in pride He is able to abase.” – 4:37

D. GOD IS INCREDIBLY MERCIFUL BUT EVENTUALLY HIS PATIENCE WILL WEAR OUT, AND WHEN IT DOES, IT’S NOT PRETTY! – Dan. 5:1-6, 11—12 & 17—30

“But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven...And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified...That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain.” – vv. 22-23 & 30 (NKJV)

¹ By Mike Edwards, Bible Baptist Church, Madison, Ohio. – June—July, 2020

² David Jeremiah, *Answers to Questions about Living in the Last Days* (Turning Point for God: San Diego, CA, 2019), p. 68

E. MEN CAN & WILL PLOT EVIL AGAINST GOD’S PEOPLE. WHEN THEY DO, DETERMINE TO REMAIN FAITHFUL. YOU MAY BE SURPRISED AT WHAT GOD WILL DO! – Dan. 6:4-5, 12-17, 21-23, 24 cf. 2:19—23, 28—30

2. POWERFUL PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE! – Dan. 2 & 7—12

A. MIGHTY EARTHLY KINGDOMS HAVE—AND WILL—RISE AND FALL. BUT WE KNOW THE END OF THE STORY: THAT GOD’S KINGDOM IS GOING TO RULE OVER ALL FOREVER! – Dan. 2:31—45 & 7:1—14 & 17—28

B. A CLOSE UP SNAPSHOT OF TWO PAST KINGDOMS, MEDO-PERSIA & GREECE. – Dan. 8

Daniel’s vision of the *Ram* (Medo-Persia), the *Goat* (Greece), and the *Little Horn* (Antiochus Epiphanes of Syria).

- The Vision: vv. 1—14
- The Interpretation: vv. 15—25
- The Effect on Daniel: vv. 26—27

C. DANIEL’S GLORIOUS PRAYER & THE PROPHECY OF THE 70 WEEKS: AN INCREDIBLY PRECISE PREDICTION ABOUT ISRAEL’S MESSIAH & THE EVENT THAT WILL START GOD’S FINAL COUNTDOWN. – Dan. 9

- Daniel’s prayer: vv. 3—19
- The prophecy of the 70 Weeks: vv. 20—27

D. THE SECRET TO HAVING STRENGTH IN THE FACE OF AWESOME, FEARFUL EVENTS! – Dan. 10

- Daniel’s lack of strength – vv. 8, 16 & 17
- Daniel encouraged to have strength – v. 19
- Daniel strengthened – vv. 18 & 19
- How Daniel was strengthened: By God’s Word – v. 21

E. AMAZING PROPHECIES REGARDING SEVERAL NATIONS, THE PROTO-TYPE OF THE ANTICHRIST, & THE ANTICHRIST HIMSELF! – Dan. 11 – *The book of Daniel...contains astonishing predictions about the rise of the Medo—Persian, Greek, and Roman empires. In the eleventh chapter alone there are over one hundred prophecies that were fulfilled years, & even centuries after they were predicted.*³ *‘The detail of this history as presented (in Daniel 11) provides one of the most remarkable predictive portions of all Scripture,’ writes OT scholar Leon Wood.*⁴

- Persia – v. 2
- Greece & Alexander the Great – vv. 3—4
- Egypt & Syria (various kings of the Ptolemies & the Seleucids) – vv. 5—20
- Antiochus Epiphanes – vv. 21—35
- The future Antichrist – vv. 36—45

F. PROPHECIES REGARDING ISRAEL, GLORIOUS PROMISES TO GOD’S CHILDREN & HARD FACTS REGARDING THE GREAT TRIBULATION & END OF THE AGE! – Dan. 12

- There will be a future Resurrection! – v. 2
- There are only Two Destinies! – v. 2
- There will be Rewards for the Faithful! – v. 3
- The book of Daniel is to be preserved especially for a future generation! – v. 4
- Facts regarding the Great Tribulation (“*Time of Jacob’s Trouble*”) – vv. 5—13

³ Cf. John MacArthur’s introduction to Daniel in *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006), p. 1200 in the NASB edition.

⁴ Nathan Busenitz, *Reasons We Believe* (Crossway: Wheaton, IL, 2008), p. 89