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# THE-BOOK-OF DANIEL



 **FIELD GUIDE** FOR LIFE

CONTEXT **A BIBLE STUDY JOURNAL** MEANING


THIS GUIDE TO THE BOOK OF DANIEL PROVIDES CONTEXT, KEY SCRIPTURES, AND A PLACE TO JOURNAL. READ THE BOOK OF DANIEL FOR YOURSELF AND WRITE DOWN ANYTHING YOU THINK GOD MIGHT BE TRYING TO TEACH YOU.

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## WHAT IS IT?

A book that chronicles key events and prophecies in the life of a man named Daniel. It is primarily a book about God's supreme power over all the kingdoms and rulers of this world. This book will encourage you to stay faithful to that powerful God, even in the midst of bleak and uncertain situations. Daniel shows that God is always at work to rescue his faithful followers. It promises that the "Son of Man" (wink\*Jesus\*wink) will ultimately deliver his people from godless rulers on earth.

## WHO WAS DANIEL?

The author and main character. His life and faith are at the center of this book. Daniel was in the royal family in the nation of Judah (Israel) at the time it was conquered by Babylon. He was taken captive in 605 BC, around the age of 16, forced into the royal service of King Nebuchadnezzar, and renamed Belteshazzar in honor of a Babylonian god.

## WHO WAS THE BOOK WRITTEN FOR?

Jewish exiles now scattered throughout Babylon, especially those attempting to remain faithful and retain their Jewish faith in the midst of a foreign culture.

### KINGS MENTIONED IN THE BOOK:

- ▶ **Jehoiakim**
- ▶ **King of Judah** when they got conquered by Babylon
- ▶ **Nebuchadnezzar**
- ▶ **King of Babylon:** conquered Judah (Judah was 1 of the 2 kingdoms of God's people 'Israel')
- ▶ **Belshazzar**
- ▶ **King of Babylon** following his dad, Nebuchadnezzar
- ▶ **Darius**
- ▶ **King of the Medes**
- ▶ **Cyrus**
- ▶ **King of Persia**

### OTHER GUYS TO KNOW:

Daniel's buddies that got taken from Judah and put in the king's service with him. They also got renamed.

- ▶ Hananiah was renamed Shadrach.
- ▶ Azariah was renamed Abednego.
- ▶ Mishael was renamed Meshach.

### ABOUT THESE NAME CHANGES:

When Daniel and his friends were brought to Babylon, they were given new names to assimilate them into the culture. This was literally an attempt to change their identities from who God said they were, to who the Babylonians wanted them to be.

HEBREW NAME AND MEANING	BABYLONIAN NAME AND MEANING
<b>Daniel</b> GOD IS MY JUDGE	<b>Belteshazzar</b> BEL (THE MAIN BABYLONIAN GOD) PROTECTS HIS LIFE
<b>Hananiah</b> THE LORD SHOWS GRACE	<b>Shadrach</b> UNDER THE COMMAND OF AKU (THE MOON GOD)
<b>Mishael</b> THE LORD HELPS	<b>Meshach</b> WHO IS LIKE AKU?
<b>Azariah</b> THE LORD HELPS	<b>Abednego</b> SERVANT OF NEGO (THE GOD OF LEARNING)

### WHEN DOES THIS ALL TAKE PLACE?

The book begins in 605 B.C. when Jerusalem was conquered by Babylon and the Jewish people were taken captive. It ends just after the first return from captivity in 539 B.C.. The Persian king, Cyrus, allowed the Jews to return to Israel. Jeremiah, another old testament prophet around the time of Daniel, prophesied that the Babylonian captivity would last seventy years (Jer 25:11-12; 29:10) which was linked to the number of years that Israel neglected the Sabbathical Year. [Jer 34:13-14; cf., 2 Chr 36:21] 70 years is the approximate time period of this book. This book spans Daniel's life, from his teenage years to his 80s.

### WHERE DOES THIS TAKE PLACE?

Ancient Babylon was built along the Euphrates River, in present-day Iraq.

### WHY WAS IT WRITTEN?

To remind people that God had not cast Israel aside or forgotten about the Jewish people. God's blessing and power and words in Daniel's life showed Israel that he was still present, powerful, and forgiving of his people. His desire was to bless them now and in the future.

### KEY QUOTES FROM DANIEL:

#### 1:19-20

**The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.**

KEY QUOTES FROM DANIEL:

2:19-22

During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven and said:

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.

KEY QUOTES FROM DANIEL:

3:17-18

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

4:2-3

It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me.

How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.

5:22-23

“But you, Belshazzar, his son, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.

KEY QUOTES FROM DANIEL:

6:26-27

“I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. “For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

KEY QUOTES FROM DANIEL:

7:13-14

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.



KEY QUOTES FROM DANIEL:

8:27

I, Daniel, was worn out. I lay exhausted for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

9:19

Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”

KEY QUOTES FROM DANIEL:

10:12

Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

11:1

And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him.

12:13

“As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.”

## BOOK STRUCTURE:


The book of Daniel is split into two parts, and they're very different. Check out the comparison:

<b>CHAPTERS 1-6</b> PART ONE	<b>CHAPTERS 7-12</b> PART TWO
MAINLY MIRACLES	MAINLY PROPHECY
WELL-KNOWN STORIES (LIKE THE FIERY FURNACE AND LION'S DEN)	OBSCURE PROPHECIES (SOME OF WHICH MIGHT NOT EVEN BE FULFILLED YET)
WRITTEN MOSTLY IN ARAMAIC, THE MOST COMMON LANGUAGE OF THE WORLD AT THE TIME. WHICH MEANS IT WAS WRITTEN FOR A WORLD-WIDE AUDIENCE.	WRITTEN MOSTLY IN HEBREW, THE LANGUAGE OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL. WHICH MEANS IT WAS WRITTEN ESPECIALLY TO THE JEWS.
WRITTEN IN THE THIRD PERSON ("HE")	WRITTEN IN THE FIRST PERSON ("I")



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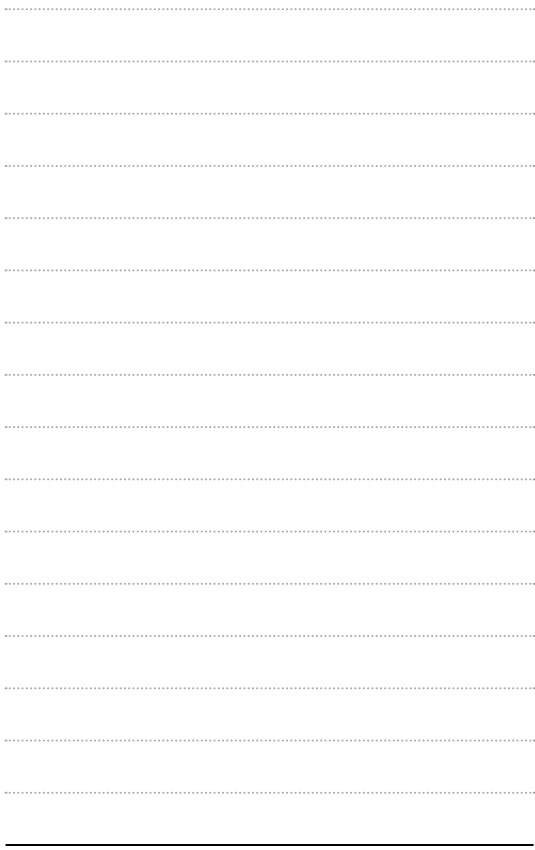


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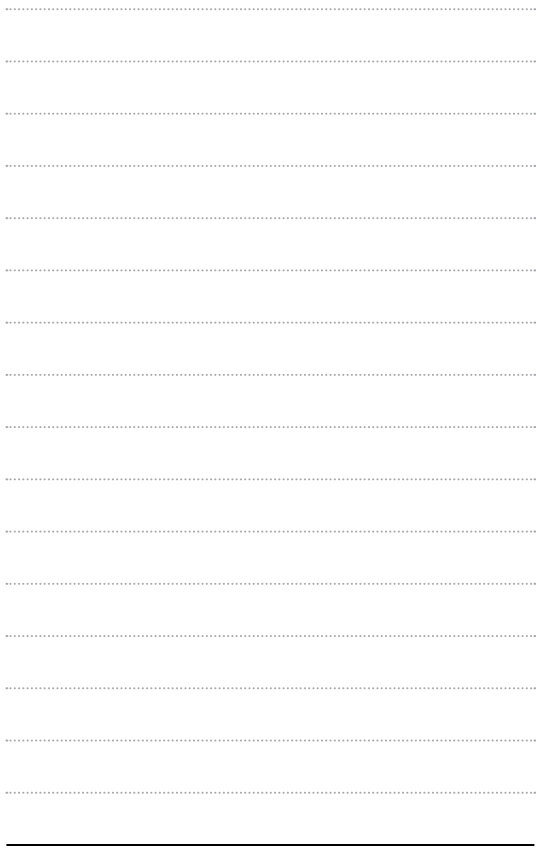




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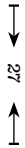
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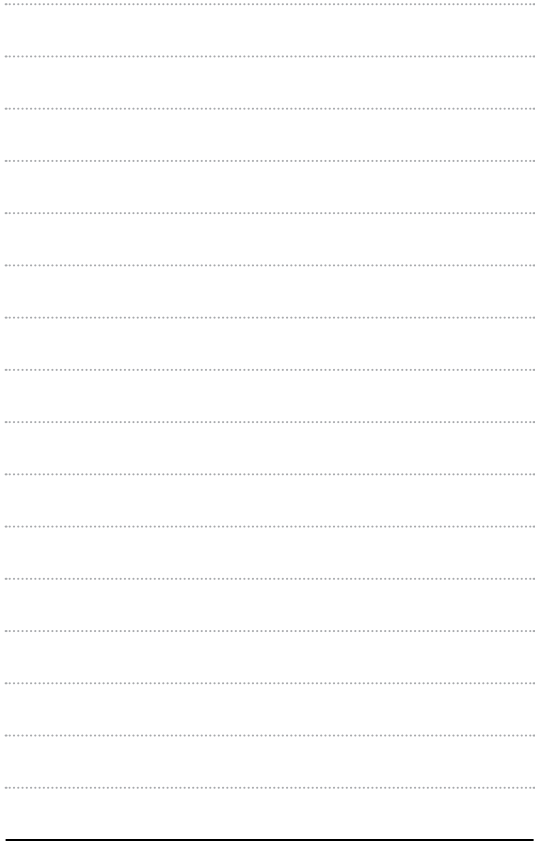
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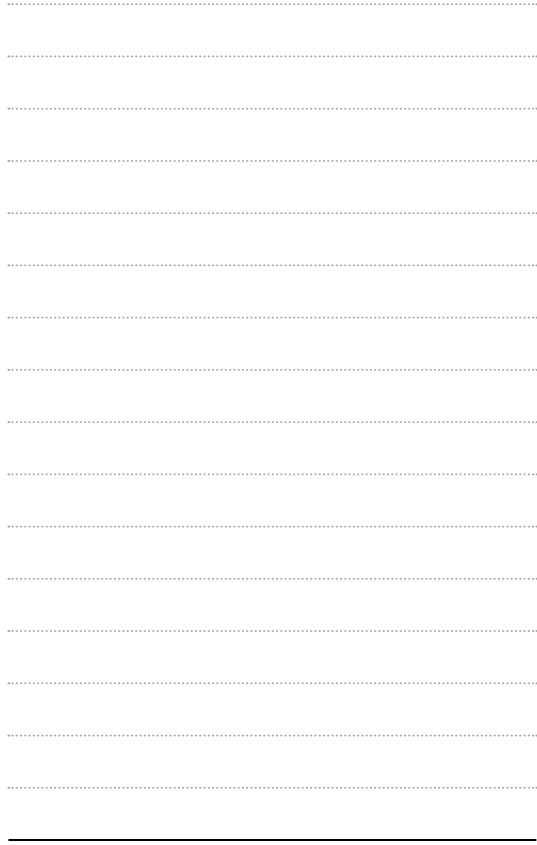
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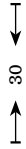
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