

THE VOICE OF THE LORD
THE PROPHET DANIEL



INTRODUCTION

*It is advisable first to read the Preface in Part 1.

The section on each prophet is a complete Bible study on its own.

The Book of the prophet, Daniel, was written during the Babylonian exile and completed around 530 B.C. after the capture of Babylon in 539 B.C. As a young nobleman from Jerusalem, Daniel had been taken captive in 605 B.C. along with King Jehoiakim when the city was besieged by King Nebuchadnezzar. This first transportation of exiles included members of the royal and noble families of Judah. Even some vessels from the Temple were then carried away to Babylon. The first 6 chapters of the Book of Daniel are narrative, the remaining ones record his visions. Daniel in his divine revelations, unlike the other prophets, was not addressed directly by *The Voice of the Lord*, but instead through heavenly Messengers ([texts in blue type](#)). Nevertheless, God's sovereignty is proclaimed throughout. Even mighty Nebuchadnezzar came to acknowledge the greatness of the God of Israel and this pagan king's words are recorded. Daniel's apocalyptic visions reveal God's ultimate triumphant victory - the theme in all the Scriptures - salvation from Sin through the promised Messiah - the MAN, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Read Daniel Chapter 1

Daniel together with his three friends, because of their promising ability and physical appearance were given training in the language and literature of Babylon as candidates for entry into the king's service. The hand of the Lord was upon Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, for they remained faithful to the God of Israel, unlike many of the kings and princes of Judah. Daniel, having found favour with the chief officer, received permission and for his three friends not to defile themselves by eating food and wine offered to pagan gods from the king's table, being allowed a vegetarian diet instead. After three years of training, they were accepted into Nebuchadnezzar's service, the Lord having endowed them with exceptional intelligence and knowledge. Daniel was gifted in wisdom more than all the learned astrologers and magicians of Babylon. The four friends were given administrative positions in the land, Daniel remaining at the royal court of the king.

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

Read Daniel Chapter 2

Nebuchadnezzar's ominous dream one night so troubled him, that he commanded his magicians both to relate and give its interpretation - an impossible task. The King's wrath was so great, if it had not been for the intervention of Daniel, all the wise men of Babylon would have been killed. *The wrath of a king is a messenger of death, but a wise man will pacify it.* Proverbs 16: 14
Daniel through prayer and his God-given gift to understand visions, was enabled to reveal both the dream and its meaning.

There is a God in heaven Who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what it is that shall be in the latter days.

Daniel 2: 28

Daniel then gave a detailed description of the great statue (depicting 4 Gentile kingdoms) the king had seen in his frightening dream –

- . *Head of Gold
 - . *Chest and arms of silver
 - . *Body and thighs of bronze
 - . *Legs of iron with Feet of iron and clay
-

DANIEL'S INTERPRETATION

In Daniel's interpretation the Head of Gold represented King Nebuchadnezzar; the lower parts of the statue other future Gentile empires – (Medo - Persia under Cyrus, Greece ruled by Alexander the Great, Rome in its western and eastern halves; the feet of part iron and part clay dividing into the European nations).

As you looked, a Stone was cut out without human hands, which smote the image on its feet of iron and clay and broke them to pieces. Daniel 2: 34

This is the 5th Kingdom (Messianic), the God of heaven will set up in the latter days. The glory of this kingdom, which will never be destroyed and will last forever, was revealed in the Revelation to the apostle John at the end of the New Testament. To Daniel this was a message of survival and hope for his people - an end to Gentile domination of Israel (*the times of the Gentiles*). (Luke 21: 24b)

Jesus reminded the chief priests and the Pharisees -

Everyone who falls on that Stone will be broken in pieces; but upon whomever It falls, It will crush him as dust. Luke 20: 18 (Matthew 21: 44)

Nebuchadnezzar answered Daniel (called Belteshazzar in Babylon) -

Of a truth your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a Revealer of secret mysteries, seeing that you could reveal this secret mystery. Daniel 2: 47

Daniel and his three friends were promoted to high positions in the land of their exile.

THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE

Read Daniel Chapter 3

With the gold image in mind, Nebuchadnezzar set up such a statue near Babylon. Shining in the sunshine with a height of nearly 100 feet, it was visible from a great distance in a region of level terrain. At the golden statue's dedication, all government officials and dignitaries were commanded to bow down and worship the image at the sound of any kind of music.

Anyone failing to obey would be cast into the burning fiery furnace.



When Daniel's three friends, faithful to the Lord, were cast into that furnace, Nebuchadnezzar was astonished to see a fourth in the midst of the fire –

like a son of the gods! Daniel 3: 25b

When they were delivered unharmed out of the furnace,

Nebuchadnezzar said:

Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, (Babylonian names) Who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who believed in Him! And they set aside the king's command and yielded their bodies rather than worship any god except their own God. Daniel 3: 28

Nebuchadnezzar in praising the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego made a decree to all his peoples that, on pain of death, no offending language should be spoken against their God.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were further promoted to high office in the land of Babylon. It should be noted that Daniel and his 3 friends were dedicated and loyal servants of Nebuchadnezzar, not blaming the king for the exile, knowing God had pronounced the deserved captivity of the rebellious and sinful house of Judah.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S SECOND DREAM

Read Daniel Chapter 4

The meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's next troublesome dream was also revealed to Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar, a pagan king, recorded these words in praise of Daniel's God.

How great are His signs! And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation. Daniel 4: 3

THE GREAT TREE AND ITS STUMP



In Daniel's interpretation, this great, fruitful and beautiful tree in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, represented all his royal and imperial power. As a loyal servant, Daniel found the meaning dire for the king in its consequences.

Twelve months later the words of the *holy messenger*, the *voice from Heaven* came true, for Nebuchadnezzar was cut down to *a stump* for his pride and sins.

*O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken:
The kingdom has departed from you.*

Daniel 4: 31b

For seven whole years, the king lived like a wild animal, as the voice from heaven had decreed, until the king acknowledged God's sovereignty over the kingdoms of mankind with words of praise.

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol the King of heaven, Whose works are all faithful and right and Whose ways are just. And those who walk in pride He is able to abase and humble. Daniel 4: 37

BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST

Read Daniel Chapter 5

During this great feast, Belshazzar, the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, ordered that the gold and silver vessels taken from the Temple in Jerusalem should be used as drinking goblets. As the grand assembly of nobles and their wives drank wine from these sacred vessels, loudly praising their pagan gods, there came the terrifying sight of a man's hand writing on the wall.

None of the astrologers and wise men could understand the meaning, until the Queen, perhaps the wife of Nebuchadnezzar, entered and suggested that Daniel be summoned to read the inscription.

Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.

Daniel 5: 12b



THE WRITING ON THE WALL

The now older Daniel, not only was enabled to read the writing but with great courage rebuked King Belshazzar for not honouring the God of heaven as had his grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar.

This is the inscription that was written:



[MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN](#) – (NUMBERED, NUMBERED, WEIGHED, DIVISIONS)

Daniel gave the interpretation with these words:

- * **MENE** – God has numbered the days of your kingship and brought them to an end.
- * **TEKEL** – You are weighed in the balances and are found wanting.
- * **PERES** – Your kingdom and kingship are divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

Daniel 5: 25 - 28

(*Peres is singular for upharsin)

During that same night, Darius the Mede, captured Babylon. (Isaiah 21: 9)
Belshazzar was killed, so ending the times of the Head of Gold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream and fulfilling the first part of Daniel's prophecy.

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

Read Chapter 6

Daniel continued to hold high administrative positions being in favour at court, causing Babylonian officials to be jealous and desire to get rid of the king's excellent and faithful Judean servant.

These officials knew no accusation could be brought against Daniel, except that he prayed three times a day to His God. Together, these men maliciously devised an edict that Darius would sign.

Whoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, except of you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.

Daniel 6: 7b

When this accusation was brought, Darius tried unsuccessfully to deliver his servant Daniel; but no law of the Medes and Persians could ever be repealed.

At the king's command Daniel was therefore thrown into the den. He remained unharmed all that night, being blameless before God; the lion's mouths being closed - until the accusers were hurled to the lions!

Then, Darius made another decree to be obeyed throughout his dominion, that Daniel's God was the living God and His dominion was everlasting.



He is Saviour and Deliverer, and He works signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth – He Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Daniel 6: 27

DANIEL'S VISION OF FOUR BEASTS

Read Daniel 7: 1 - 15

This dream took place earlier in the first year of King Belshazzar. At night in his dream, Daniel saw four beasts depicted in terrifying detail – lion, bear, leopard and a terrible and frightening beast with iron teeth, bronze claws and ten horns. He also saw in his vision, another horn that came up with a mouth boasting great things – (antichrist of the End Times).

Then came the sight of the enthroned Ancient of Days, with a thousand thousands attending Him and ten thousand times ten thousand standing before Him. When the Books were opened in the heavenly court, the boastful horn was slain and the powers of the other beasts removed, their lives remaining until their set time.

As Daniel's powerful and prophetic night vision continued, he saw –

On the clouds of the heavens came One like a Son of man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. Daniel 7: 13

And there was given Him (the Messiah) dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and his kingdom is one which shall not be destroyed. Daniel 7: 14

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE VISION

Read Daniel 7: 16 - 28

Daniel's dream in his night visions perplexed and troubled him.

It should be noted that an understanding of such visions, like those given to John in the Book of Revelation, were given to encourage the Lord's people suffering affliction and persecution. One standing near, an *Angel*, explained the meaning of the beasts and the other horn that fought against the saints until the time of his judgement came.

Like Nebuchadnezzar's statue, the four beasts represented four Gentile kingdoms.

These great empires in world history were in reality under the sovereign control of Almighty God.

But the saints of the Most High God shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever. Daniel 7: 18

The *Angel* explained that the terrifying fourth beast -

Shall be different from all other kingdoms and shall devour the whole earth, tread it down, and break it in pieces and crush it. Daniel 7: 23

In the latter days, the boastful horn would rise up to speak against the Most High, afflict His saints and seek to change times and the law.

The saints shall be given into his hand for a time, two times, and half a time. (3 1/2 years) Daniel 7: 25b

After a specified time, the Ancient of Days came and the court of the Most High gave final judgement destroying the boastful horn's power forever.

The greatness of the kingdom would then be given to God's saints under the rule of the Most High.

His Kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and all the dominions shall serve and obey Him. Daniel 7: 27b

DANIEL'S DREAM OF A RAM AND A GOAT

Read Daniel Chapter 8: 1 - 19



This vision was received in the third year of Belshazzar's reign. By the Ulai Canal at Susa, the Persian capital, Daniel saw a ram with two horns, one longer than the other, becoming very great until attacked and destroyed by a powerful shaggy goat with a prominent horn. At the height of the goat's power, his larger horn was broken and replaced by four horns. Coming from one of them, a horn that started small, grew to become very powerful against the faithful in Israel, even vying against the Prince in his rebellion and pride. The horn (Antiochus 1V) became strong enough, in the *Beautiful Land*, because of the people's sins, to remove the daily sacrifices, causing desolation of God's holy sanctuary, for Truth was no more.



Then Daniel heard *Holy Ones* speaking and questioning –

How long is the vision concerning the continual offering, the transgression that makes desolate and the giving over of the sanctuary and the people to be trampled underfoot?

Daniel 8: 13

For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be cleansed and restored.

Daniel 8: 14

Daniel, in seeking to understand the vision, beheld Gabriel and heard a man's voice calling: *Gabriel, make this man (Daniel) understand the vision.* Daniel 8: 16b

The mind of him who has understanding seeks knowledge. Proverbs 15: 14b

Gabriel came near and touched Daniel, his mind awestruck with his face to the ground, and raised him to his feet with these words:

Behold, I will make you know what will be in the latter time of the indignation of God upon the ungodly, for it has to do with the time of the end. Daniel 8: 19

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DREAM

Read Daniel 8: 20 - 27 As Gabriel spoke to Daniel, the meaning was given - The ram with the two horns, one longer than the other, symbolised the Medo - Persian Empire.

The shaggy he-goat depicted Greece, with the one great horn representing Alexander the Great.

The four horns stand for the break up of his kingdom into four lesser nations.

The horn that grew very powerful symbolised wicked times in the near (Antiochus 1V) and distant future (antichrist). Antiochus tried to destroy the Jewish faith and was a type of the fierce beast of the End Times. That ruler would emerge as a ruthless enemy against God's people and destroy many. Master of intrigue, deceit and wickedness, using peace as a ploy, he would magnify himself and even oppose the Prince of princes - yet would be destroyed but not by human hands.

The vision of the evenings and the mornings which has been told you (v14) is true. But seal up the vision, for it has to do with the distant future. Daniel 8: 26

The impact of such words made Daniel ill for some days before he could return to his work.

I wondered at the vision, but there was no one who understood it or could make it understood. Daniel 8: 27b

DANIEL'S PRAYER

Read Daniel 9: 1 - 19

In the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede, now king of Babylon, Daniel sought the Lord by prayer and fasting with sackcloth and ashes, for the city of Jerusalem and God's sanctuary there.

From a study of the scroll of the prophet Jeremiah, Daniel understood that 70 years had been decreed for the captivity of his people before they would be freed.

Daniel prayed for God's forgiveness; identifying himself with the wicked sins of his people.
(vs. 4 – 19)

We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in His laws which He set before us through His servants the prophets. Daniel 9: 10.

The Lord our God is righteous and just in all his works which He does (keeping His word); and we have not obeyed His voice. Daniel 9: 14b

In fervent petition, Daniel asked the Lord to turn from His anger and have mercy on Jerusalem and the people for His own name's sake.

O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, give heed and act! Do not delay, for Your own sake, O my God, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.

Daniel 9: 19

DANIEL'S PRAYER AND THE ANSWER

Read Daniel 9: 20 - 27

While Daniel confessed his sins and the evil ways of the people, Gabriel appeared again to give an answer.

O Daniel, I am now come forth to give you skill and wisdom and understanding.

Daniel 9: 22b

Daniel was greatly beloved of the Lord and his prayers had been heard –

For the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Proverbs 15: 8b

Seventy sevens (490 years) are decreed to end transgression and to atone for sin with the vision sealed for the coming of everlasting righteousness and the anointing of the most Holy.

From the time of the restoration of Jerusalem until the Anointed Prince comes will be 7 sevens and 62 sevens.

The city will have been rebuilt in times of trouble.

After the 62 weeks or 62 sevens, the Prince will be cut off –

(the Crucifixion) and a ruler will come to destroy the city and desecrate the Holy Place.

(Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans under Titus in 70A.D).

Wars and desolations are decreed till the end times, when a covenant of one week (7years) will be made. Half way through this period - (3½ years), the covenant will be broken when the continual burnt offerings are stopped by one setting up the abomination of desolations – to end in the destruction and ruin decreed upon him.



DANIEL'S GREAT VISION OF A MAN

Read Daniel Chapter 10

Another message came to Daniel in the 3rd year of Cyrus - of a great war causing Daniel to grieve for three weeks.

The explanation of future times was then given in a vision while Daniel was standing beside the R. Tigris. There he beheld a *MAN clothed in linen* with a belt of pure gold. His face appeared as lightning and Whose voice was as the sound of many peoples or the roaring waves of the sea.

Weakened with his strength gone, only Daniel saw the vision, the men with him having fled away in fright at the sound.

Bowed to the ground, a hand touched Daniel and raised him to his knees with these words:

O Daniel, you greatly beloved man, understand the words that I speak to you.

Daniel 10: 11a

Fear not Daniel, for from the first day you set your mind to understand and humble yourself before your God, your words were heard.

Daniel 10: 12a

The *MAN* had been detained by the hostile Prince of Persia until helped by the Angel Michael and had now come to cause Daniel to understand what would happen to his people in future times.

Now I have come to make you understand what is to befall your people in the latter days, for the vision is for many days yet to come.

Daniel 10: 14

The *MAN* touched Daniel's lips so he could speak and be no longer dumb, for Daniel trembled and was filled with deep sorrow and pain as if no breath was left in him.

Again, a hand stretched out to touch and strengthen him.

O man, greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you! Be strong, yes, be strong.

Daniel 10: 19a

The *MAN* further explained He had been delayed by an evil spiritual force at work against Darius the Mede; but that He would soon return to fight against the hostile kingdoms of Persia and Greece. Again only Michael, Israel's angelic Prince would come to help.

I will tell you what is inscribed in the Book of Truth.

Daniel 10: 21a



THE BOOK OF TRUTH

Read Daniel 11; 1 - 35

This is the revelation in the Book of Truth given to Daniel.

Four more kings will rule in Persia; the last so strong would turn to fight against Greece. In time the powerful kingdom of Greece (Alexander the Great) would be broken up and given to his generals.

These generals became kings of the South (Ptolemies of Egypt) and of the North (Seleucids).

The Holy Land was governed by the Ptolemies from 323 - 198 B.C.

Then by the Seleucids of Syria until 142 B.C.

These kings of the north and the south waged war with huge armies against each other and many thousands were killed in battle.

A study of the Ptolemy and Seleucid dynasties reveals intrigue after intrigue, murder, violence and deceit; including marriage alliances as recorded in this detailed angelic message given to Daniel.

Cleopatra, daughter of Antiochus the Great, married Ptolemy V.

At the crossroads of these warring factions was the *Beautiful Land* of Israel (v.16), a target for their greed for power.

The treacherous kings of the North (Antiochus the Great and his son Antiochus 1V Epiphanes) killed many Jews in the Holy Land. In 169 B.C. Antiochus 1V (a type of Beast of the Last Days) plundered the Temple, discontinued the daily sacrifices; and in the following year desecrated the Holy of Holies –

set up the abomination that makes desolate.

Daniel 11: 31b

The Jewish resistance came under the leadership of the Maccabees, with their brave revolt after the desecration of the sanctuary in 168 B.C. during the wicked reign of Antiochus Epiphanes.

But the people who know their God shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm and do exploits.

Daniel 11: 32b

The Maccabean revolt gave rise to the Hasmonean period of Jewish independence; followed by Roman rule in 63 B.C - during which time the Anointed One was cut off - (Crucifixion of Christ).



All the events of the near future related in the Book of Daniel have been accurately fulfilled -

THE LAST DAYS

Read Daniel 11: 36 – 45

The visions given to Daniel for the distant future await fulfilment.

At the appointed time in the latter days, another ruler will arise against the God of gods and hostile to God's chosen people. He will invade and gain control over many countries and their peoples.

He shall pitch his palatial tents between the seas and the holy Mount (Zion); yet he shall come to his end with none to help him.

Daniel 11: 45

Read Daniel 12: 1 - 9

In those days, there will be a time of the greatest trouble ever, but the Archangel Michael who protects Daniel's people will deliver all those recorded in the Book.

Those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12: 2

This is the first definite mention of Resurrection in the Old Testament.



*O Daniel, shut up the words,
and seal the book, even to the time of the end;
many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*

Daniel 12: 4 A.V.

Daniel then saw two - one on either bank, speaking and questioning as before, asking the MAN clothed in linen standing above the waters –

How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?

Daniel 12: 6b

THE MAN CLOTHED WITH LINEN

The MAN, clothed with linen standing above the waters and with his arms uplifted, swore by Him Who lives forever; and answered with these words -

It shall be for a time, times and half a time; (3½ years) and when they have made an end of crushing the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

Daniel 12: 7b



Daniel just did not understand.

Then I said, O my Lord, what shall be the issue and final end of these things?

Daniel 12: 8

Go you way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed till the time of the end.

Daniel 12: 9

(The meaning of all the numbers in the Book of Daniel, known only to Almighty God, may be symbolic, including the significance of the number fifty in a Jubilee Year).

THE TIME OF THE END

Read Daniel 12: 10 - 13

Many will be tried and purified; and only the wise will understand, unlike the wicked in their wickedness. The 3 1/2 years of the Great Tribulation, when the daily sacrifices end until the abomination that makes desolate, are recorded as 1,290 days; but blessed are those that endure till the 1,335 days!

(Jesus prophesied that the *abomination of desolation* would be erected in the Last Days). Daniel was now over 90 years old and nearing the end of his distinguished career in Babylon.

He had not returned to Jerusalem when the seventy years of captivity ended but continued in the land of his exile; and so received that final vision on the banks of the Tigris.

Beloved of the Lord, he was to wait in his rest till the end of days, when Messiah would come for His people, bringing the blessings of the Everlasting Covenant.

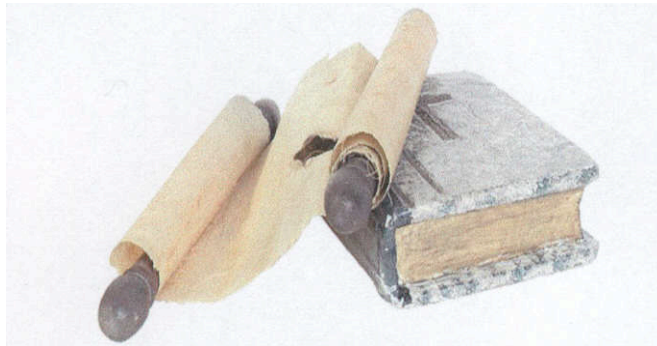
A thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

Psalm 90: 4 (2 Peter 3: 8)

The Book of Daniel ends with these words:

But you (Daniel), go your way until the end; for you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.

Daniel 12: 13



THE TWELVE MINOR PROPHETS

HOSEA JOEL AMOS OBADIAH JONAH MICAH NAHUM

HABAKKUK ZEPHANIAH HAGGAI ZECHARIAH MALACHI

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