



STAND STRONG

A STUDY OF DANIEL



Where does the book of Daniel fit in the scheme of the Old Testament?

- **Captivity (exile) in Babylon (605 BC – 539 BC)**

Daniel



What is the book of Daniel all about?

**...God is sovereign over history and empires.....
setting up and removing kings as He pleases.**

**All of the kingdoms of this world will come to an
end and will be replaced by the Lord's kingdom,
which will never pass away.**



What do chapters 1-6 of Daniel focus on?

**...Daniel and his three friends in the
Babylonian Court...**

as they live faithfully to the Lord while living in a culture and a value system that is diametrically opposed to their own, and by as a result they bring blessings to the Gentiles.



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What do chapters 1-6 of Daniel focus on?

This theme will serve us well in our radically changing culture and the upside down value system of our contemporary world.



What do chapters 7-12 of Daniel focus on?

...Visions of Daniel...

...his apocalyptic visions,

which reassure God's people that,

in spite of exile and persecution,

God is still in control of history and He will

see His purposes through.



Chapter 1: Foundation of Faithfulness

Your identity is the core issue of life.

“who you *‘be’* will determine what you *‘do’*”

Your convictions stand strong as a testimony

“what you *‘do’* proclaims what you *‘believe’*”

Your testimony will excel in the marketplace

“what you *‘believe’* will speak clearly to our world”



Chapter 2: Faithfulness Demonstrated

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream and Threat

Authority exercised out of fear is pathetic

Daniel's response and prayer

Faith is grounded in the ability of God

Daniel's interpretation of the dream

The ability of God is grounded in Himself

Nebuchadnezzar rewards Daniel

God Himself is the one worthy of honor



Chapter 3: The Confrontation

6 stages of Spiritual Battle



Chapter 3: The Confrontation

In this world we will be asked to conform to the norms of the culture around us, and if we don't we will be accused of violating something, and if we confirm our stance we will face contempt, but if we **stand strong** there will be some who will be transformed by the truth and the grace of God who will be promoted and glorified by some the very ones who at one point were antagonistic.



Chapter 4:1-37

'Big Nebo's' Difficult Journey



Repetitive phrases for emphasis





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-King Nebuchadnezzar:...(O king).....Big Nebo****



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-King Nebuchadnezzar:...(O king).....Big Nebo

-Daniel:...(Belteshazzar).....



Repetitive phrases for emphasis

-King Nebuchadnezzar:...(O king).....**Big Nebo**

-Daniel:...(Belteshazzar).....

Daniel 1:4

....youths without blemish, of ***good appearance*** and skilled in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding, learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.



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-King Nebuchadnezzar:...(O king).....**Big Nebo**

-Daniel:...(Belteshazzar).....**El Guapo**

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-King Nebuchadnezzar:...(O king).....**Big Nebo**

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- The Most High God.....



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-King Nebuchadnezzar:...(O king).....**Big Nebo**

-Daniel:...(Belteshazzar).....El Guapo

- The Most High God.....**The Awesome One**



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

1 King Nebuchadnezzar



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

- 1 King Nebuchadnezzar** to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth:
Peace be multiplied to you!
- 2 It as seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the **Most High God** has done for me.
- 3 *How great are His signs, how mighty His wonders!
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and His dominion endures from generation to generation.*



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

- 4 I, **King Nebuchadnezzar**, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace.
- 5 I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me.
- 6 So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream.
- 7 Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation.



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

- 8 At last **Daniel** came in before me—he who was named **Belteshazzar** after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream, saying,
- 9 *“O **Belteshazzar**, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation.*”



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

- 10 *The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these:
I saw and, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth,
and its height was great.*
- 11 *The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to
heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth.*
- 12 *Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it
was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade
under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its
branches, and all flesh was fed from it.*



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

13 *I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one came down from heaven.*

14 *He proclaimed aloud and said thus:*

Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches.

15 ***But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth.***



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

16 Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him.

17 The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and give it to whom He will and sets over it the lowliest of men'.



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

18 This dream I, **King Nebuchadnezzar**, saw.

And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you.



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

19 Then **Daniel**, whose name was **Belteshazzar**, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, “**Belteshazzar**, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you.” **Belteshazzar** answered and said,

“My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!”

20-21 *The tree you saw, -----*

22



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

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22 ***it is you, O king,***



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

- 23 And because **the king** saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying,.....
- 24 this is the interpretation, **o king**: It is a decree of **the Most High**, which has come upon my lord the king,
- 25 that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that **the Most High** rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom He will.



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

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Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

26 *And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules.*

27 *Therefore, O **king**, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”*



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Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

28-33 Nebuchadnezzar's Humiliation



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

- 34 At the end of the days I, **Nebuchadnezzar**, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed **the Most High**, and praised and honored Him who lives forever, for His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation;
- 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and He does according to His will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay His hand or say to Him, “What have you done?”



Chapter 4:1-37 *The Difficult Journey*

36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me.

37 Now I, **Nebuchadnezzar**,
praise and extol and honor the King of heaven,
for all His works are right and His ways are just;
and those who walk in pride He is able to humble.



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STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?



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**Sometimes coming to faith is a process,
it is done gradually as we watch God unfold
life around us and see His hand in
the lives of others.**



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

**Sometimes our pride prevents us from
experiencing the life we were created for.**



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

Sometimes our pride prevents us from experiencing the life we were created for.

Without God we settle for things that actually damage and destroy.



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

**What sins do you need to break off
so you can practice righteousness?**



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

**What sins do you need to break off
so you can practice righteousness?**

**What iniquities do you need to reject
in order to care for the oppressed?**



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

**Praise and honor is the language and the life
of the people of the Awesome One.**



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

**Praise and honor is the language and the life
of the people of the Awesome One.**

**Pride comes before destruction,
humility paves the way to influence.**



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

Big Nebo's Difficult Journey
is not that dissimilar from ours.