

# Correspondence Bible Study

## Lesson #26 – Daniel

PRAYER: Read Daniel 9:4-19

**Notes on Daniel:** Daniel is well known to many. Even children will tell you about Daniel and the lion's den. In Daniel you will find some very familiar stories with straight-forward applications. There are also a number of prophetic visions. These are not always so easy to figure out. For the most part the visions have historical fulfillments in the empires that follow the Babylonian empire. I'll try to explain more as we come to them in the lesson.

In chapter 1 we see that Daniel was taken to Babylon as a young man. (most likely 605 B.C.) It depicts a long career of serving the Lord and his captors. Daniel may have lived until about 530 B.C. He is a fine example to people of all ages that you can serve the Lord under any circumstances.

Questions:

1. Chapter 1 – How do Daniel and his friends stand up for their convictions?
2. Chapter 2 – Here is an explanation from the Concordia Self Study Bible, p. 1305 (Footnote vv. 32-43). I believe this interpretation fits best with the context of Daniel. Why do you think the Lord gave Daniel such a detailed vision?

(The gold head represents the Neo-Babylonian empire (v. 38; see Jer. 51:7); the silver chest and arms, the Medo-Persian empire established by Cyrus in 539 B.C. (The date of the fall of Babylon); the bronze belly and thighs, the Greek empire established by Alexander the Great c.330; the iron legs and feet, the Roman empire. The toes (v.41) are understood by some to represent a later confederation of states occupying the territory formerly controlled by the Roman Empire. The diminishing value of the metals from gold to silver to bronze to iron represents the decreasing power and grandeur (v. 39) of the rulers of the successive empires, from the absolute despotism of Nebuchadnezzar to the democratic system of checks and balances that characterized the Roman senates and assemblies. The metals also symbolize a growing degree of toughness and endurance, with each successive empire lasting longer than the preceding one.

3. Chapter 3:16-18 – The words of confession by the 3 men is amazing, similar to Martin Luther's "Here I stand". What can we learn from such a stand?
4. Chapter 4 – What does the Lord teach us about pride in this chapter?

5. Chapter 5 – King Belshazzar is either the son or grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, who had died in 562 B.C. The time of this chapter is 539. This is where the phrase, “The writing on the wall”, comes from. What were some of the reasons the Lord let the Persian-Mede Kingdom overthrow the Babylonians?
  
6. Chapter 6 – This is a very similar chapter to chapter 3 except for the people involved. Most likely Darius and Cyrus are two names for the same person. Considering Daniel was close to 80 years old at the time, what are some of the lessons you learn in this chapter?
  
7. Chapter 7 – This is very similar to chapter 2. Please read the following note from Concordia Self-Study Bible, page 1313.

The lion with an eagle’s wings symbolizes the Neo-Babylonian Empire. The rest of v.4 perhaps reflects the humbling experience of Nebuchadnezzar, as recorded in ch.4. The bear (v.5) raised up on one of its sides, refers to the superior status of the Persians in the Medo-Persian federation. The three ribs may represent the three principal conquests: Lydia (546 B.C.), Babylon (539) and Egypt (525). The Alexander the Great (334-330), and the four heads correspond to the four main divisions into which his empire fell after his untimely death in 323 (see 8:22): Macedon and Greece (under Antipater and Cassander), Thrace and Asia Minor (under Lysimachus), Syria (under Seleucus I), Palestine and Egypt (under Ptolemy I). The fourth unnamed, beast (v.7), with its irresistible power and surpassing all its predecessors, points to the Roman Empire. Its ten horns correspond to the ten toes of 2:41-42.

8. Chapter 9 – What do you see in the prayer of Daniel that shows his great faith?
  
9. Try to read chapter 10 and 11 in the Living Bible. They interpret the passages as they go along.
  
10. Chapter 12 – Here Daniel points to the end of time. What things do we see here about judgement day?

Your questions on Daniel...

The next lesson will be over Hosea & Joel