



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

Our identity...

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

...standing strong for our convictions...

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

...each day is a signature of who we are.

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



Chapter 2: Faithfulness Demonstrated

Authority exercised out of fear is pathetic...

***...our faith is grounded in the character
of God and therefore His ability
to deal with our lives***

...to whom we offer praise and honor



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: The Difficult Journey

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



Chapter 4: The Difficult Journey

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



Chapter 5

'Belshazzar's' Difficult Evening



Cast of Characters

- King Nebuchadnezzar:**.....
- Daniel:**...(Belteshazzar).....
- The Most High God**.....
- King Belshazzar** (grandson of Nebuchadnezzar).....
- Queen** (daughter of Big Nebo, mother of Nebo Jr.)..
- the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines**.....

- the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers**....



Cast of Characters

- King Nebuchadnezzar:..... **Big Nebo**
- Daniel:...(Belteshazzar).....
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Cast of Characters

-King Nebuchadnezzar:.....**Big Nebo**

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

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-the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines.....

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Cast of Characters

- King Nebuchadnezzar:.....**Big Nebo**
- Daniel:...(Belteshazzar).....**El Guapo**
- The Most High God.....**The Awesome One**
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- the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines.....

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- the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines.....
the entourage
- the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers....



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- King Belshazzar (grandson of Nebuchadnezzar).....**Nebo Jr.**
- Queen (daughter of Big Nebo, mother of Nebo Jr.)..**Mama Nebo**
- the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines.....
the entourage
- the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers....
the wise guys



Cast of Characters

-clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.....



Cast of Characters

-clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.....

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Elements of Chapter 5

The.....Setting

The.....Incident

The.....Question

The.....Answer

The.....Conclusion

The Big Idea



Chapter 5:1-4 *The Unique Setting*



Chapter 5:1-4 *The Unique Setting*

- 1 King **Belshazzar** made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of thousands.
- 2 **Belshazzar**, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that **Nebuchadnezzar** his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought that **the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines** might drink of them.



Chapter 5:1-4 *The Unique Setting*

- 3 Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of **God in Jerusalem**, and **the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines** drank from them.
- 4 They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.



Chapter 5:5-12 *The Strange Incident*



Chapter 5:5-12 *The Strange Incident*

- 5 Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote.
- 6 Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him, his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together.



Chapter 5:5-12 The Strange Incident

- 7 The king called loudly to bring in **the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers**. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon, *“Whoever reads this writing, and show me its interpretation, shall be **clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.**”*
- 8 Then all **the king’s wise men** came in, but they could not read the writing or make know to the king the interpretation.



Chapter 5:5-12 The Strange Incident

9 Then King **Belshazzar** was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed.

10 The **queen**, because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall, and the **queen** declared,

*“O **king**, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change.*”



Chapter 5:5-12 The Strange Incident

- 11 *There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and **King Nebuchadnezzar**, your father— your father the king— make him chief of **the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers**,*
- 12 *because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this **Daniel**, who the king named*



Chapter 5:5-12 The Strange Incident

*understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and **King Nebuchadnezzar**, your father— your father the king— make him chief of **the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers**,*
*12 because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this **Daniel**, who the king named Belteshazzar. Now let **Daniel** be called, and he will show the interpretation.”*



Chapter 5:13-16 *The Natural Question*



Chapter 5:13-16 *The Natural Question*

13 Then **Daniel** was brought in before the king. The king answered and said to **Daniel**,

*“You are that **Daniel**, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah.*

14 *I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you.*



Chapter 5:13-16 *The Natural Question*

- 15 Now **the wise men, the enchanters**, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not show the interpretation of the matter.
- 16 But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall **be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.**”



Chapter 5:17-28 *The Courageous Answer*



Chapter 5:17-28 *The Courageous Answer*

- 17 Then **Daniel** answered and said before the king,
*“Let your **gifts** be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation.*
- 18 O king, **the Most High God** gave **Nebuchadnezzar** your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty.
- 19 And because of the greatness that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him.



Chapter 5:17-28 *The Courageous Answer*

*Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would,
he kept alive;
whom he would, he raised up, and whom he would,
he humbled.*

20 *But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was
hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought
down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken
from him.*



Chapter 5:17-28 The Courageous Answer

- 21 *He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom He will.*
- 22 *And you his son, **Belshazzar**, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this,*
- 23 *but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of
heaven.*



Chapter 5:17-28 *The Courageous Answer*

23b *And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and **you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines** have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.*



Chapter 5:17-28 *The Courageous Answer*

23b *And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and **you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines** have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, **but** the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.*



Chapter 5:17-28 The Courageous Answer

23b *And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and **you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines** have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, **but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.***



Chapter 5:17-28 *The Courageous Answer*

24 *Then from His presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed.*

25 *And this is the writing that was inscribed:*

MENE, MENE,

TEKEL,

and PARSIN.



Chapter 5:17-28 *The Courageous Answer*

24 *Then from His presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed.*

25 *And this is the writing that was inscribed:*

***MENE, MENE,
TEKEL,
and PARSIN.***

**Mina
Weighed
Divided**



Chapter 5:17-28 *The Courageous Answer*

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'Counted'

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24 *Then from His presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed.*

25 *And this is the writing that was inscribed:*

MENE, MENE,

TEKEL, —————→

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**Counted
Shekel
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**Counted
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Rembrandt's Belshazzar's Feast





Rembrandt's *Belshazzar's Feast*





Rembrandt's *Belshazzar's Feast*





Chapter 5:17-28 *The Courageous Answer*

- 26 *This is the interpretation of the matter:
MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom
and brought it to an end;*
- 27 ***TEKEL**, you have been weighed in the balances and
found wanting;*
- 28 ***PESES**, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes
and Persians.*



Chapter 5:29-31 *The Stunning Conclusion*



Chapter 5:29-31 *The Stunning Conclusion*

- 29 Then **Belshazzar** gave the command, and **Daniel** was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.
- 30 That very night **Belshazzar** the Chaldean king was killed.
- 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.



STAND STRONG

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

The Big Idea



STAND STRONG

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

Every generation has a personal decision to make...



STAND STRONG

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

Every generation has a personal decision to make...

*Will we honor the God in whose hand is our
breath, and in whose hands are all our ways.....
or will we pursue the short term 'bling'...
the cheap trinkets of this world that replace
The Awesome One?*



STAND STRONG

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

The 'bling' that so easily entices us is short lived...



STAND STRONG

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

The 'bling' that so easily entices us is short lived...

Philip Henry (1631-1696), the nonconformist preacher...

“He is not a fool who parts with that which he cannot keep, when he is sure to be recompensed with that which he cannot lose.”





STAND STRONG

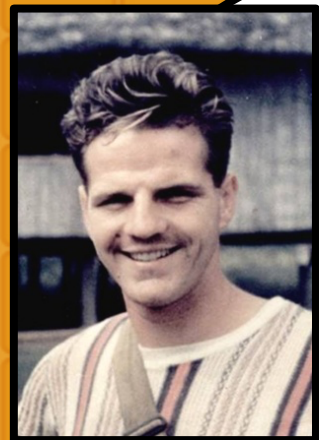
So.....therefore.....now what?


The 'bling' that so easily entices us is short lived...

Philip Henry (1631-1696), the nonconformist preacher...

"He is not a fool who parts with that which he cannot keep, when he is sure to be recompensed with that which he cannot lose."

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." Jim Elliot



A detail from Michelangelo's 'The Creation of Adam' fresco, showing the hands of God and Adam reaching toward each other. The background is a light, textured surface with some cracking.

Love the Lord your God with
all your heart, mind, soul
and strength....

...and love you neighbor
as if they were you.