



RESOLVED

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL



Book of Daniel

Written approx. 535 BC,
recording events that
occurred from 605-535 BC.



Book of Daniel

The Book of Daniel is unusual in that it is written in two languages: 1:1-2:4a and chapters 8-12 are in Hebrew, and 2:4b-7:28 is in Aramaic, the lingua franca of the prophet's day. Hebrew was the language of God's covenant people Israel, and Aramaic was the language of the Gentile world.



Daniel 1



In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah (605 BC), Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. Daniel 1:1

Biography of King Jehoiakim

- The second son of Josiah, and eighteenth king of Judah, which he ruled over for eleven years (610–599 BC). His original name was Eliakim.
- On the death of his father his younger brother Jehoahaz (also called Shallum in Jeremiah 22:11), who favored the Chaldeans against the Egyptians, was made king by the people; but the king of Egypt, Pharaoh-necho, invaded the land and deposed Jehoahaz (2 Kings 23:33, 34; Jer. 22:10–12), setting Eliakim on the throne in his stead, and changing his name to Jehoiakim.
- After this the king of Egypt took no part in Jewish politics, having been defeated by the Chaldeans at Carchemish (2 Kings 24:7; Jer. 46:2). Israel was invaded and conquered by Nebuchadnezzar. Jehoiakim was taken prisoner and carried captive to Babylon (2 Chr. 36:6-7). At this time Daniel and three companions were taken captive to Babylon (Dan. 1:1-2)
- Nebuchadnezzar reinstated Jehoiakim on his throne, but treated him as a vassal king. In the year after this, Jeremiah caused his prophecies to be read by Baruch in the court of the temple. Jehoiakim, hearing of this, had them also read in the royal palace before himself. The words displeased him, and taking the roll from the hands of Baruch he cut it in pieces and threw it into the fire (Jer. 36:23). During his disastrous reign there was a return to the old idolatry and corruption of the days of Manasseh.
- After three years of subjection to Babylon, Jehoiakim withheld his tribute and threw off the yoke (2 Kings 24:1), hoping to make himself independent. Nebuchadnezzar sent bands of Chaldeans, Syrians, and Ammonites (2 Kings 24:2) to chastise his rebellious vassal. They cruelly harassed the whole country (Jer. 49:1–6). The king came to a violent death, and his body having been thrown over the wall of Jerusalem, to convince the besieging army that he was dead, after having been dragged away, was buried beyond the gates of Jerusalem “with the burial of a donkey,” (Jer. 22:18, 19; 36:30). Nebuchadnezzar placed his son Jehoiachin on the throne, wishing still to retain the kingdom of Judah as tributary to him.



Biography of Nebuchadnezzar

- Son and successor of Nabopolassar, who delivered Babylon from its dependence on Assyria and laid Nineveh in ruins.
- Greatest and most powerful of all the Babylonian kings. He married the daughter of Cyaxares, and thus the Median and Babylonian dynasties were united.
- Nebuchadnezzar subdued the whole of Israel, and took Jerusalem, carrying away captive a great multitude of the Jews, among whom were Daniel and his companions.
- Three years after this, Jehoiakim, who had reigned in Jerusalem as a Babylonian vassal, rebelled against the oppressor, trusting to help from Egypt (2 Kings 24:1).

Biography of Nebuchadnezzar

- This led Nebuchadnezzar to march an army again to the conquest of Jerusalem, which at once yielded to him (BC 598). A third time he came against it, and deposed Jehoiachin, whom he carried into Babylon, with a large portion of the population of the city, and the sacred vessels of the temple, placing Zedekiah on the throne of Judah in his stead. Zedekiah also entered into an alliance with Egypt, and rebelled against Babylon. This brought about the final siege of the city, which was at length taken and utterly destroyed (BC 586).
- Nebuchadnezzar died in BC 562, in the eighty-third or eighty-fourth year of his age, after a reign of forty-three years, and was succeeded by his son Evil-merodach, who, after a reign of two years, was succeeded by Neriglissar (559–555 BC), who was succeeded by Nabonadius (555–538 BC), at the close of whose reign (less than a quarter of a century after the death of Nebuchadnezzar) Babylon fell under Cyrus at the head of the combined armies of Media and Persia.

-Easton's Bible Dictionary

An engraving on an eye stone of onyx with an inscription of Nebuchadnezzar II.



*The Siege and
Destruction
of
Jerusalem
by the
Romans
Under the
Command
of Titus,
A.D. 70,
by David
Roberts
(1850)*







The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar [a region of Babylonia], to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god. Daniel 1:2

Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and he did evil in the sight of the Lord his God. Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him and bound him with bronze chains to take him to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar also brought some of the articles of the house of the Lord to Babylon and put them in his temple at Babylon. 2 Chronicles 36:5-7



Turkey

Iraq

Syria

Tigris River

Euphrates River

Israel

Jordan

Babylon

Iran

Mediterranean Sea

Jerusalem

Egypt

The Babylonian Empire

606-536 BC

Persian Gulf

Why would God allow this calamity?

- “For the sons of Judah have done that which is evil in My sight,” declares the Lord, “they have set their detestable things in the house which is called by My name, to defile it. They have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, and it did not come into My mind.” Jeremiah 7:30-31
- “For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous people who march throughout the earth to seize dwelling places which are not theirs.” Habakkuk 1:6

Why would God allow this calamity?

“So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the Lord your God has banished you, and you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you.” Deuteronomy 30:1-3



Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel [hostages], including some of the royal family and of the nobles, youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. Daniel 1:3-4



The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service. Daniel 1:5

*The educational program probably included a study of agriculture, architecture, astrology, astronomy, law, mathematics, and the difficult Akkadian language. – Bible Knowledge Commentary



Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego. Daniel 1:6-7

Hebrew Names Babylonian Names

Names were given by God-fearing parents and then changed by Nebuchadnezzar to omit a testimony to Yahweh, to encourage the Jewish teens to forget God and their homeland

Daniel - Hebrew “my judge is God”

Belteshazzar - Akkadian “(god) Bel, protect the king”

Hananiah - Hebrew “Yahweh has favored me”

Shadrach - Akkadian “I am fearful (of a god)”

Mishael - Hebrew “who is what El is?”

Meshach - Akkadian “I am humbled (before my god)”

Azariah - Hebrew “Yahweh has helped”

Abed-nego – Akkadian “servant of Nego”

(Nego/Nebo was a Babylonian god of wisdom)



Biography of Daniel

- Hebrew name means “God is my judge” or “God has judged.”
- Descended from one of the noble families of Judah (Dan. 1:3), and probably born in Jerusalem about 623 BC, during the reign of Josiah.
- He was physically attractive and mentally sharp (Dan. 1:4).
- At the first deportation of the Jews by Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel and other three noble youths were carried off to Babylon, along with part of the vessels of the temple.
- Daniel served as advisor to two Babylonian kings (Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar) and two Medo-Persian kings (Darius and Cyrus).
- A man of prayer and a statesman with the gift of prophecy.
- He lived at least until the third year of Cyrus, that is, till 536 BC (10:1). He must have been a young man when he was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. (In 1:4 Daniel was one of the “young” men of Israel.) If he were 16 when captured, he was age 85 in Cyrus’ third year.



But Daniel **made up his mind** **[resolved]** that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself. Daniel 1:8



- This food did not conform to the requirements of the Mosaic Law. The fact that it was prepared by Gentiles rendered it unclean. Also no doubt many things forbidden by the Law were served on the king's table, so to partake of such food would defile the Jewish youths. Further, without doubt this royal food had been sacrificed and offered to pagan gods before it was offered to the king. To partake of such food would be contrary to Exodus 34, where the Jews were forbidden to eat flesh sacrificed to pagan gods.
- “for you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God— otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they would play the harlot with their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and someone might invite you to eat of his sacrifice” Exodus 34:14-15



Daniel 1:8

וַיִּשֶׁם דָּנִיֵּאל עַל-לִבּוֹ

way·yā·śem dā·nî·yêl 'al- lib·bōw

Daniel resolved in his heart

Daniel made up his mind

TOP 10 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR 2022

- 1 Lose weight
- 2 Eat healthier or change diet
- 3 Get fitter and take more exercise
- 4 Spend more time with family and friends
- 5 Be more aware and take care of mental health
- 6 Sort out finances and cut back spending
- 7 Travel more
- 8 Take up a new hobby, sport or other interest
- 9 Be more environmentally friendly
- 10 Look for a new job



Daniel made up his mind – NAS

Daniel resolved – NIV and ESV

Daniel purposed in his heart – YLT

Daniel determined – HCSB

וַיִּשְׁמַע דָּנִיֵּאל עַל-לִבּוֹ

But Daniel made up [שׁוּמַ *suwm*] his mind [לֵב *leb... heart*] that he would not defile himself Daniel 1:8

Daniel's desire was to please God in all he did. So he resolved that even though he was not in his own land but in a culture that did not follow God's laws, he would consider himself under the Law. Daniel was courageous, determined, and obedient to God. – Bible Knowledge Commentary



Other verses with verb שׁוּמ *suwm*

When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, he said to them, “Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, even all the words of this law.”

Deuteronomy 32:45-46

The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered (the heart of) My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.” Job 1:8

Daniel could have responded to the terrible things that had happened to him by falling into deep depression. He could have lashed out in anger. He could have spent his time bitterly lamenting his fate. He could have turned away from God. Instead we read, "*Daniel purposed in his heart*" (Daniel 1:8). That means he made a decision. What follows may seem minor. It only had to do with what food he would eat, but I believe it was pivotal. Daniel had decided to live, and to live for God. Without this decision, he might not have ever written a prophecy, become a man of prayer or been able to influence kings. - Rebecca J. Brimmer of Bridges for Peace



Now God granted Daniel favor [חֶסֶד *chesed*]
and compassion in the sight of the
commander of the officials, and the
commander of the officials said to Daniel, “I
am afraid of my lord the king, who has
appointed your food and your drink; for why
should he see your faces looking more
haggard than the youths who are your own
age? Then you would make me forfeit my
head to the king.” Daniel 1:9-10

But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance be observed in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see." Daniel 1:11-13



“Daniel **made up his mind [resolved]** that he would not defile himself”

- Do we feel pressured to follow the norms of this culture?
- Since the guard was under the chief official’s authority he must have acted not on his own but with permission from Ashpenaz. God intervenes on behalf of those who trust Him, and protects and preserves those who obey Him, even under pagan rule.
- Though God did not prohibit eating meat altogether (cf. Gen. 9:3; Rom. 14:14; 1 Cor. 10:25–26), the vegetable diet was superior to the king’s food. Also this shows that God blesses those who obey His commands and prospers those who trust Him. This incident would have been a lesson for the nation Israel. God had demanded obedience to the Law. Punishment came because of disobedience but even during a time of discipline, God protects and sustains those who obey Him and trust Him for their **sustenance.**



So he [the overseer] listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days. At the end of ten days their appearance seemed better and they were fatter than all the youths who had been eating the king's choice food. So the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink, and kept giving them vegetables. Daniel 1:14-16

As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge [reasoning] and intelligence [insight] in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams. Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them [after 3 years], the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service. Daniel 1:17-19



God gave them knowledge and intelligence (Daniel 1:17)

- Are we praying for ourselves to demonstrate knowledge and intelligence?
- Are we praying for our children and grandchildren to demonstrate knowledge and intelligence?
- “Intellectual development and true success can be achieved without spiritual compromise” – New Bible Commentary
- Blessing follows Obedience



As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm. And Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king. Daniel 1:20-21

*Daniel's ministry in the royal court of Babylon continued until the overthrow of the Babylonian Empire by Cyrus of Persia in 539 BC.

-Bible Knowledge Commentary



Daniel served under four different kings

Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar ransacked Jerusalem and, in the process, took many of the Children of Israel to Babylon in captivity. When Nebuchadnezzar died, his son Belshazzar became King. He was followed by kings Darius and Cyrus. We know that Daniel remained in Babylon through the first year of the reign of King Cyrus (Daniel 1:21).



Lessons from Daniel 1

1. God is sovereign over time and events.
2. God allows judgment and persecution for people who turn away from Him.
3. Daniel and his friends stood up for biblical values even when facing opposition.
4. God honors obedience and faithfulness.
5. God can use people and bless people in ways that defy human logic.
6. We all need spiritual resolutions.



Ready to Resolve?

On what will you set your heart?

To what has God asked you to commit?

To whom has God asked you to commit?

Are you ready to resolve even when the
world pressures you to conform?

Have you resolved to follow Jesus?