

Daniel 1:1-21

Because **GOD** is bigger . . .



. . . we pursue holiness -
despite the circumstances

“Because GOD is Bigger...”

Studies in Daniel

Introduction to the Study

Purpose of the Study

Overview of the Book

Big Idea: God is sovereign over people, kingdoms and history.

Outline:

- I. God's Sovereignty over Daniel's Life (Ch. 1)
- II. God's Sovereignty over Kingdoms of the World (Chs. 2-7)
 - A. Four-Part Statue (2)
 - B. Fiery Furnace (3)
 - C. Nebuchadnezzar's Humbling (4)
 - D. Belshazzar's Feast (5)
 - E. Darius' Decree (6)
 - F. Four Beasts (7)
- III. God's Sovereignty over Israel's Future (Chs. 8-12)
 - A. Israel's Persecution (8)
 - B. Israel's Persecution Ended (9)
 - C. Israel's Persecution and Restoration (10-12)

Session 1

Background to the Book

Languages Used - Hebrew (1:1-2:4a; 8:1-12:13)
Aramaic (2:4b-7:28)

Date written

Late date (200-150 BC)

Early date (530 BC)

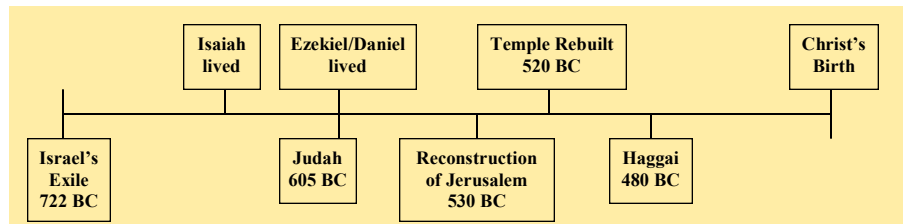
Text (Daniel 1:1-2)

Historical context

King Jehoiakim

King Nebuchadnezzar

Israel's exile



Lesson

⬆️ God's sovereignty

🔑 Looking Within

This section contains some questions that might arise from this study to help me personally examine and apply the principles that I have learned from this lesson.

1. What are the first 3 thoughts about Daniel that come to your mind?
2. How would you imagine life to be like as a resident of Jerusalem during this time?
3. How hard are we looking for God in the difficult times?
4. What are some things you are hoping to learn in this class?



Digging Deeper

Need to know more about what you've just learned? Below are some verses to help you explore what scripture has to say about these topics, events and people.

Circumstances leading to the division of the kingdom –

- 1 Kings 1
- 1 Kings 11:1-13
- 1 Kings 11:26-40
- 1 Kings 12:1-17

Israel's exile –

- Deuteronomy. 28:15-68
- Amos 2:6-16
- Isaiah 9:8-10:4
- 2 Kings 17:1-18

King Jehoiakim's story

- 2 Kings 23:31-24:7
- 2 Chronicles. 36:1-8
- Jeremiah 36:27-32

King Nebuchadnezzar

- Jeremiah 27:1-22; 46:2-28
- Habakkuk 1:5-11

God's sovereignty

- Genesis 1:1-2:4
- Isaiah 46:8-13
- Job 38:1-7; 42:1-3
- Psalm 135:5-7
- 1 Timothy 6:13-16
- Revelation 4:11



Additional Resources

For those desiring more information below are some optional resources that would be beneficial.

1. Web sites

<http://www.bible.org>

- Free download of NET Bible
- Free online NET Bible with cross-references, relevant topics and visual aids.

2. Sermons

“The Uncompromising Life” by John MacArthur

<http://www.gty.org/Resources/Sermons/80-136>

3. Maps

<http://www.blueletterbible.org/images/>

“Because GOD is Bigger...”

Studies in Daniel

Text: (Daniel 1:1-21)

Big Idea: Daniel finds favor with God as he resolves not to defile himself.

Outline:

- I. Judean home is attacked (1:1-2)
- II. Youths with skill trained in Chaldean wisdom (1:3-7)
- III. Daniel asks to be tested (1:8-16)
- IV. God gives youths wisdom and skill (1:17-20)
- V. Daniel's new home (1:21)

Highlights

A. Judean home is attacked (1:1-2)

B. Youths with skill trained in Chaldean wisdom (1:3-7)

| Hebrew Name | Meaning | Babylonian Name | Meaning |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Daniel | God is my Judge | Beltshazzar | Bel, protect his life! |
| Hananiah | Yahweh shows grace | Shadrach | Command of Aku |
| Mishael | Who is like God | Meshach | Who is like Aku? |
| Azariah | Yahweh helps | Abed-Nego | Servant of Nebu |

C. Daniel asks to be tested (1:8-16)

D. God gives youths wisdom and skill (1:17-20)

E. Daniel's new home (1:21)

Lesson

- ① Personal choices for holiness
- ① Importance for biblical foundation
- ① God blesses those that honor Him
- ① Tactful approach to conflict resolution



Looking Within

This section contains some questions that might arise from this study to help me personally examine and apply the principles that I have learned from this lesson.

1. In a sentence or two, describe your understanding of the statement, "God is sovereign."
2. What worldly things have you resisted in conforming to and as a result God has given you favor?
3. When have you seen God's favor in your life? What were the circumstances around this time? How have you thanked Him?
4. How well do you resist evil when it seems innocent and without major consequences?
5. How much do you compromise our Christian convictions in the face of peer pressure in your life? What does a compromised life look like?
6. What can we do in today's churches and families to prepare young leaders like these four?
7. What are some God-honoring ways to approach conflict and conflict resolution?



Digging Deeper

Need to know more about what you've just learned? Below are some verses to help you explore what scripture has to say about these topics, events and people.

Importance of personal holiness

- Leviticus 11:44
- Romans 7:14-24
- 1 Timothy 4:7b-8
- Hebrews 12:14

Captivities of Judah

- 2 Kings 24:8-17
- 2 Kings 25:1-21
- Jeremiah 52:24-30

Cyrus of Persia

- 2 Chronicles 36:22-23
- Ezra 1:1-4,7
- Isaiah 45:1-4

God's favor shown

- Joseph in Genesis 37-50 (esp. 39:2-6, 21-23; 41:38-45; 50:20)
- David (esp. 1 Samuel 16:6-13)
- Esther (esp. 5:1-3)



Additional Resources

For those desiring more information below are some optional resources that would be beneficial.

1. Archaeology related to the Babylonian captivity: http://www.bible-history.com/map_babylonian_captivity/map_of_the_deportation_of_judah_archaeology_and_the_babylonian_captivity.html
2. Sermons
“Living in a Different World” (Dan. 1:1-7) and “Walking in a Different Way” (Dan. 1:8-21) from the series *The Book of Daniel: How to Live in Exile*. Pastor Mike Glenn, Brentwood Baptist Church (June 24 and July 1, 2007 respectively). Available as podcasts on iTunes.
3. Eric Liddel's story: <http://www.chitorch.org/index.php/torchlighters/liddell-feature/>