



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.



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...

from pride to humility



Chapter 5: The Difficult Evening

'Belshazzar's'

difficultly of honoring

the Awesome One

in whose hand was his

breath...



Chapter 6:1-9 *Another Unique Setting*



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- 1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom,
- 2 and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss.
- 3 Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him.



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Chapter 6:1-9 *Another Unique Setting*

- 4 Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him.
- 5 Then these men said,
“We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”



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- 5 Then these men said to one another,

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Chapter 6:1-9 *Another Unique Setting*

6 Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him,

“O King Darius, live forever!

7 *All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.*



Chapter 6:1-9 *Another Unique Setting*

- 8 *Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.”*
- 9 Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.



Chapter 6:10-18 *Daniel faces contempt*

- 10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.
- 11 Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.



Chapter 6:10-18 *Daniel faces contempt*

- 10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, **as he had done previously**
- 11 Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.



Chapter 6:10-18 *Daniel faces contempt*

12 Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction,

“O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?”

The king answered and said,

“The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.



Chapter 6:10-18 *Daniel faces contempt*

- 13 They they answered and said before the king,
“Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.”
- 14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him.



Chapter 6:10-18 *Daniel faces contempt*

15 Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king,

“Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and the Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.”



Chapter 6:10-18 *Daniel faces contempt*

- 16 Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel,
“May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!”
- 17 And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.
- 18 The king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.



Chapter 6:19-24 *Daniel stood strong*

19 Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in hast to the den of lions.

20 As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, *“O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”*

21 Then Daniel said to the king, *“O king, live forever!”*



Chapter 6:19-24 *Daniel stood strong*

- 22 *My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm."*
- 23 Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.



Chapter 6:19-24 *Daniel stood strong*

24 And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions— they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.



Chapter 6:25-27 *Darius is transformed*

25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth:

“Peace be multiplied to you.

26 *I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for He is the living God, enduring forever; His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and His dominion shall be to the end.*

27 *He delivers and rescues; He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, He who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.”*



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27 *He delivers and rescues **He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, He who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.**”*



Chapter 6:28 *Daniel gets “the bling”*

28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.



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



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- *Daniel stood out because of his excellent character...*



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

- Daniel stood out because of his excellent character...
- Daniel's only 'fault' was his commitment to God...
- Daniel's faithfulness was not built in the moment...
- The God of Daniel (and of ours) is The Awesome One, worthy of all our thanks, praise, and our full devotion.