

Daniel: God's Power Over Your Problems



- What are the most pressing problems you are facing?

Everybody has problems, some days more than others. The book of Daniel assures us that God is concerned about our struggles. He has His ways and His perfect timing for dealing with our problems. Sometimes God acts immediately, other times He delays. Sometimes He removes the problem, other times He uses them to accomplish something positive in our heart or in the lives of others. His wisdom is far beyond our comprehension. He works in ways that often doesn't make sense to us because our understanding is limited and we can't see the big picture from heaven's view. Nevertheless, God loves us, works all things for our good (Romans 8:28), and has power over our problems.

The book of Daniel shows how God's sovereign power works in difficult circumstances. When Daniel's three friends were ordered to worship an idol or face execution by burning in a furnace, they chose the furnace. However, God saved them in a miraculous way. When Daniel was thrown into the lion's den, God shut the mouths of the lions and turned them into kittens, at least until Daniel was rescued from their den. The book of Daniel shows other examples that make a very powerful point: **God is in control**. He is sovereign over human events & history. The book of Daniel teaches us some important lessons about **how to trust God** when life's problems seem overwhelming.

Central Lesson: God RULES over the Universe—trust Him even when you don't understand life's problems.

Date: The book of Daniel was written **approximately 535 B.C.** and is a record of events that took place from about 605-535 B.C. Daniel was a 16 year old teenager taken into captivity by the Babylonians in 605 B.C..

The conquest of Babylon over Judah took place in **three waves**:

1. The **first** was the initial victory of Babylon over Judah in **606 B.C.** A large number of Jews were deported to Babylon that included **Daniel** and his friends (See Daniel chapter 1).
2. The **second** deportation was in **597 B.C.** when 10,000 people of Judah, including Ezekiel, were taken to Babylon.
3. The **third** and final deportation was **586 B.C.** when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem after a long siege.

Author: The author of the book of Daniel is **DANIEL**. He claimed to write the book (12:4) and he included the autobiographical first person from chapter 7:2, through the rest of the book. Example: Daniel 7:2, "In **my** vision that night, **I**, Daniel, saw...." Daniel 7:8, "As **I** was looking...." Daniel 9:2 "During the first year of his reign, **I**, Daniel, learned from reading the word of the Lord, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years."

Daniel's prophetic ministry span more than 60 years and was directed to the Gentile courts of Babylon, with kings Nebuchadnezzar (chapters 1-4) and Belshazzar (chapters 5, 7-8); the Persians with kings Darius (chapters 6, 9) and Cyrus (chapters 10-12), as well as, to his Jewish countrymen.

Title: The title of the book of Daniel is named after the main character of the book—**DANIEL**.

Key Word: The key words in Daniel are: **POWER** which appears 25 times in the book, and **RULES** (NLT, NASV, ESV, HCSB, KJV, AMP), "...the Most High rules...." Daniel 4:17 NLT. Also 4:25, 32; 5:21; 7:14). The NIV uses the word "**Sovereign**." Sovereign means: "with complete power. Having supreme authority or power." "Self-governing."

Key Verse: The key verses are **Daniel 2:20-22**.

"20 He said, 'Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. 21 He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. 22 He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light.'" NLT

Key Chapters: The key chapter is Daniel chapter **9**. (Especially Daniel 9:24-27). Daniel's prophecy of the **Seventy sets of sevens**, (or Seventy Weeks—KJV), **provides the chronological basis for important biblical events**. This includes the time of Christ's first coming and death; the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans; the coming 7 year tribulation period; and the rise of antichrist. The first 69 sevens (or weeks) were fulfilled at Christ's first coming. The 70th seven has not occurred yet. It is the future 7 year tribulation period.

Outline: The book can be outlined as follows:

- I. **Daniel's LIFE**—Chapters 1-6
- II. **Daniel's VISIONS**—Chapters 7-12

Christ in Daniel: (1) He is **the Great Stone** (2:34-35, 44) who will crush the kingdoms of the world. (2) He is **the Son of Man** (7:13-14) who is given dominion by the Ancient of Days. (3) He is **the Anointed One** (NLT) that is, the Messiah, (9:25-26) who will be "**killed**" (NLT) or ("cut off"—ESV, NASB, HCSB, KJV). This prophecy calculates the time the Messiah would appear.

Purpose and Theme: God **RULES** and is **ALL-POWERFUL**.

Daniel was written to encourage the exiled Jews by showing them God's sovereign power over the world, over their lives, and over the future. The prophet Jeremiah had announced that God would discipline Judah under Babylonian & Persian captivity for 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10; Daniel 9:2). The message of Daniel to the exiles was that the disciplinary period **was not permanent**, God would **restore them** to their homeland, but even more, God would **send the Messiah** to reign over the world in justice and peace. This period of time is referred to as the Millennium (Revelation 20).

Daniel's life and ministry bridged the entire 70 year period of captivity. Daniel repeatedly emphasized that God is all-powerful and rules (see Daniel 4:25). The same God who rules over the universe is in control of their lives and has power over their problems. They must **submit** to His direction in life, **trust** Him (3:28; 6:23), and **obey** Him one day at a time (cf. 12:13).

Central Lesson: God RULES over the Universe—trust Him even when you don't understand life's problems.

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.