

# Daniel

Major Prophets · Biblical Prophets

Of royal or noble seed, Daniel was carried to Babylon as a youth in Nebuchadnezzar's first deportation (605 BC), where he and three companions—Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (renamed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)—were selected for training in Chaldean wisdom and language for service in the king's court. Purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the king's meat and wine, Daniel's early faithfulness established a pattern of uncompromising devotion that sustained him through seventy years of exile.

His God-given ability to interpret dreams elevated him to chief of the wise men under Nebuchadnezzar, and his interpretation of the handwriting on the wall brought him to prominence under Belshazzar. Surviving regime changes, he served also under Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian, maintaining integrity despite jealous plots that cast him into the lions' den.

His prophetic ministry combined historical narrative with apocalyptic vision: Nebuchadnezzar's statue of successive world empires, the four beasts from the sea, the ram and the goat, and the elaborate revelation concerning Israel's future delivered by the angel Gabriel. The seventy weeks prophecy provides Scripture's most detailed chronological framework for Messianic fulfillment, precisely predicting the timing of Messiah's advent and cutting off.

His visions of the Ancient of Days, the Son of Man coming with clouds, and Michael the great prince standing up for Israel inform both Jewish and Christian eschatology. Gabriel addressed him as 'greatly beloved,' while his fasting and prayer secured revelation concerning Israel's future restoration.

**Note:** Daniel's book is written partially in Hebrew (chapters 1, 8-12) and partially in Aramaic (chapters 2-7), the portions concerning Gentile dominion being in the lingua franca of the empire. His prophecies detail successive kingdoms—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome—with remarkable historical precision, causing liberal scholars to date the book later. Yet Ezekiel, his contemporary, referenced Daniel's righteousness alongside Noah and Job (14:14). Christ Himself authenticated Daniel's authorship and prophecies (Matthew 24:15). The seventy weeks prophecy's fulfillment in Christ's triumphal entry, crucifixion, and the 70 AD temple destruction validates divine inspiration.

## Key Verses

### **Daniel 1:8**

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

### **Daniel 2:44**

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

### **Daniel 6:10**

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

### **Daniel 7:13**

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

### **Daniel 9:24**

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

**Daniel 12:3**

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

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